Chapter 2
Topic 5 Gender, crime and justice
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Activity: Media
Violence, media and masculinity

A. Watch the following clip and in pairs answer the questions that follow.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqiX9Al-LZ8

1. According to Katz, what do young men learn early on in life?
2. Write a list of the qualities that the young men in the clip identify as manly.
3. Write a list of the words that are used when men do not live up to manly expectations.
4. What pressure do these ideas exert on young men?
5. According to Katz, where do boys learn these ideas about masculinity?
6. Why are media influences even more prominent for men of colour?
7. Write down the typical media representations shown of two ethnic groups.
8. According to Katz, how do the media portray violence?
9. Why does Katz see this as a problem for society?
10. Note down the statistics shown in the graph in the clip.
11. What conclusions could you draw from the statistics about men and violence?
12. What does Katz mean by the idea that male violence is cyclical? What evidence is there for this view?
13. Of all the homicides that are committed by men in the USA, what percentage of the victims are women, and what percentage of them are men?
14. According to Katz, why do men have to put on a 'tough guise'?
15. What is the cost of the 'tough guise'?
16. According to Katz, how can these problems be overcome? What action needs to be taken and by whom?
17. The word 'guise' means 'general external appearance; aspect; semblance; assumed appearance'. Why do you think Katz is using the play on words 'tough guise'/'tough guys'?

B. Individually, using your answers to the questions above, explain how the social construction of masculinity perpetuates male criminality.