MenEngage Alliance News Brief: July 2016

News from the Alliance

MenEngage Alliance e-dialogue explores prospects and challenges of making work with men and boys gender transformative

MenEngage Alliance in April facilitated a critical online discussion among key constituents on a range of strategic and practical questions related to engaging men and boys and transforming masculinities in the women’s rights and gender justice field. Participants from all corners of the globe – 134 people from 41 countries registered for the event – came together for a lively, thought-provoking dialogue, sharing experiences, concerns, lessons learned and recommendations about partnership, accountability and transformative work.

In July, the Alliance issued a report summarizing key discussion points, trends and recommendations that emerged from the e-dialogue. It explores how this work might be(come) gender transformative by challenging structures and politicizing work with men and boys, building partnerships, addressing the question of funding, working both together and independently, working with faith leaders and with boys and young men, improving monitoring and evaluation and, importantly, building networks for change.

MenEngage Alliance Global Board and strategic planning meetings chart the way forward

MenEngage Alliance Board members and representatives from UN and other partners met in Vårdinge, Sweden, during June 21-23 for both the Alliance’s annual Board meeting and a strategic planning meeting to plot the way forward for its next strategic period, 2017-2020.

Both offered a snapshot of a vibrant, growing Alliance in transition, its membership up to 699 organizations and individuals across 66 countries, connected via 36 country and six regional networks, its infrastructure increasingly formalized and interconnected.

The Board meeting noted the January incorporation of the Global Secretariat as an independent
MenEngage Alliance members a vibrant presence at Gender360 Summit

The 4th global Gender360 Summit, held June 15-16 in Washington, DC and organized by FHI360, featured MenEngage Alliance as an active partner, along with the U.S. Agency for International Development, Plan International USA, Social Development Direct, George Washington University’s Global Women’s Institute, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Peace Corps. Its theme was Engaging Adolescent Girls and Boys in Achieving Gender Equality and Combating Gender-based Violence.

Alliance members from nearly every MenEngage region – the Caribbean, Europe, North America, Latin America and South Asia, as well as MENA – spoke on panel discussions about adolescent SRHR and LGBTQIA rights, youth advocacy and leadership; provided content for the summit’s online hub; and were a vibrant social media presence at #Gender360Summit.

Representing the Alliance at the summit were Ariel Cerrud (Advocates for Youth); Goma Devi Bastola and Dhruba Ghimire (RUWON Nepal); Hassan Joumaa (ABAAD MENA); John Crownover (CARE International Balkans); Pamela Saavedra Castro (CulturaSalud); Dr. Santosh Giri (Kolkata Rista); Tyrone Buckmire (CariMAN); and Vanja Josic (Perpetuum Mobile).
...and at Women Deliver Conference on SDGs and supporting women and girls’ SRHR

Almost 6000 people from 169 countries – the largest gathering for girls’ and women’s health in rights in the last decade – came together for Women Deliver's 4th Global Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, during May 16-19. Its focus was how to implement the Sustainable Development Goals so that they matter most for girls and women, with a specific focus on health – in particular maternal, sexual, and reproductive health and rights – and on gender equality, education, environment, and economic empowerment.

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) represented the Alliance at the conference in the person of Jameel Zamir, Deputy Programs Director for IPPF’s South Asia office. Leaders from other Alliance members, including Promundo and Sonke Gender Justice, also spoke on panel discussions about the role of fathers in women’s and girls’ health and equality; the politics of pleasure, sexuality and human rights; deconstructing gender through sexual rights; and the promotion of equitable, nonviolent fatherhood, among others.

MenEngage Alliance statement on Orlando nightclub shooting

‘The collective hearts of the MenEngage Alliance go out to the victims of the Orlando nightclub shooting and mourn their and their families’ profound loss. We condemn this terrible act of violence.

‘We stand in solidarity with LGBTQI communities in Orlando and everywhere: the arc of history is bending toward the fulfillment of their rights, and nothing will change its course.

‘We as an Alliance rededicate ourselves to challenging and transforming the cultural, social and gender norms that too often activate hatred, violence and discrimination, and we urgently ask our leaders and fellow citizens to do likewise in both their professional and personal conduct. Failure to act is no longer acceptable; at this point, it’s no different than complicity.’

[Linked from the MenEngage Alliance website.]
News from the regions

State of America’s Fathers report: significant progress in U.S. toward gender equality in parenting – but still a long way to go

The first-ever State of America’s Fathers report, issued in June, describes the current status of fathers in America and what fatherhood has to do with gender equality, work-life balance, social justice, and underlying questions of what it means to be a man in America today. We’ve come a long way toward achieving gender equality in parenting, it finds, but there are key areas where the United States is failing its parents. While fathers are taking on more child care and domestic work than ever before – and they say they want to do more – the U.S. fails to support its families with living wages, paid parental leave, and other programs and policies to ensure that children get the care they need.

State of America’s Fathers presents a plan for how the U.S. could become a child-friendly and parent-supportive country, with recommendations for what it will take to reach equality in caregiving, to achieve work-life balance for parents in all their diversity, and to support nonresident, low-income fathers. Coordinated by Promundo as a MenCare publication, the reports follows the landmark 2015 State of the World’s Fathers report.

MenEngage Europe members receive EU funding to share best practices on work with boys to prevent sexualized harassment and violence

Men for Gender Equality (Sweden), Emancipator (Netherlands) – both MenEngage Europe members – and Great Initiative (UK) have received Daphne funds from the EU for a two-year-project to collect, develop further and disseminate best practices from the region within the field of work with boys to prevent sexualized harassment and violence. The project will make it possible for groups of trainers and peer educators from the three partner countries to meet and exchange experiences on best practices, as well as to implement activities on the ground in each country. Associate partners who will contribute their own experiences and knowledge as well as participate in the final conference in 2018 are Poika (Austria), Dissens (Germany), Conexus (Spain) and Status M (Croatia). The findings and learnings throughout the project will be shared within the wider MenEngage Alliance network.
MenEngage Africa partners in East Africa hold workshop on SGBV in conflict settings

MenEngage Africa partners in East Africa and faith-based organizations met in Kigali, Rwanda, in April for a two-day workshop on addressing sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings in Africa. Workshop goals were: to increase awareness of conflicts past and present in Africa and their effects on citizens, especially women and girls; to build capacity to conduct advocacy in and outside conflict zones and how to report and document GBV in resource- and infrastructure-constrained conflict zones; to capacitate MEA partners on how to mobilize the faith-based sector for meaningful interventions; and to familiarize participants on international protocols related to conflict, including UNSC Resolution 1325.

More news from MenEngage Africa:

- Ensuring menstruation does not prevent girls from attending school
- Shifting male gender norms with religious leaders
- High-level meeting on SGBV in Great Lakes region

NAMEN builds out webinar series on preventing gender violence

The North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN) Program Working Group continues to expand its 2016-17 webinar series offerings to member and non-member constituents working to prevent gender violence in all its forms.

Building on the themes of men’s accountability and community of practice, the working group is in the initial stages of developing 10-12 webinar sessions. Taken in sequence, they serve as a course to help educate individuals and groups working in local communities, rural areas and isolated municipalities who might otherwise lack access to current trends related to engaging men in prevention, deconstructing masculinity, community of practice, organizing faith communities, including LGBTQ communities in prevention efforts, examining male emotional support systems, men’s health issues and gender violence, and engaging men in policy advocacy - just to name a few.

Individuals or groups interested in joining NAMEN can visit http://namen.menengage.org/ for more information on how to become a member.
NAMEN webinars to date have focused on engaging men as allies in prevention, and conceptualizing and implementing accountability in men’s gender equity efforts. Guest speakers and presenters have included Rus Funk, Men’s Work, Michael Shaw and Michael Fleming, Iowa Men's Action Network, Emiliano Diaz de Leon, Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, Chuck Derry, Gender Violence Institute and Minnesota Men's Action Network, Kate Bojin, White Ribbon Campaign, Ashley Maier, California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Oswaldo Montoya, MenEngage Global Alliance, and Shafferan Sonneveld, Muslims for Progressive Values. Video and audio recordings to previous webinars can be found at http://namen.menengage.org/webinars.

Resources

MenCare Webinar on Men, Equality and Unpaid Care
MenCare

It’s About Time: The Case for Parental Leave
MenCare

Father’s Day Program on Children (Spanish)
MenCare Latin America

Faith, Gender and Sexuality: A Toolkit
Sonke Gender Justice

Five Lessons to Promote Active Parenting: Blog by Francisco Aguayo and Eduardo Kimelman (Spanish)
InterAmerican Development Bank

Voice Male Magazine: Summer 2016 Edition
Voice Male

Address the Gender of Gunmen: Commentary by Rob Okun
Albany Times-Union

Gender Analysis of Conflict Toolkit
Saferworld

African Youth Conference on Climate Change
African Youth Initiative Climate Change

Youth Consultation on Girls Education
Plan UK

A Young Person’s Guide to Keep Self and Others Safe
Save the Children

Women at Work Trends 2016
International Labour Organization
ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development
ECOSOC

Advancing Civic Engagement and Human Rights with Young Women and Young Men
UN Habitat

CSW Analysis Report by Lakshmi Puri, UN Women
The Gender Agency

UN Women Annual Report 2015-2016
UN Women

Invitation for Youth to Submit Videos for International Day of Peace
United Nations

A Look at the Gender Distribution of Tweets About Global Development
UN Global Pulse

United States of Women Summit
White House

Feed the Future: Women’s Empowerment Agricultural Index
U.S. Agency for International Development

U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally
U.S. Agency for International Development

Global Strategy to Empower Adolescent Girls
U.S. Agency for International Development

Realizing Gender Equality’s $12 Trillion Economic Opportunity
McKinsey & Company