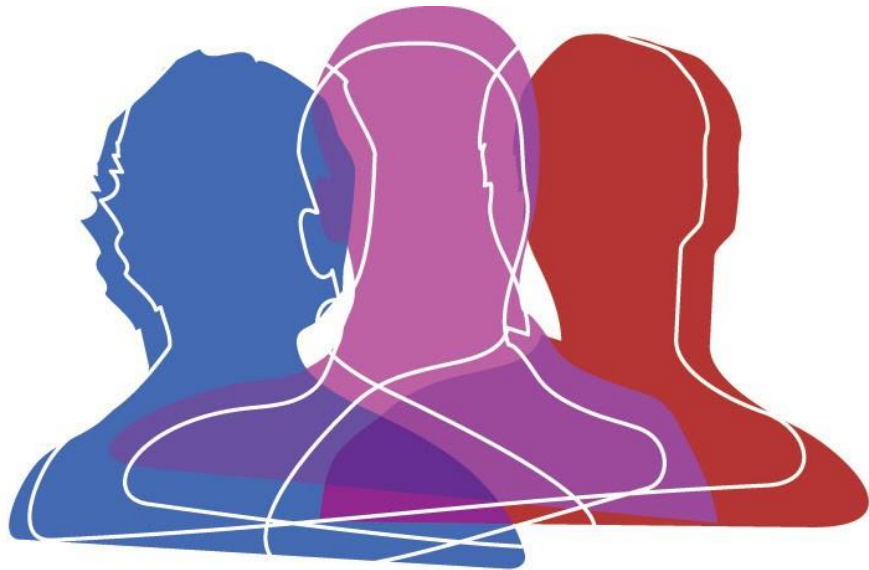


NAMEN NEWS Issue 1, Vol 4
September, 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)



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 MenEngage Network ([please visit our website](#) to learn more about us). 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 (There is a LOT here this issue)
- Community Highlight (This issue, Merge for Equality from Massachusetts)
- From the Global MenEngage Alliance
- What We're Learning: "On Accountability"*
- A report out from the A Call to Men 2017 Conference
- From the World of Politics

In this issue, we conclude the three part series on Accountability (see "What we're Learning") by exploring some common themes that emerge. There are some great new resources available, including two new books that we briefly describe here. We are also launching a new regular article on the "world of politics" that will examine some of what's going on in the US, Canada and around the world politically, and its impact on engaging men efforts.

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](#).

NAMEN SC to begin a Strategic Planning Effort

In the coming weeks, the Steering Committee of NAMEN will begin a strategic planning process. SC member Magaly Marques will help guide us through conversations and activities that will be designed to help us clarify our goals for the upcoming years, and outline a strategy for achieving these goals.

As a part of this effort, the Global MenEngage Alliance is providing some funds and a self-assessment tool that will allow for us to better identify our strengths and support our efforts to continue moving forward.

Steering Committee Speaks Out Against White Supremacist Masculinity

In response to the violence and hate perpetrated by white (mostly male) supremacists in Charlottesville, Virginia in August, [the NAMEN Steering Committee released a powerful statement](#)

declaring our sorrow at the people who were harmed, including the murder of paralegal and activist Heather Heyer. The statement articulated our commitment to continuing to work in solidarity for racial, gender and other forms of justice.

Here's a sample of the sentiment expressed: "We will continue to actively resist institutional and personal manifestations of racist, sexist, heterosexist, transphobic, classist, anti-Semitic and other multiple and intersectional forms of oppression which undermine the "life, liberty and pursuit of happiness" of all those who live, work and breath in the United States of America, and throughout the world."

Resource Corner

Women, Peace and Security E-News, in their September Newsletter, Published an editorial on the importance of Engaging men: ["From Gender Parity to Address: Why Moving from Engaging Men to Transforming Violent Masculinities is Critical to #UNGA72 and Beyond."](#)

Journals and Magazines:

Dignity is a new on-line Journal on combating sexual exploitation. [Their latest "special" issue is Freedom from Sexploitation](#) (Volume 2, Issue 3, 2017) co-edited by Lisa L. Thompson, the vice-president for education and outreach at the National Center on Sexual Exploitation and Donna M. Hughes, editor-in-chief of *Dignity*.

The 12 articles and videos in this special issue are from presentations made at a national briefing last March 20, at the capitol in Washington. The event was organized by the National Center on Sexual Exploitation.

The Fall issue of [Voice Male](#) will be available online and in print in mid-October.

Articles include: why the African National Congress is not profeminist; an edited

Report from the Global MenEngage Alliance

Dynamic Board Meeting in Beautiful, Welcoming Ottawa

Humberto Carolo, Chuck Derry, Rob Okun

A dozen members of the MenEngage Alliance (MEA) global board of directors and another dozen MenEngage regional and at-large members created a caring, thoughtful community over a five-day gathering at the annual board meeting in Ottawa, Canada September 10-15, 2017.

Representatives from Lebanon, India, Bangladesh, Nicaragua, Nepal, Chile, Sweden, Norway, England, Ireland, Holland, Namibia, South Africa, Canada and the U.S. were present, all expressing strong commitments to ending patriarchy and enhancing gender justice. A very diverse group of individuals with remarkable knowledge, skills, wisdom, and years of experience working to engage men (and women, girls, and boys) in local, regional, national, and international partnerships/efforts for gender equality. Very inspiring!

The meetings began with two days of discussion, debate, and exploration of how

conversation between an older and younger men's group; 10 must-read books about white masculinity and the rise of Trump; and more.

[Stand Magazine](#) is a new journal "for men who give a damn." **STAND magazine** takes a stand for a balanced and whole-hearted masculinity that embraces the expression of emotion as strength, promotes a healthy body, mind & spirit, appreciates style & good humor, and seeks to shape a world of peace for all.

Journal Articles

Peretz, Tal. 2017. "Engaging Diverse Men: An Intersectional Analysis of Men's Pathways to Antiviolence Activism." *Gender & Society* 31(4):526–48.

In this article, Peretz examines and compares the pathways to men's engagement between a small group of Muslim men, and a group of mostly African American self-defined queer men, both in Atlanta. He also critiques the current theory and research on engaging men as being overly focused on white men.

What emerges is a description of largely different pathways for men's engagement, which has significant implications for our engagement strategies.

Journal weblink:

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0891243217717181>

See Tal's blog about this article [here](#).

Books

Am I Sleeping With the Enemy? Males and Females in the Image of God (Cascade Publishing, 2017) by Ron Clark.

MEA can apply a theory of change model to our future activities. This process built upon similar interchanges in Stockholm in 2016 which helped define, strengthen, and direct our 2017 - 2020 strategic plan of action. MEA has received multi-year funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to implement these plans. A significant focus of the strategic plan is strengthening the MEA regional networks which include South Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe, and North America. With this support from the global alliance, NAMEN will continue to build and develop our strategic plan and expand our abilities to put that plan to action.

In addition to spirited debate about applying the theory of change model to MEA's future activities, the group also spent a day long meeting with the Canadian government's Global Affairs Canada (which manages the country's international aid program, trade, and diplomatic and consular relations) and Status of Women Canada (which promotes equality for women.) Participants were welcomed by Member of Parliament Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary for Status of Women Canada and Global Affairs Canada Assistant Deputy Minister Mark Gwozdecky. Welcoming remarks were also offered by MenEngage Global Co-chair Abhijit Das and White Ribbon Canada's Executive Director and NAMEN Co-chair Humberto Carolo.

A panel moderated by MenEngage Global Director Joni van de Sand with MEA discussants shared ideas about gender justice initiatives in which they are engaged. Panelists included MenEngage members

www.wipfandstock.com.

In this book, Clark (a Christian Minister based in Seattle) examines biblical and (Christian) theological ideals of manhood. He suggests that most mainstream interpretations which focus on a rejection of the feminine as a way to live up to an image of God is a mis-interpretation, and argues that Jesus came to redefine masculinity and resist the cultural view of manhood, power and oppression.

A new edition of the anthology, [VOICE MALE- The Untold Story of the Profeminist Men's Movement](#), Rob Okun, editor, is being published in early October. It includes more than a third new material.

"What We're Learning"

Notes on Accountability:

Practice make Progress

Rus Ervin Funk

We have examined various issues related to accountability over the past three issues of the NAMEN newsletter. [In the first \(May, 2017\), I offered some initial thoughts](#) on What We're Learning about accountability through the lens of on the ground practitioners and efforts. In the July issue, Chuck Derry, Cliff Leek, and Humberto Carolo joined me in exploring experiences we have had individually, and collectively, [seeking to hold other men and men's groups accountable](#). In this issue, I will explore some additional issues related to our attempts to be accountable--and hold others accountable--as well as offer some ideas about practice.

In practicing accountability, at least three common threads emerge that deserve further exploration and attention. I'll touch on each of these in this article:

Kene Esom, African Men for Sexual Health and Rights; Abigail Ruane, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Douglas Mendoza, MenEngage Latin America/Puntos de Encuentro. In addition, perspectives were offered by Canadians Nancy Peckford, Equal Voice Canada; Marina Mancinelli, UN Women HQ Civil Society Department; and Canadian Indigenous Elder Annie St. George.

Afternoon world cafe round tables addressed the intersections of engaging men and boys with: fatherhood and caregiving; peacebuilding and nonviolent conflict resolution; sexual and reproductive health and rights; accountability; gender-based violence; gender, trade and human rights; and youth and intergenerational work.

NAMEN was represented by Chuck Derry and Rob Okun; Humberto Carolo of the NAMEN coordinating committee was there in his capacity as the new executive director of White Ribbon Canada (local host for the gathering). Together, Chuck, Rob and Humberto held discussions with members of the MenEngage Europe network with a view to strengthening collaboration among regional networks, including CariMan in the Caribbean. Discussions addressed potential funding for bold, innovative social justice reforms, in particular working with communities who are negatively impacted by systems of oppression. A collaborative effort among MenEngage Europe, CariMan, and NAMEN would not only contribute to a dismantling and/or undermining of the intersectionality of sexist and other oppressive systems, it would also strengthen

- dynamics of shaming and blaming
- our relationship with women, and how those who attempt to hold men accountable treat us and
- our response to this treatment.

[Please go here to read the full article.](#)

Community Highlights

In each issue, we bring you highlights from a community-based effort to engage men or boys. If you are interested in having your community-based effort highlighted here, please contact Rus Funk, Editor at rus@rusfunk.me.



Merge for Equality in Florence, MA seeks to "Transform masculinity to achieve gender equality." MERGE for Equality and its predecessors have a 35-year legacy of engaging people and communities in gender transformative initiatives, delivering programming that empowers communities to transform masculinity and advance gender equality for all.

MERGE work is based on their understanding of the current reality:

- Boys are born loving, caring and sensitive
- Boys are exposed to harmful gender norms and stereotypes, starting at a

education and contribute to the success and outcomes of such initiatives in order to provide equal rights and opportunity, all in the service of creating a world of justice.

Humberto, Rob, and Chuck also had discussions with Laxman Belbase, the MEA Network Coordinator, regarding the NAMEN self assessment and subsequent strategic plan development. As noted earlier, this effort is associated with the global MEA 2017 - 2020 strategic plan to strengthen the six regional networks in our collective effort to end patriarchy and establish gender justice throughout the world. This strategic plan analysis and development had already begun with the board leadership of Magaly Marques and a working group has been developed to move this process forward. We are at a dynamic point in NAMEN development and expansion. This support from the global alliance, and the continued expertise and working commitment of NAMEN members, will make real the changes necessary to live freely and safely within the vision of gender justice and a world where equal human value is embraced and experienced by all.

The integrity and expertise of all participants inspires the challenging and critical work of engaging men and boys as allies for gender equity, respect, and justice.

Politics

President ends DACA!

According to the National Task Force To End Sexual and Domestic Violence, ending DACA would have a devastating impact on DV and SV survivors:

young age

- Boys benefit from unearned male privileges starting at a young age, and at the expense of girls, transgender and gender non-conforming children, leading to gender inequality in families, schools, and communities
- And later, harmful forms of masculinity continue to foster social, cultural, academic, political, and economic under-achievement, disease and violence
- We need to change the way we socialize boys in order to create a more safe, healthy and equitable future.

The MERGE Early Childhood Initiative:

MERGE created a pilot program based on the needs of, and challenges facing, early childhood educators. Key components include:

1. Delivery of two-day Developing Healthy Boys Training, including pre/post program evaluation
2. Delivery of three post-training coaching sessions
3. Implementation of a Children's Book Campaign to promote gender-responsive literacy
4. Collection of data and development of a plan to expand and replicate the initiative

On November 29, 2017 MERGE will convene a two-day Developing Healthy Boys Training in Springfield, MA for educators and allied

See their statement and call to action here:

<http://alturl.com/ogjco>

Secretary DeVos and Title IX

Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education, Has announced that she is seeking public comment about the standards set for campuses to respond to sexual harassment and assault under Title IX. This, along with her previous comments, are widely assumed to indicate an intention for her administration to change the current standards providing more weight to students who are accused. It is widely seen as a roll back.

This is a developing story so stay tuned!

The Many Faces of Manhood: Empowering Men to be their Authentic Selves

A Call to Men Conference, 2017

Rus Ervin Funk

I was blessed to participate in the A Call to Men conference, "The Many Faces of Manhood", hosted by the Women's Foundation of Minnesota, and held in Minneapolis on September 14 - 15.)

A Call to Men conferences are noted for examining the issues of engaging men and boys through an intersectional lens, and their focus on "the margins of the margin" in terms of how we prevent men's violence against *all* women. This conference was no exception.

Dr. Beth Richie began with an inspiring opening keynote about the power of "a love motivated by justice" in our work, and as a

professionals in early childhood (age 0-5), school-age education (age 6-10). This pilot training will foster the development of gender-responsive knowledge, attitudes and practices in early childhood educators with three priority outcomes:

1. Participants are trained in gender responsive approach to child development, leading to improved teaching practice and engagement.
2. Participants are trained in the Whole Book Approach to child literacy.
3. Participants apply gender responsive practices in classrooms and with families resulting in enhanced social-emotional development.

To register for the Developing Healthy Boys Training and to learn more about the MERGE Early Childhood initiatives, visit <http://www.mergeforequality.org/>

way to link various and multiple forms of violence and abuse that women face. Toher, this means loving folks through their bad behavior and that we ground our efforts to hold others accountable in our love for them - - seeing holding folks accountable as an expression of loving them.

She argued that violence is a strategy used to suppress love -- that those who perpetrate violence (and by extension those who stand by while the violence occurs) distance themselves from those who are being hurt, turning them into objects that deserve the violence in this process. As such, a love motivated by justice can be an antidote.

The overarching theme of the conference was men's authenticity. Dr. Richie also argued that authenticity leads to both being accountable, and being more willing to hold others accountable. She suggested that an aspect of authenticity is being able to do more than one thing -- that is, being intersectional.

After this powerful opening, we went into workshops to explore various aspects of "empowering men to be their authentic selves." A sampling of the workshops included: "Healthy Manhood, Addressing the Challenges and Experiences of Men of Color"; "Promoting Gender Equality in Our Religious and Spiritual Institutions"; "Beyond the Gender Binary: Addressing the intersections of Group Oppression"; "Addressing Male Domination in Whiteness and White Supremacy"; Addressing Gang Violence"; "Co-Parenting in the Context of Healthy, Respectful Manhood"; "Fraternalities and Athletes: How They Can Promote

Healthy Manhood”; and “Addressing Commercial Exploitation.”

The second morning opened with a series of “Transformation Talks” in which five men provided 15 minute explorations about their efforts to live more authentically. These were deep, profound sharings and there is truly no way to provide a snapshot of what these men gave of themselves.

The closing panel focused on “Men Embracing our Authentic Selves”, moderated by Sumayya Fire Coleman, and including Quentin Walcott (Connect NYC), Juan Ramos (A Call to Men), Pheng Thao (ManForward) and myself). This hour-long panel explored a variety of questions related to how each of us embrace our authentic selves, and how living authentically means, in part, supporting other men to live their authentic Selves.

REFLECTIONS

I found this conference to be to be tremendously inspiring and invigorating. As I mentioned to several folks on Thursday morning (the first day) right after Dr. Richie’s presentation “I feel full -- and it’s only 10:15 on the first morning!” Both intellectually and emotionally, I found this conference to be non-stop engaging of me. Coupled with the challenge throughout the conference for us to be our authentic selves, there was much more to take in than this body could hold.

There were great connections between various forms of violence and exploring how we can deepen our work on engaging men by more effectively and overtly connecting the dots between the various forms of violence that people experience.

I'm ready for more...

Upcoming Events

Batterers Intervention Services Coalition of Michigan (BISCM) is hosting their international conference Nov 1 - 3, 2017 in Detroit.

Featured speakers include:

Juan Carlos Areán

Mary Case

Dorothy Halley

Chris Huffine

Lisa Larance

Aldo Seane

Rahul Sharma

Tish Taylor

[For more information, go here.](#)

NAMEN is a network of members. You are invited and encouraged to join us 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.

Like us on Facebook



*Copyright © 2017 *|NAMEN|*, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is: <http://namen.menengage.org/contact>

Like us on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/MenEngageNorthAmerica>

