

Coalition of United Progressives
CharMeck



We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one
mass movement.

- **Spotlight - by DonnaMarie Woodson**
 - **Editorial - by Tarik Kiley**
 - **Announcements**
 - **Happenings Gallery!**

Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

Congresswoman Alma S. Adams

U.S. House (NC) - District 12, Democrat



By DonnaMarie Woodson

“As a mother, grandmother and teacher, I’m outraged by how Republicans in Congress keep ignoring the needs of our families. With your help, I’ll go to Congress and fight to stop them.” -Alma Adams

Running, Democratic for Re-Election in U.S. House – District 12

<http://almaadamsforcongress.com/>



For Congresswoman Alma Adams, education and women's rights aren't political issues, they are personal issues that have shaped who she is today and how she represents the people she serves.

Growing up in a single parent household, Alma saw that the best way to get ahead was through dedication and hard work. Her mother's sacrifices motivated Alma to not only complete her own education, but to pursue a path that led her

to teaching in the classroom too. Alma raised two wonderful children—including a daughter who followed Alma's lead and became a teacher herself.

Alma's introduction to politics was on her local School Board, where she became the first African- American woman elected to that body and was a strong advocate for educational opportunities for everyone in her community. After serving on the School Board, Alma was elected to a seat on her City Council where she led efforts for affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization programs.

I'm very proud to call Congresswoman Adams my representative, she



truly cares about her constituents and spends time in District 12 holding Town Halls about Healthcare, Taxes, and any issues that affect our District and State.

I've had the honor of working with her in my role as an Advocate for The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, helping to pass legislation to benefit cancer patients, caregivers and survivors. We recently collaborated on her co-sponsorship of "The Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening "Act (H.R. 1017). This important piece of legislation

(Jade X. Jackson, Congresswoman Adams, DonnaMarie Woodson)

would fix the Medicare loophole that charges seniors for having polyps removed during their free screening.

Colorectal Cancer is a leading cause of death in cancer patients and the most preventable.

Health issues is one of the Congresswoman's concerns and she's committed to fighting for healthcare to benefit her constituents and the State of North Carolina.

“Health insurance needs to be affordable and available for everyone, not just the wealthy. I will always fight to improve the access, level of care, and affordability of health care.” – Alma Adams



Tax “Scam” Rally, Charlotte (Jade X. Jackson, Congresswoman Adams, Erika Calderone, Congresswoman Adams’ Legislative Assistant)

Congresswoman Alma S. Adams: ISSUES

Alma@almaadamsforcongress.com

- **STANDING UP FOR WOMEN**

Alma Adams' support for women's reproductive rights is widely known throughout the district, the state and perhaps nationally. Alma has led the way as the key spokesperson in the NC General Assembly on this issue. She has been clear in all of her comments that women should make the choice about their body and that a woman cannot call herself free if she does not own and control her own body.

- **IMPROVING PUBLIC EDUCATION**

"As a retired educator I have seen first-hand the impact a great education can have on a young person's life. I will always be a champion for public schools, our teachers, and our children." – Alma Adams

- **PROVIDING AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY HEALTH CARE**

Health insurance needs to be affordable and available for everyone. That's why Alma supports government discounts for insurance based upon income. She also supports tax incentives for small businesses that provide coverage for their employees.



- **STRENGTHENING THE MIDDLE CLASS**

"We must strengthen the middle class in order to build a stronger American economy." – Alma Adams

- **PROTECTING SENIORS**

"We must keep our promise to our seniors in the form Medicare and Social Security. I'll fight against any attempt to privatize Social Security or defund Medicare." – Alma Adams

- **FIGHTING FOR EQUAL RIGHTS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL**

“It’s time for Congress to act, restore the Voting Rights Act, and take action to prevent voter disenfranchisement. As your next Congresswoman, I will stand up to the extremists in the Republican Party to ensure civil rights are protected for everyone.” – Alma Adams

- **GIVING OUR WORKERS A FAIR CHANCE**

Congresswoman Adams will oppose any unfair trade deals and will work to stop giving away high paying manufacturing jobs to foreign countries while our families here are struggling.

Adams will always ensure American workers are given a fair chance to succeed in today’s economy.

- **PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT**

Marshall Park Protecting our Environment Rally



- **REDUCING POVERTY**

“The assault on the working class and the poor is appalling and it needs to stop. I will work hard every day to combat poverty. We must do more lift our fellow brothers and sisters up.” – Alma Adams

- **COMBATING CRIME**

Alma Adams wants to make sure law enforcement and first responders have adequate resources to protect its citizens. At the same time, Congress must do something to counter the easy access to deadly weapons to criminals and others who could do us harm.



Congresswoman Adams has always believed that a quality education is the path to the middle class. She has fought tirelessly throughout her career to improve our public schools and protect women's rights from the extremists in the legislature. Alma also led the effort to increase the minimum wage in North Carolina, earning

her statewide recognition as a champion for the middle class.

Alma will be a Congresswoman who fights to make Congress focus on the issues that matter most to women and families throughout our district.

Donald Trump is trying to tear down our community with policies that only help the wealthy and the special interests. But, I know that there's a better way. We can rise up, work together, and create opportunity for all. Together, let's build bridges not walls.

"Here's My Promise to You:

I will never stop fighting Donald Trump's divisive and destructive agenda. He can't wear me down." -Congresswoman Alma Adams

Voter Information

Where and when can I vote?

- Absentee-by-mail voting has begun. [Click here to request an absentee-by-mail ballot.](#)
- ELECTION DAY Primary – May 8, 2018!

Polls open from 6:30am-7:30 pm

[Click here to commit to vote for Alma!](#)

On Tuesday, May 8th Vote Democrat Alma S. Adams
For Congress U. S. House District 12!



https://votesmart.org/candidate/biography/5935/alma-adams#.Wr1_MYgbM2wCongresswoman **Alma S. Adams**

Alma@almaadamsforcongress.com

Editorial

Violence as Masculine

By Tarik Kiley

March 28, 2018

There is a new energy among American youth. This energy is the fight for tougher gun control laws. Youth leaders argue that there have been too many victims of school shootings in the USA. This also has noticeably brought attention to everyday gun violence in



some areas such as South LA and Chicago.

Arguably, the students

“marching for their lives” feel disappointed by senior politicians who can only seem to offer hopes and prayers. Some argue that kids who are bullied are more likely to commit school shootings. But, it also could be argued that there are plenty of kids who get bullied but who also do not commit mass shootings. So, what is behind these shootings?

In this author’s eyes, it lies in how American society defines masculinity. From birth, boys are taught to repress their feelings, and to use violence as a means to solve their problems. This message may not be explicit, but it is implicit in the culture. It is

pervasive in action movies, television shows and even in the everyday lives of boys. Boys are taught to “suck it up,” and not to be a “sissy.” Boys who do not excel at sports, “throw like girls.” It seems that the “tough guy” is truly the American model of masculinity.



But, often times, “the tough guy” is really a repressed and emotionally impaired male, who is

unable to process and properly channel their own emotions. The tough guy often lacks emotional intelligence. Also, rather than blaming school shootings and violence on mental illness, because there are plenty of people with mental illness who are not violent, let’s look at it for what it is. It is really a case of *toxic masculinity*.

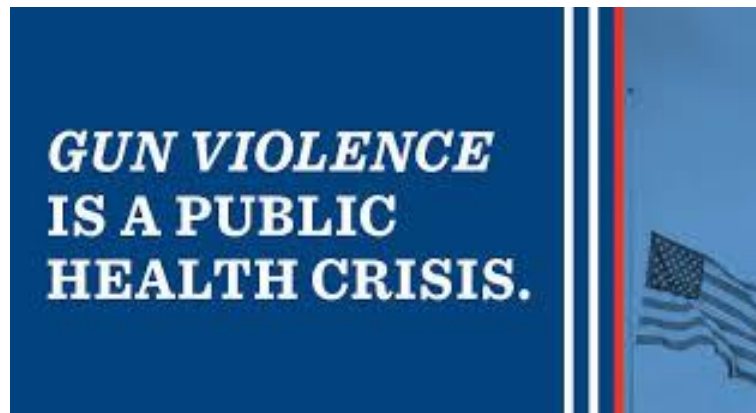
Toxic masculinity, in this author’s opinion, is the result of a socialization process, which instructs males to solve their problems with aggression.

[Laura Kiesel](#) (*Boston-area freelance journalist*) mentions this in her Politico.com article entitled, [“Don’t Blame Mental Illness for Mass Shootings; Blame Men.”](#) Though the title of her article is right on point, it may not be right to blame men, either. But, *certainly* the American socialization process can be blamed. Men who do not feel “manly”, who feel they have been emasculated, often lash out

in aggression. This is a result of society setting certain standards of “manliness” in the first place.

Though, this author is faulting the American socialization process for the aggression that men show, this is not to deny the idea that toxic masculinity should be dealt with, in terms of understanding the psychology behind it.

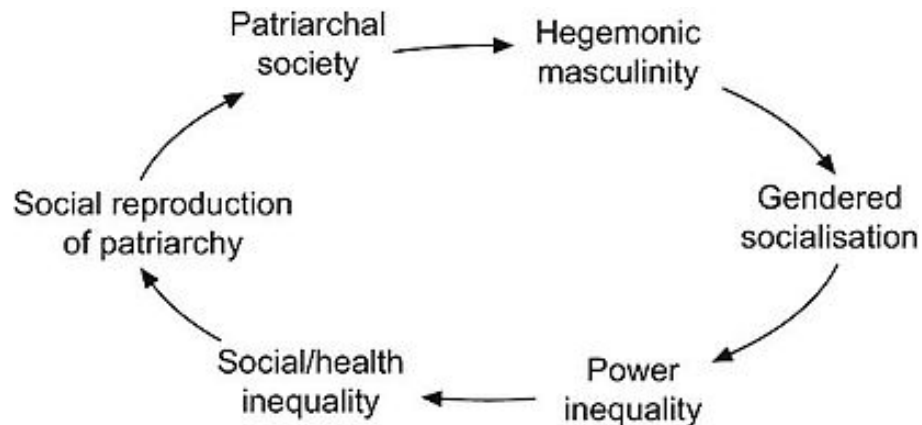
Male violence, in hyper-violent situations, whether in mass shootings, or in prison culture as Dr. Kupers speaks of, should be studied and understood in a therapeutic fashion. This author would simply reiterate that there are plenty of mentally ill people who are not violent, and that environmental and socialization factors should be taken into account.



[Dr. Terry Kupers](#) (psychiatrist with a background in psychoanalytic psychotherapy, forensics and social and community psychiatry) emphasizes this socialization pressure to be a “real man,” as explained in the article [“Toxic Masculinity as a Barrier to Mental Health Treatment in Prison.”](#) According to Kupers, “Today’s [hegemonic masculinity](#) (*a practice that legitimizes men's dominant position in society and justifies the subordination of women, and other marginalized ways of being a man*). in the United States of America and Europe includes a high degree of ruthless competition, an inability to express emotions other than anger, an unwillingness to admit weakness or dependency, devaluation of women and all

feminine attributes in men, homophobia, and so forth (Brittan, 1989).

Hegemonic masculinity is conceptual and stereotypic in the sense that most men veer far from the hegemonic norm in their actual idiosyncratic ways, but even as they do so, they tend to worry lest others will view them as unmanly for their deviations from the hegemonic ideal of the real man.” The real man is tough. The real man commands respect. The way to get respect is through violence and aggression. This is the lesson which I fault society for teaching our boys.



Works Cited

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/01/17/gun-violence-masculinity-216321>

Kupers, Terry A. *Toxic Masculinity as a Barrier to Mental Health Treatment in Prison.* JOURNAL OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY, Vol. 61(6), 713–724 (2005).

Announcements



Rowan Concerned Citizens

Poor People's Campaign Direct Action Training

**Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 6:00 PM
Mission House, 120 Statesville Blvd
Salisbury, NC 28144**

Democrats of N. Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018 7:00 PM

MAGNOLIA WOODS

12125 STATESVILLE ROAD

HUNTERSVILLE, NC 28078

(SHARED DRIVEWAY WITH CAROLINA VETERINARY SPECIALISTS)

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

2018 Candidate Forum

US House, Mecklenburg Sheriff and Mecklenburg DA

Black Political Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Thursday, April 5 at 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church

1600 Norris Ave. Charlotte, NC 28206

North Mecklenburg Progressives Monthly Dinner

Speakers: Marilyn Campbell and Beth Pickering

“White Privilege”

Tuesday, April 10th, starting at 6:30

Famous Toastery

12715 Conner Dr., Huntersville

NAACP Charlotte-Mecklenburg Branch

Mental Health & Women Issue Forum

Friday, April 20 at 6 PM - 8:30 PM

Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church

401 N. McDowell St., Charlotte, NC 28204

Poor People's Campaign

Non-Violent Moral Fusion Direct Action

Saturday, April 14th 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

1609 E. 5th St, Charlotte 28204

Immigration Panel: Spring Meeting Charlotte's Women March

Tuesday, April 24th – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

First United Methodist Church

501 N. Tryon St, Charlotte 28202

Announcements



Senator Jeff Jackson's Gameplan Phone Bank

Advent CoWorking

933 Louise Ave, Suite #101, Charlotte, 28204

Purpose: Targeting voters in the most flappable districts across the state and letting them know there's an election this November 2nd.

- They've got a great challenger running in a competitive race who deserves their support as a voter and a volunteer.
- This challenger could be one of the keys to unlocking the governor's veto which would dramatically shift the political landscape.

Sign up here <http://www.jeffjacksonnc.com/gameplan-phone-bank>



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings Gallery



Alma Adams Campaign Kickoff Event

(City Councilman Braxton Winston, Jeanette Anderson, DonnaMarie Woodson, Maxine Howard, Reginald Phatdaddy Crawford, Congresswoman Alma Adams, City Councilman Larkin Egleston)

The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

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