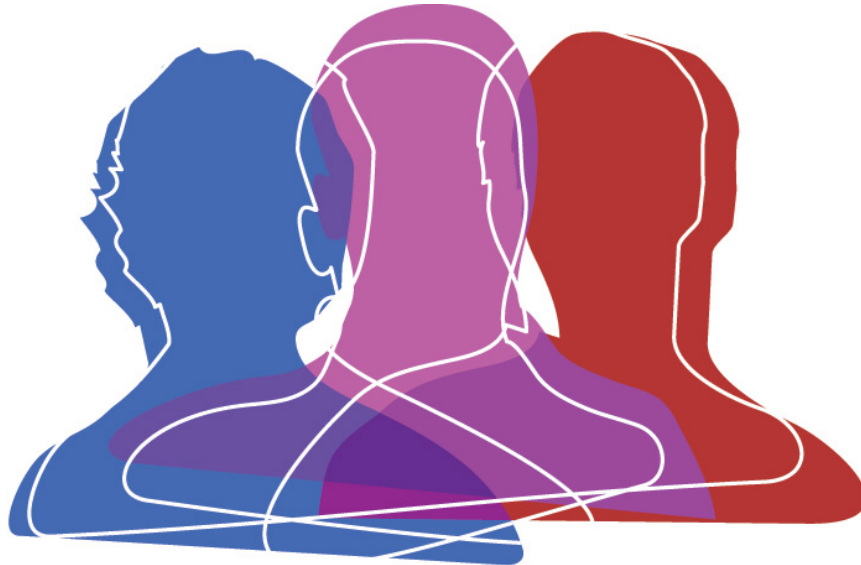


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N O R T H A M E R I C A N
MenEngage

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 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

- What We're Learning: "Men Responding to Harassment & Assault"
- "What's up" in the Movement
- From the World of Politics (Lots going on policy wise in the US)

In this issue, we add our thoughts about men's roles in addressing and preventing sexual harassment (see "What we're Learning"). Raliance has recently launched a great new resource. We are provide an overview of two US Policy initiatives in the "world of politics." 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](#).

Recent Endorsements

In June, NAMEN agreed to sign onto a letter of support for National Domestic Violence Funding.

In September, NAMEN endorsed the International Day of Safe and Legal Abortions. [For more information, check out this website](#).

In response to the white nationalists march and violence in Charlottesville, [NAMEN released this statement](#) that positions NAMEN in our work against oppression in all its forms.

Updates

NAMEN is engaged in a process to define both a strategic and work plan. Thanks to the generous support of the global MenEngage Alliance, NAMEN is currently in the midst of a three-four month planning process to develop a three year work plan. Look for updates as this process continues.

The Communications Working Group is being restructured to include editing and producing NAMEN News, managing our Facebook and other social media posts, and exploring other NAMEN communications efforts. All of NAMEN's working groups are open to at-large members.

If you are interested in being a part of NAMEN but aren't able to serve on the Steering Committee, consider joining a working group.

Raliance is a collaborative initiative dedicated to ending sexual violence in one generation.

As the go-to resource for policymakers, advocates, service providers, prevention practitioners and the media, Raliance boldly and innovatively advances the field nationally. Raliance is comprised of the National Sexual Violence Prevention Center, CALCASA Prevent/Connect, and the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence.

On Nov 15, Raliance launched the [Sports + Prevention Center -- to help athletes learn how they can help to end sexual violence in one generation.](#)

"What We're Learning"

Men Responding to the Harassment and Assault

Rus Ervin Funk

The #MeToo campaign, along with the recent rash of allegations about sexual harassment and assault by both women and men, have created another opportunity for men, individually and collectively, to respond to sexual harassment and assault. What we've seen is less than encouraging and suggests we need to do more as a movement. It speaks to the need for us to better empower--and model for men--how they can respond to sexual harassment and assault in ways that are both proactive and more effective than just expressing our support or outrage for victimized women or men.

Michael Flood, in [Men Speak Up: A Toolkit for Action in Men's Daily Lives](#) (White Ribbon Campaign, 2011), outlines a host of actions

MenEngage South Asia launches case study series

Five case studies have been compiled by the Centre for Health and Social Justice (CHSJ) in the series Best Practices in South Asia of Engaging Men and Boys to Transform Gender Discriminatory Practices. The purpose of developing the case studies is to provide increased visibility to organizations and issues related to work with men on masculinity, gender based violence, sexual and reproductive health rights and gender equality. The five case studies are:

1. [Engaging Men and Boys Against the Practice of Chhaupadi in Nepal 'Awaaz Do' \(Speak Up\)](#)
2. [Engaging Youth to Address Violence Against Women in Odisha, India](#)
3. [Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality in Sri Lanka - Resisting 'Karumaya' \(The Fate of Women\)](#)
4. [Using Communications for Exploring Masculinities - Work with Young Men In Urban India](#)
5. [Engaging Boys and Men to Stop Acid Violence In Bangladesh](#)

MenEngage Alliance advocates for a rights-based resolution on engaging men and boys in preventing violence against all women

At this year's [Human Rights Council Session](#), MenEngage Alliance carried out a coordinated advocacy and lobbying in order to influence the successful adoption of

gender-based violence. He categorizes them into three areas:

1. Behaving nonviolently ourselves
2. Taking action with other men and women
3. Joining in collective action

He doesn't suggest these steps are linear (i.e. behaving nonviolently is not meant to be a first step of men's action that leads to taking action amongst other men and women). Rather his categorization is offered as a way to think about and offer men opportunities to act.

In 2017, Rus Funk and Lundy Bancroft, in their chapter "Addressing and Combating Intimate Partner Sexual Violence" (in [Perpetrators of Intimate Partner Sexual Violence: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Prevention, Recognition and Intervention](#), (Routledge, Press, 2017) identified five criteria men need in order to perpetrate sexual violence:

1. A lack of empathy for women's feelings and experiences. Men who perpetrate sexual assault and harassment are well aware (based on the acknowledgements of men who have confessed to perpetrating) that what they are doing is causing distress and her lack of consent is obvious.
2. A belief system to justify his behaviors and actions. Men who perpetrate must develop some kind of beliefs around how what he did was

[and boys in preventing and responding to violence against all women and girls](#) – tabled by the Canadian government.

This resolution is a milestone in the field of engaging men and boys in gender justice. It represents the first international policy instrument with fully dedicated text and agreed upon language on engaging men in boys in eliminating VAWG, through a gender transformative lens seeking to address root causes and harmful norms, stereotypes and practices. The resolution also calls for a comprehensive report to be presented at the Human rights Council next year on promising practices to engaging men and boys in ending all VAWG.

MenEngage Alliance stand in solidarity with the global #MeToo mobilization

In the wake of the sexual assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein and a growing list of other sexual assaulters and harassers that have come to light in recent weeks, brave women from around the world are taking to social media to share their stories of sexual harassment and abuse, using the hashtag #MeToo. In response, there has been a wave of blog posts and articles circulating the internet acknowledging the responsibility of men and boys to end this culture of abuse and harassment, and many men have made commitments online using the hashtags #IPledge, #IHave, #HowIWillChange, #CountMeIn, among others.

MenEngage Alliance released a statement ["Hear, believe and act: Time to be responsible boys and men!"](#) calling on men

responsible for his own actions, that women are beneath him and that exploiting others sexually is acceptable. But he must also come to believe that lying to her, about her and about his actions are also excusable.

3. A vision of sexual assault or harassment. In order to engage in the behaviors, men who perpetrate must first have a vision of those behaviors. We know from ample evidence that the vast majority of sexual harassment and assaults are planned. So we know that he must develop a specific vision for assaulting or harassing.

(A part of this visioning includes justifying or re-defining the assault or harassment as not assaultive or harassing.)

4. A degree of perceived social approval for his actions. Men, like women, are deeply and inherently social creatures. Our behaviors, and the beliefs and attitudes that lie beneath those behaviors, exist in the context of our social relationships. Men who perpetrate believe that their actions are at least socially acceptable, if not socially encouraged.
5. Trust that his actions will not be found it, and if they are, will not result in robust accountability.

Examining these factors and identifying how these attitudes or beliefs are supported by

and boys to take responsibility for ending rape culture and dismantling patriarchy. This task requires more than individual men choosing not to commit such acts, but also exposing other men and holding them to account. We are calling on men, together with women, to put the issue on the agenda and push for policies in the workplace and elsewhere to support people who speak up and clear consequences for perpetrators.

Being an ally is about more than just showing solidarity on social media. It is about taking real and meaningful actions to transform your own behavior and call out others— at home, at work, in the gym, on the street, everywhere – to put an end to patriarchal masculinity and rape culture once and for all, long after social media trends come and go.

Politics

U.S. Senate Committee Passes SESTA

On Nov 8, the Senate Commerce Committee advanced the “Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act” (SESTA). The bill now moves to the full Senate for a vote.

SESTA amends the Communications Decency Act of 1996 to clarify that it was not intended, and can not be used, to protect websites from facilitating traffickers in advertising sex trafficking; and to clarify the penalties (criminal and civil) that websites can be subject to if they are found to have facilitated or are facilitating the advertising of sex trafficking.

action. All of us, as men, have a role to play in the social systems of which we are a part (friendship networks, workplaces, our places of worship, etc.). We can either contribute to, or counter, the social norms of those places -- including the social norms that are outlined above. Men's lack of empathy for women and women's experiences does not just exist within individual men. Individual men's lack of empathy is reinforced (in some cases required) by the social environments we're a part of. As such, we all have roles to play in creating social environments that enforce social norms that undermine these five preconditions.

Taken together, these two documents offer an outline for ways that men can act (individually and collectively) more effectively to counter and combat sexual harassment and assault.

So when Michael Flood calls on us to "start with yourself," we can explore our own responses when women or men allege sexual harassment or assault -- particularly when those allegations are directed at men we respect or honor, or men we know or love. We can train ourselves to hold onto our empathy towards her even while we struggle with the implications of those allegations.

Men's current default response to sexual harassment and assault seems to be stuck in disbelief, denial and victim blaming. We can help to create a social norm that re-sets men's default in response to one of empathizing with and believing women.



IVAWA was officially introduced in the U.S. Senate on Nov 14, 2017. [See Senator Jean Shaheen's Statement here.](#)

IVAWA makes ending violence against women and girls a top diplomatic, development, and foreign assistance priority by ensuring the U.S. government has a strategy to efficiently and effectively coordinate existing cross- governmental efforts to prevent and respond to GBV globally. In other words, IVAWA places ending gender based violence as a priority for all foreign relations that the US is engaged in.

IVAWA focuses on the following:

- [Calls for Collaboration and Coordination](#)

Calls on the US Secretary of State to coordinate with the heads of relevant federal agencies, the Senior Policy Operating Group on Trafficking in Persons, and representatives of civil society and multilateral organization thereby improving coordination and collaboration and helping to ensure a multi-sectoral approach to responding and prevention.

- [Identifies Priority Country Selection](#)

Defines the criteria for which countries

within our social networks (friendships, relatives, co-workers, classmates, etc.) to clarify our intention to be more outwardly empathetic to all women and lay a new standard that we expect our friends, family, colleagues, etc to also express more empathy towards more women more often.

And when Michael suggest that we as men can take more collective action, that suggests we as men can organize public demonstrations of our support for women.

As an example, as a part of the annual Take Back the Night march and rally in Louisville, Kentucky, for several years a group of men organized a “feeder march.” That is, a separate march of and for men that joined with women at the rally site prior to the candle-light vigil. In this way, men of the Louisville community were publicly demonstrating (both meanings of the word) our collective support for women.

I am, of course, am only using building empathy as an example. We as men, individually and collectively, can and must work on all five of these criteria, in all three of the arenas described above.

As critical as it is for women to find the courage and be supported in speaking up about their experiences of being harassed and assaulted, we also need to generate the courage amongst men to actively challenge men’s harassing attitudes and behaviors. This is what men can do -- and need to.

will be prioritized for this strategy to be implemented.

- Development of Country Plans
Calls for the creation of comprehensive, multi-sectoral, and holistic individual country plans designed to address and respond to violence against women and girls.

- Establishes Reporting and Briefing Requirements
Calls on the Ambassador-at-Large and the Senior Coordinator to submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the priority country selection process, country plans, and an overview of the programming being undertaken.

What's Up in the Movement

Men Respond to #MeToo

In early October, an unprecedented global social media campaign erupted in response to allegations of sexual assaults against women lodged against a growing number of men. There has been a number of efforts to engage men in speaking out against the incidence and culture of men’s sexual violence against women. Some of these efforts include:

#IWill (From the Global MenEngage Network)
-- [which you can look more into here](#)

[#IWillSpeakUp](#) (From A Call to Men)

#ItWasMe [which you can see more about here](#)

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

What these campaigns suggest is there is a lot of intentionality, interest and energy among men to not only offer support for women or men who have shared their stories, but to also go more deeply into ways that men can hope to be a part of solutions to sexual assault and other forms of gender based violence. Such efforts re-affirm that there are large numbers of men who are finding ways to be actively involved in standing up for women and working toward a new expression of healthy masculinities..

Unfortunately, these efforts are not well connected. Each was developed to some degree in isolation from the others. Unlike #MeToo, these men's efforts have not seemed to solidify under one campaign slogan, nor have they yet generated the heat, or reach of the #MeToo.

It is our hope that as we continue to solidify efforts to engage and organize men in the US and Canada, that we can soon create a "one-umbrella messaging" effort that allows and supports individual efforts to thrive, while also connecting them to a single, unified movement.

Engaging Men to Combat Sexual Exploitation

On Oct 24, [World Without Exploitation](#) hosted meetings of their Male Engagement Working Group and the Survivors Leadership Committee in Atlanta.

World WE formally launched in October of 2016 as an international network of

exploitation. World WE takes an abolitionist approach, and focuses its efforts on reducing the demand. As such, World WE is positioning itself as the counter the Freedom Network. (The Freedom Network is the current primary resource for supporting efforts to combat human trafficking. It receive significant funding from the US government to provide grants and TA to local efforts to combat human trafficking.)

The goal of the Male Engagement Working Group of WorldWE is twofold:

- helping promote efforts to hold buyers accountable, and
- developing efforts to engage men in preventing sexual exploitation.

Co-chairs Peter Qualliotine and Rus Funk organized and facilitated the meeting. Five members (in addition to Peter and Rus, Chuck Derry, Pheng Thao, and Anthony Talbot) of the Male Engagement Working Group attended the meeting, the result of which is a working vision, definition of our politics, and strategies for moving forward

The ME Working Group is also working with World WE to plan a 2-day meeting in Winter/Spring 2018 with the goal of developing a work plan for this initiative.

Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the report from this meeting, or in becoming involved in the World WE Male Engagement Working Group, should contact Rus Funk at rus@rusfunk.me.

representing NAMEN. Both were attending as individuals. No formal relationship yet exists between NAMEN and World WE.



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