MenEngage 3rd Global Symposium
Call for Expressions of Interest


Following the success of the first two MenEngage Global Symposia, and their important contributions to advancing the field of engaging men and boys in women’s rights, SRHR and gender justice, MenEngage Alliance is planning to organize a 3rd global gathering in 2019/2020. The event will serve to review the state of the field and current political realities, and aims to raise local and global awareness of gender transformative work with men and boys, to strengthen a collective agenda, inspire activism, and strengthen relationships within MenEngage Alliance and with the broader human rights and social justice field.

MenEngage Global Alliance will work closely with local hosts to organize and run the event. Hosts typically provide intellectual leadership to the conference by articulating the theme, organizing the format of the event, and constructing the conference program in collaboration with MenEngage Alliance, as well as identifying the location for the conference and managing all local arrangements. MenEngage Global Alliance supports the hosts by extending both technical and logistical support, including offering guidance on the finalization of the theme and overall format of the event, networking, joint fundraising and other hands-on support as required.

Expressions of interest to host the event must include brief descriptions of:

1. The vision and themes for the event, and their significance in current political realities (including the opportunities and possible challenges) and the state of the field of men and masculinities.
2. A tentative plan - including number of days, format of the program, and potential venue - for the event to create a space that fosters exchange, learning, critical reflection, networking and agenda-setting for participants coming from various cultures, including facilitating communication in a multi-linguistic environment.
3. Who the applicant/s are and a motivation for why they would like to organize the event. As well as a description of the organizational and country/regional network’s capacities, as applicable, to organize and host the event.
4. How the organizer/s intend to connect with, mobilize and build momentum among the MenEngage Alliance membership; and how the organizer/s intend to collaborate with and build the country and/or regional network/s in the region - including pre- and post-event.
5. How the organizer/s plan to build strong partnerships with and ensure meaningful leadership and participation of women’s rights, LGBTIQ&A rights, feminist, racial justice, and other human rights and social justice organizations, groups and networks.
6. A preliminary budget for the event.
7. Existing funds and potential fundraising strategies, opportunities and capabilities of the applicant/s.

Any MenEngage Alliance member, or country/regional network, who wishes to host and organize the 3rd Global Symposium can submit their Expression of Interest. Expressions of interest should be emailed no
later than 31 March 2018 to info@menengage.org, and be addressed to the Global Secretariat, MenEngage Alliance.

The Expression of Interest will be reviewed by a Committee and potential hosts will be invited to submit a more detailed proposal. Decisions about hosting the event are commonly made by the MenEngage Alliance Global Board. The plans as described in the application will be further developed together with the MenEngage Alliance Global Board and Global Secretariat in the implementation phase.

Questions about expressions of interest, hosting the conference, or the selection process should be directed to the Global Secretariat, MenEngage Alliance at info@menengage.org.

See the following pages for more detailed information and guidance.

**BACKGROUND & RATIONALE**

The two MenEngage Global Symposia to date have brought together practitioners, researchers, gender activists, service providers, policy makers and funders from around the world who are working to understand men and masculinities in a broad range of issues centred around women’s rights, child rights, SRHR, gender equality, human rights and social justice. The Symposia have been successful in generating political momentum and inform practice among Alliance members, partners and allies and consolidating a sharper activist agenda for critical, feminist-informed, human-rights centered work on men and masculinities.

The [Rio Declaration and Call to Action](#), the outcome of the 1st MenEngage Global Symposium in Rio de Janeiro in 2009, highlighted the importance of working with men and boys to achieve gender equality in all spheres of human rights and international development. The 2nd MenEngage Global Symposium, held in New Delhi in November 2014, placed patriarchy at the centre of problem analysis, and deepened intersectional understanding of how men and masculinities interplays with matters of gender, identity, race, class, economic status, age, etc. The [Delhi Declaration and Call to Action](#) emphasises patriarchy as a system of oppression and places masculinities, power and privilege, and diversity at the centre of understanding men’s roles and responsibilities. The Declaration serves as the compass for MenEngage Alliance’s mobilisation and political advocacy agenda to date, as well as for many others who work with men and boys towards women’s rights, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and gender justice for all. The Symposia have also resulted in the exchange of knowledge and development of key knowledge products, which have advanced the thinking of MenEngage Alliance, its members and partners and the broader field on these issues and have been used to inform policy and practice.

The Alliance believes that these gatherings are crucial opportunities for the Alliance and its members to come together as a global solidarity group. These serve as critical spaces where MenEngage Alliance members, partners and allies can raise questions, show-case their work and learn from each other, and discuss political developments and concerns that urge us to take action.
GUIDANCE FOR THE APPLICATION

The 3rd global event is expected to build on the local-to-global nature of the previous gatherings, by taking into account and building on local realities and activities by the country and regional network/s of the Alliance. The importance of local ownership and relevance, ensuring the participation of women’s rights organizations and other relevant human rights and social justice groups, and consolidating the learning from the event to ensure it has a life beyond, will also be some of the key points that the Alliance will consider while assessing the Expression of Interest letters, planning and organizing the event.

The event can have any format – symposium, conference, forum, workshops - or any (other) combination of formats that can facilitate the creation of a space for Alliance members, practitioners, academia, activists, policy makers and volunteers to share, learn, network, enable joint agenda setting and informs action.

Focus areas for the 3rd Global Symposium may include, but need not be limited to, responsible scaling up and institutionalization of gender transformative approaches to engage men and boys; accountability to and partnership with women’s rights organizations and feminist groups; and strengthening the political agenda so as it is not merely a state of the field event but seeks to build on previous symposia and advance a collective agenda.

In advance of the 2nd MenEngage Global Symposium, the MenEngage regional networks engaged in pre-event mobilization together with their country networks’ members and partners, especially in the region where the event was hosted. There will be similar expectations from those who will be hosting the next global event.

COLLABORATION & AVAILABLE SUPPORT

The organization of the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium will be a joint effort between the host organization/s, the MenEngage Alliance country and regional network (as relevant), and the MenEngage Global Secretariat and its Global Board (MenEngage Global Alliance).

Support from MenEngage Global Alliance may include the following:

1. Setting up and coordinating the overall organization of the event, including various organizing committees;
2. Coordinating with MenEngage Alliance members and strategic partners, including facilitating partnerships at the local level, and liaising with UN Agencies at the global level;
3. Developing and finalizing the format, program outline and further shaping of the event;
4. Identifying and reaching out to speakers, presenters, panelists, facilitators, etc for various sessions and issues;
5. Coordinating with relevant stakeholders at various levels and building relationships, including with women’s rights organizations and networks, and social justice groups at the global level;
6. Support with the fundraising plan and exploring ways to mobilize resources for the event, especially at the international level;
7. Mobilizing other MenEngage regional networks’ support;
8. Drafting and developing the “Declaration and Call for Action” and/or other outcome documents, including identifying who can be engaged in this process;
9. Planning and executing the post-event processes, including the production and dissemination of knowledge products emerging from the event.

Financial Support

Under the current MenEngage Alliance Strategic plan for 2017-2020, there is a provision that the MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat will provide a seed grant contribution of USD 50,000 towards the organization of the event. Based on previous experience, approximately USD 1 million will need to be raised by the host organization in collaboration with the Global Secretariat and Board.

Expected responsibilities from the hosts

Hosting the event would entail responsibilities in the following areas:

• Raising the majority of the required funding
• Arranging the venue and all related issues
• Managing multiple collaborations and partnerships
• Ensuring national and regional relevance of the event
• Ensuring local-to-global balance, in terms of content and participation
• Dealing with visa and related travel arrangement processes, including coordinating with government authorities to facilitate the participation of people from around the world
• Co-developing knowledge products from the event
• Ensuring necessary follow-up on the momentum created by the event