



NAMEN Updates

Organizational Updates

Resource Hub

In February, NAMEN launched a [Resource Hub](#). This Resource Hub, as we build it out, will be a place where practice-based information on engaging men will be located and shared. Curricula, reports, videos, practice-based articles, books and book reviews -- all will be located at this site. NAMEN is exploring how to make this Resource Hub interactive, thus allowing members to also contribute to the resources that are made available.

This site is for members of NAMEN. To access this and the other services NAMEN has to offer, you can join NAMEN by [going here](#).

Introducing the Program Coordinator

In the February Board meeting, the Board of NAMEN agreed to shift Rus Funk from his role as Development Coordinator, to a new position of Program Coordinator. In this role, Rus will take on the tasks related to facilitating and supporting the programs provided by NAMEN. This will include: the NAMEN Advocacy efforts (including the Policy Advocacy Cmte), managing the

Resource Hub, and Coordinating the Communities of Practice. NAMEN is very excited about the prospects of being able to focus on and developing the meaningful programs that we have to offer.

Policy Advocacy Efforts

The Coronavirus pandemic has impacted all of us and has shifted a significant amount of our focus. While NAMEN continues to follow the legislative and administrative policies described in the last issue (VAWA, FVPSA, and Title IX), the impact of the Coronavirus demands our immediate attention (See, for example, this [recent article](#) from the New York Times). The US based National DV Hotline reports a marked increase in calls since February; and advocates in China mark a 4-fold increase in Domestic Violence reports over February 2019. In addition to the increase in violence, the pressures on service and advocacy organizations is unprecedented.

A broad coalition of feminist advocacy organizations drafted a letter to Congress urging them to include essential funding to help victim-service and advocacy organizations to support victims of domestic and sexual violence in these unprecedented times as a part of the \$2 Trillion (US) stimulus package. NAMEN has signed on in support of this letter, which includes the following asks: e increasing:

- Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Sexual Assault Service Program (SASP) by at least \$100 million;
- Family Violence Prevention and Services Act by at least \$100 million;
- VAWA transitional housing by \$40 million;
- HUD Continuum of Care Domestic Violence Bonus funds by \$100 million;
- VAWA Culturally Specific Services for Victims grant program and Outreach and Services to Underserved Populations grants by \$20 million;
- VAWA Training and Services to End Violence Against Women with Disabilities to provide victim services by \$10 million;
- VAWA Training and Services to End Abuse in Later Life to provide victim services by \$10 million;
- VAWA housing vouchers at HUD by \$20 million;
- The National Domestic Violence Hotline by \$2 million.

Those of you who are interested can view the [full letter here](#).

As you are undoubtedly aware, the stimulus package did pass. Only a portion of these funds were included as a part of this original package. There is talk of a second stimulus package and efforts are underway to advocate for some of these provisions to be a part of this second package.

If you're interested in learning more about NAMEN's Policy Advocacy, or joining our advocacy efforts, contact [Rus Funk](#).

Global Gag Rule

While the Coronavirus has demanded our attention, we also continue to monitor other policy issues. The US Government Accountability Office recently released [this report](#) on the Global Gag Rule (AKA the “Mexico City Policy”). According to Planned Parenthood, “Despite the report's narrow approach to examining the impacts of the policy, it does confirm what many of us have documented and know in terms of the unprecedented scale and reach of the policy.”

Planned Parenthood, and other reproductive rights organizations, are calling for advocates and activists to use this report to continue efforts to repeal this dangerous policy. You can read Planned Parenthood's full statement in response to this report [here](#).

CSW 2020

As most of you are surely aware, the Commission on the Status of Women was cancelled as a result of the Coronavirus. Plans are in place to organize both the political meetings and civil society events to be rescheduled along with the Gender Equality Forums. However, due to the continued pandemic, these have also been postponed.

The Gender Equality Forum is being organized by UN Women as a part of the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Call to Action. You can learn more about Gender Equality Forum, the campaign of which they are apart, and the plans to integrate the meetings and activities that had been planned as a part of CSW 2020 by going to the [Generation Equality website](#).

Spotlight

Periodically, *NAMEN Notes* will spotlight a male engagement effort or strategy that is being provided by a member of NAMEN. The intent here is to share stories of the exciting and innovative offerings that are going on in terms of engaging men in the US and Canada.

This issue's spotlight is on the Socha Program of the Lutheran Settlement House in Philadelphia.

A part of the “[Masculinity Action Project](#),” the Socha Program is a 6-month training that focuses on working with men to support them in “healing from a culture of harmful masculine socialization and finding responsible ways to take action to reduce gender-based violence.” The program begins with an intensive 20-hour retreat during which men do a deep dive into their experiences of harmful masculine socialization, the impact of this socialization and this expression of masculinity, and develop a sense of connection and community.

From this introduction, these men are then sent into the community of Philadelphia to begin working on ways to counter this. These men are offered ongoing support by the staff of the Socha Program, and offered monthly meet-ups (always over a meal) where they can share their stories, growth and challenges. A closing retreat wraps up the program.

The Socha Program is now in the midst of its 2nd iteration and the organizers continue to learn, as well as be inspired by their experience of working with the men who participate.

For more information about this program contact Toby Frasier at tfraser@lshphilly.org

Appreciation

We want to acknowledge and appreciate a founding NAMEN Steering Committees who have recently left NAMEN -- Chuck Derry. Chuck, who was also co-founder of the Minnesota Men's Action Network and is co-director of the [Gender Violence Institute](#); is a tireless advocate. He, in particular, focuses on the need for our movement to advocate for policy changes and for mobilizing men to advance a policy approach towards gender equality.

Chuck served for 2 terms as the NAMEN representative on the Board of the MenEngage Global Alliance, helped to form the Policy Advocacy Committee within NAMEN, and was a forceful advocate for addressing sexual exploitation.

New Resources

1) A New report from Global MenEngage Alliance: [Transforming Masculinities: Towards a Shared Vision](#); offers ways forward to ensure our collective work makes a real contribution to feminist agendas and promotes the rights of all women and girls, and people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Topics include:

- Progress and resistance in women's rights worldwide
- Applying intersectionality
- A feminist framework for engaging men and boys
- Accountability
- Working together for an inclusive Alliance
- Advocacy in a shifting 'men and masculinities' discourse

2) Women Deliver created this powerful new infographic on [Boys and Men as Partners in Advancing Gender Equality](#)

3) The February 2020 issue of the [Men Care Newsletter](#) brings you updates from South Africa, Russia, Canada, Liberia, Mexico, and the United States. Learn more about the research, programs, and campaigns our partners are leading to engage men in fatherhood, caregiving, and gender equality worldwide.

4) Men-Care has also launched a new effort: [The "Men-Care Commitment"](#)

"Make the commitment to accelerate men's uptake of 50 percent of the unpaid care work, starting with 50 minutes more care work per day."

Save the Date

The MenEngage Alliance 3rd Global Symposium
will take place from 9 to 12 November 2020 in Kigali, Rwanda

More details to come



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