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# VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN DOESN'T JUST START. IT GROWS.

On average, one woman is killed every week at the hands of a current or former partner. One in three women has been a victim of physical or sexual violence, since the age of 15, from someone known to them. One in four young people are prepared to excuse violence from a partner.

This is a cycle of violence, which starts with disrespect.

Not all disrespect towards women results in violence.

But all violence against women starts with disrespectful behaviour.

When we make excuses like "*It's just boys being boys*", we allow boys to develop attitudes that can lead to violence. We raise girls to expect ridicule from boys when we tell them "*He's only doing it because he likes you*". When we do confront unacceptable behaviour, we play it down by saying "*Don't worry, it wasn't that bad*".

By making these excuses and not taking action, we're allowing disrespect to become a normal part of growing up.

In doing so, we are unintentionally part of the problem.

We all have a role to play to make our community stronger.

**STOP** the excuses.

**START** a conversation about respect with boys and girls.

**LEARN** more at [australia.gov.au/respect](http://australia.gov.au/respect)

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN LET'S STOP IT AT THE START



Australian Government

A joint Australian, state and territory government initiative.



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