MenEngage Alliance News Brief: October 2016

News from the Alliance

Sharing experiences, raising possibilities: Consultation on faith-based approaches to transforming masculinities for gender justice & equality

MenEngage Alliance and Tearfund, a faith-based relief and development agency, held a two-day consultation in Washington D.C. in August in order to generate greater understanding about faith-based approaches to transforming masculinities for gender justice. Twenty-two experts from both within and outside the Alliance came together to share their experiences and lessons learned, and to start to develop a joint agenda. Representatives from Sonke Gender Justice (South Africa), Shirakat (Pakistan), ABAAD MENA (Lebanon), Muslims for Progressive Values (USA), and Tearfund (UK) shared thought-provoking insights from their respective regions.

There was a general feeling among participants that there are ample reasons to strengthen this partnership, including:

- The need to counter religious voices that oppose gender equality – an effort which, in order to be effective, must come from within faith communities.
- The lack of space, resources and skills within faith communities for dialogue on gender equality. MenEngage Alliance members can provide tools to help them initiate conversations, especially via a men and masculinities lens.

The Global Secretariat will share a report on the consultation with you all soon.
MenEngage Alliance at the AWID Forum

MenEngage Alliance members attended the AWID Forum in September, every four years the biggest gathering of women’s rights activists from around the world – and for the Alliance a special opportunity to build partnerships with crucial allies in the gender justice movement.

Entitled *Feminist Futures: Building Collective Power for Rights and Justice*, the Forum drew almost 2,000 participants to Bahia, Brazil with the aim to celebrate the gains of the past 20 years and critically analyze lessons to carry forward; identify opportunities and threats for advancing the rights of women and other oppressed people; and to explore strategies for mobilizing greater solidarity across diverse movements.

MenEngage Alliance added to the Forum build-up by organizing an [e-dialogue on engaging men and boys in gender justice](https://www.menengage.org/) and by co-hosting – along with Breakthrough and Promundo US – three Twitter chats in August and early September using the hashtag #Men4FeministFutures: one on Disrupting gender norms that lead to violence; a second on Consent; and a third on How men and women can end domestic violence together.

And MenEngage Alliance Global Coordinator Joni van de Sand was among a number of AWID members asked to contribute to a pre-Forum blog series ‘Member Musings from the Forum’. “What excites me about the Forum,” Joni wrote, “is that we will get together as feminists from all walks of life and all around the world, to discuss and share, and build solidarity movements, to trample the patriarchy! Participating in the AWID Forum will help to listen and learn from what is happening around the world, and to strengthen partnerships and joint action.”

During the Forum, the Alliance held a daily caucus on ‘Men, Masculinities and Feminisms’, where members of its delegation – representing ABAAD-MENA, Breakthrough, Fiocruz/National Institute of Women’s Health, GEMA-UFPE, HOPEM-Mozambique, Instituto PAPAI, Promundo US and Promundo Brasil, Rutgers, Sonke Gender Justice, VIDC and WILPF – met to strategize about what they wanted to learn and achieve.

MenEngage hosted two full-house events during the Forum: one by MenEngage Brasil entitled *Feminisms and men: Transforming practices, institutions and symbols*; and another on Strategies for building a movement of men to end violence against women.
Throughout the Forum, MenEngage Alliance hosted a booth where participants displayed their materials and interacted with Forum participants.

Longtime Alliance collaborator Nikki van der Gaag of OxFam, in a post-Forum blog post aptly entitled A good place to start, not only captured the essence of the event’s excitement but also Forum focuses which could serve doubly as a cross-movement agenda for the Alliance: alliance building with other movements; a vibrant youth and LGBTQI representation; concern over shrinking civil society spaces in many countries; and attention for climate justice and trade union movements, women and peacebuilding, and women’s economic empowerment.

**Additional Forum links:**

*The place of men in achieving gender justice*
Rachel Ploem, Rutgers

*Funding for women’s rights groups in poor countries falls by more than half*
Liz Ford, Guardian

*Men are allies to the cause of equality for women, says campaigner*
Interview with Gary Barker, Thomson Reuters Foundation News
[http://news.trust.org/item/20160912155245-x70b4/](http://news.trust.org/item/20160912155245-x70b4/)

**Eastern Europe and Central Asia MenEngage Platform launched**

A new Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) MenEngage Platform was launched in September, connecting practitioners across the region to exchange best practices in engaging men and boys in gender justice and challenging harmful gender stereotypes in programming, policy, and research.

Led by the UNFPA EECA Regional Office in collaboration with the MenEngage Alliance, Promundo, and UNFPA Country Offices, the platform is open to nongovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, state institutions, experts, government representatives, academics, and UN partners. It aims to bring together these actors
to address stereotypical gender norms, eliminate violence against women and girls, contest harmful practices that foster injustice, and increase access to and utilization of sexual and reproductive health services. Currently, the platform includes members from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Macedonia, Serbia, and Turkmenistan. For more information about the platform, please visit http://eecamenengage.net/en/

**MenEngage Alliance a presence at International Conference on Men and Equal Opportunities**

MenEngage Alliance members CARE Balkans, Men for Gender Equality Sweden and Promundo, as well as Alliance Global Secretariat staff, took part in the 3rd International Conference on Men and Equal Opportunities in Luxembourg on October 17-18, organized around the theme “Who cares? Who shares? Men as agents and beneficiaries in Gender Equality policies.”

International experts, through a series of topical presentations and six workshops on issues such as men and child care, men and the elderly, and men and household work, challenged participants to address the question ‘Which policies can and must create the framework conditions needed to promote greater engagement and involvement of men in care settings – and consequently contribute to the fair and equitable distribution of paid and unpaid work?’

**MenEngage Alliance 2015 annual report shows an alliance that’s working, in every sense**

Hot off the presses, the [MenEngage Alliance 2015 annual report](http://eecamenengage.net/en/)! We strongly encourage you to take time to read it through. Whether you see it as a snapshot of the Alliance for a single year, or as a stocktaking two years since the Delhi Symposium as we near the end of a four-year strategic cycle and the start of a new one, it communicates one message above all others: MenEngage Alliance is working, in every sense of the word.

The report therefore is ultimately a tribute to Alliance members, partners and friends, and their hard work. And while we acknowledge that much remains to be done, there is a great deal to be proud of.

Most of our 2015 efforts focused on key themes of addressing men’s and boys’ roles in ending violence against women and children, men’s caregiving responsibilities, men’s and boys’ contributions to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and men and masculinities in peacebuilding. These themes were advanced through
educational campaigns, advocacy efforts, inputs at conferences and international policy making, capacity strengthening events and network building. Throughout the year, the Alliance’s work was informed by the Delhi Call to Action (which emerged from the 2nd Global Symposium in 2014), especially the aspects relating to accountability in the field of engaging men and boys in women’s rights and gender equality.

**MenEngage Accountability blog**

**Abhijit Das:** *In disquiet, the seed of a new understanding: a way forward for men and gender equality*
September 9, 2016

**Oswaldo Montoya:** *“I can do it all by myself:” Why increased male caregiving may find resistance from women*
September 1, 2016

**Bayano Valy:** *Men seeing themselves as full partners in care work*
August 11, 2016

**Member Profile:**
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

**Let’s #MoveTheMoney: WILPF toolkit urges countries to shift funding from war to gender justice & peace**

The [Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)](http://www.wilpf.org) (WILPF), a MenEngage Alliance Global Board member, launched a [toolkit](http://www.wilpf.org) during the AWID Forum in September to boost action on women, peace and security (WPS) financing. A non-profit peace organisation with national sections in 33 countries, WILPF produced the toolkit to address the striking disparity between military funding and peace and gender equality funding across the globe. Its aim is to stimulate advocacy among non-governmental actors, and push the United Nations and national governments to shift their funding focus from war to gender justice and peace. The toolkit includes a motion graphics explainer video available in five languages, case studies, fact sheets, social media graphics to help spread the #MoveTheMoney message, and media guides.
According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, in 2015 there was a global military expenditure of $1.6 trillion. Meanwhile only two percent of aid to fragile states in 2012-2013 targeted gender equality as a principal objective, according to the Global Study on UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

"If the international community wants peace, it needs to invest more in gender equality and social justice policies," Dr. Abigail Ruane, Director of WILPF’s Women, Peace and Security program (PeaceWomen), said. “Our toolkit shows that instead of funding war, the UN and member states should invest in gender responsive budgeting, transparency in defence budgets, National action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security, and civil society-inclusive UN funds.”

For more on the launch, read Invest in women’s organizations for a change, a WILPF blog post by Peace A. Medie.

More from WILPF

In Syria and Bosnia, women are quietly changing the world: Guardian column
By Madeleine Rees, WILPF Secretary-General

Feminist spaces of men – and women: WILPF blog post on MenEngage Alliance State of the Field and Board meetings, by Maria Butler, WILPF Director of Global Programmes

News from the regions

MenEngage Africa

Welcome Mali – MenEngage Alliance’s new country network!

Mali, eighth-largest country in Africa and home to Bamako, considered the fastest-growing city on the continent, now has its own MenEngage network. Welcome aboard!

MenEngage Network Mali comprises of a range of NGOs that advocate around a number of key issues where gender directly affects the lives of women and men. Hosted by the Global Institute for Women’s Empowerment (GIWE), its focus areas are gender-based violence prevention and response, sexual
reproductive health and rights, children’s rights, women’s economic empowerment, women’s role in peace and security, and women’s political leadership.

National coordinator for MenEngage Network Mali is Kassoum Coulibaly, who can be reached at c.kassoum@gmail.com. Check out the new Mali page on the MenEngage Alliance website, http://menengage.org/regions/africa/mali/.

Zambia National Men’s Network finds receptive audience for GBV sensitization: high school students

The Zambia National Men’s Network conducted a gender-based violence sensitization at Chitende High School in the Lower Zambezi on September 18, designed to equip boys and girls aged 16-20 with information on gender violence. More than two dozen students attended.

First of the sessions tackled gender and gender equality, with a view to enable participants to define gender equality in terms they understood. Students were divided into three groups to discuss gender equality, the differences between gender and sex roles.

Participation in the afternoon session, about sexual violence and its effects on girls was ‘overwhelming,’ according to the Network, and an evening Q&A session drew more than 50 pupils.

Looking forward, many participants, especially those in grade twelve, said they wanted to continue the work after graduation, particularly outreach to their home communities.

Women’s health, masculinities and empowerment training in Botswana

Nearly 30 professionals, trainers and activists from the health, legal, research and human rights fields from every region of Africa took part in Women’s Health, Masculinities and Empowerment: Policy Advocacy Training, an intensive course which used interdisciplinary case studies and exercises to enable participants to learn how to build women’s empowerment and gender norms transformation into effective health programmes and advocacy activities. The training was held at the Botswana National Productivity Centre in Gaborone during the first two weeks of September.

“The main purpose of the course is to provide participants with core knowledge and skills from several disciplines on how to improve women’s health and well-being globally”, said Dr. Paula Tavrow, co-director of the University of California’s Centre of Expertise on Women’s Health and Empowerment.

Participants came from Uganda and Kenya in eastern Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo in central Africa, Nigeria in West Africa and Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi and South Africa in southern Africa. Sonke posted daily recaps of the training which can be found on the Africa page of the MenEngage Alliance website: http://menengage.org/regions/africa/
SADC forum adopts language on engaging-men approaches to gender equality, thanks to MenEngage Africa

Congratulations are due MenEngage Africa manager and Sonke Gender Justice Head of Regional Programmes and Networks Itumeleng Komanyane for ensuring that the role of men and boys in promoting gender equality and justice is incorporated into the Southern Africa Development Community’s (SADC) regional platform.

Komanyane made a submission in this regard at the SADC Parliamentary round-table held September 7-8 in Gaborone, Botswana on the links between gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in southern Africa.

Her submission forms part of a nine-page communiqué that has been adopted by the forum. It reads:

“The Roundtable recognised and emphasised the importance of the involvement of boys and men in the fight against GBV and all its negative consequences. In this vein, the Roundtable called for the adoption of emerging and promising approaches in mitigating GBV, through proactive promotion and engagement of men and boys in all their diversities in gender equality, including by taking proactive steps to care for their own health and the health of their sexual partners. In this regard, it was necessary to ensure that laws and policies were inclusive, non-discriminatory and enabled full involvement of all, in gender equality, in GBV and SRHR programmes. There should also be a strengthening of health and community systems to be more competent, responsive and inclusive of the needs of men and women in all their diversities.”

Click here for the full story.

MenEngage Africa a robust presence at 21st International AIDS Conference

MenEngage Africa and partner organisations presented their work and participated in an impressive variety of events at the 21st International AIDS Conference in Durban during July, working hard to insist that governments, donors, corporate sector partners, and UN agencies deliver on their mandate and commitments to fund and implement effective prevention programmes, make sure that all who need treatment have it and respect and advance the rights of all.

Click here for a spreadsheet of conference events MenEngage Africa was involved in, and here for a Sonke article on key take-aways from the conference.
MenEngage Europe

MEE members represented at OSCE meetings

Anna Lindqvist, left, from Men for Gender Equality Sweden made a presentation on MenEngage Europe as keynote speaker at a session on equal opportunities for women and men at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on September 28. The meeting is Europe’s largest annual human rights and democracy conference, organised by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights as a platform for 57 OSCE participating States and other relevant actors to take stock of the implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments, share good practices and make recommendations for further improvement. On October 11, Teresa Schweiger, left, from Poika in Austria represent MenEngage Europe at a meeting with the OSCE Human Dimension Committee in Vienna.

North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN)

NAMEN launches community of practice to share work

The North American MenEngage Network (NAMEN) has begun a series of Community of Practice (COP) exchanges that will enable members of NAMEN to share details of events and initiatives they have undertaken to engage men in ending sexist oppression and supporting gender justice. This first COP exchange focused on two NAMEN steering committee members who have been engaging men for decades, pioneers in the work in North America, and describes their work and the challenges inherent in accountable approaches to change and transitions that occur in the course of a lifetime doing this work.
**MenEngage Latin America**

**MenEngage Latin America and partners’ report on VAWG outlines effective interventions in region**


Its purpose is to review impact-evaluated programs that engage men in the prevention and elimination of VAWG; its objective is to provide evidence regarding efforts in the region to prevent and eradicate all forms of VAWG used by men, and to outline effective interventions and highlight progress in the field, as well as the obstacles, lessons learned, and challenges.

As in other regions of the world, violence against women and girls (VAWG) is a serious health and human rights issue in Latin America and the Caribbean. The rate of physical violence used by men against a female partner, current or former, between the ages of 15 and 49 ranges from 13.4 percent to 52.3 percent, depending upon the country, while the rate of sexual violence used by men against a female partner, current or former, ranges from 5.2 percent to 15.2 percent. Current or former male partners are the most frequent perpetrators of violence against women.

The report is available in [Spanish](#) and [English](#).

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**MenEngage country network in Nicaragua, REDMAS, publishes code of conduct**

At least four sources of inspiration led *REDMAS* to develop its code of conduct: dialogue with female leaders from the women’s movement about the role of men in gender justice; the Global MenEngage accountability guidelines and the regional workshop on accountability that took place in Managua; questionable personal practices and methodologies from men and from some organizations linked with the network; and the collective aspiration of the network to act in accordance with Alliance values and principles. The process that led to the development of the Code of Conduct sparked deep reflections among the members which are as important as the final product, which can be found [here](#) (in Spanish).
Calendar: a look back

Alliance lights up social media during UN observances & events

**International Day of the Girl Child – October 11**

![Image of International Day of the Girl Child](image1)

**International Safe Abortion Day – September 28**

![Image of International Safe Abortion Day](image2)

**International Youth Day – August 12**

![Image of International Youth Day](image3)
Calendar: a look ahead

Pre-16 Days Twitter chat upcoming November 22

MenEngage Global Alliance, the UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development’s Working Group on Youth & Gender Equality, Next Gen Men and the Centre for Health and Social Justice, among others, are organizing a Twitter chat to precede the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign 2016. The chat will take place November 22.

The 2016 theme for the 16 Days Campaign is “From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All”. It recognizes that structural discrimination and inequality are perpetuated in a cycle of violence that does not end even when girls and young women are in the act of gaining an education.

The Twitter chat is designed to energize Alliance members, friends and others, enabling them to connect their work to both fellow members and external actors, and obtain insights about effective strategies, approaches and resources. It will also bring to light the voices of young leaders to showcase their achievements and take leadership role to help others to learn from their experiences across the world.

Using the Twitter hashtag #Men4FeministFutures, we will be requesting messages and information from our regional and national champions, in addition to global actors. We intend this to be a real conversation among actors who are directly implementing programs/projects/initiatives, to ensure that we bring the first-hand experiences, stories and cases to light.

Stay tuned for more details in the coming days.

Resources

Women’s rights and empowerment

Women ask for pay increases as often as men but receive them less, study says
Guardian

Equal Means Equal: Looking Closely At Rights For Women
Forbes.com

Why male-dominated workplaces hold women back
World Economic Forum

Women’s networking and alliance building: the politics of organizing in and around place
Academia

A feminist approach to peace and security requires more than words
Huffington Post Canada
Men and masculinities

President Barack Obama says, ‘This is what a feminist looks like’
Glamour Magazine

My teen boys are blind to rape culture
Washington Post

Marketing should promote a new masculinity
Huffington Post

Being Mankind
Being Mankind.org

Work with men to end violence against women: a critical stocktake by Michael Flood
Culture, Health and Sexuality

Challenging patriarchy: unsettling men and masculinities
Institute of Development Studies

Young men oblivious to gender pay gap: study
AFR Weekend

How parents can start to dismantle traditional gender roles for their kids
Huffington Post

Calling all men: five ways you can be a feminist at work
The Conversation

Youth

The road to 2030: leadership by and for young women
UN Women

Advancing Youth Civic Engagement and Human Rights
UN-Habitat

Promoting innovation, skills and young women’s entrepreneurship
UN Women

UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law: Widening the Democratic Space: the Role of Youth in Public Decision-making
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN Youth Flash newsletter
United Nations

What Is The Role Of Young People In The Fight For Gender Equality?
Youth Ki Awaaz
Youth Perspective: Investing in Young Women’s Leadership to Achieve the SDGs
Thomson Reuters Foundation

Videos

Engaging boys and young men to reduce sexual harassment in schools
Video: UK Parliament, Women and Equalities Committee

Unmasking masculinity: helping boys become connected young men
TED Talk by Dr. Ryan McKelley

Video: Post-war machismo: Be a Man
Conscious Good

Men Against the Tide
Video supported by ITVS for USAID’s “Women and Girls Lead Global” campaign

Dear Daddy
CARE Norway

Other

UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women annual report 2015
UN Women

Compendium of good practices in training for gender equality
UN Women