

Engaging men and boys in the struggle for gender equality, human rights and social justice.



MenEngage Europe is an alliance of more than 60 organisations from 28 European countries. We work across borders and cultures to support boys and men to reflect on how their ways of being men influence their wellbeing and the people around them.



Our member organisations open up new ways for boys and men to think about gender and masculinity. We help people question taken-for-granted ideas about what it means to be a man and develop alternatives to traditional masculinities. For many, we provide a new perspective that helps them live healthier, happier, more respectful lives.



Open to different approaches, MenEngage Europe addresses a variety of topics relevant to the lives and experiences of men and boys and explores the links between them. For example, how to involve men and boys in sharing parenthood and caregiving, tackling all forms of violence, shifting limiting/damaging notions/norms of gender and masculinity, addressing structural inequalities, and challenging homophobia.

MenEngage Europe is part of the global MenEngage Alliance of more than 700 organisations. Throughout the world, MenEngage Alliance members work toward advancing gender and social justice, as well as human rights to achieve a world in which all people are equal and free from discrimination.

What we believe

The work of MenEngage Europe members is diverse, but grounded in common beliefs. We aim to build upon and add value to the pioneering work and vision of women's rights organisations. We believe men and boys must strive to support a just and equitable future for all, including women, girls and people of diverse gender identities and sexual orientations.



Now, more than ever, voices around the world are calling for a rethink on how masculinity is understood and lived. We believe in engaging men and boys in this global conversation, to support changes that benefit all.

We believe actions speak louder than words and that men and boys need to be political, emotional, self-reflective allies in making marginalized groups' voices heard and needs met.

We believe dominant ideas of what it means to be a man are also harmful for boys and men – especially those who do not conform to dominant or stereotypical ideas about what it means to be masculine. We believe that men and boys should be held accountable for speech, behaviour, and attitudes that might lead to harmful impacts for others based on their gender or sexual orientation.



Why engaging men and boys is important

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Engaging men and boys means working with them to create a world equal for all humankind. It means tapping into the agency men and boys have and teaching them to be allies. Men can play a crucial role in developing solutions, being role models, breaking stereotypes, speaking out against violence and raising awareness.

Engaging men and boys means placing responsibility on those profiting from marginalized groups being oppressed. It means asking accountability from society for the harms being caused due to inaction. It means supporting men and boys who are unhappy, depressed, uncertain, aggressive, to a better life and helping men and boys see the cause for their frustrations is society and harmful ideas of what a man should be.

Gender equality is not a zero-sum game; it will benefit everyone. Patriarchy exacts a painful cost on women and girls across a wide variety of areas of their lives and while there is no equivalence, it also creates deficits for boys and men. It is by engaging across all of these facets, of all of our lives that we can create a world in which patriarchy is part of history. Never to be forgotten – never to be repeated.

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**What do we want?
A society that is
gender-just, equal,
democratic and
beautiful!**

**When do we want
it? Now!**

Gender equality cannot be achieved without men and boys supporting feminist organisations in their call for a just world. We see engaging men and boys as adding value to what women's rights organisations are doing for gender equality, women's rights and tackling all forms of violence – MenEngage Europe aims to be an outspoken supporter and ally of feminist women's organisations all over Europe.



Since its initiation in 2009, MenEngage Europe has worked to develop partnerships with women's rights organisations, advance democratic decision-making, and promote cross-collaboration between members and with other networks.

At membership meetings, MenEngage Europe members come together to share their experiences, to learn from each other and from those in the feminist movement, and to decide on strategic directions for the network. There is a secretariat and elected steering committee working all year, working groups are active on several themes and thematic meetings and conferences take place.

An annual global board meeting, including representatives from all regions, helps MenEngage Global Alliance discuss, appreciate and work through differences – uniting countless voices behind one cause. Global Symposia are organized every 4/5 years bringing together all members and partners of MenEngage.

What we do as a network

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MenEngage Europe is a regional network of the MenEngage Global Alliance. We work at European level to promote innovative and effective approaches that engage men and boys while respecting and including the lessons and experiences from feminist organisations.



What do our members do?

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Many members have programs to create honest, open, and challenging spaces for men and boys to critically reflect on gender stereotypes and power imbalances. Such programs might give school children and university students their first chance to discuss the norms that govern their own social contexts. Others might be working to rehabilitate perpetrators of gender-based violence or violence in general, by working through reflective and transformative group discussion exercises.

Some members are raising awareness among men and boys on active fatherhood and challenge harmful gender stereotypes using traditional and digital media campaigns. While others advocate to their governments to support gender-equitable policies such as equal parental leave, or comprehensive sexuality education on school curricula.

Whatever the topic or strategy, members bring their own expertise to MenEngage Europe, which provides a community to share promising practices, lessons learned, sharing of resources, and forging of new collaborations. For example, an innovative program to engage boys in transforming harmful, restrictive and oppressive ideas about masculinity was developed as a three-country program through a collaboration with MenEngage Europe members from Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK. Find more information on the website of MenEngage Global Alliance or find the toolkit here.



Do you want to become a member of MenEngage Alliance?

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Please go to menengage.org/register to find the member registration form. You can also find here the Core Principles and Code of Conduct from MenEngage Alliance that you need to agree on in the member application.

Send your application to info@menengage.org and (if connected to Europe) to menengageurope@emancipator.nl

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Visit us at menengage.org/regions/europe