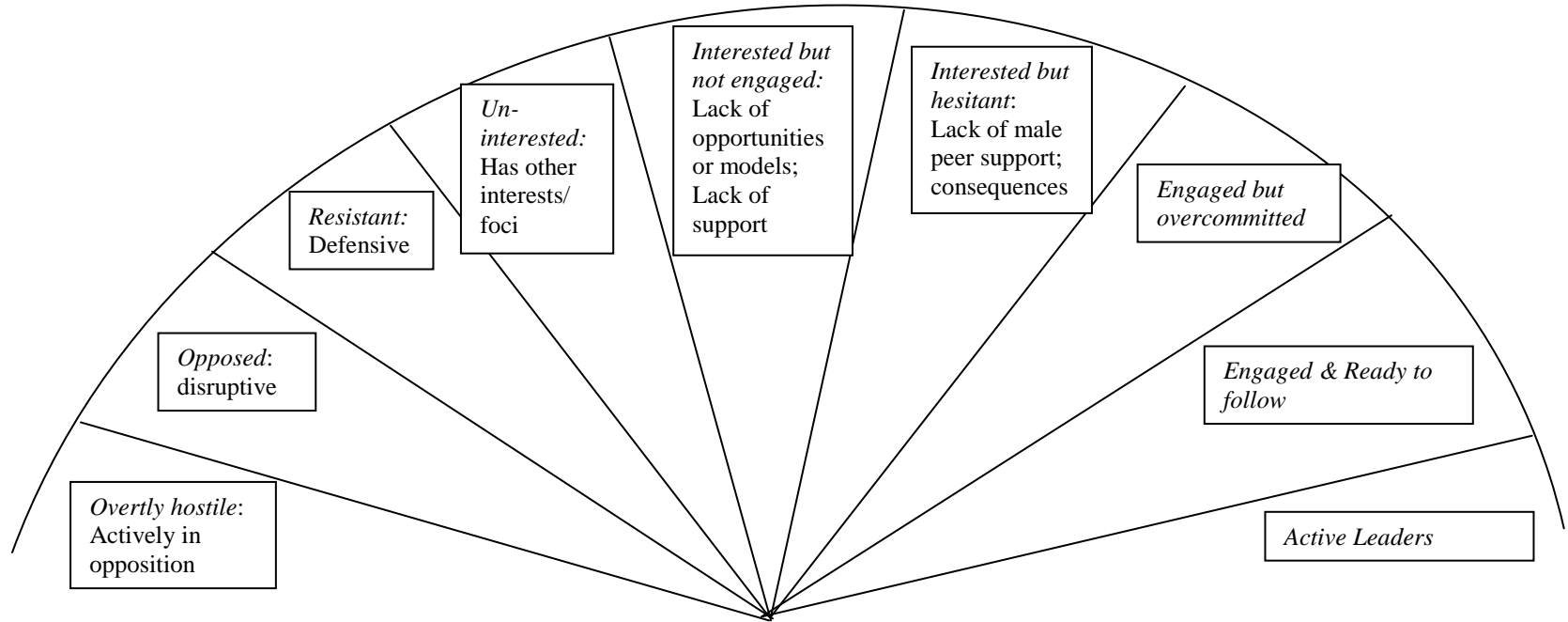


CONTINUUM OF MEN'S ENGAGEMENT



Men come to the issues of men's work and men's violence from a variety of perspectives. Effectively engaging men requires that we work from where they are, and encourage them to take their next step. Far too often, men's engagement programs attempt to engage men towards becoming activists – where they would like men to be. Moving towards being an activist is a process. Few men are prepared to join the effort overtly and become activists in the effort to address sexism and men's violence. It is important for efforts designed to engage men design projects that take men from where they are and assist (through encouragement, challenging, and support) to their next level. The above graph visually depicts what this may look like. The categories above are provided as examples to clarify the process, rather than offered as specific sub-groups of men. When designing educational or engagement efforts, it is important to consider those efforts that are most likely to reach men where they are. Although this is a continuum, men's engagement is not a linear process. They may move, and often will, through various stages as they step forward and backward in the process of becoming increasingly engaged. It has been found that engaging men is most effective if it includes a specific activity rather than a workshop or lecture series. Coming to a group of men with a specific and concrete action in which they can become involved (including in the planning of that activity) is very important. Through the process of planning the activity, education can occur to assist men in moving towards their next level of engagement and commitment.