



Photo: Harsha K.R

MenEngage Alliance

WHO WE ARE

MenEngage Alliance is a diverse alliance of more than 630 organizations around the world working with men and boys for gender equality, human rights and social justice in order to achieve a world in which all can enjoy healthy, fulfilling and equitable relationships and realize their full potential.

MenEngage Alliance started as an informal network of leaders from organizations working in the emerging field of engaging men and boys; its work was born of a feminist tradition and became part of a growing solidarity movement for gender equality and transforming masculinities.

“MEN AND BOYS DON'T NEED TO BE GIVEN A SPACE WITHIN FEMINISM. THEY NEED TO TAKE THE SPACE THEY HAVE AND MAKE IT FEMINIST.”

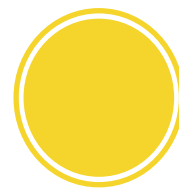
-Kelley Temple

WHAT WE BELIEVE

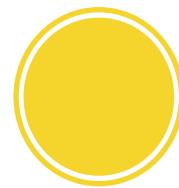
That manhood is NOT defined by how many sexual partners you have; by using violence against women, children, or men; by how much power you can exert over others; or by your sexual orientation.

That manhood IS defined by building relationships based on respect and equality; by speaking out against violence in your society; by sharing decision-making and power; and by your ability to respect the diversity and rights of those around you.

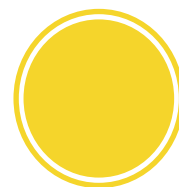
OUR ISSUES



Promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights



Preventing gender-based violence



Supporting men's positive involvement in maternal and child health, as fathers or caregivers



JOIN US

Join MenEngage Alliance: as a member you'll stay informed about what is happening in the world, connect with others active in the field, exchange ideas and resources, start new collaborations, lobby and advocate together, and much more.

Register at: www.menengage.org/register

Photo: Arian Zweegers

KEY STRATEGIES

IN THE WORK OF



MenEngage Alliance
working with men and boys for gender equality

1 CHANGING PERCEPTIONS

In order for the world to change, individuals must change. Our member organizations work with individuals in communities around the world to create new ideas about gender, masculinities and to learn healthier ways to relate to each other.

2 ORGANIZING AND ADVOCATING

To move forward on gender equality goals and objectives, it is critical to bring communities and governments along and to change laws and norms in addition to hearts and minds.

3 SHARING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Members of our network bring unique skills to the table based on their experiences in their communities and countries. We share ideas, resources and strategies in order to ensure that we all are better at what we do.

4 NEWS AND EVENTS

We collect and circulate news and events from across the world, and provide a platform for members to share their stories with a wide audience.

OUR IMPACT

INDIVIDUAL LEVEL:

Thousands of men and boys across the globe have received messages that egalitarian attitudes and practices are expected from them. As a result, more men and boys feel confident to express support for gender equality and women's empowerment. They in turn influence their private and public spaces;

COMMUNITY LEVEL:

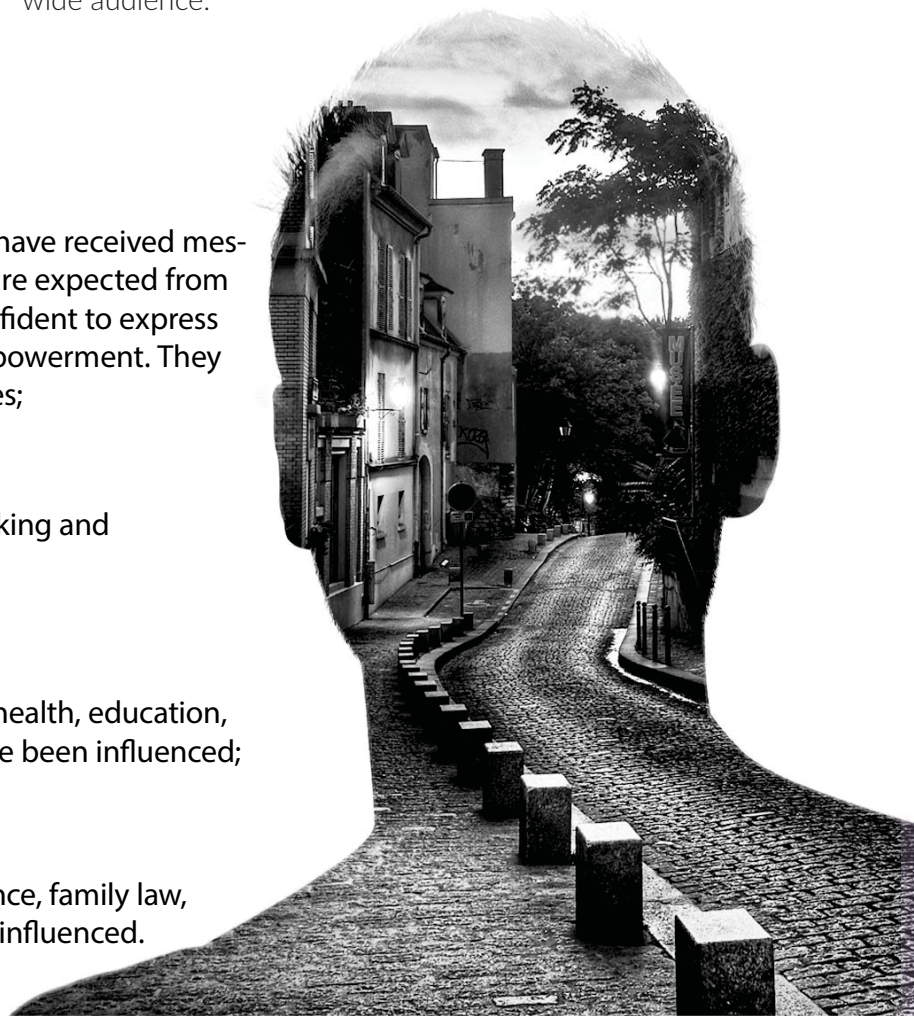
Citizens have been mobilized through networking and campaigning;

INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL:

Strategies and policies of service providers in health, education, human rights, justice, and security sectors have been influenced;

POLICY LEVEL:

Legislation and UN policies dealing with violence, family law, parenting and reproductive health have been influenced.





BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA

BY NIKKI VAN DER GAAG

I sense a sea change even in the past year. While they are still a minority, there are now men all over the world who are joining women to call for gender justice. They might be men in India protesting against rape, or those in South Africa marching against for gender equality and against xenophobia, or men in Brazil campaigning for the legalization of abortion. And the crucial fact is that they are all standing alongside women.

It is important that it does not mean women and girls losing precious spaces or support, but gaining allies. It will enable both men and women to live their lives to the fullest. And it is the only way forward.

The United Nations estimates that it will take 80 years to achieve gender equality. I think that is far too long. Building these kind of alliances between men and women contribute to bringing about real change. It will take time, patience, respect and resources.



THE RISK OF MEN TALKING ABOUT GENDER

BY SEBASTIAN MOLANO

Most of the men (including me) who have gotten involved in pushing for a holistic look at gender issues are self-taught, driven by an interest to bring an integrated vision into the struggle for gender equality. Many of us have learnt about gender issues through the lens of women's issues, sometimes portrayed as the Other, the enemy or the oppressor.

Nowadays, there is a more open discussion about what masculinity means and some wary enthusiasm about men getting involved in gender issues. Currently, there are more initiatives and efforts to bring men into the gender table: inviting men to participate in gender conferences, including men as beneficiaries of development programs, and hiring men as gender experts. These kinds of initiatives bring new elements needed to nurture and foster a discussion on how to achieve the full exercise of rights for men and women. But they also bring risks that are essential to understand, prevent and mitigate.

MenEngage Alliance & Accountability

For MenEngage Alliance, accountability means developing a receptive capacity in men and others in positions of power so that they can listen to the perspectives of oppressed groups in order to become authentic allies. It recognizes that our work was born of a feminist tradition and that if we want to build partnerships that are truly equitable and collaborative, we must be critically aware of our power and open to constructive criticism.

In November 2015, MenEngage Alliance launched its Partnership and Accountability Blog series, intended to help make accountability an interactive concept in gender work. We've posted contributions from leaders in the field, encouraging them to be candid and, when necessary, provocative, in an effort to air concerns so that ensuing partnerships are meaningful and impactful. Check it out at menengage.org/accountability. Here are some excerpts.

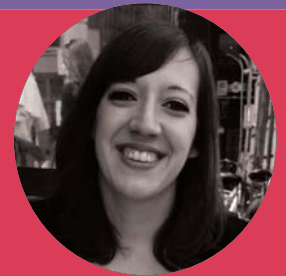


THE GENDER POLITICS OF MEN'S ANTI-VIOLENCE WORK

BY MICHAEL FLOOD

Perhaps the greater problem here is not that men will take over, but that they will not turn up, in that few men join efforts to prevent violence against women and much of the work is done by women. In Australia, for example, while the White Ribbon Campaign is described as a 'male-led' effort to end violence against women, only one-third of the community events in 2014 were organised by men. A more obvious problem is that the small numbers of men who do participate in violence

prevention advocacy sometimes do act in patriarchal ways. Men may not take over entire campaigns, but research among US 'engaging men' groups finds that some men in the movement do dominate interactions and interactions, claim unearned expertise, or act in other patriarchal ways. This is not surprising given the patterns of masculine socialisation to which most men are subjected.



ENGENDERING ACCOUNTABILITY

BY JACQUI STEVENSON

Achieving gender justice is a uniting goal bringing together diverse groups and individuals, who share the understanding that overturning harmful, limiting and violent gender norms offers benefits to everyone, across the gender spectrum. There is a space within this movement for men and boys, as partners and allies and as beneficiaries.

Partnership rests on listening and engaging from a position of equality and respect. For men

engaging in the struggle for gender equality, this means not just listening to the perspectives and demands of oppressed groups in order to become authentic allies. It should not be utilitarian, or transactional. Women have the intrinsic right to be at any table as equals, and to create the table and define the conversation, not just to be heard. As a woman, a feminist and an activist I expect to be heard because I have knowledge, experience and expectations that are legitimate and have value.



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Over 700 CSO members in over 73 countries: organized in 42 country networks and 6 regional networks

Regional Networks

Country Networks

Country Presence