



## MenEngage Alliance

Jesuit Social Services is a member of the [MenEngage](#) Alliance.

This is a global alliance made up of dozens of country networks spread across many regions of the world, hundreds of non-governmental organizations, as well as UN partners.

MenEngage members work collectively and individually toward advancing gender justice, human rights and social justice to achieve a world in which all can enjoy healthy, fulfilling and equitable relationships and their full potential.

Through its country-level and regional networks, MenEngage seeks to provide a collective voice on the need to engage men and boys in gender equality, to build and improve the field of practice around engaging men in achieving gender justice, and advocating before policymakers at the local, national, regional and international levels. MenEngage member organisations can differ widely in where they are from and how they work, but they all believe in certain core principles that bind the alliance together:

### MenEngage Alliance – Core Principles

#### Gender as relational

We believe that men, along with women, should be engaged in achieving gender equality and in advancing the rights, health and well-being of women and girls.

#### Questioning men's violence against women

We are dedicated to engaging men and boys to end violence against women and to questioning or challenging violent versions of manhood.

#### Promoting existing UN mandates

We are dedicated to engaging men and boys to fulfil the mandates, statements of action, and principles of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Commission on the Status of Women statements (48th session), and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and working collectively to encourage governments to do the same.

#### Engaging men as caregivers

We are dedicated to promoting more equitable participation by men and boys in caregiving, the care of children and domestic tasks.

### **Working as allies with existing women's rights organisations**

We are committed to working as allies with women and women's rights organisations to achieve equality for women and girls.

### **Sexual diversity and sexual rights**

We are dedicated to promoting cultures of masculinity that respect sexual diversity and the sexual and reproductive rights of all, and that engage men so that concerns for reproductive health and contraception are more evenly shared between men and women.

### **The vulnerabilities of men**

We believe that the specific needs and experiences of men and boys have often not been well understood nor taken into account in the development of public policy or professional practice across a wide range of areas. We believe that men and boys are made vulnerable by non-equitable and violent versions of manhood.

### **Engaging men from a positive perspective**

We believe that all people would benefit from recognition of these issues and appropriate action to transform non-equitable and violent versions of manhood and redress power inequalities related to gender. We seek to build examples of men already acting in more gender-equitable and non-violent ways.

### **Participation**

We will strive to include and take into account the voices of men and women, boys and girls, at the community level, and the voices of community-level NGOs.

### **Non-discrimination**

We will actively advocate against, question and seek to overcome, sexism, social exclusion, homophobia, racism or any form of discriminatory behaviour against women or gay/bisexual/transgender men and women, or on any other basis.

### **Transparency**

We will be transparent, honest, fair and ethical in all of our actions, including making public our sources of funding and annual budget.

### **Collaboration**

We seek to work in collaboration, with open dialogue about institutional differences and achieving consensus whenever possible.

### **Evidence base**

We seek to build on evidence-based approaches to engaging men and boys.

### **Human rights perspective and life cycle approach**

We recognize the need to apply a human rights perspective in all activities and to take into account a lifecycle and ecological approach that incorporates both the individual as well as the broader social and structural contexts that shape gender inequalities.

### **Code of Conduct**

MenEngage designed a Code of Conduct to be used as a guiding document for our regions. This instrument is meant to be used to help members remain consistent with the values and principles of the Alliance, both in their personal lives and in our professional and public work. It has been signed by all of our steering committee members. You can read it [here](#).