



MenEngage Africa core principles

- **Working as allies with existing women's rights processes:** We are committed to working as allies with women and women's rights organisations to achieve equality for women and girls.
- **Gender as relational:** In their daily lives, women and men together experience and shape gender roles and relations. MenEngage believes that to transform gender relations, men and women must work together to redefine build a more just and gender equitable world.
- **Engaging men from a positive perspective:** We believe that women and girls and boys and men and the wider society would benefit from recognition of these issues and appropriate action to transform non-equitable and violent versions of manhood and redress power inequalities related to gender. We seek to build examples of men already acting in more gender-equitable and non-violent ways.
- **Challenging men's violence against women:** We are dedicated to engaging men and boys to end violence against women and in questioning or challenging violent versions of manhood.
- **The vulnerabilities of men:** We believe that the specific needs and experiences of men and boys have often not been well understood nor taken into account in the development of public policy or professional practice across a wide range of areas. We believe that some men and boys are made vulnerable by non-equitable and violent versions of manhood.
- **Engaging men as caregivers:** We are dedicated to promoting more equitable participation by men and boys in caregiving, the care of children and domestic tasks.
- **Sexual rights:** We are dedicated to promoting respect for the sexual and reproductive rights of all, and engage men so that reproductive health and contraception are more evenly shared between men and women.
- **Sexual diversity:** We recognise and celebrate the diversity of sexualities, including heterosexual, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender/intersexed men and women
- **Non-discrimination:** We actively advocate against, question and seek to overcome, sexism, social exclusion, homophobia, racism or any form of discriminatory behavior against anyone, or on any other basis.
- **Transparency:** We are transparent, honest, fair and ethical in all of its actions, including making public its sources of funding and annual budget.
- **Collaboration:** We seek to work in collaboration, dialoguing openly about institutional differences and achieving consensus whenever possible.
- **Human rights perspective and life cycle approach:** We recognise the need to apply a human rights perspective in all their activities and to take into account a lifecycle and ecological approach that incorporates both the individual as well as the broader social and structural contexts that shape gender inequalities.

- **Participation:** We strive to include the voices of men and women, boys and girls, at the community level, and the voices of community-level NGOs.
- **Promoting existing UN mandates:** We are dedicated to engaging men and boys to fulfill the mandates, statements of action, and principles of ICPD, CEDAW and CSW statements, and CRC and working collectively to encourage governments to do the same.
- **Evidence base:** We seek to build on and contribute to evidence-based approaches to engaging men and boys.