

Men Care

A GLOBAL FATHERHOOD CAMPAIGN



MAY 2014

MenCare's May 2014 newsletter features updates from our partners in Brazil, Guatemala, Indonesia, Latvia, Russia and South Africa. Learn about South Africa's hit TV series on youth and fatherhood, the launch of MenCare's website for Eastern Europe, pioneering fathers' groups and more!

FEATURED NEWS

Interview with Márcio Chagas da Paz



Read an [interview](#) with Márcio Chagas da Paz, a participant in MenCare workshops in Brazil, as part of the International Museum of Women's "Mama: Motherhood Around the Globe" online exhibition.

The International Museum of Women chose Márcio as one of its heroes because he "knows from personal experience that men who have had troubled relationships with their fathers can heal and become loving, nurturing fathers themselves." In his interview, Márcio discusses his distant relationship with his own father growing up, how he strives to be a better father for his son and how he inspires other fathers in his community.

Read the full interview on the International Museum of Women's [website](#) and watch [Márcio's Story](#), a MenCare Brazil film.

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WHAT'S NEW

Launch of new website provides updated MenCare resources for Eastern Europe

RUSSIA - On April 15th, MenCare Russia launched "[Men Can Do It](#)," a new MenCare Campaign website for Eastern Europe. The Russian language website has been redesigned to better disseminate information in Russian on MenCare, to organize partnerships and cooperation around fatherhood in the

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EVENT

region and to make information on the campaign more readily available to professionals and the media.



The website features information about the global MenCare Campaign and its mission, as well as event announcements, regional news and a quarterly newsletter focused on Eastern Europe. It also includes extensive resources, from research and training manuals to a section on mass media, as well as accounts of individual fathers who have made a difference in their families and communities.

The programs section of the website highlights six active fatherhood initiatives in the region: "Father Schools" and the "Fathers' Council" in Russia; the "Father Can" program and "Dads' Art Project" in Belarus; the "To Become Closer" program in Poland; and Father's Day throughout the region.

The website also integrates various social media platforms, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Pinterest](#).

Read more about MenCare Belarus ([here](#)), MenCare Russia ([here](#)) and MenCare Ukraine ([here](#)) and visit www.MenCanDolt.org to see the new site.

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Hit TV show Amaza incorporates the principles of MenCare in its storyline



SOUTH AFRICA – On May 5th, after reaching 7.5 million viewers and becoming the most watched drama series in the country, the hit South African TV show Amaza aired its final episode. A critical aspect of the show, which chronicles the lives of four protagonists in their early 20s, is the exploration of fatherhood.

One of the main characters, Bongani Mapanga, becomes a father early in the series, and his narrative serves to explore questions of fatherhood and caregiving. His character also reflects on the deeper story of his own absent father, influencing how he sees himself and moreover how he cares for his child. The insights that Amaza provides on the impact of becoming a father speak to the themes of the MenCare Campaign.

Read more about how Amaza reflects MenCare themes ([here](#)) and learn about the MenCare campaign in South Africa ([here](#)).

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MenCare Guatemala trains health care providers in promoting active fatherhood

GUATEMALA – In March, MenCare Guatemala's coordinator [ECPAT](#) co-organized eight workshops for health care providers around themes of active fatherhood and caregiving, providing training for a total of 55 health professionals.



The goal of the workshops was to train health providers on how to get men involved in maternal and child health, how to coordinate group education for parents-to-be and how to create clinic spaces that are supportive of mothers and fathers. The methodology

ANNOUNCEMENT

MenEngage Global Symposium 2014



The second MenEngage Global Symposium: "Men and Boys for Gender Justice" will be held in New Delhi, India from November 10-13, 2014. The symposium will bring together researchers, practitioners, advocates, activists, government representatives and the donor community to share experiences, evidence and insights, and to explore how men and boys can creatively contribute to gender equality and towards a broader view of social justice.

Delegate registration and abstract submissions are now open online at the conference website: www.menengagedilli2014.net

Abstract submissions are due by May 31st (UTC).

FEATURED STUDY

Give Love, Get Love: The Involved Fatherhood and Gender Equity Project



The Involved Father and Gender Equity project was a collaborative effort between [White Ribbon Campaign](#) and [Dad](#)

for the workshops was based on [Program P](#), MenCare's manual on engaging men in maternal, sexual and reproductive health.

Workshop participants included gynecologists, obstetricians, pediatricians, nurse practitioners and assistants, psychologists and hospital and clinic administrators from Guatemala City, Villanueva and Amatitlán.

The workshops were part of the larger initiative, "MenCare in the Public Health Sector – Engaging Health Providers and Men for Gender Equality and Maternal, Sexual and Reproductive Health in Guatemala and Nicaragua." They were co-organized by [APROFAM](#), a nonprofit that provides health services to poor and vulnerable populations, and funded by the [Summit Foundation](#) and the [Oak Foundation](#) through a subgrant from [Promundo](#), MenCare's co-coordinator.

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

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MenCare Latvia completes country's first fathers' program



LATVIA – [Centre Dardedze](#), the coordinator of MenCare Latvia, has successfully completed the country's first fathers' group program. Twelve fathers attended six meetings in Riga that focused on themes such as the importance of being an active father, a father's role during pregnancy, caring for yourself and your partner, understanding the world through the eyes of a child and

how to use positive discipline.

Latvia's fathers' program was modeled after fathers' groups in Sweden and Russia, but adapted to Latvia's regional context and the needs and expectations of fathers who participated.

Upon completion of the program, all of the participants said they would recommend the experience to other fathers, citing the ability to share experiences that are not commonly discussed with other men as the most important component of the program.

"It took me an hour and a half to travel to the fathers' group and the same amount of time to get back home, but it was worth it. I would do it all over again," said one participant.

This month, Centre Dardedze plans to begin a second fathers' group program, as well as to take the first steps toward starting a fatherhood campaign directed at the broader community.

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

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MenCare+ Indonesia hosts "The Changing Role of Modern Parenting"

INDONESIA - The Pulih Foundation, a MenCare+ Indonesia partner, held an inspiring discussion on "The Changing Role of Modern Parenting" in Jakarta on April 26th, which focused on the importance of fathers for the healthy development of their children.



Twenty-five couples and their children participated in the discussion and shared experiences related to the importance of fatherhood, and the impact of gender roles and masculinity on parenting. Fathers spoke openly about how to improve communication with their partners and about how to be responsible caregivers.

Indonesian actor and MenCare+ ambassador Lukman Sardi attended the event, which was hosted by Mother & Baby magazine at the Grand Indonesia Mall.

[Central](#). This study explores the positive roles that fathers, as well as organizations working with diverse fathers, in Ontario and in general can play in promoting gender equality, healthy, equal relationships, and ending violence against women in all its forms.

Read the full study [here](#).

Who's Who at MenCare

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Learn more about MenCare+ ([here](#)) and MenCare Indonesia ([here](#)).

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MenCare South Africa transforms a rural community's gender norms



SOUTH AFRICA – A new [case study](#), “MenCare in Matzikama,” documents how the Matzikama Men and Boys Network, in conjunction with MenCare’s co-coordinator [Sonke Gender Justice](#), have transformed gender and family norms in a rural municipality in South Africa.

"We have set a platform for capacitating men and boys and families [and] redirecting their vision in terms of their own lifestyle and how to go about their everyday living," said Andrew Julies, chairperson of the Matzikama Men and Boys Network steering committee.

Across Matzikama, people now wear MenCare t-shirts, which spark conversation and contribute to gradual shifts in social norms. MenCare’s “My Dad Can” Program uses media to promote positive local role models as examples of involved fathers. And, MenCare fatherhood groups in the community create safe and supportive spaces for men to explore the role of their own fathers in their lives and to reflect upon how they can be involved fathers in the lives of their own children.

Read the full case study ([here](#)).

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Topic sheets on fatherhood show how and why to engage dads



A series of topic sheets from [MenCare](#) and the [Fatherhood Institute](#) focuses on why and how to engage fathers effectively. These smart and punchy one-pagers are designed for an international audience of health, education and social care professionals, policymakers, program managers and designers, researchers and evaluators, mothers and fathers.

Four topic sheets focus on why engaging dads is important, including improving maternal and child health, reducing violence in children’s lives, supporting children’s early learning and taking advantage of the many benefits of paternity leave. Five topic sheets focus on how to engage dads effectively, outlining common mistakes and best practices for engaging fathers, as well as providing a list of top 10 tips.

The topic sheets were made possible by funding from the [Bernard van Leer Foundation](#).

Download the full set of topic sheets ([here](#)) and find the research that backs them up on the Fatherhood Institute’s website ([here](#)).

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MenCare fact sheets debunk common myths about corporal punishment

SOUTH AFRICA - Eight MenCare [fact sheets](#) on corporal punishment, authored by MenCare’s co-coordinator [Sonke Gender Justice](#), debunk common myths about corporal punishment and promote positive discipline and caregiving.

A substantial body of evidence exists regarding the negative effects of corporal punishment on children, and recent studies demonstrate that corporal



punishment has a range of adverse neurological, physical, behavioral, cognitive, emotional and social development outcomes. Through research, case studies and analysis, these MenCare fact sheets show the dangers of corporal punishment and explain the difference between punishment and positive discipline.

Download the fact sheets and other resources on ending corporal punishment ([here](#)).

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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.

