3rd MenEngage Global Symposium

SUMMARY OF CONCEPT NOTE & PARTNERSHIP PROPOSAL

Advancing feminist approaches to engaging men and boys and transforming masculinities

“We live in a world of profound inequalities and unbalanced power relations, where rigid norms and values about how people should behave fuel and exacerbate injustices.

We have to change that.”

-Delhi Declaration and Call to Action, 2014, MenEngage Alliance

Now is the time for those working and engaging in the field of transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys in gender justice, women’s rights, LGBTIQA+ rights, SRHR for all, and other relevant issues, to come together to take stock of the current ‘state of the field’.

We need to share learnings, promising practices and exchange experiences from across various areas of work, contexts and sectors.

Following the direction set-forth by the 1st and 2nd MenEngage Global Symposia, the Alliance's members and partners have been developing and implementing numerous programs, projects, campaigns and initiatives to speak to and mobilize men and boys for women's rights and gender justice. We have seen the number and extent of policies and programs that include ‘engaging men and boys’ around the world grow significantly. Yet, as more actors take on this work, the need to work strategically to ensure it upholds feminist and women's human rights principles and practices becomes more urgent. As does the need to move from programmatic level approaches to policy changes, legal changes, systems and structural changes and greater alignment with other social justice advocacy. As the global gender justice movement gathers to reflect on what is required moving forward to achieve the commitments of Beijing, 2020 highlights that never has this been more necessary than now.
The 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium seeks to advance the political agenda by affirming the need for greater alignment and building common cause with social justice movements globally and nationally who seek to achieve a full social justice agenda.

By exploring the roles and responsibilities of the field of work on men and masculinities to the core-concepts of Feminisms, Accountability, Intersectionality, Transformation and Power with, we envision that the symposium will provide support to the field to clarify and reaffirm its political stance. It will set directions and ways forward for strengthening the transformative agenda of the work to ‘transform masculinities and engage men and boys’ in advancing women’s rights, and gender and social justice.

The theme of the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium is:

Ubuntu: Transforming Power to Benefit all Humanity.

Intersectionality, feminisms, accountability, power-with, and transformation have been identified as the cross-cutting themes for the Symposium. Together, they represent the event’s overarching political framework.

The thematic tracks for the Symposium include:

- Ending Violence
- Peace and Security / Militarisms and conflict
- SRHR for all
- Unpaid Care and equitable parenting
- SOGIESC rights
- Climate Justice
- Economic Justice
- Social justice - including racial, ethnic, age, disability justice
- Countering backlash

The objectives of the Symposium are to...

1. Make ‘men and masculinities’ work more effective and impactful for gender justice through collective sharing, questioning, learning, and knowledge-strengthening.
2. Strengthen a global community that acts responsibly, purposefully, inclusively, and in solidarity with our partners, friends, and each other – across social justice movements.
3. Inspire, develop, and renew a common political agenda and strategy to meet the urgency of today’s existing and emerging challenges.

For more detailed information please refer to the concept note [here](#).
Who is involved?

The Symposium is organized by MenEngage Alliance with its members and partners from women’s rights and social justice networks. The Symposium is co-organized with the Rwanda Men’s Resource Centre (RWAMREC), the Rwanda MenEngage Network (RWAMNET) and MenEngage Africa network.

MenEngage is a global civil society network working to transform masculinities and engage men and boys in women’s rights and gender justice for all.

The Symposium will bring together around 1,000 participants, including activists, researchers, practitioners and students from civil society and the international development sector, policy makers, private sector and the donor community.

How will we organize?

As a network rooted in feminist principles and approaches of shared power and horizontal organizing, MenEngage Alliance seeks alternatives to top-down, prescriptive models of organizing.

The symposium is therefore organized through contextualized regional plans and processes that support the movement-building and mobilization of civil society membership and partners from academia, UN agencies and governments across Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, North America, Latin America and the Middle East.

This bottom-up agenda-setting is being connected globally through one collective effort of organizing and holding the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium.

We warmly welcome your support and interest to be part of the momentum, including beyond the symposium event!

Partnerships will be essential to the success of the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium.

By supporting the symposium you will build your knowledge, create collaborations, expand your network, and disseminate knowledge to key decision-makers in the field of masculinities and engaging men and boys in gender justice, women’s rights, LGBTIQA+ rights, SRHR for all, and other relevant issues.

WWW.MENENGAGE.ORG/KIGALISYMPOSIUM
How you can support:

Contribute to the organizing costs of the event, such as venue, catering, development of symposium branding and conference materials, conference logistics, translations and human resources. Any conference needs this kind of support in order for it to be possible to take place at all.

Sponsor participants to attend the event, for their travel, hotel stay and registration fees. (For example, if you work with a Global North country or UN office based in a Global South country with locals who want to attend the Symposium, you can support their participation)

Sponsor a thematic track at the event, that is of particular interest to your work, for example around GBV, harmful practices, SRHR, unpaid care, etc. (see the list above)

Support knowledge development emerging from the event, by sponsoring experts who will keep track of thematic discussions and develop critical thought pieces on these topics, that will further strengthen the knowledge development in this field of work.

Support the virtual meeting infrastructure to allow for online participation. As part of the environmental impact plan we are committed to offering engaging and interactive online participation opportunities to reduce the need for travel.

Support remote participation, by organizing a local or regional gathering to attend a plenary or specific session virtually. This can be followed by discussion with participants with calls to action focused on local needs and realities.

Contact

To find out more about how you can support, please contact the daily organizers:

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*MenEngage Alliance Participants at the Symposium planning meeting in Kigali, Rwanda, February 2020*