Greetings!

On behalf of the Caribbean Male Action Network, I am pleased to present the first issue of our newsletter for 2020. The work of CariMAN is to challenge the existing social and cultural beliefs and norms around masculinities and advocate for equality and justice for all, by engaging men and boys and strengthening networks and alliances, with individuals and organizations that promote human rights, gender and environmental justice. This issue highlights some of the work we have been engaged in over the past year. We hope you find it insightful and would appreciate your feedback via email to carimansecretariat@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Tyrone Buckmire

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CariMAN hosted its 5th Regional Forum in Grenada

Members from across the region joined with the Chairman, Tyrone Buckmire, Regional Secretariat Administrator, Kevin Liverpool, the Global Network Manager of MenEngage Global Alliance, Laxman Belbase, and other technical experts and partners from November 7-11, 2019 for the 5th Regional Forum hosted in the beautiful “Spice Isle” of the Caribbean, Grenada.

Countries represented included the Bahamas, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana.

With support from the MenEngage Global Secretariat team, CariMAN members reviewed work done across the region over the past two years, shared challenges faced at the country level and discussed solutions.

The focus of the Regional Forum was to develop a 3-year strategic plan (2020-2022), which included a review of our vision and mission statements, core principles, values and code of conduct, and governance structure.

“The vision of CariMAN is to achieve gender, social and environmental justice for all.”

CariMAN’s 2020 workplan consists of six (6) core components:

1. **Network Building & Strengthening** through the formalization of Governance Structures, both at the regional and country levels; development of a Contextual Analysis; and local, regional and international stakeholder mapping activities.

2. **Information and Knowledge Development & Dissemination** via a robust communications strategy which includes a relaunched website, strengthened social media presence, updated brochure and quarterly newsletter.

3. **Capacity Strengthening**, our proposed trainings for 2020 include Feminist Leadership, Advocacy, and Accountability.

4. **Partnership and Collaboration** by strengthening relationships with women’s rights, social justice and environmental justice organizations.

5. **Advocacy**, where an advocacy sub-committee will begin by conducting a policy scan at the national and regional levels.

6. **Resource Mobilization** through the documentation and appropriate implementation of regional and international best practices.
CariMAN welcomes its new Executive Committee….

Tyrone Buckmire (Immediate Past Chair, 2014—2020, ex-officio)

Tyrone is the Director of Legal Aid and Counselling Clinic and the Founder of Grenada Fund for Conservation. He has extensive experience as a trainer and motivational speaker, being involved in the NGO movement since 1988.

Philip Carlisle (Chair)

Philip has over 25 years in marital and peer counselling. He currently serves as the Chairman of the National Gender Advisory Board and the NGO Coalition for the Rights and Protection of Children & Youth. He is also an ordained Minister of Religion and pastoor.

Tricia Basdeo-Gobin

Tricia holds a BSc in Psychology and Gender and Development Studies and an MSc in Gender and Development Studies. Her experience includes research on intimate partner violence, GBV, Gender mainstreaming and development, Gender Responsive Budgeting, Gender and Trade and SRHR.

Dr. Allister Collins

Allister is an Executive Officer at the Ministry of the Presidency and has a BSc in Clinical Pathology and a Doctorate in Social & Human Rights. He was appointed UN Goodwill Ambassador for the Golden Rule Int. Award and as Justice of the Peace and Commissioner to administer Oaths to Affidavits.

Kesley Cambridge

Kesley is a past CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Chevening Scholar and holds an MSc in Applied Criminology and Forensic Psychology. He is an Administrative Cadet in the Ministry of National Mobilization and has over 10 years experience teaching youth life skills such as anger management and conflict resolution.

Joseph Heron

Joseph is a Safety & Security Coordinator with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information. He has over 25 years experience in the education system as a Guidance Counsellor, Dean of Discipline and Principal. His work interests are parenting and fatherhood, and boys education.

Henry Johnson

Henry has 25 years experience as a prison officer and holds a BSc in Correctional Studies. He is a Programme Coordinator within the Department of Gender and Family Affairs and is responsible for the research and implementation of development programmes for men and boys.

Daryl George

Daryl holds a BSc in Psychology and an MSc in Consumer Psychology. He is a gender and youth advocate, environmental activist and writer. He currently works as a Senior Environment Officer at the Department of Environment and a Counsellor’s Aid at a drug rehabilitation centre.

Kevin Liverpool (Administrator, ex-officio)

Kevin has over 10 years experience implementing violence prevention initiatives in schools and communities. He holds a Bachelors of Education, is a certified Civil Mediator and the Founder of the Fatherhood Resource Centre.

2019—2020 Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

….and says thank you to its outgoing Chairman, Tyrone Buckmire.

Tyrone has been a member of CariMAN from 2010 and has served as Chairman for over 5 years. He has represented CariMAN on the Board of Directors of MenEngage Global Alliance, and was a member of the Regional Masculinities Advisory Group and a Gender Advocate, both in partnership with UN Women. Over the years, his leadership has positioned the organization to benefit from some opportunities, including the current project to strengthen CariMAN’s advocacy in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

We are extremely appreciative of the sacrifice that Mr. Tyrone Buckmire has made and anticipate that he will continue to contribute to the success of CariMAN, in different capacities, across the region and beyond.

“Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.”

-Warren Bennis
CariMAN participated in OECD Expert Group Meeting on Masculinities

The OECD Development Centre convened the First Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Masculinities in Paris on 7th February 2020. The EGM aimed at exploring how the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) could incorporate a “masculinities lens” into its conceptual framework.

The meeting brought together 30 national, regional and international experts working in the areas of gender equality and masculinities. Participants included experts from research centres (ICRW, ODI), academia (Queen’s University of Belfast, The University of West Indies and the University of Geneva), non-governmental organisations (ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality, CARE International Balkans, CARE Norway and Plan International), regional networks and not-for-profit organisations (Men for Change Network, CariMAN), international organisations (UNESCO), a global consortium (Promundo-US) and an independent gender expert. In addition, 11 experts from the OECD participated in the meeting.

On behalf of CariMAN, Marlon Bascombe provided an overview of different manifestations of masculinities in the Caribbean along with a presentation on CariMAN’s work in the region. He shared on the organisation’s focus on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence; the issue of fatherhood and men as caregivers; adolescents’ sexual and reproductive health, and adolescent pregnancies; and men’s physical and mental health. Other areas highlighted were men and mentoring, men and productivity, and men’s social and economic well-being.

One of his main assertions was that there is current crisis of masculinity in the Caribbean. Some of the symptoms he emphasized included violence, rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment, substance abuse, and father absenteeism. Marlon explained that men are generally accustomed to occupying positions of privilege and often feel threatened by the advancement of gender equality, which sometime generates a pushback against women’s rights; he cited that from his experience more and more men are asking, “Why do we not talk about toxic femininity?”

He elaborated that, in response, CariMAN works to highlight the importance of helping men understand that gender equality can be a win-win process, as it not only benefits women, but men, families, communities and society at large. According to him, this will require men to be able to see the benefits of changing harmful social norms around what it means to be a man.

More information on the OECD Development Centre’s Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) can be accessed from https://www.genderindex.org/.
CariMAN attended MenEngage Global Alliance Board and Strategy Meeting

Ahead of its 3rd Global Symposium, MenEngage Global Alliance hosted a Board and Strategy Meeting from February 17-21, 2019 in Rwanda. The meeting was attended by representatives of network members from Africa, South Asia, Middle East, Europe, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean. Representing CariMAN were Executive Committee member, Dr. Allister Collins, and Regional Secretariat Administrator, Kevin Liverpool.

The Strategy Meeting provided opportunities to co-create the 3rd Global Symposium to be held in Kigali, Rwanda in November 2020 and developed on a series of consultations, meetings and listening rounds that were conducted with Regional Networks of the Alliance, other MenEngage members and partners with experience in organizing conferences in our field of women’s rights, gender and social justice.

“The overall objective of the MenEngage Global Symposium is to strengthen the political focus of the work on transforming masculinities and engaging boys and men in women’s rights and gender justice, by creating space for critical and constructive analysis on the state of this field, in order to articulate a collective social justice and human rights based agenda for this work in the coming years.

For more information on MenEngage, please visit www.menengage.org.
1. **Honour Women** by celebrating and supporting the work of women’s grassroots organisations,

2. **Encourage a New Generation** by empowering youth to play active roles for justice and change,

3. **Include All Rights** by being inclusive in our politics and movements for women’s rights to include persons with disabilities, indigenous people, LGBTI+ people and all minority groups, and

4. **Act for Each Other** through individual and collective action for transformation.

Additionally, CariMAN played a crucial role to encourage a new generation by empowering youth to play active roles in the Rally. CariMAN contributed financial support for a workshop, coordinated by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, University of the West Indies, on key issues affecting women and girls, and how boys can support and be allies. The workshop was held on March 5, 2020 with children of the CREDO Centre for Justice in Port-of-Spain. The goal of the workshop was to sensitize the children and support them in making messages and posters for the Rally.

**CariMAN supported International Women’s Day Rally in Trinidad and Tobago**

In celebration of International Women’s Day, CariMAN partnered with a coalition of organizations focussed on the advancement of gender equality and equity through activism, advocacy, community organizing and empowerment of women and marginalized groups, to host the 4th annual Women’s Rights Rally on Saturday 7th March, 2020 under the theme “**Power In Action: Honour, Encourage, Include, Act**”. The March and Rally drew the support of thousands including individuals and families, local civil society organizations, corporate sponsors, government agencies such as the Office of the Prime Minister – Gender and Child Affairs and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, and international organizations such as the Canadian High Commission to Trinidad and Tobago, the British High Commission, UN Women Caribbean, UNFPA, among others.

The 2020 theme pulls from the international theme of “I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights” and is aligned with the campaign that marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The goals for this year’s Women’s Rights Rally and March were to:

**Send your emails to:**

carimansecretariat@gmail.com
COVID-19 is a new respiratory illness that was first discovered in Wuhan, China. It is transmitted from person to person.

**SYMPTOMS**

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Dry cough
- High fever
- Pneumonia
- Difficulty breathing

*Symptoms may appear 1 to 12 days following exposure to the virus*

**COMMON SYMPTOMS**

**SEVERE CASES**

Who is most at risk of becoming seriously ill?
- People over age 60
- People with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes and heart disease

How is it transmitted?
- Through close contact with an infected person
- By an infected person coughing or sneezing
- By touching contaminated objects or surfaces and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes

Currently there is no vaccine or specific treatment. We can only treat the symptoms. Serious cases may require oxygen and ventilatory support.

**PREPARE.**

- Make sure you get your information from a reliable source.
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based gel.
- Cover your mouth with the inside of your elbow when you cough or sneeze or use a tissue and dispose of used tissue immediately and wash your hands.

**ACT.**

- Avoid close contact with people who have flu-like symptoms.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid sharing cups, plates or other personal items and disinfect all surfaces that are touched frequently.
- If you have traveled to areas where COVID-19 is circulating or have been in contact with someone who has it and you experience fever, cough or difficulty breathing, seek medical attention immediately. Do not self-medicate.

Note: Information may change when more is known about the disease. February 2020.