



Men Care

A GLOBAL FATHERHOOD CAMPAIGN

Men Care



DECEMBER 2013

FEATURED VIDEO

Why Fatherhood is a Game Changer for Gender Equality



(Click on the image to watch)

"Caregiving is serious. It is neither male nor female. It is simply what makes us human."

During the latest TEDxBarcelonaWomen event, Gary Barker, the International Director at [MenCare](#)'s Global Co-Coordinator, Promundo-US used personal stories and global trends to reinforce the importance of men's caregiving in improving gender relations.

Barker was one of ten speakers, ranging from gender experts to entrepreneurs, invited to talk at the December 5th event in Barcelona, Spain. The theme of this year's conference was: "Get men involved in gender equity!"

Read more and watch ([here](#)).

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WHAT'S NEW

"A Little Piece of Heaven" Documentary and MenCare+ Launch Indonesia



INDONESIA - On November 27th, Rutgers WPF Indonesia launched [Laki-Laki Peduli](#), the Indonesian adaptation of [MenCare+](#). During the launch a remarkable short documentary directed by Indonesian filmmaker Nia Dinata was shown. A broad audience of representatives from the government, NGOs, UN Agencies and the donor community watched '[A Little Piece of Heaven in Bondowoso](#).'

The film shows how Ustadz Muhammad, an Islamic teacher, practices what he

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IN THE NEWS

The global campaign to inspire men to be better fathers

By Harvey Schachter, The

preaches, respecting and supporting his wife's leading role in society and setting an example for the broader religious community. "When I started the documentary I was not sure I would find these enlightening stories in my own country," says Nia Dinata, "I was so proud to meet Ustadz Muhammad and tell his story."

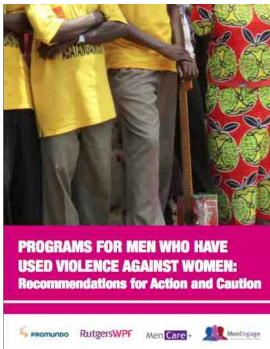


Also [two clips](#) were shown of the MenCare+ ambassadors, the famous actor Lukman Sardi and a well-known TV presenter and MC, Ersya Mayori. In Public Service Announcements they lead by example, showing how they and their partners share the care of their children. Representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment have expressed their full support to Laki-Laki Peduli, and regard it as key to reduce violence against women and maternal mortality. Read more ([here](#)).

Watch the PSAs and Documentary ([here](#)).

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REPORT: Programs for Men who have used Violence Against Women: Recommendations for Action and Caution



Numerous studies affirm that violence committed by a male partner and against a female partner (intimate partner violence, or IPV), is a worldwide phenomenon, and studies show that IPV sometimes increases during pregnancy. MenCare partners believe in the capacity of men to be caring partners during the prenatal period and after their children are born, and in guaranteeing women's safety and protection from violence.

This briefing prepared in collaboration by [MenEngage](#), [Promundo](#), [Rutgers WPF](#) and [MenCare+](#), explores how programs for men who have used IPV can be part of

comprehensive approaches to ending IPV but that they must be implemented with considerable caution. It reviews the literature on approaches and common program components; summarizes the emerging evidence, including evaluation trends; and discusses the challenges with implementing such programs as well as alternative models for holding men accountable for violence. In addition, the paper outlines necessary pre-conditions for implementing programs for men who have used IPV.

Read the full report ([here](#)).

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Working with Fathers in South Africa: MenCare+ Launch



SOUTH AFRICA - November 21st marked an exciting day for [MenCare+](#), with its official South African launch taking place in Khayelitsha's Desmond Tutu Hall. People poured into the crowded hall for registration; after which fathers, young people, mothers, children, government personnel as well as partner organizations were seated in anticipation for the day's proceedings. The event's program director Patrick Godana – the MenCare media and government relations manager – asked everyone to stand and observe a minute of silence in memory of the women and children who have died at the hands of men, and to reflect on our role in the upcoming 16 days of activism of no violence toward women and children. Then, mixing humor, grace, light-heartedness and immense warmth as he proceeded to do throughout the day, Patrick welcomed the audience.

Next to speak was Wessel van den Berg, MenCare's Program Manager, who

Globe and Mail

Excerpt:

Women have been entering professional jobs in South Asian countries, and to a lesser degree Africa, with the predictable demand on them to shoulder the burden at home, leaving them no chance for balance.

Some countries are grappling with how to support these changes in women's lives through social policy. Workplaces are facing issues such as maternity leave and pay inequality that have been a long struggle in North America. As women's incomes rise, that does encourage more gender equality – but only if families and society support such notions.

"But there is one missing piece – the role of fathers," he said. "Gender equality within the family is needed and one of the keys is who is looking after the kids."

Read the full article on The Globe and Mail ([here](#)).

STAFF QUOTE



MenCare+ Rwanda is engaging men as equitable, non-violent caregivers and fathers and teaching them tangible parenting skills by using hand-made dolls, produced by a local cooperative. As part of the program, they are also offering groups that aim to open the conversation on sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) with young women and men.

Promundo-US's Director of Finance & Operations Richard Boriskin witnessed the participants' excitement in one of the first sessions in a social center near the border with the DRC:

"These dedicated young men and women sounded so excited about finishing their training and going out to their respective communities to act as

explained the role of the MenCare+ campaign as a response to South Africa's high number of absent fathers; where two out of every three children do not have the support – financial or emotional – of their father. He emphasized that the general understandings and norms of childcare exclude the role of the father. Gender equality and bringing the father into the realm of childcare is therefore central to the MenCare+ campaign.



Read more on our blog ([here](#)).

Learn more about MenCare+ South Africa ([here](#)).

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Manual: Workshops on Sexuality, Fatherhood and Care with Young Men is Now Available from Chile



CHILE - Check out the new manual from MenCare Chile, "Workshops on Sexuality, Fatherhood and Care with Young Men," or "Talleres sobre sexualidad, paternidad y cuidado con hombres jóvenes" (in Spanish).

This manual includes perspective on gender and masculinities for facilitators. It is a tool to work with teens and young men more successfully on the themes of sexuality, fatherhood and care. The manual serves as an invitation to open the conversation through group reflection; it is in part generated from [Program P: A Manual for Engaging Men in Fatherhood, Caregiving and](#)

Maternal and Child Health.

Download the manual ([here](#)).

Learn more about MenCare Chile ([here](#)).

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Putting Together the "Life Puzzle" in Russia

RUSSIA - Children, parents, job, home, money and gender equality are different parts of what the Swedish call a life puzzle. How can one harmoniously fit these pieces together? Possible answers were provided at a photo exhibition, which opened on November 14th in St. Petersburg.



'Life Puzzle' is an exhibition about the father's role and how society can make it easier to combine gender equality, parenting and career aspirations. In Sweden, the achievement of gender equality is an important political objective, and active measures are taken to increase the number of men taking paternity leave.

At the exhibition, Pål Sommelius presented 24 photos of everyday family life in Sweden. These pictures were discussed and compared with Russian practices at round tables and work meetings organized as part of the exhibition. The exhibition is being shown at the National Library of Russia, St. Petersburg between November 14th and December 31st, and is organized by the St. Petersburg Social and Economic Institute and Northern Way with the financial support from the Swedish Institute.

Learn more about MenCare Russia ([here](#)).

facilitators to spread the word of Gender Equality and SRHR."

Who's Who at MenCare

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Fathers March for Zero Infection in South Africa



SOUTH AFRICA - This month, MenCare+ South Africa fathers and family members participated in a march during the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections in Africa (ICASA). The



march was launched as a call for care, treatment and prevention for all. Local MenCare+ fathers emphasized that the struggle to reach zero infection would include equitable parenting and improving men's contribution to care.

Learn more about MenCare+ South Africa ([here](#)).

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"Establishing a Sustainable System to Involve Men into the Lives of their Children and Families" in Belarus



BELARUS - Over the last 4 years more than 1,000 young fathers have passed through father groups. On November 26th and 27th, a 3-year international project titled "Establishing a Sustainable System to Involve Men in the Lives of their Children and Families" was launched. The project is designed to prepare men for fatherhood and may

provide the foundation for a country-wide system.

Russian, Ukrainian, Belarus, and Swedish experts will establish training groups for fathers and for group leaders, which will include both classroom education and distance support via training workshops. To implement this project, partners will establish 25 to 30 father schools, developed with the help of the Lions Club and international partners.

Andrei Turovets, the Project Leader finds that father schools are usually attended by "men who want to be good fathers but do not know how," and notes that being good fathers is especially challenging for those whose mothers or fathers were not involved in their upbringing.

Learn more about MenCare Belarus ([here](#)).

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The Fathers' Council of Archangelsk Region was nominated for the Civil Initiative National Award in Russia



RUSSIA - The Fathers' Council of the Archangelsk Region was the first nominee in the Family of the Future Category of the Civil Initiative National Award in Russia. Altogether, the competition featured 12 community work categories: each with between 6 and 83 nominees.

The regional father movement was established in 2010. Sergey Shuvalov, member of the Fathers' Council comments, "We work with young fathers and with men who have already raised several generations, so they can pass on their experience."

Annually municipalities of Archangelsk Region organize Fathers' Forum. In

2013 the Forum held at Nyandom was attended by over 400 people. These were proactive fathers who cared about children's issues. The Fathers' Council NGO of Baltasinsky District of the Republic of Tatarstan shared its experience with forum attendees. The Civil Initiative National Competition's award ceremony was held on December 14th at Et Cetera Moscow Theater. The Civil Initiative Award was established by Kudrin's Civil Initiatives Support Foundation (NGO).

Learn more about MenCare Russia ([here](#)).

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Learning How to Work with Young Fathers in Latvia



LATVIA- A two-day workshop for practitioners on working with young fathers was held on November 26-27th in Riga, Latvia. The workshop brought together Nils Petterson (Män för Jämställdhet, Sweden) and Dmitry Znachkov (Northern Way, Russia) who shared their experiences of working with fathers.

Workshop attendees learned how Latvian fathers are engaged in children's upbringing and what challenges Latvian parents face. Taking part during the 16 Days of Activism, it was especially important to consider how to work with men as fathers to engage in family life, increase women's wellbeing, and to decrease violence against women and children.

The workshop's conclusions were presented at The IV Annual International Conference, Prevention of Child Abuse: The Role of an Adult in Providing for the Emotional Welfare of Children at Riga on November 28th. The conference and the workshop were part of the "Fathers Matter: Engaging Fathers in Child Care, Parenting and Prevention of Child Abuse!" project implemented by Dardedze Center with the financial support of Save the Children, Sweden.

Learn more about MenCare Latvia ([here](#)).

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Adult Education Programs to Start in Moldova

MOLDOVA - "Not only women but also men should understand that violence is unacceptable in our lives." This was the motto of the "Men's Engagement in Prevention of Domestic Violence" workshop organized November 18-19th in Chisinau, Moldova.



The meeting was arranged to establish an adult educational program on preventing family violence. Vladimir Martsenyuk talked about the practice of working with young fathers and shared the experience of organizing men at the All Ukrainian Network of Papa Schools, and on working with MenCare.

The workshop was arranged by Moldova's Winrock as part of the "Prevention of Family Violence by Community Efforts" project and with the financial support of Oak Foundation.

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Enter Communications X-Change for a Chance to Win 1 of 5 Grants Totaling \$25,000

The 2014 Avon Communications Awards recognize organizations worldwide whose strategic communications tools are changing our

communities, institutions, policies, and behaviors to prevent and eliminate violence against women and children. Submit material to the Communications X-CHANGE by January 31, 2014 to be automatically eligible for one of five grants totaling \$25,000. Please contact Celia Richa at cricha@futureswithoutviolence.org for more information.

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[MenCare](#) is a global fatherhood campaign, coordinated by [Promundo](#) and [Sonke Gender Justice](#). Our mission is to promote men's involvement as equitable, non-violent fathers and caregivers in order to achieve family well-being and gender equality.

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