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Creating a division between ‘bad’ men and ‘good’ men creates a false sense of security

Dr Benita Moolman’s research finds that both ‘toxic’ and ‘benevolent’ masculinities are perpetrators of gender-based violence. In other words, both ‘bad’ and ‘good’ men, rape and commit acts of intimate partner violence and femicide.

Socially we are familiar with the concept of toxic masculinities, we are less familiar with the concept of benevolent masculinities. Benevolent masculinities is the practice of being a ‘good’ man or being a ‘real’ man. Her research finds that authority is the form of power that is used as a resource when committing crimes of gender-based violence. Authority is practised by all men, regardless of whether they are seen as ‘good’ or ‘bad’.

In her research she has also found that male sex offenders represent themselves as good men. In this way they earn trust and respect. To end and eradicate gender-based violence, we must begin to unmask the authority of masculinities. We must also stop reproducing narratives of ‘real men’ and ‘good men’ which means that we simultaneously stop talking about toxic masculinities. These divisions create a false sense of security and is misleading in developing interventions to hold men accountable for violence.

Please feel free to use the content (of Dr Moolman) provided in your broadcast media. Please credit UCT for the footage.

[Download footage](#)



She is also available for interviews.

Name	Area of expertise	Contact details
Dr Benita Moolman Programme Manager: Global Citizenship Programme	Decoloniality, social justice, masculinities and gender-based violence, rehabilitation of sex offenders.	benita.moolman@uct.ac.za

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