

11th Annual Conference on Human Trafficking

Be Free

Empowerment & Beyond

Keynote Speaker

Neil Irvin, Executive Director
Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR)



Neil Irvin is a highly committed and collaborative professional with over 25 years of youth development and leadership experience. Neil is the Executive Director of Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR), which seeks to mobilize men to use their strength for creating cultures free from violence, especially men's violence against women. He is responsible for leading the organization's national work, as well as cultivating strategic partnerships with state and

federal agencies and private and corporate foundations; and overseeing all programs, which include the award-winning youth development program, training and technical assistance for youth-serving professionals, and Strength Media public awareness campaign.

Named one of the most promising "50 Strategies to Prevent Violent Domestic Crime" by the National Crime Prevention Council, the Men of Strength (MOST) Club, provides middle school and high school age males with a structured space to build individualized definitions of masculinity that promote healthy relationships. Since joining the organization in 2001, Neil has grown this program from one site in Washington, DC, to over 100 locations in ten states across the country. In 2007, he brought the MOST Club to every public high school in the District of Columbia, the largest city-wide effort of its kind in the country.

Well known throughout the country in the field of gender-based violence prevention, Neil currently serves on the Dept of Justice's *National Advisory Committee* and is a member of the NoVo Foundation's prestigious Move to End Violence initiative. He has also served as a consultant to The White House Commission on Violence Against Women and Girls, Boys and Girls Club, Ford Foundation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Liz Claiborne Foundation. In addition, he is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland's School of Public Health and has been a regular lecturer at American University, George Washington University, and Howard University.

Neil has a long history of working to enrich the lives of youth, especially young men. Having worked as a basketball coach, camp counselor, and director of afterschool programs at the YMCA, he decided to dedicate his professional career to working with youth as it always felt "inspiring, energizing, and effortless."

Neil is not just an innovative educator and leader, but serves as an influential role model for the men and boys with whom he works. He boldly embodies many of MCSR's core values, such as being strong without being violent, maintaining transparency and honesty, adopting a positive approach when engaging men, and meeting men where they are in order to most effectively facilitate change. As we move forward as a society and progress toward healthier, positive, and well-rounded versions of masculinity, Neil's legacy—both professionally and personally—serve as a road map for men and boys. As anyone who has ever met him will attest, Neil's energy and drive are infectious and inspirational—precisely what is needed to spark the interest of men who play a vital role in the movement to end violence against women.