SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW
Who is organizing the Global Symposium?

The Symposium is organized by [MenEngage Alliance](#) together with its members and partners from women’s rights and social justice movements.

**Co-organizers are:**

[Rwanda Men’s Resource Center](#) (RWAMREC)

[Rwanda MenEngage Network](#) (RWAMNET)

[MenEngage Africa](#)

In partnership with [Ministry of Gender, Rwanda](#)
Bottom Up Mobilization
The Symposium is part of an ongoing mobilization and politicization process:

It builds upon - and is framed within the context of - previous MenEngage global and regional symposiums - including:
- 1st MenEngage Global Symposium 2009, Rio
- 2nd MenEngage Global Symposium 2014, Delhi
- Latin America Colloquium on Masculinities (2018, 2016-every 2 yrs)
- Other numerous Country and Regional Symposium/Workshops

"We live in a world of profound inequalities and unbalanced power relations, where rigid norms and values about how people should behave fuel and exacerbate injustices.

We have to change that."

- Delhi Declaration and Call to Action, 2014, MenEngage Alliance
Global Symposium organizing Roadmap 2017 - Feb 2020:

- **Ottawa, Canada** (Sept 2017)
  - Broad discussions, rationale and justifications

- **Santiago, Chile** (Aug 2018)
  - Broad discussions, global focus

- **Beirut, Lebanon** (June 2019)
  - Extensive discussions, including region-specific planning

- **‘Listening rounds’** (Dec 2019-Feb 2020)
  - Regional listening rounds

- **Kigali, Rwanda** (Feb 2020)
  - Organization and discussions on committees, values, themes, fundraising

Series of discussions and consultations on the symposium at various regional network meetings
The MenEngage Ubuntu Symposium (2020-2021)

Anticipated Level of Engagement (across the regions)

April onward
Ongoing
Regional and global webinars

Regional/country network convenings: bottom-up agenda setting

Webinar to share the concept of the symposium and explain call for concept submissions

MenEngage Members Assembly (nov)

November: Ubuntu Symposium kick-off (1-3 days)

Abstract/Submission Driven Sessions

Organizers Driven Sessions (Plenary, Cross Regional)

Regional Networks driven sessions

Local in-person hubs around the world (region/country)

June?
Ubuntu Symposium closure: the road ahead (3 days)

Call to Action

Regional and cross-regional consultations (online/in-person)

Thematic sessions (panels, workshops, dialogue spaces, etc) on Ubuntu Symposium priority issues

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Virtual MenEngage Platform serves as Ubuntu Symposium hub

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Space for creativity: Art, Culture, Skills building, Posters, Networking, Panel, Dialogue, ...

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Ongoing
Regional and global webinars

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Anticipated Level of Engagement (across the regions)

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Platform

The overall event management company is called **Cvent** and the app is called **Quickmobile**.

Here's some info on Cvent (registration, website etc.):

https://kapost-files-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/published/573234fd93e6d1e0d900054a/cvent-event-management-professional-edition.pdf?kui=K8fQH041Jx1jkix8cV8IVQ

And here's a demo QuickMobile app you can play around with:

https://primatech.quickmobile.mobi/

We looked at many apps and QuickMobile was not the best we saw in terms of overall look and feel but the decision was based on the fact that **Cvent/Quickmobile offers the app in multiple languages, which none of the others did.**
Tech company to support with an event web portal, app, and website:

- Multilingual Events
- Branded Event Website
- Dynamic Registration Paths
- Targeted Email Communications
- Event Promotion, surveys, polls
- Speaker profiles
- Event calendar
- Exhibitors
The event app provided by Cvent. QuickMobile integrates with the website and event portal for attendees.
ORGANIZING VALUES

Transparency  Accountability  Collaboration  Inclusion  Respect  Ownership
Who is involved: the SYMPOSIUM ORGANOGRAM

ISC Membership:
- MenEngage Global Board members
- Local host organization: RWAMREC
- RWAMNET representatives
- Youth representative(s)

Symposium International Steering Committee

Daily Organizing Committee Membership:
- Global Symposium Coordinator (Co-Coordinator)
- Local Host Organizations (Co-Coordinator)
- MenEngage GS staff team
- Local host organization team

Advisory Committee Membership
Representatives from strategic partners, including:
- Feminist Women’s Rights leaders/networks
- Various thematic priorities
- Men and masculinities
- Women’s rights and feminism
- SOGIESC issues
- Youth Leadership and Engagement

Symposium Committees Membership:
- 1 MenEngage Global Board member
- At least 1 representative per region
- MenEngage Alliance membership (open to all)
- 1 MenEngage GS staff member

Committee-Chairs:
- Elected by the Committee
- Keeps organization moving
- Reports to the ISC
The theme of the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium is:

**Ubuntu: Transforming Power to Benefit all Humanity**

What is ubuntu? Ubuntu is often translated as “humanity towards others” or “I am because we are”. It is a Nguni Bantu term from Southern Africa. ‘Ubuntu’ speaks to the universal connection between every person. A shared sense of compassion, responsibility, and humanity for all.
1. Make ‘men and masculinities’ work more effective and impactful for gender justice through collective sharing, questioning, learning, and knowledge-strengthening.

2. Strengthen a global community that acts responsibly, purposefully, inclusively, and in solidarity with our partners, friends, and each other – across social justice movements.

3. Inspire, develop, and renew a common political agenda and strategy to meet the urgency of today’s existing and emerging challenges.
Conceptual framework

The collective development and evolution of MenEngage Alliance’s political agenda, combined with the consultative process to gather inputs for the symposium thus far, provide clear guidance on the framework and themes of the 3rd MenEngage Global Symposium:

‘Power with’
Transformation
Accountability
Intersectionality
Feminisms
The Ubuntu Symposium seeks to advance the **Alliance’s Mission** (political agenda) by affirming the need for greater alignment and building common cause with social justice movements globally and nationally.

We envision that the symposium will provide support to the field to clarify and reaffirm its political stance and set directions and ways forward for strengthening the transformative agenda of the work to ‘transform masculinities and engage men and boys’ in advancing women’s rights, and gender and social justice.
Symposium Political Framework and Themes

As a Global Community of Practice, we commit to ask ourselves - individually, as organizations, and as network:

● What do these cross-cutting themes mean for my work on masculinities and/or with men and boys?
● How do they turn up in the contexts I work in?
● What lessons have I learned, and what can I share?
● Where are our “blind spots” and opportunities to strengthen our work?
Topics and issues include - but not limited to:

❖ Men and masculinities
❖ Women’s rights and empowerment
❖ Violence against women and girls (VAWG), Gender based violence (GBV) and other forms of violence and aggression
❖ Harmful practices that impact gender, sexuality and gender relations
❖ Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)
❖ Sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, sex characteristics (SOGIESC) issues and experiences
❖ Youth work and activism
❖ Disability, ability and accessibility
Topics and issues include - but not limited to:

- Peace and Security / Militarisms and conflict
- Unpaid Care and equitable parenting approaches
- Economic justice
- Social justice - particularly racial and ethnic justice
- Climate justice
- Strategies to counter backlash against human rights & gender justice
- Intersectionality dynamics (of gender, race, class, caste, age, sex, ability, etc - power dynamics)
- Accountability, power and feminist movements
- Transformation (gender, justice, power, inclusion)
- Strategic alliances and "Power with" approaches
Topics and issues include - but not limited to:

- Responses due to COVID-19
- Transforming systemic power
- Working with masculinized institutions (police, military, legal, sports, health-sector, etc)
- Transformative interventions with (male) leaders / power holders
- Governance, authoritarianism and [the crisis of] democracy
- Multilateralism
- Technology and surveillance
- Movement and alliance-building
- Other (please add)
The event will be an energizing combination of:

**research/theory/analysis** and **practical grassroots experience**
to create a space that offers new skills, capacities, tools, ideas, and insights for participants.

**Space for ‘formal’ and ‘informal’ conversations**
where dialogues can take place based on communities of interest, solidarity and regions.

A space where participants feel **inspired and challenged**.
The call for concept submissions is open!

Closes August 15, 2020

You can find out more information and submit proposals on the MenEngage Alliance website

English, Spanish and French languages

http://menengage.org/submitting-a-concept-for-the-menengage-ubuntu-symposium/
http://menengage.org/presentar-un-concepto-para-el-simposio-ubuntu-de-menengage/
http://menengage.org/soumettre-un-concept-pour-le-symposium-ubuntu-de-menengage/
How can we work together to:

*Inspire, develop, and renew a common political agenda and strategy to meet the urgency of today’s existing and emerging challenges?*
Want to receive alerts by WhatsApp?

Join the Ubuntu Alerts WhatsApp Group

- To keep the number of messages manageable, only admins can post
- 2-3 relevant messages per week (in English)

To join:

For more information, go to:

menengage.org/symposium