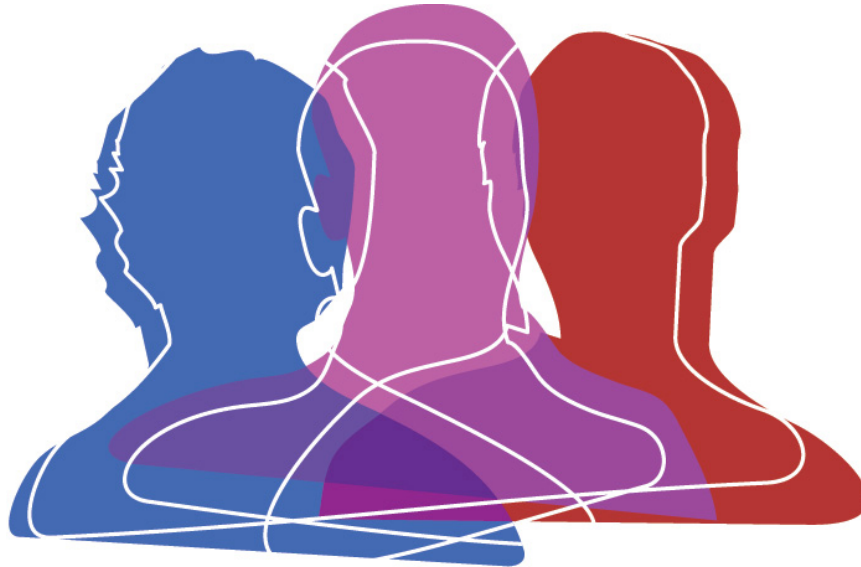


NAMEN NEWS Issue 1, Vol 2
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N O R T H A M E R I C A N
MenEngage

boys and men for gender equality

<http://namen.menengage.org/>

Welcome to the **NAMEN News**

NAMEN News is the bi-monthly newsletter of the North American Men Engage Network ([please visit our website](#) to learn more about NAMEN). NAMEN, the regional network of the Global MenEngage Alliance, is a network of individuals and organizations in the U.S. and Canada working to engage and organize men and boys to promote gender equality. Our members include state coalitions, territorial and provincial efforts, local programs, and individuals.

In this issue:

- Update from the Steering Committee
- Resource Corner

- What We're Learning: "On Accountability"*
- Upcoming Events
- Call for Papers

We are introducing a new series in this issue -- "What We're Learning" will focus on substantive issues about Engaging Men, and what we're learning as a movement/field. In this Issue, we're beginning an examination of men's accountability.

We look forward to connecting with you, as we do our work to strengthen and expand the movement of men in support of gender quality.

In respect,

Rus Ervin Funk, Editor

Update from the Steering Committee

NAMEN is coordinated by a steering committee composed of individuals representing diverse organizations and regions in North America. Current [Steering Committee Members are listed here](#). The Steering Committee strategizes the continued development and growth of NAMEN.

NAMEN is moving forward with fundraising and development efforts. We have been identifying possible funding partners, as well as fundable projects. Our plan is to have five or more grant applications submitted by the end of August.

Community of Practice

In late 2016 the NAMEN Steering Committee formulated a three year plan to facilitate an active learning community and to share resources within regional networks in the US and Canada. The idea of Community of Practice (CoP) is to create and support a community of male engagement practitioners who can share lessons learned, model efforts, strategies that they've tried (and the results of those strategies), and different groups of men they have engaged through these efforts. [More information about the CoP can be found on the NAMEN website](#).

The NAMEN steering committee organizes bi-monthly web-based conversations that members are invited to participate in and to which the public is periodically invited to also participate. To date, NAMEN has facilitated the following conversations (click on the links for more information and relevant content to these topics):

- [Men in the Movement: Personal Histories - Careers in Transition](#) (August 24, 2016)
Featuring Dr. Steven Botkin of MERGE for Equality (formerly Men's Resources International) and Craig Norberg Bohm of White Ribbon Day in Massachusetts.

- [Holding our Ground. What to expect in the new US Administration?](#) (Feb 16, 2017) with Aaron Eckhardt, director, Ohio Men's Action Network, and National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs; Pheng Thao of ManForward: End the Silence & End the Permission in Minnesota; Rus Funk, consultant and author, *Stopping Rape: A Challenge for Men*; and Tonya Lovelace-Davis, CEO, Women of Color Network
- [Local Work -- First Edition](#) (April 20, 2017) Featuring Pheng Thao (ManForward) and Alan Heisterkamp.

Resource Corner

All of these resources (and others) are available on the NAMEN website. [Please visit our website](#) and make it one of your favorites!

White Ribbon Campaign in Australia recently launched a new research series. The first paper from that series is Men as Allies in Prevention Violence Against Women: Principles and Practices for Promoting Accountability (by Bob Pease). [You can get this publication here.](#)

[Engaging Men As Allies in Prevention](#) is an introductory webinar produced by NAMEN exploring some of the basic theories and practice ideas related engaging men and boys.

[Why do men Pay for Sex, and Can they be Cured?](#) is recent article published in *GQ Magazine* that provides a view of a model 8-week program working with men who purchase sex through the [Organization for Prostitution Survivors](#) in Seattle, WA.

The Voiceless is a new documentary film

Working Group Updates

The work of NAMEN is primarily done through our Working Groups which coordinate the main efforts provided by NAMEN. [See more about our workgroups here.](#)

COMMUNICATIONS

The [NAMEN Facebook page](#) has been active for about three months and continues to grow both in terms of number of likes and in terms of what we are able to post there. There also continue to be improvements and updates on our website. Please check us out regularly to see what new our communications team has put in place.

MEMBERSHIP AND OUTREACH

As a result of *NAMEN News* and some other outreach efforts, our membership continues to grow.

PROGRAM

The Program Working Group is working to plan the next the webinar series -- focusing on content and facilitators. the Program Working group is also in conversations to take over the coordination of the Community of Practice from the Steering Committee.

documentary explores taboos, stereotypes, intersectionality, and the impact sexual violence has on male survivors.

<https://www.thevoicelessdocumentary.com>

UN Women released the [Package of essentials for addressing violence against women](#).

[LGBTQ+ Students and College Availability](#) is a new resource from affordable colleges.com.

"What We're Learning"

Some Thoughts on Accountability

Rus Ervin Funk

Men's accountability in working to promote gender equality and gender justice continues to be a contentious issue. Both NAMEN and the Global MenEngage Alliance view men's accountability, both as individuals and within groups and organizations, as vitally important. As such, we believe in creating opportunities to continue to develop and expand the conversation about what it means to be accountable—and to offer some tools for how men and men's groups can act accountably. NAMEN recognizes accountability as a crucial area of our continuing work to build a vital male engagement movement in the US and Canada.

Towards this end, NAMEN produced a webinar, "Conceptualizing and Implementing Accountability in Men's Gender Equity Efforts" In December, 2014. [View the webinar here](#); and [access handouts here](#).

The Fundraising/Development Working Group is preparing to submit grant proposals in the coming weeks and months to support our programming and growth, as well as working to strategize programming that we can offer that generates funds to support our work.

Call for Papers

The Journal *Global Social Welfare: Research Policy and Practice* has issued a call for papers for an upcoming

Special Issue on Global Engagement of Men and Boys in Gender-Based Violence Prevention. The Managing Guest Editor is Richard M. Tolman, PhD from the University of Michigan.

Submission Deadline: September 30, 2017.

This issue is seeking articles describing innovative efforts to engage men and boys in gender violence prevention from all regions of the world. Submissions can include descriptions of outreach efforts, innovative programs, and effectiveness of these prevention efforts. We also welcome conceptual or theoretical papers, and systematic reviews that can expand understanding of the global efforts underway in this area.

[Completed manuscripts should be emailed to Dr. Tolman at \[rtolman@umich.edu\]\(mailto:rtolman@umich.edu\).](#)

From the Global MenEngage Alliance

(Provided by Laxman Belbase, Global Networks

Alliance produced Accountability Standards and Guidelines ([access here](#)), outlining the standards MenEngage member groups hold ourselves and each other up to. These standards focus on four levels of accountability: global and regional, national, organizational, and individual.

The MenEngage Standards are based on three principles:

- Prevent the violation of or infringement upon MenEngage's [Core Principles](#) and [Code of Conduct](#);
- Respond effectively if concerns emerge regarding the conduct of a member; and
- Collaborate openly with women's rights organizations and other social justice organizations.

One of the lessons NAMEN took from our conversations about the MenEngage standards is that men's accountability is traditionally understood as after something occurs that is of concern -- that is, how we hold ourselves and each other accountable (as men) *after* we have done something or failed to do something. NAMEN is also interested in accountability before an incident occurs—being proactive. For NAMEN accountability is both about how we behave when we fail to act in accordance with our principles— i.e. done things that have caused harm; and how we act, make decisions, and more broadly interact with each other and

61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61)

The MenEngage Alliance had a 15-member delegation across various regions attending CSW61 in March of this year. Global MenEngage and its members organized and presented at more than 15 events.

MenEngage Alliance organized a consultation on engaging men in social norms change for women's rights and gender justice, in preparation for the “High Level Political Forum” this July. MenEngage also joined UN Women and many other organizations to organize an official side event “Breaking Stereotypes for Transformed Social Norms on Women and Work.” Held at the Japan Society, MenEngage members from Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Europe presented about their work on faith-based approaches to transforming masculinities. For information about the side events MenEngage was a part of [please see here](#). In addition, MenEngage joined hands with NextGenMen and the ManUP Campaign to organize a parallel event, “Boys and Young Men for Gender Justice and Social Change.” The MenEngage global secretariat is expected to share its full report on MenEngage's participation at CSW61 in the near future.

MenEngage Alliance at WILPF event on Reclaiming UN as a Peace Organization

A MenEngage global board member represented the organization and its support at "Reclaim the United Nations as a Peace Organisation: Ensuring Women's Meaningful

While NAMEN has adopted the MenEngage Alliance standards, we are simultaneously working on our own interpretation of definitions and standards. Here are some emerging points about how NAMEN views accountability:

- Accountability as process, not end point
- Managing multiple accountabilities
- Accountability as proactive as well as reactive

For NAMEN, accountability is a process among various actors and a practice of how we act. Being accountable, and holding other men's groups accountable, is not yet fully clear and presents us with both challenges and opportunities.

We've also learned that by understanding accountability as a "process," we have room to move between contradictory expectations or demands. As a process, we can disagree about what I, as a man, should do and how I should do it and still be accountable.

That being said, there are times when we make mistakes, act in ways that are counter to our principles, or which cause harm. There need to be a process by which men and men's groups accept responsibility for the mistakes we make and the harm we cause, as well as a mechanism to make amends.

In practice there are multiple accountabilities. Many of us are accountable to multiple

[Women's International League for Peace and Freedom](#). The event was organized in Geneva, Switzerland in late April. To learn more, go to

<http://wilpf.org/join-the-conversation-wilpfs-convening-will-be-live-streamed/>

INFORMATION FROM OTHER REGIONS

Sixth International Symposium on Studies of Masculinities in Latin America

MenEngage Latin America regional network, MenEngage Brazil, and other regional partners joined hands to organize the "Sixth International Symposium on Studies of Masculinities" in early April in Recife, Brazil. For more information and resources from the symposium, please visit <http://www.masculinidades.org/> and the symposium's Facebook page, www.Facebook.com/coloquio.masculinidades

MenEngage Africa Capacity Building Workshop for MEA Project Coordinators

MenEngage Africa regional network, under the leadership of Sonke Gender Justice, organized its annual capacity building workshop for the national networks project coordinators from March 4-6, 2017 in Dar-es-Salam, Tanzania.

E-learning Course on "Understanding Masculinities: Engaging Boys and Men Towards Gender Equality"

The Center for Health and Social Justice and MenEngage Alliance South Asia launched an online course on "Understanding

what it is that they think men should do). But we are also accountable to other groups. As we engage men and boys—and as a consequence want to be accountable to the men that we’re seeking to engage, (as well as other men in our communities)— we’re also accountable to our communities. For most of us that means multiple communities to which we’re accountable. Those of us who work for agencies are also accountable to those organizations (which includes a level of accountability to our funders.)

Bottom line: being accountable means managing multiple accountabilities in as transparent and responsible manner as possible.

Finally, many of us argue that acting accountably means not only being and holding each other accountable when we make mistakes, but also being and holding each other accountable when we do well. In both cases, acting accountably is (or can be) proactive and reactive. Acting accountably means thinking and feeling as we’re conceiving of actions to take, about how we can do so in a way:

- that is transparent about our decisions (and decision-making processes);
- do what we say we’re going to do;
- take responsibility for the consequences of our actions (both positive and negative, intended and unintended); and

specific objectives of the overall training are to create a deeper understanding and engagement with issues of men and masculinities, to increase critical understanding of tools, methods and theories to formulate violence prevention programs; and to provide expert knowledge on masculinities, violence and gender through historical, economic and social processes.

[For more information about the course please visit here.](#)

You can learn more about the [Global Men Engage Alliance here.](#)

Upcoming Events

National Sexual Assault Conference will be June 7-9 at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas, hosted by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault. Register for the conference and make your hotel reservations at www.taasaconference.org!

Raising Emotionally & Socially Connected Boys: Exploring intersections of Gender, Race and Trauma.

The 4th Annual Healthy Men and Boys Summit.

Wednesday 6/14/17 at College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA.

[Go here for more information or to register](#)

A Call to Men National Conference will be Sept 14 and 15, 2017 in St. Paul, MN. [For more information, go here.](#) (Several NAMEN SC members will be presenting).

One short article cannot hope to comprehensively address a topic as complex as accountability. We encourage readers to continue to explore what each of you mean when you hear the term “being accountable.” In the meantime, check out the resources listed above, and please share your feedback on this vital issue.

NOTE: We plan on following up on this article in an upcoming issue of **NAMEN News**.

and become a valuable member of the NAMEN community -- helping us to build and sustain a thriving men engagement movement in the US and Canada.

By joining NAMEN (which you can do either as an organization or as an individual), you get access to this growing community of colleagues the collective expertise that we offer. Becoming a member requires agreeing to our core principles. Go [here](#) to explore becoming a member.

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