



**IMAGES**

**MENA**  
the International Men  
and Gender Equality Survey

**DISCOURSES AND  
REFLECTIONS  
FROM THE  
CONFERENCE**  
“**MASCULINITIES IN THE ARAB  
WORLD: TRAJECTORIES TO  
PEACE AND GENDER EQUALITY**”





# DISCOURSES AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE

““ MASCULINITIES IN THE ARAB  
WORLD: TRAJECTORIES TO  
PEACE AND GENDER EQUALITY ””

2-4 MAY 2017  
BEIRUT, LEBANON







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Global Secretariat, MenEngage Alliance

Promundo US

ABAAD

UN Women Arab Regional Office

## ACRONYMS

CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of all Discriminations Against Women

FGM: Female Genital Mutilation

GBV: Gender-based Violence

IMAGES: International Men's Attitudes on Gender Equality Survey

MENA: Middle East and Northern Africa

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

Sida: Swedish International Development Agency

UN Women: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

VAW: Violence against Women

VAWG: Violence against Women and Girls

WILPF: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

# INTRODUCTION

Nearly 250 activists, researchers, practitioners, and policy makers came together in Beirut, Lebanon from 2-4 May 2017 to take part in the conference "Masculinities in the Arab World: Trajectories to Peace and Gender Equality". Promundo-US, ABAAD-Resource Centre for Gender Equality and UN Women Arab Regional Office brought together the experts and policy makers from across the MENA region and beyond to collectively identify actionable strategies for engaging men and boys as allies in achieving gender equality and peace in the Arab world. Other partners at the conference were Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) at Lebanese American University, Connecting Research to Development (CRD), International Alert, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Womanity Foundation, and the event was supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and United States Institute of Peace (USIP).

The event also featured the launch of results from the **International Men and Gender Equality Survey** in North America and Northern Africa (IMAGES MENA) - a first study of its kind to explore men's and women's attitudes and practices towards gender equality in the region, as well as the effects of conflict and displacement on masculinities in the region. The study examines four countries, chosen in part to reflect the diversity of the region, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine.

In 2015, under the leadership of ABAAD, a new MenEngage<sup>1</sup> country

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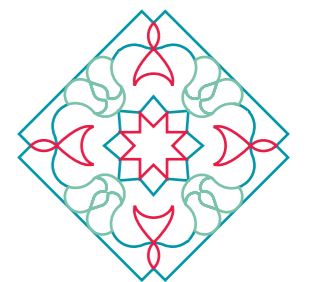
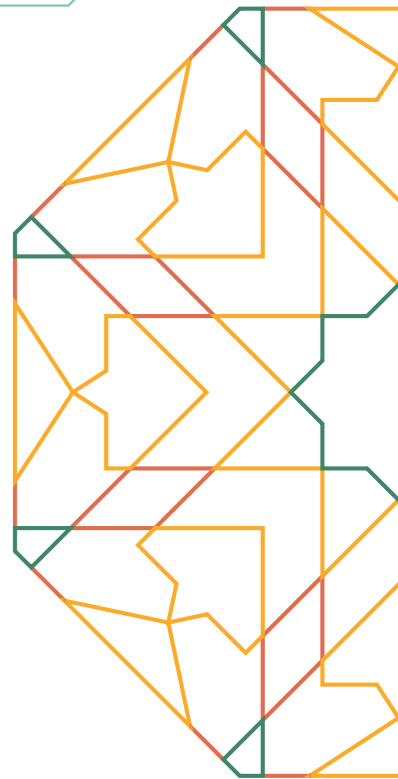
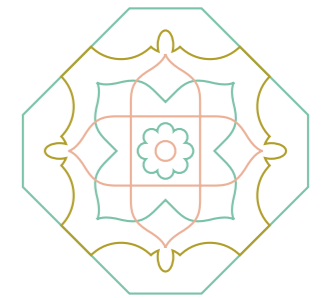
<sup>1</sup> MenEngage Alliance is an international network of over 700 civil society organizations working on transforming masculinities and engaging boys and men in gender justice. The Alliance strongly believes that while the challenges we face in the world today have many common denominators, a deeper understanding of the issues and the development and implementation of effective strategies and activities that can help address them, requires contextualized expertise and implementation. We therefore value regional and country-specific priorities and activities and facilitate partnership building among actors in the field of women's rights, gender and social justice.

network was created in Lebanon. MenEngage Alliance Global Secretariat has been working with ABAAD and other organizations, including UN Women and Promundo-US to mobilize towards creating networks in countries in the region with a view to establishing a regional network in the MENA region. MenEngage Alliance seeks to support practitioners and other organizations in MENA countries to translate the findings and recommendations emerging from the conference sessions and the IMAGES study into practical civil society-led actions, programs and collective advocacy at local, national and regional levels.

This action-oriented report compiles the outcomes of the conference, based on the discussions at each of the 12 sessions as well as interviews with 14 key stakeholders. It focuses primarily on recommendations, including from the IMAGES report, and ways forward for men and masculinities work in the region. Divided into 6 thematic focus areas, it outlines key IMAGES findings, provides a brief description of the context and main discussion points at the conference and identifies some existing promising initiatives in the MENA region. The report then presents recommendations for future strategies for engaging men and boys in gender equality in the areas of civil society action, advocacy opportunities and potential policies, and research.

## LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT

*This report has some limitations as to reflecting all the presentations and good practices shared at the conference. If there is anything missing that was shared at the conference, please don't hesitate to contact us.*



# BACKGROUND

Considerable advances have been made in the status of women in most parts of the Arab world in the past two decades. Health indicators, including female life expectancy and maternal mortality, have notably improved in many countries. Female literacy has risen substantially, and in some parts of the region, women now exceed men in terms of attendance, as well as performance, in secondary and post-secondary education. The vast majority of countries in the region have ratified CEDAW (although in some cases with reservations), and female political participation, at the ballot box and in government, has grown in several countries since the Arab uprisings.<sup>2</sup>

And yet, these gains are matched by formidable hurdles and setbacks. At a regional average of 25%, female labour force participation in the Arab world remains amongst the lowest globally. While gender equality is enshrined in constitutions across the region, laws on the books—and in practice—in most countries offer greater rights and freedoms to men than women, a position reflected in various country reservations to CEDAW based on conservative interpretations of Shari'ah. New research affirms that gender-based violence is common, with growing research revealing substantial rates of sexual harassment in public spaces, workplaces and schools, and an alarming prevalence of domestic violence. Widespread conflict and migration further jeopardize women's welfare.<sup>3</sup>

2/ El Feki, S., Heilman, B. and Barker, G., Eds. (2017) Understanding Masculinities: Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) – Middle East and North Africa. Cairo and Washington, D.C.: UN Women and Promundo-US  
3/ ibid

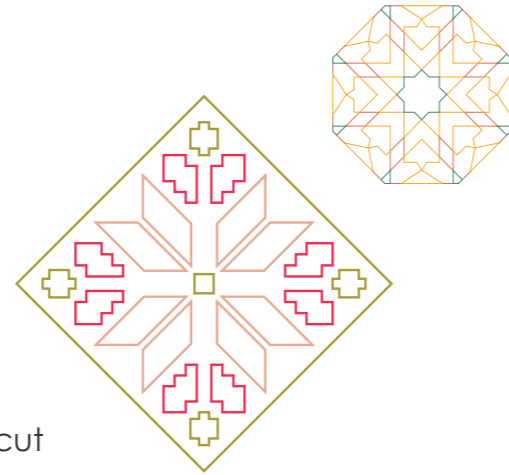
As the report demonstrates, however, certain transformations in gender relations and attitudes – some prompted by structural forces themselves, some emerging from individual and collective resistance to occupation, and others hard won by local women's rights movements – are taking place in most countries in the region. However, for deep and radical change to happen, structural changes at the political, economic, and social levels are necessary.

Against this backdrop, gender relations in the Arab world are a topic of heated debate, all the more so with the political, economic and social upheaval and conflict of recent years. But gender, as conventionally defined in the region, has mostly focused on women. Far less has focused on understanding how men's opposition or support of gender equality is a key factor in achieving it. There is also limited discussion on how gender relations are affected by conflict and social upheaval in the region, and what pathways to gender equitable attitudes and practices exist or may be possible for men and boys in the current context of the Arab World. Similarly, most of the discussion on gender within the peace and security agenda, in the Arab world as in the rest of the world, has focused on "women, peace and security," with a limited understanding of how masculinities and men's gendered perceptions and realities can and need to be part of that equation.<sup>4</sup>

4/ ibid



# KEY IMAGES FINDINGS<sup>5</sup>



The results of IMAGES MENA offer a nuanced picture of gender relations in the region, and cut through the stereotypes and prejudices that too often characterise outside perceptions of men and women in the Arab world. The four countries studied - Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine – are diverse, each presenting their own political, economic and social reality that has shaped gender relations and attitudes.

A majority of the men surveyed by IMAGES in the four countries support a wide array of inequitable, traditional attitudes. Two thirds to three quarters support the notion that a woman's most important role is to care for the household, and a majority of men expect to control their wives' personal freedoms, from what they wear and where they go to when the couple has sex.

However, a sizeable minority – a quarter or more of the men surveyed in every country – show support for at least some dimensions of women's equality and empowerment. These men question violence against women, agree with certain laws that safeguard women's rights, support women in leadership positions, and often want to spend more time caring for their children. Men with greater wealth, with higher education, whose mothers were educated, and whose fathers carried out traditionally feminine household tasks are more likely to hold gender equitable attitudes.

Men and women were both likely to show signs of depression, and a primary driver of depression in men is being unable to fulfil their socially prescribed role

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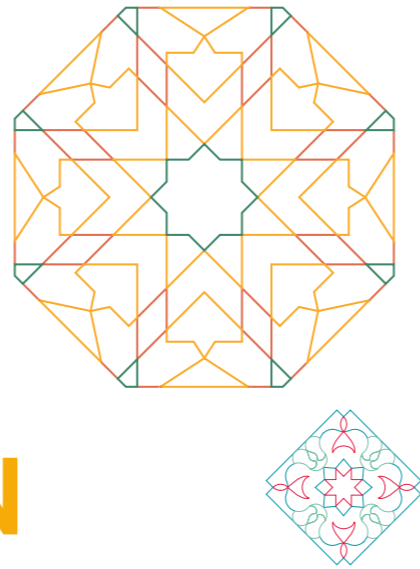
<sup>5/</sup> All the information in this section and the thematic sessions below are taken from the IMAGES MENA Executive Summary Report. For details and more information, we would recommend to read the report at <http://imagesmena.org/en/>



as financial provider in the context of displacement, conflict or unemployment. One significant finding, that differs from the results of IMAGES surveys carried out in other regions of the world, is that in Morocco, Palestine, and Egypt, younger men's views on gender equality do not differ substantially from those of older men.

It is clear from the study that too many men and boys in the region continue to uphold norms that perpetuate violence against women or confine women to conventional restrictive roles, and they act on these attitudes in ways that cause harm to women, children, and themselves. There is a long and winding road that must be travelled before most men – and many women, too – reach full acceptance of gender equality in all domains, both in the Arab region as well as globally.

# STATE OF THE FIELD: MEN AND MASCULINITIES IN THE ARAB REGION



Throughout the conference, there was broad acknowledgment that understanding perceptions and manifestations of what it means to 'be a man' and engaging men and boys to transform masculinities is crucial to complement the achievements towards gender equality in the region. The overarching trends present in the IMAGES findings reveal that the region has a long way to go in terms of both women's and men's attitudes towards gender equality. Interviewees agreed that the study provided a concrete analytical picture of men's attitudes regarding gender equality and could serve to add value and help strengthen gender transformative approaches to engaging men and boys and transform masculinities in the region. **Many participants expressed concern about the IMAGES finding that young people in the region did not hold more equitable attitudes than adults (in all countries surveyed aside from Lebanon), and voiced the need for more qualitative research to explore the reasons behind this finding. There was acknowledgement of the importance of prioritizing youth and young people as a key population in any efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the region.**

Another theme that was discussed in the IMAGES survey, as well as the interviews conducted, was the notion of a 'crisis of masculinity' in the region, in which boys and men may be struggling to fulfil their expected roles as protectors and providers, in a 'transitional society'. Participants stressed that understanding perceptions and manifestations of masculinities and men's views of gender equality in the region requires attention to boys' and men's gender-specific realities, such as high unemployment, public (in)security and fear for their family's safety, conflict-related displacement, migration or imprisonment, and the effect of such realities on men's ability to fulfil their traditional 'provider' role.



**Interviewees stressed that there is limited supporting research on men and masculinities in the MENA region, including on intimate male relationships and bonding, their interaction and competition among peers, the historical evolution of family dynamics and the roles and expectations of men and boys in the region, including how religion has played a significant role in shaping the restrictive ideas of 'what it means to be a man', and the way these norms are fostered within the Arabic family structure and institutions in the region.** This is partially due to the fact that research has focused on projecting men and boys from the region as religious conservatives and on their participation in armed groups, and has largely neglected to look at the lives of men and boys as individuals and their relationships.

Given the several decades' conflict and violence in the region, there is still limited understanding of the gendered impact of conflict on the lives of men and women, girls and boys, and people of diverse gender identities in the region, including the fluidity of gender roles in conflict and post-conflict settings<sup>6</sup>. There is also very limited understanding of men in the region who are living alternative models of masculinity and few positive role models are available for young men in the region.

Conference participants highlighted that, while there is growing acceptance of the need to engage men and boys in gender equality in the region, there is limited understanding of how exactly to carry out such programming or advocacy in a context-specific manner. While some initiatives are emerging in the region, especially in relation to the prevention of gender-based violence, there are few initiatives focusing on other thematic areas. Further, while several initiatives seek to engage men and boys, few have a specific focus on transforming the harmful forms of masculinity that are the root cause of gender inequality.

<sup>6</sup>/ More details about the impact of conflict in MENA region on the overall Human Development, can be found in the latest UNDP Arab Regional Bureau's Human Development Report 2016 [http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/library/huma\\_development/human-development-report2016-.html](http://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/library/huma_development/human-development-report2016-.html)



## PROMISING PRACTICES

Given the limited number of initiatives by various organizations and individuals in the region, the participants shared the following promising practices of engaging boys and men in gender equality and peace.

- **Program Ra**, the adapted Lebanese version of Program H, created by Promundo and partners in Brazil and adapted in over 26 countries, consists of 10-24 group sessions and community campaigns for young men. ABAAD and Promundo adapted the programme for Lebanese context, finding positive shifts in attitudes about gender and mental health support. Programme Ra is a strategy and capacity building training methodology on engaging in reflective dialogue with and among young men around issues like non-violence, SRHR, substance abuse, and gender equality. It was successfully tested, translated, and validated by local experts, trainers, and young men from Lebanese and refugee communities. This program is still ongoing and ABAAD is planning to do a rigorous evaluation of the program and its achievements.
- **MenEngage Lebanon**, a country network of MenEngage Alliance, is made up of local organizations working to engage men and boys in gender equality in Lebanon. The network seeks to advance this work through capacity building, knowledge and information sharing and collective advocacy.
- **ABAAD's Men's Center**, supports men with abusive behaviours in Lebanon to fulfil gender-balanced transitions in their lives while expressing their emotional self-awareness and behavioural change to combat violence through providing inclusive engendered psychotherapy and mental health sessions. The Centre aims to improve men's reactions and emotions due to daily stress, and to support them in better dealing with and managing this stress. Psychotherapists receive men, who voluntarily seek out the Centre's confidential and anonymous services, and offer them one-on-one psychosocial support sessions.
- **Mohammad Tawarneh**, at individual level, Judge and Vice President of the Court of Cassation of Jordan, works to build the capacity of male judges and law enforcement professionals to deal with cases of violence against women in a way that promotes gender equality and human rights, and on their own stereotypes and unconscious gender biases. Working on judges' personal attitudes has helped them to be more gender sensitive in interpreting laws and making legal judgements.

- **Quartiers du Monde's alternative education methods** to work with young men in Morocco to deconstruct ideas around masculinity, and on issues of sexual harassment and consent, including through theatre workshops. They work directly with youth groups and also with a local organization, a feminist association La Ligue Democratique pour les Droits des Femmes which works in Ouarzazat to develop programming on masculinities. As a network, they were inspired by the different existing experiences surrounding masculinities, and adapted tools developed in Latin America using a methodology stemming from popular education.
- **A project by Quartiers du Monde and the Aquarium Theatre** in Rabat, Morocco uses fatherhood as an entry point to stimulate reflection and ultimately a change in perceptions of masculinity, through artistic training and thematic workshops. The question "What is fatherhood?" opens up an opportunity for reflection and investigation on gender relations and questions the construction of roles and family relationships.
- **Womaniy's B 100 Ragl 'edutainment' initiative** is using fiction and entertainment to support women's and men's more equitable roles in real life. After the realization that most of its viewers were men, Womaniy adapted the content to incorporate a masculinities approach and some of the key messages of programme Ra.
- **Positive Discipline in Everyday Parenting (PDEP)** is a child rights based approach developed by Save the Children and University of Manitoba that provides group sessions for parents on positive discipline and nonviolent parenting. This approach is currently being implemented in Gaza, Palestine by partners of Save the Children.

### WHAT ARE GENDER TRANSFORMATIVE APPROACHES?

Gender transformative approaches are policies, processes and strategies that seek to critically reflect on and transform social norms and institutional practices that create and reinforce gender inequalities. Gender transformative approaches do not view the engagement of men and boys as an end in itself, rather as a means to transform social norms and gender power relations at their roots. The term is part of a 'gender integration continuum' that classifies interventions as gender exploitative, gender neutral, gender sensitive or gender transformative. Gender transformative approaches with men and boys are those that go beyond merely 'engaging men and boys', or educating or raising awareness of men and boys on a particular issue, and seek to create a fundamental shift in attitudes and behaviours related to masculinity and what it means to be a man in a particular society.



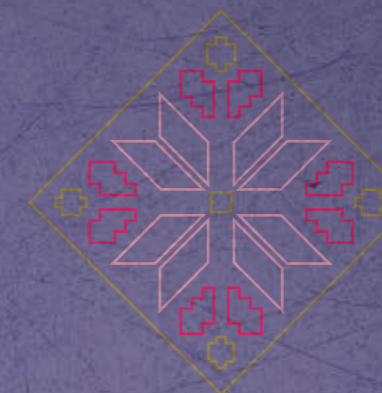
# OVERARCHING RECOMMENDATIONS

## Use evidence to design gender-transformative programming

- Use the IMAGES findings as an entry point for evidence-based work with faith leaders, media, the private sector, law enforcement, and judges on transforming masculinities and engaging men and boys in gender equality.
- Ensure a programmatic approach and implement long-term gender transformative initiatives to engage boys and men in gender equality. Programmes should be implemented with large, representative samples and over a significant time period, in order to be able to effectively evaluate impact. Programmes should build in monitoring and evaluation frameworks from the beginning of the program so that evidence and lessons learnt are monitored and documented throughout the program cycle.

## Be accountable to other movements

- Ensure accountability to the ground-breaking work of women's rights movements in the region and work in collaboration with women's rights organizations who have been working on these issues for many years and understand the issues at stake.
- Frame gender equality and transforming masculinities within broader social justice struggles and movements in the region, such as the opposition to militarism or the national liberation struggle in Palestine. Further, take into account the way gender intersects with other forms of discrimination, based on race, social class, age, nationality, religion or sexual orientation, in order to fully capture the complexity of boys' and men's experience in the region, when it comes to human rights and peace.
- Hold governments accountable but also fellow civil society actors. It is essential for activists, especially male activists, to be critically aware of their own power, privilege and social norms within the patriarchal system in which they operate.



## Contextualize approaches

- Take into account the way gender intersects with other forms of discrimination, based on race, social class, age, nationality, religion or sexual orientation.
- Consider local and lived realities, including the gendered impacts of stress, depression, and health-seeking behaviours, when designing and implementing gender transformative approaches to engaging boys and men in gender equality in order to fully capture the complexity of women's and girls' and boys' and men's experience in the region.
- Prepare documents and messages, including relevant terms, in local languages as concepts are often translated from English, which can obscure the nuances and ability to discuss sensitive issues. (While locally contextualizing engaging men and boys programming is essential, be aware of tools and resources from other regions of the world that can be adapted, in order to avoid 'reinventing the wheel'.)
- In order for gender equality and transforming masculinities work not to be seen as externally imposed or a 'western agenda', it must be led by local actors and civil society organizations. The role of the UN, INGOs and external actors is to support local organizations and actors and create space for them to lead these initiatives.





### **Support role models and champions**

- Find innovative ways to support men and boys who have more gender equal attitudes and support gender equality, including by creating solidarity groups that foster norms of equality and justice, and by identifying role models to the younger generation, especially young men.

### **Build partnerships**

- Adopt holistic and multi-sectoral approaches to transforming unequal gender norms around manhood that engage both women and men, and diverse segments of society. Organizations working on these issues may consider forming partnerships, networks, or alliances to ensure a comprehensive response to addressing deeply entrenched inequalities and violence.
- Work in collaboration with other like-minded organizations and networks at country, regional and international levels. Utilize these global and regional networks to share information, knowledge and resources on effective and promising ways to strengthen work with boys and men to transforming masculinities and advance gender equality.
- It is also important to build partnerships with governments, UN agencies and academia to strengthen and sustain this work.

### **Engage youth in gender transformative programming and activism**

- It is important to work with children and young people from an early age and that this work is continuous over a substantial period of time, as gender norms can easily relapse given the rigid patriarchal structures that exist around them.
- Create opportunities for young male activists to take a stand on specific issues relating to gender equality and create youth networks to increase the impact of youth activism

### **Utilize media for social norms change**

- Reach out to young people with effective and appealing messages around manhood, gender equality, peace and women's rights using appropriate communications tools including social media and online platforms.
- Work with the media who have immense influence on the general public in order to portray progressive ideals around gender equality. For this, carry out capacity building with and for media professionals and institutions on gender justice, women's rights and masculinities in order to ensure diverse representation of men and women in the media.

### **Highlight the benefits of gender equality for everyone**

- It is important to address the assumption that men and boys lose out from gender equality and women's empowerment. While certain men may be required to divest privileges, it is also important to highlight the positive outcomes of gender equality for their own well-being, as well as that of the women and children in their lives.

### **Use the IMAGES study to advocate for the implementation of international frameworks**

- Make the case for how engaging men and boys and transforming masculinities can contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, particularly SDG 5. The recommendations from the IMAGES study can be framed as a means of helping governments achieve their SDG targets and used in national level advocacy.
- Engage men and boys in advocacy for the implementation of CEDAW, and other laws in the region that are progressive but not implemented.
- Use IMAGES results in advocacy with donors, to push for more funding for women's rights and gender justice work, including gender transformative approaches to engage men and boys, while ensuring that this does not detract from overall funding for women's rights.

### **Integrate masculinities work across the social sectors**

- Train and build the capacity of law enforcement and judiciary personnel, including judges, on gender equality and transforming masculinities.
- Work with ministries of education on the structure and content of primary and secondary education, to include a greater focus on gender, masculinities and human rights.

**“The most important thing is to work with men on what it means to be a man, this is the starting point for all issues. If you try to tackle any issue without doing this, you won't get anywhere”.**

Hassan Joumaa, Masculinities Program Officer, ABAAD, Lebanon.



### **Push for gender transformative, locally contextualized legal frameworks**

- When formulating legislative frameworks, ensure there is long term strategic thinking on social and gender norms transformation, keeping gender equality at the centre. Bear in mind that legislation can have an educational purpose in addition to a punitive purpose and can play a role in setting social norms.
- Rather than copying directly from existing international language, focus on translation and locally contextualizing language considering the essence of meaning and intent, so that people can relate to the language, given their deep beliefs around customary laws and norms. While doing so, maintain the transformative nature of the framework intact.

### **Repeat the IMAGES study and conduct follow-up research**

- Pilot initiatives following the recommendations of the IMAGES study and carry out action research to evaluate their methodology and local relevance.
- Use the IMAGES study as a baseline and repeat in several years in order to measure progress.
- Replicate the IMAGES study in other countries in the MENA region.

Conduct further research on youth and gender equality

- Further unpack counter-intuitive IMAGES finding on youth, education and sexual harassment.
- Investigate online spaces and how gender stereotypes and toxic masculinity are presented in this space.
- As the IMAGES study primarily focuses on individuals above the age of 18 years, more research should be conducted on gender relations looking at adolescence and up to mid-twenties, given the trend of marriage being increasingly delayed in the region.

**“Now that work on the “why should we work with men, why should we engage them in working on masculinities?” Has been started and is developed, we can start thinking of the “how”.”**

Carine Roussel, Program Director, Quartiers-du-Monde, Morocco.

### **Conduct more qualitative research to fully unpack masculinities and patriarchy in the region**

- Conduct further qualitative research on the quarter of men in the region who have gender equal attitudes in order to establish who these men are and what factors led them to have such attitudes.
- Carry out more qualitative research in order to understand and unpack men and boys’ relationships with their (usually same sex) friends, which are often quite intimate and emotional, vis-à-vis their marital relationships.
- Further unpack the operation of patriarchy in the region and how it relates to other forms of social injustice.





# ENDING MEN'S VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## Key IMAGES findings

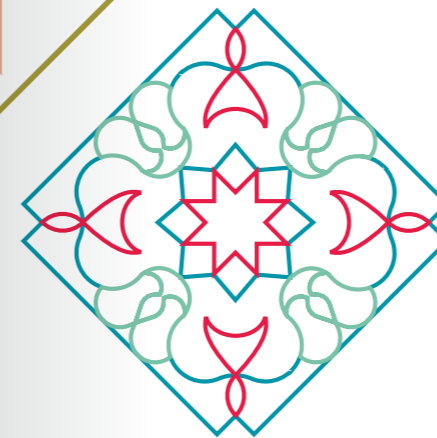
The IMAGES study revealed very high levels of violence against women, particularly intimate partner violence and street sexual harassment, in all the four countries in the region. 10 per cent to 45 per cent of ever-married men reported ever having used physical violence against a female partner, with approximately equal numbers of women affirming they had experienced this violence. Between 20 percent and 80 per cent of men reported ever having perpetrated some form of emotional violence against their wives (Ibid.). In all four countries, men who witnessed their fathers using violence against their mothers, and men who experienced some form of violence at home as children, were significantly more likely to report perpetrating intimate partner violence in their adult relationships.

Levels of street harassment were also high, with between 31 percent and 64 per cent of men reporting that they had ever carried out such acts, while 40 per cent to 60 per cent of women said they had ever experienced street harassment. When asked why they carried out such violence, the vast majority of men – up to 90 percent in some countries – said they did it for fun, with two-thirds to three-quarters blaming women for dressing “provocatively”. Younger men, men with more education, and men who experienced violence as children are more likely to engage in street sexual harassment.

## Context

Much of the discussion centred around how violence against women increases in the context of war, migration, unemployment and economic hardship. There was a recognition that these circumstances can leave men feeling frustrated due to their inability to provide for their families, and they may seek to exert their control over their spouse or children through violence. It was stressed that the problem is not simply that men do not have a job, but in their understanding of gender roles, and the societal pressure to fulfil their expected provider role.

It was acknowledged that in recent decades there has been increased attention in the region to the problem of gender-based violence. Governments and civil society have worked to raise awareness of the issue among women,



and women's acceptance of violence has decreased. Comparatively little work has been done, however, to engage men and boys in this issue. Panellists discussed the counterintuitive IMAGES finding that more educated men are more likely to harass women on the street. It was suggested that education per se is not the key to more gender equal behaviours and attitudes, but the content of the education. Participants drew attention to the prevalence of FGM in Egypt. The IMAGES revealed that the decision regarding FGM is taken by both parents, thus showing the need to engage men and women equally in combatting dominant social norms around the procedure.

## Recommendations

### Provide psychosocial support to men

- Provide psychosocial support to men, particularly those that have been exposed to violence in childhood, to reflect on and deconstruct violent behaviours, manage stress and openly express their emotions.

### Sensitize young men on masculinities and violence

- Work with young men to increase awareness of the multiple forms of violence against women, and on their own social norms around masculinity. Sensitize boys and young men about their behaviour and attitudes around women's rights, violence against women, and patriarchal violence in

**“We are not just talking about violence – we are talking about power. Men are taught and raised to acclaim power, for their status and sense of well-being.”**

Anthony Keedi, Technical Lead-Masculinities, ABAAD

family as well as public spaces, including mobilizing them to stand and speak against all forms of harmful practices.

- Focus not only on schools but in all arenas where young men are socialized (the home, community, street), in order to address the IMAGES finding that educated men are more likely to commit street harassment.

### **Provide training on gender-based violence to the law enforcement and justice sectors**

- Train law enforcement officers and judges on handling cases of violence against women, including on a human-rights based approach to understanding patriarchal violence and harmful cultural practices, in private as well as public spaces.

Work with men and women on religious and cultural justifications of violence

- Work with men on the perceived view that violence is permitted by the Quran, and use faith based approaches to generate new interpretations of religious scriptures to promote non-violence, and new narratives on masculinity.
- Work with both men and women on attitudes towards FGM in Egypt and create a dialogue between women and men in communities around the practice

### **Advocate for the implementation of CEDAW, including through engaging men and boys**

- Push for implementation of CEDAW, and other laws which are progressive, but not implemented, and work with both men and women on understanding of laws regarding violence against women.
- Work with women's rights groups as well as state actors to support CEDAW shadow reporting.

**“We have done a lot in the region to raise awareness and empower women, but we haven’t worked with men. We can see in statistics that we have taken a big step in women’s reduced acceptance of violence, but men still have the same perspectives.”**

Amel Fahmy, Managing Director, Tadwein - Tadwein Gender Research Center, Egypt.



### **Carry out further qualitative research on gender-based violence and masculinities**

- Carry out more qualitative research on gender-based violence, to dig deeper into the factors leading to men's use of violence, cultural aspects, and obstacles to violence prevention.
- Carry out more qualitative and in-depth studies on the recommendations of the IMAGES study, to unpack what they mean when it comes to addressing patriarchal violence against women and girls in the region.



# MEN'S HEALTH AND SEXUALITY

## Key IMAGES findings

The IMAGES study did not include an in depth look at men's sexuality, due to the sensitive nature of the subject. However, it looked at men and women's mental and physical health. The results point to high levels of stress and prevalent mental health concerns among men and women, with specific gendered patterns. In most of the countries, the results show that a significant proportion of men are under enormous pressure (mostly economic and security), with little recourse to formal healthcare, including mental health services, particularly for smoking and substance use. Men and women were both likely to show signs of depression. From 40 per cent to 51 per cent of women exhibited depressive symptoms, as well as 20 per cent to 28 per cent of men. The effects of conflict and unemployment were frequently cited as reasons for, or aggravating factors in, depressive symptoms among men.

## Context

Conference participants discussed the dominant meaning of male sexuality in the region, which is associated with virility, control of female sexuality, the use of violence, lack of protection against HIV and STIs, lack of recognition of female reproductive rights, weak male use of contraception, and non-acceptance of abortion, or women's right to safe medical childbirth. They acknowledged that sexuality largely remains a taboo issue in the region and that young men and women are not given accurate information regarding sex and reproduction, or opportunities to discuss these topics. Because of the sensitivity of the topic it can be hard to get men to open up about in programming or research, or to get funding to address the issue.

However, panellists in the sexuality session pointed to the emergence of a new masculinity in the region, ongoing transitional processes from a deeply patriarchal society. A study was presented on male identity and reproductive health in Morocco and revealed the beginning of the recognition of female reproductive rights, women's right to sexual pleasure, disassociation between masculinity and virility, fecundity and heterosexuality<sup>7</sup>. The panellists also highlighted the importance of integrating a life-cycle approach to address issues of sexual health and the importance working with children from an early age.

<sup>7</sup> Dialmy, A. (2000) Identité Masculine et Santé Reproductive au Maroc, Beyrouth: LCPS/Middle East Research Competition



## Recommendations

### Address physical, mental and sexual health and sexuality of diverse groups of boys and men

- Recognize and address men's mental, physical and sexual health and needs, including in times of armed conflict or economic crisis, and ensure these are taken up within the paradigm of equality and justice, rather than merely as technical service provision.
- Take into account diverse groups of boys and men. Programs should focus not only on youth but also on children, particularly victims of violence, and older men, whose decreased ability to perform sexually may lead to violence.

**“We use plural forms of masculinity because we don't have one but multiple. Masculinity is enacted in different forms in different contexts. It's not static, it keeps changing.”**

Amal Fahmy, Director, Tadwein Gender Research Center, Egypt.



- Address sexual identity and homophobia across all programs, and make appropriate intersectional connections with discrimination and violence against people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities. Work to broaden understanding of sexuality and gender identities and to deconstruct the 'gender as a binary' understanding.
- Raise awareness of male victims of sexual violence, provide psychosocial support to these victims and work to deconstruct the social norms that prevent reporting of such violence.
- Strengthen understanding among various stakeholders on the comprehensive nature of the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and its indivisible nature with women's rights and gender justice as per the perspective of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and include men's SRHR in international framework.

### **Work with boys and young men on health, sexuality and social norms**

- Address the high rates of risk taking among young men, including drinking alcohol, substance abuse, and the association between these behaviours and masculinities. Address the anxiety, stress and mental health concerns among men and women, with specific gendered patterns, of this age group and encourage them to get involved and mobilize in community awareness and educative initiatives.
- Address the multiple ways and environments in which young people are exposed to social norms around sexual health and sexuality, including diverse gender identities (schools, media, community etc.).
- Tackle aspects of culture and religion that act as barriers to addressing issues of sexuality. Use positive interpretations of religious scriptures that support women's rights and gender equality, including by challenging harmful norms around masculinity based in religion.

**“We need to talk about bodies from an early age, to help children get to know and care for their bodies and parts, and understand how they relate to other bodies”**

*Laxman Belbase, Global Networks Manager, MenEngage Alliance.*

### **Institutionalize approaches to men's health and sexuality**

- In order to go beyond project mode, institutionalize gender transformative approaches to men's health and sexuality into health and education systems and national level policies. This may include training health and education professionals on these issues, or using the high rates of male participation in antenatal visits revealed by the IMAGES study as an entry point into the health system for men.
- Introduce Comprehensive Sexuality Education in schools to provide young people with accurate information, get them talking about gender and bodies from a young age and break the taboos surrounding sexuality. Education curricula should focus on the non-binary nature of gender as well as the concepts of sexual and gender identity. This should adopt a life cycle approach and also include teacher training and working with parents on these issues.

### **Conduct more qualitative research on men's health and sexuality**

- More qualitative research is needed on men's perception of their sexual health, health in general and utilization of health services and facilities. Research should explore the barriers to men's health seeking behaviours and deconstruct notions of manhood and their links to unhealthy practices around sexual health.
- More research is needed on men's bodies and sexuality and how men perceive sexual pleasure. This has been studied extensively for women's bodies but we need to balance this with understanding men's bodies and gender roles.
- More research is needed on the LGBTQI community in the MENA region





# MANHOOD IN TIMES OF WAR

## Key IMAGES findings

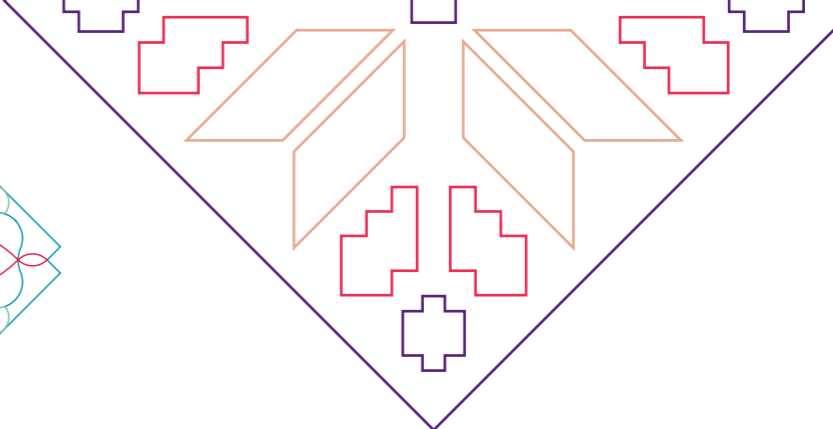
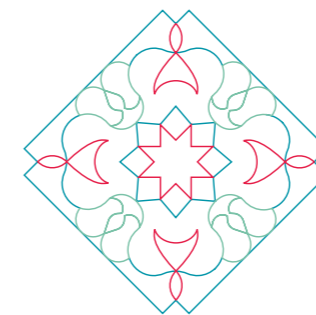
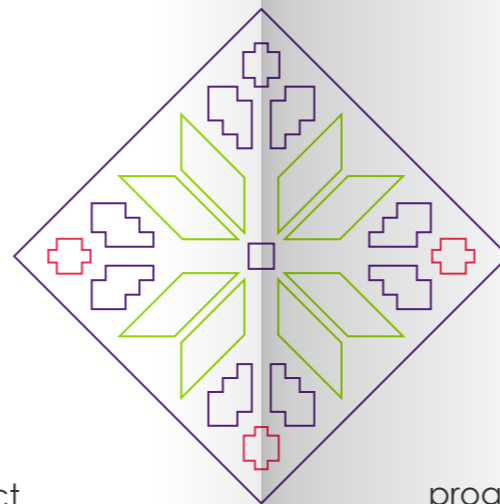
The IMAGES study revealed high levels of stress and insecurity due to conflict and displacement in the region. In all four countries, at least two thirds of men and women show high levels of fear for their family's well-being and safety, and for their own. Between 7 and 26 per cent of men in all four countries reported ever having migrated, either in their own country or abroad, to work, study, or live for at least six months. One result of migration for work, conflict-related displacement, or imprisonment – albeit in different ways – is that women in these circumstances, while their husbands are away, often take on new roles outside the home, and in the home a greater role in household decision-making.

In the qualitative interviews, among conflict-affected respondents in Lebanon, IMAGES found that men were no longer able to keep up with their traditional gender role as providers, especially during the conflict or conflict-related displacement, and that in many cases women have had to take on that role for the family. In some cases, this is because women, being less likely to be arrested or harassed by security forces, have greater freedom of movement compared to men, thus making men dependent on their female family members.

## Context

Panellists discussed how ongoing conflicts and their consequences in the MENA region bring distinct challenges for specific groups of men and women and can have both positive and negative effects on gender relations. It was highlighted out that increased militarism in society has crept into home and led to increased violence against women and children. Unemployment due to war or migration leaves men unable to provide for and protect their families and feeling emasculated and often depressed and frustrated. Participants acknowledged that these economic factors and desire to provide for their families often lead boys and men to join violent or extremist groups, and appeals fuelled by compelling messages based on masculinities have been used successfully by such groups.

Participants discussed the particular vulnerabilities of young men who have grown up in refugee camps and have known no alternative to violence. These young men are particularly susceptible to violent behaviours, in comparison to older men who have known peace in their society. The need for dedicated



programming for men, including young men, in conflict settings was widely acknowledged, yet a key challenge identified was that such group spaces for men may be seen by authorities as a security risk. Panellists discussed the reciprocity and relationship between conflict and patriarchy, including the use of fear as an ingredient to inflict violence, and their complex interplay in defining gender roles and norms in situations deeply affected by conflict. Panellists raised concerns around the glorification of war, which starts from early childhood especially among boys, who are forced to learn how to hold gun through play and toys. The effect of war and conflict on men's health and sexuality was also stressed. Conflict can reduce men's health seeking behaviour and cause depression and other mental health issues, and disability can impact strongly on men's sense of masculine identity and social expectations. Participants highlighted that conflict can have negative consequences on men's sexuality, as men may be victims of sexual abuse or forced into prostitution.

One silver lining of conflict situations, however, was that in many cases women take on greater roles in working and providing for the family. A key priority identified therefore was encouraging men to supplement this change by taking on more equitable roles in the household, as well as capitalizing on and sustaining this shift in roles after conflict.

**“Wars and aggressions are often successful in destroying collective memory and a sense of community solidarity. Something to be thought about through education is to retain or regain the collective memory of positive principles of communities.”**

Eileen Khutab, Associate Professor, Director - Institute of Women's Studies, Birzeit University, Palestine



## Recommendations

### *Transform the way gender is viewed in humanitarian settings*

- Avoid seeing gender inequalities and gender-based violence as a “post-conflict issue”, and address gender in all humanitarian programming in conflict settings.
- Integrate a complete gender analysis and provide psychosocial support in humanitarian settings, rather than being simply delivery oriented. Programming should be gender sensitive and inclusive of masculinities, rather than being women focused.
- Consider how humanitarian aid is administered, as it is often segmented by vulnerable groups (children and women) and men and boys may not fit into targeted population group.
- Advocate for understanding armed conflicts as being heavily gendered where men are expected to fight or targeted because of their sex.
- Question existing assumptions in the peace and security sector, and look at the Women, Peace and Security agenda from a broader perspective of non-violence and creating alternatives to war, rather than solely focusing on the participation of women in peace and security processes.

### *Provide psychosocial support to boys and men in conflict situations*

- Provide spaces for boys and men to discuss their emotions and build coping mechanisms. Build approaches that address the coping mechanisms often used by men, which tend to be violent and competitive and based on fear.
- Use different types of approaches, such as a trauma-informed approach, looking at gender through the lens of trauma; and a social framework, looking at the violence and voiceless-ness that robs individuals of humanity.
- Address and cater to the needs of male survivors of violence (including sexual violence) in conflict, and avoid reinforcing the stereotypes that boys and men are not vulnerable to such forms of violence.

**“It is difficult to say who is most vulnerable as young men are most targeted by security forces, so we need to understand that there are different vulnerabilities in conflict and not weigh them against each other.”**

Henri Myrtilinen, Head of Gender in Peacebuilding, International Alert, UK

- Focus on boys and young men who may have lived their whole lives during conflict or refugee camps, who are vulnerable to violence, substance abuse or self-harm to encourage alternative ways of expressing frustration and anxiety.
- Find ways of sustaining the changed roles of women after conflict ends, including by working on masculinities so men accept and see the benefits of their new roles in society, and encourage normalizing their involvement in household tasks and other roles that have been historically seen as ‘women’s work’.



### *Promote the participation of women and nonviolent men in peacebuilding efforts*

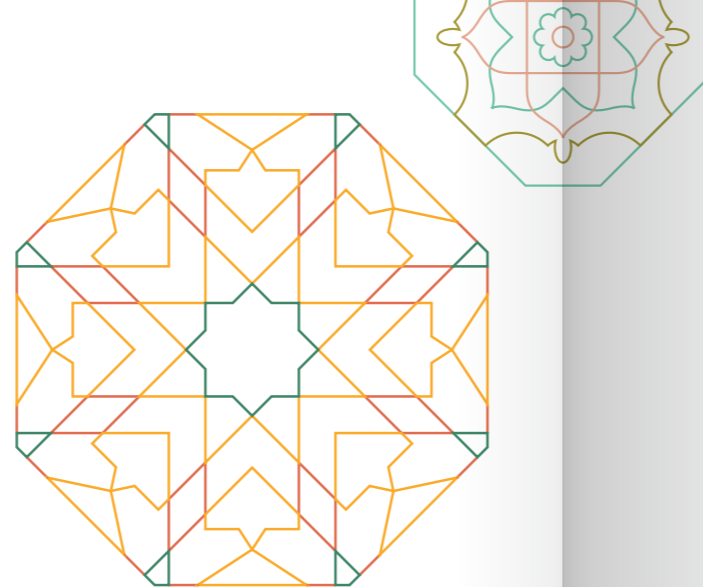
- While armed men need to be at peace negotiating tables, more women as well as nonviolent men also need to have a seat and voice at the table.
- Engage male allies to promote women’s increased participation in peacebuilding and security issues.

### *Conduct further research on gender roles in conflict*

- Conduct more qualitative studies to dig deeper into the push and pull factors that attract boys and young men to armed groups and use this information to inform programming with men and boys.
- Carry out research in order to generate understanding on how to avoid the “post-revolutionary” backlash and reversal to more conservative roles for women after conflict.
- Dig deeper into the fact that those who are active in violence are often serving the ideologies of someone else, posing a question about their own sense of ownership of the struggle they are engaged in.



# EDUCATION, WORK AND MIGRATION



## Key IMAGES findings

Across the countries surveyed, about half of men – or fewer – believed a married woman should have the same right to work as a man. At the same time, a majority of men in all four countries would accept a woman as a boss, and were willing to work in gender-integrated workplaces. Much of this acceptance is theoretical, however; what emerges is that many men in the region support women working outside the home – as long, it seems, as he is still the main breadwinner and she is still the main caregiver and organizer of domestic life. Three-quarters or more of men in the four countries, and women at nearly the same rates, support the priority of men's access to jobs over women's.

## Context

Participants discussed how, although levels of education among both men and women in the region are rising, the quality of education remains poor, and does not include education on gender, sexuality, or human rights. Women's work force participation remains remarkably low in the region despite rising education completion and success rates as compared to men. They also discussed the high levels of unemployment in the region, particularly among youth. In a region where male employment is often a prerequisite for marriage, unemployment and poverty are often felt as emasculating and are a frequent source of tension. Panellists discussed the confusing relationship between education and men's violence against women and the higher incidences of violence and restrictive gender norms among 'educated' men and boys in 3 out of the 4 countries, when it comes to issues such as sexual harassment in streets. The authors of the IMAGES-MENA report from the four countries affirmed that men's use of street sexual harassment and some forms of IPV are highest among men with secondary education, and lower for men with university education. This suggests that men with secondary education may have high rates of frustration: they expect that they should have good jobs, the opportunity to marry if they desire and that these men may be more likely to use multiple forms of violence against women as a compensation for their frustration. The speakers shared insights from their work with youth on women's ownership of their body, as a means of addressing the issue of sexual harassment in public spaces.

The impact of migration on gender attitudes was also discussed and how in many cases migration and the changing roles for men and women it brings can lead to more gender equitable attitudes among migrant men. The panellists also discussed the evolving nature of men's migration in the region and how this has been affected by escalating armed conflicts. They also touched upon the observation that migration can have positive outcomes when it comes to gender relations and violence.

## Recommendations

### Promote a more gender equal workplace

- Carry out workplace gender and unconscious bias trainings with the private sector, in order to enable women's workforce participation.
- Advocate for more family friendly policies, including parental leave and childcare, to encourage women to enter the workforce and promote a gender sensitive working environment.

### Work towards improving the quality of education systems

- Work with the governments to improve the quality of education systems. Education curricula should deal with gender norms and stereotypes from a young age and include comprehensive sexuality education.
- In addition to the important priority of encouraging young women to feel autonomy and ownership of their own bodies, there is a need for evidence-based and scaled up work to reach young men with secondary education who show the highest rates of use of street sexual harassment.

### Conduct research on gender in education

- Evaluate the impact of gender-transformative programming with younger children in schools.
- Carry out analysis of educational curricula from a gender perspective in order to better understand how education systems reinforce harmful stereotypes, as well as identifying ways to replace them with positive and progressive messages.
- Further investigate the relationship between gender inequality and education, and the complexities around the higher rate of acceptance and perpetration of violence against women among educated populations.



# FAMILY DYNAMICS, FATHERHOOD, AND UNPAID CARE WORK



## Key IMAGES findings

IMAGES results show that the vast majority of the daily care of children and other household tasks are carried out by women, in all four countries. Just one-tenth to one-third of men reported having recently carried out a more conventionally female task in their home, such as preparing food, cleaning, or bathing children. One encouraging finding, however, was that more than 70 per cent of men in all the countries reported going for at least some prenatal visits with a pregnant wife.

The study affirmed that men's participation in hands-on caregiving, activities that are often seen as being "women's work", was a driver of change. Men who said their fathers did more care work were more likely to have equitable attitudes, and to do more caregiving in their homes when they became adults. And women who reported that their father carried out more of the care work were also more likely to show equitable attitudes. In two countries – Lebanon and Egypt – men whose wives work in paid employment outside the home also participated more in daily caregiving. These findings suggest that engaging men in unpaid care is both absolutely necessary for reducing the burden of unpaid care on women, and is a driver of gender equality for future generations. The challenge is to promote involved fatherhood in a gender equitable way and not simply in a way that reaffirms men's already disproportionate power in households.



## Context

Presenters acknowledged that no country in the world has achieved caregiving parity nor equal income for men and women, and the MENA region as a whole ranks as one of the lowest in the world in this regard. While many men in the region have taken on increased responsibility for childcare and household chores, this is largely due to factors such as unemployment and the fact that women are increasingly working outside the home. There are currently few initiatives in the region which aim to create an enabling environment for men and boys to do more care work and to value care work, but several existing initiatives have shown some promising pathways in engaging men in taking care of children and being involved in their child's life. Participants discussed the finding of the IMAGES study that fatherhood is something that matters greatly to men in the region, and the potential of using it as a safe space to engage with men to transform social norms around gender roles.

## Recommendations

### Design programs to transform social norms around gender and caregiving

- Encourage individual voices of change to challenge persistent social expectations that women should assume the bulk of unpaid care work and that men should be the sole family breadwinners. Design programs and projects that are built on the framework of understanding and transforming the understanding of this gendered division of labour.

**"My interactions with my own father] encouraged me to have a better attitude when I became a father; now that I am a father, I show my emotions to my children and I spend more time with them."**

Adnan Melki, National Coordinator, UNOPS, Lebanon



- Encourage education systems through programming and technical support to tackle gender and social stereotypes and support alternative role models for children and young people, in particular for children who may not have caregiving fathers or working mothers.
- Hold educational, and gender-transformative group sessions for parents – mothers and fathers – about nonviolent parenting skills, children’s age-based developmental needs, and problem-solving skills based on empathy.

### **Use antenatal visits as an entry point to engage men in caregiving**

- Design programs to encourage men’s participation in antenatal visits, which can be used as an entry point into caregiving programs for new parents, with special focus on fathers’ participation in such programs. This also may entail working with employers and labour unions for appropriate measures that allow fathers to take leave during and after pregnancy and child delivery.
- Reform healthcare systems to ensure men are allowed to be present at prenatal visits and during birth and are supported to do so.

**“There is no country where we have attained caregiving parity or equal pay for males and female.”**

Lina Torossian, Head of Technical Unit, Research Center, Sagesse University, Lebanon

### **Use women’s economic empowerment programs an entry point to engage men in caregiving**

- Use the work that is going on in the region on women’s economic empowerment as an entry point into working with men and boys to engage them in caregiving and promoting men’s support for women’s paid labour force participation, while maintaining a feminist lens and a primary focus on women’s empowerment.

### **Advocate for policies that promote the sharing of caregiving responsibilities**

- Establish mechanisms to provide paid parental leave for both parents, through both governments and employers, including labour unions.
- Promote and institute other family-friendly policies in the workplace, such as childcare and flexible working arrangements, including in corporate sectors.

### **Advocate for stronger child protection laws and policies**

- In parallel with work with parents to promote positive discipline, advocate to strengthen child protection laws and to pass laws that prohibit physical and humiliating punishments in all settings, including homes and caregiving institutions.
- Develop legislation and social protection programs to support parents who are economically disadvantaged and more likely to marry their daughters as children.

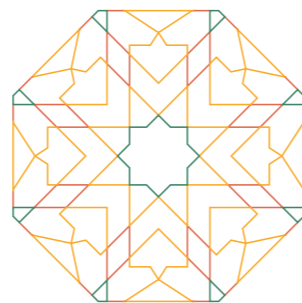
### **Conduct further research on men, families and caregiving in the region**

- Carry out further research on men in the region who are involved in caregiving, their motivations and aspirations, and investigate whether their participation in caregiving is due to egalitarian ideals or structural factors.
- Carry out research on the understanding of family and caregiving in the region, which differs considerably from the western understanding, and goes beyond parents to include the extended family. Further understanding of the dynamics of extended families and how this governs men’s engagement in caregiving is therefore needed, including looking at it from feminist principles





# FAITH-BASED APPROACHES TO ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY

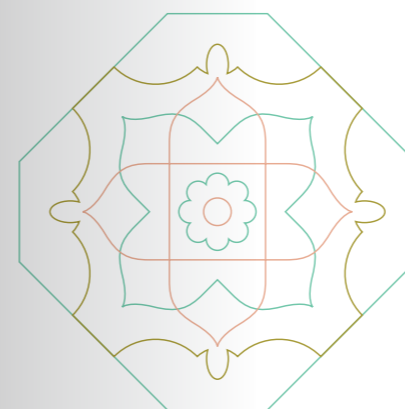


## Key IMAGES findings

IMAGES asked questions about religiosity but faith was not explored in depth. In the qualitative interviews, it was very clear that religion shaped people's attitudes and was important in defining the "rightful" attributes of men and women. A few men and women interviewed in the qualitative research described Islam as discriminatory toward women; others blamed conservative interpretations of Islam and other religions for boxing in both sexes. Others, however, saw their faith as a means to greater independence and self-realization, for both men and women. Qualitative findings from Lebanon suggest that while religion is often used to defend the practice of inequitable inheritance laws, economic interests are often at the core.

## Context

This session highlighted the influence of religion in all spheres of life in the region including on the formulation of laws and policies and on social norms regarding masculinity and femininity. Panellists discussed the concepts of *Qiwama* and *Wilaya*, which are commonly understood as sanctioning men's authority over women, and play a central role in institutionalising, justifying and sustaining a patriarchal model of families in Islamic contexts. They discussed the tensions and lack of distinction between *Fiqh* and *Shari'ah* and how many legal decisions in the region are made by religious institutions who are not trained to deal with these issues. They presented a complex interplay between political and religious leaders in the region, and how political leaders may sign international human rights frameworks, they cannot be implemented without the authorization of religious leaders. It was also highlighted that politicians often exploit religion and use it to justify unjust laws and policies, while branding any attempt at greater gender equality as a 'western ideology', that doesn't fit within Islamic culture. They also touched upon how historically religion has been used to justify discrimination and for political mobilizations, including at policy level.



Participants emphasized that significant progress towards gender equality can be made within Islamic frameworks, and pointed to successful example of the introduction of a new family code in Morocco in 2004, which admits the principle of equality in marriage by redefining the notion of authority in the family within an Islamic framework. They also shared some promising practices and tools for working with religious leaders and faith communities. They shared that rereading the texts with people of faith and helping them to understand their meaning and interpretation in a more nuanced manner was helpful to mobilize the general public around issues of gender equality and women's rights. Participants also expressed concern over the increasing religious fundamentalism of young men in the region and the lack of participation of women in religious spheres.

## Recommendations

### Work with religious leaders on gender and masculinity

- Work with progressive religious leaders to challenge gender attitudes, so that gender equality is not seen as a 'western ideology' but comes from within Arab culture. In particular, bring religious and community leaders into the discourse around VAW and FGM, including by promoting equitable versions of manhood.

**"The problem doesn't lie in the religious texts, but in the practice of them. People see gender equality as a western ideology, but there are solid grounds in the Bible and the Quran for women's rights"**

Reverend Dr. Riad Jarjour, President, Forum for Development, Culture and Dialogue, Lebanon



- Work with religious leaders without demonizing them, seeing them as an important and respected voice, while having a clear mutual understanding of where there are possible tensions on substantial equality and women's human rights.
- Work with progressive religious and faith leaders, together with policymakers to develop well informed laws and policies that integrate gender transformative language to transform gender stereotypes, including notions of manhood and what it means to be a man.
- Work with young religious leaders and religious scholars to create a new generation of religious leaders.

### **Work with religious communities and people of faith**

- Work not only with religious leaders, but with people and communities of faith, to re-examine religious texts and promote gender equality from a faith perspective.
- Incorporate a focus on the intersection between faith and masculinities into existing NGO programmes that work with religious leaders and people of faith.
- Build on the existing work of feminist scholars on reinterpreting religious scriptures and the many positive interpretations of religious texts and grounds for women's rights within these texts. Encourage people to really read the religious texts and bring out their true essence.
- Facilitate open discussions on the sanctity of Fiqh and involve both women and men in these discussions.
- Stress the commonalities of all faiths, and that patriarchal attitudes, based on misinterpretation of religious texts can permeate all faiths.
- Revise school curricula to include gender equal interpretations of religious scriptures, and accurate scientific information.
- Focus particularly on youth and the factors leading them to extremism.
- Engage men to advocate for the integration of more women into religious institutions.



### **Further investigate the links between religion and gender attitudes**

- More research needed on how religion affects men's and women's gender attitudes, in particular around the positive aspects of religion.
- Research on religious leaders' own gender attitudes, in order to be better able to work with them to promote gender equality.





# CONCLUSIONS

This conference “Masculinities in the Arab World: Trajectories to Peace and Gender Equality” represents a crucial first step for research, advocacy and programming to engage men and boys and transforming masculinities in the MENA regional context. The IMAGES study confirmed that there is, as in the rest of the world, a long way to go in terms of transforming men and women’s attitudes and behaviours regarding gender equality, and the engaging men and boys field in the region is still nascent. The conference showed, however, that there is considerable energy and enthusiasm in the region to strengthen and advance this work. We hope the conference and the resulting recommendations outlined in this report will give direction for

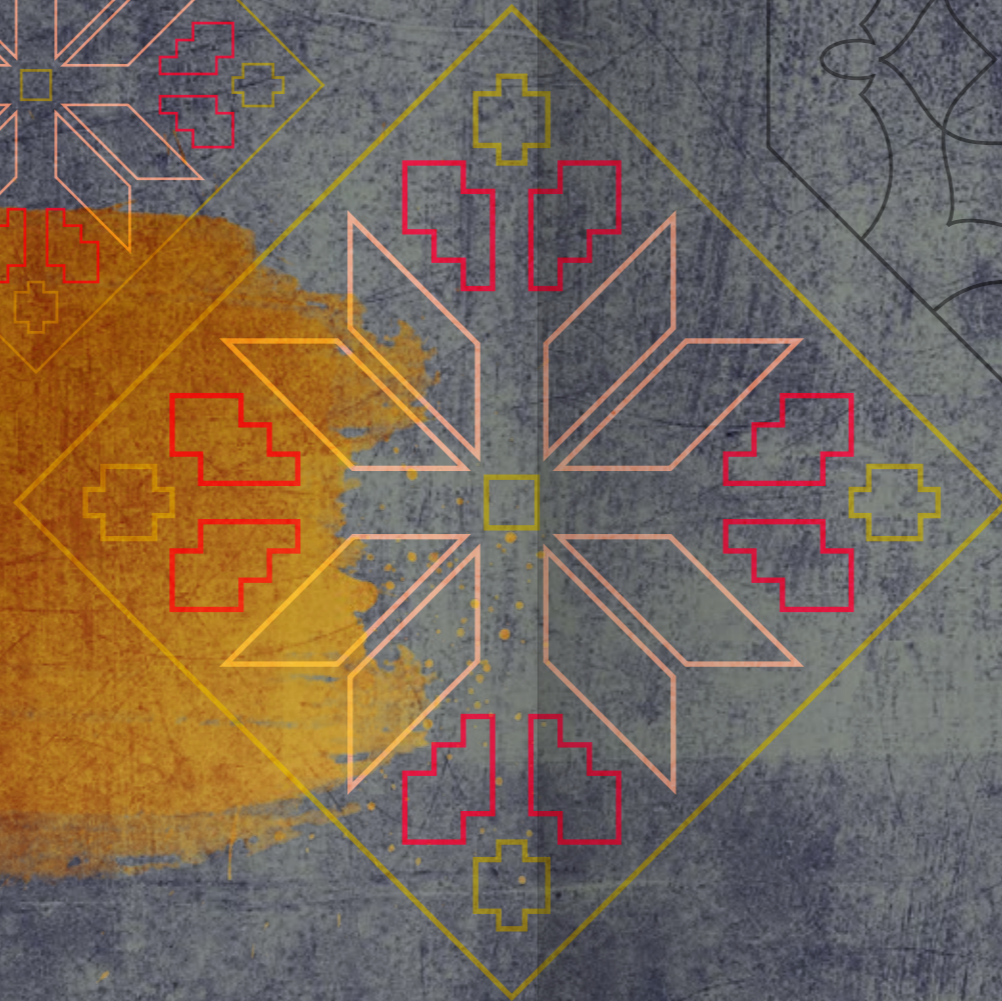
this work in the coming years and provide momentum for the advancement of gender transformative work with men and boys, as a key component in the realization of peace and gender justice in the Arab region.

Below are some key needs that were identified in order for the recommendations presented in this report to be operationalized:

1. Design and implement innovative and gender transformative programs to engage boys and men in gender justice in the region. Programming should go beyond 'simply engaging men and boys' in a particular issue, to focus on transforming entrenched social norms around masculinities and gender relations. While doing so, it's equally important to partner with women's rights activities and organizations.
2. Further build on and unpack the recommendations from IMAGES-MENA Study and to further distil what they mean in terms of practical programs, initiatives, campaigns and advocacy efforts with regards to the focus areas.
3. Create supportive spaces and networks for NGOs and activists in the region to share experiences and exchange ideas to address the challenges they are facing, and create opportunities for joint programming and advocacy.
4. Further strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations and actors on effective and gender transformative strategies to engage men and boys for gender equality.
5. Document promising strategies being implemented in the region and develop knowledge products and contextualized tools that civil society organizations can use for this work.
6. Devise policy guidelines or briefs which can provide a strategic framework for advocacy work at national and regional levels.
7. Develop materials and documents in Arabic which can be widely disseminated in the region, to create awareness and momentum around these issues.
8. Identify and support a group of champions from the region who can become leaders in this field.



# ***ANNEXES***





# ANNEX 1: RESOURCES

Below is a selection of resources that may be useful for the development of programming and advocacy on men, masculinities and gender equality in the MENA region:

## **[A Capacity Building Toolbox for emerging CBOs and Youth Groups](#)** ***UN Women Regional Office for Arab States (2016)***

This toolbox is a selected set of 55 tools to support youth groups and emerging CBOs by proposing useful practical tools that can foster their capacities-organizational capacity to engage actively with gender equality and women's empowerment issues, including masculinities and engaging men and boys.

[http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/2016/final%20unw\\_cbtoolbox\\_jun23.pdf?vs=417](http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/2016/final%20unw_cbtoolbox_jun23.pdf?vs=417)

## **[Adolescent Boys and Young Men: Engaging Them as Supporters of Gender Equality and Health and Understanding their Vulnerabilities](#)** ***Promundo and UNFPA (2016)***

This report highlights the importance of engaging adolescent boys and young men in sexual and reproductive health and rights and in gender equality. It reviews current research on boys' and young men's specific risks and realities – and the implications for women and girls – in relation to their general health status, violence, sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, media violence, sexual exploitation, and other vulnerabilities.

<https://promundoglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Adolescent-Boys-and-Young-Men-final-web.pdf>

## **[Compilation of Resources Related to Women's Rights in Muslim Family Laws](#)** ***Musawah (2016)***

This tool is designed for activists, human rights experts, and policy makers to better understand and access resources from the academic field and policy arenas. It outlines and brings together resources from the four corners of Musawah's holistic framework – Islamic teachings, universal human rights, national and constitutional guarantees of equality and the lived realities of women and men – broken down according to specific topics related to women's rights in Muslim family laws.

[http://www.musawah.org/sites/default/files/Compilation%20of%20Resources%202016\\_.pdf](http://www.musawah.org/sites/default/files/Compilation%20of%20Resources%202016_.pdf)

## **[EMERGE Framing Paper: Reframing Men and Boys in Policy for Gender Equality](#)** ***Promundo, Sonke Gender Justice and IDS (2016)***

Engendering Men: Evidence on Routes to Gender Equality (EMERGE) is a two-year project to build an open repository of accessible evidence and lessons for

working with men and boys for gender equality. This paper draws on learning from the EMERGE project to set out the case for a new conceptual framing of men and boys in policy for gender equality.

<https://promundoglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/EMERGE-Framing-Paper-Reframing-Men-and-Boys-in-Policy-for-Gender-Equality.pdf>

## **[Faith-Based Approaches to Transforming Masculinities: Summary Report of a Two-Day Consultation MenEngage Alliance \(2016\)](#)**

A summary report of a consultation organized by MenEngage Alliance and Tearfund, to collectively explore and gain better understanding of faith-based approaches to transforming masculinities for gender justice.

<http://menengage.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Faith-Based-Approaches-Consultation-Summary-Report.pdf>

## **[Issue Brief- Muslim Family Laws. What Makes Reform Possible?](#)** ***Musawah (2016)***

Muslim Family Laws. What Makes Reform Possible is part of a series of knowledge briefs for women's rights activists to provide advocacy arguments and convey key ideas and concepts related to Muslim legal traditions in a simple and appealing way.

<http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/2016/musawah%20paperissue%202englishfa%201%20upd.pdf?vs=1310>

## **[Masculinities and Violence in Crisis Settings: Consultation Report](#)** ***MenEngage Alliance (2016)***

A report from the consultation 'Masculinities and Violence in Crisis Settings' organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and MenEngage Alliance. The consultation brought together a number of experts in the field of gender equality, peace and security in order to develop a better collective understanding of the concept of masculinities and how it interacts with and influences violence in crisis settings.

<http://menengage.org/resources/masculinities-and-violence-in-crisis-settings/>

## **[MenEngage Alliance Accountability Standards and Guidelines](#)** ***MenEngage Alliance (2014)***

Sets out the twelve accountability standards and guidelines to assist organizations and networks to put into practice the MenEngage Principles and the Code of Conduct. Provides useful ideas for responding effectively when concerns emerge regarding the conduct of members and collaborating with women's right organizations for alliance building.

[http://menengage.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MenEngage\\_Accountability-Standards-and-Guidelines.pdf](http://menengage.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MenEngage_Accountability-Standards-and-Guidelines.pdf)

### **MenEngage Alliance Accountability Training Toolkit**

**MenEngage Alliance (2014)**

Aims to complement and put into practice the MenEngage Accountability Standards and Guidelines. Consists of sessions aim to aid organizations in developing concrete strategies for prevention and response in cases of breaches of good conduct. Also provides key definitions, a tool to develop a timeline for implementation, and another tool to conduct a self-evaluation.

<http://menengage.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/MenEngage-Accountability-Toolkit.pdf>

### **Men, Masculinities & Changing Power**

**MenEngage Alliance with UN Women & UNFPA (2014)**

Seeks to start a dialogue about moving forward with efforts that actively engage men and boys in challenging power dynamics and frames the urgency for transformative approach to gender equality.

<http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/news/in%20focus/engaging%20men/beijing-20-men-masculinities-and-changing-power-menengage-2014.pdf>

### **The MHPSS Training Pack: Psychosocial Support Manual**

**ABAAD (2017)**

This combined Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Training Pack is for

MHPSS personnel working in emergency settings. The Training Pack is based on local needs, adapted to the local context and more suited to the relevant target audiences working within the MHPSS framework of services that operate in Syria and the region, and includes a chapter on working with men.

<http://abaadmena.org/documents/ebook.1503945479.pdf>

### **Playing for Gender Equality**

**Save the Children and ABAAD (2013)**

This manual is one of the first manuals, developed and tested in the Middle East, for promoting gender equality at a young age. The manual is composed of fun and interactive games for children aged 8 to 12 years old that facilitate the learning of important concepts and terminology pertaining to Gender Equality.

<http://abaadmena.org/documents/ebook.1476701352.pdf>

### **Practical Guidelines on Engaging Men against Gender-Based Violence for the Promotion of Gender Equality**

**ABAAD and the Danish Refugee Council (2015)**

This manual is part of a pilot project on engaging men among the Syrian and Lebanese communities for them to understand and become active partners in managing their own stress and anger, as a primary means of preventing and responding to gender-based violence.

<http://abaadmena.org/documents/ebook.1496120823.pdf>

### **Program P: A Manual for Engaging Men in Fatherhood, Caregiving and Maternal and Child Health**

**ABAAD and Save the Children (2014)**

This manual is an adaptation of the original version of Program P, a manual for engaging men

in fatherhood, care-giving and maternal and child health. The pressing need in the MENA region for developing a society based on healthy father-child relationship has urged ABAAD to adapt Program P to be used by facilitators in the region working in the field of parenting, in general, and more specifically on engaging men in fatherhood and playing a more positive role in the family. Also available in an Arabic version.

<http://abaadmena.org/documents/ebook.1479455102.pdf>

### **Program Ra**

**ABAAD, Promundo, and Womanity**

A version of the “Programme H” Manual for the Lebanese context. This manual is considered a revolutionary approach in explaining gender and masculinities to young men. It provides easy communication methods to young men in regards to various gender related issues using age-appropriate entertaining and interactive activities. Also available in an Arabic version.

<http://abaadmena.org/documents/ebook.1474621426.pdf>

### **Strengthening Civil Society Organizations and Government Partnerships to Scale up Approaches Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality and SRHR: A Tool for Action**

**UNFPA, Promundo and MenEngage Alliance (2016)**

This tool is a living document that provides guidance on good partnership practices that promote

strong relationships between civil society organizations and government representatives

on engaging men and boys in gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights

(SRHR). Its goal is to strengthen these partnerships in order to enable the scale up and/or institutionalization of evidence-based approaches to engaging men and boys.

<http://promundoglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/50694-Scaling-up-Men-and-Boys-web-postprint.pdf>



### [‘We Believe’: a MenEngage Alliance Case Study](#)

#### **MenEngage Alliance (2016)**

This case study profiles ‘We Believe,’ a 2012 public service announcement video campaign in Lebanon organized by MenEngage Alliance member ABAAD-Resource Center for Gender Equality in observation of the 16 Days of Activism to End VAW (Violence Against Women), featuring four prominent Lebanese religious leaders, Muslim and Christian, delivering anti-violence against women messages rooted in Koranic and Biblical texts.

<http://menengage.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/We-Believe-case-study.pdf>

### [“We Can Never Go Back to How Things Were Before”: A Qualitative Study on War, Masculinities, and Gender Relations with Lebanese and Syrian Refugee Men and Women](#)

#### **ABAAD and Promundo (2017)**

This qualitative study aims to contribute to a greater understanding of how masculinities and gender relations in Lebanon are affected by the post-conflict setting and by the impact of conflict-related displacement. It was carried out as a partner study to the full report, Understanding Masculinities: Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) – Middle East and North Africa.

[https://promundoglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/IMAGES-Study\\_Quali\\_Eng.pdf](https://promundoglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/IMAGES-Study_Quali_Eng.pdf)

### [Women’s Stories, Women’s Lives: Male Authority in Muslim Contexts](#)

#### **Musawah (2016)**

Women’s Stories, Women’s Lives: Male Authority in Muslim Contexts outlines the findings and selected stories from Musawah’s Global Life Stories Project, through which researchers and activists documented the life stories of 55 women in nine countries.

<http://www.musawah.org/sites/default/files/MusawahGPL2016.pdf>

# ANNEX 2: CONFERENCE AGENDA

May 2

## DAY ONE:

### **15:00 – 16:00**

The Politics of Engaging Men in Gender Equality in the Arab World

- Ghida Anani, Founder and Director, ABAAD – Resource Centre for Gender Equality
- Gary Barker, President and CEO, Promundo
- Mohammad Naciri, Regional Director, UN Women Office for Arab States

### **16:00 – 17:30**

Presentation of the results of the International Men and Gender Equality Survey - IMAGES MENA

- Gary Barker, President and CEO of Promundo
- Shereen El Feki, Senior Fellow, Promundo
- Fatma el Zanaty, President, El-Zanaty & Associates
- Ziad Mansour, Founder and CEO, Connecting Research to Development (CRD)
- Rajaa Nadifi, Teacher and Researcher, Laboratory Gender Education Literature and Medias, Hassan II University of Casablanca (TBC)
- Bachir Hamdouch, President, Association Migration Internationale
- Eileen Kuttub, Director, Institute of Women’s Studies, Birzeit University
- Lena Karlsson, Regional Programme Manager, UN Women Regional Office for Arab States in Cairo

### **17:30 – 18:00**

Film presentation and discussion of results

- Alexa Hassink, Senior Communications and Advocacy Officer, Promundo
- Heba Katoon, UN Women Communications & Media Consultant
- Amr Nazeer, Business Development Manager, Axeer Studios

### **18:00 – 19:00** Reception

May 3

## DAY TWO:

**10:00 – 12:00**

PLENARY: Ending Men's Violence Against Women: Transforming Theory and Practice

- Shereen El Feki, Senior Fellow, Promundo – moderator
- Mohammad Tawarneh, Judge and Vice President of the Court of Cassation of Jordan
- Anthony Keedi, Masculinities Technical Advisor, ABAAD – Resource Centre for Gender Equality
- Ohaila Shomar, General Director, Sawa (TBC)
- Amel Fahmy, Director, Tadwein Gender Research and Training Center

**12:00 – 13:30** Lunch Break

**13:30 – 15:00**

CONCURRENT: Promising Program Approaches to Engaging Young Men in Achieving Gender Equality

- Rasha Abou-Elazm, Programme Coordinator, UN Women Egypt – moderator
- Jane Kato-Wallace, Senior Program Officer, Promundo
- Hassan Joumaa, Masculinities Community Outreach Officer, ABAAD
- Asmaa Guedira, Program Director, Womanity
- Emad Karim, Global Youth Engagement Lead, HeForShe, UN Women

**13:30 – 15:00**

CONCURRENT: Men's Health and Sexuality: Implications for Men and Their Relationships

- Zeina Yaghi, MenEngage Network Coordinator, ABAAD - moderator
- Abdessamad Dialmy, Former Professor, Fez University and Rabat University
- Amel Fahmy, Director, Tadwein Gender Research and Training Center
- Charbel Maydaa, Founder and Director, MOSAIC-MENA
- Laxman Balbase, Global Networks Manager, MenEngage

**15:00 – 15:30** Coffee Break

**15:30 – 17:30**

PLENARY: Manhood in Times of War: Experiences of Conflict, Displacement, and Trauma

- Amb. Steven Steiner, Gender Advisor, United States Institute of Peace - moderator
- Suhail Abualsameed, Independent International Consultant on Gender and Masculinities
- Eileen Kuttub, Director, Institute of Women's Studies, Birzeit University
- Dallin Van Leuven, Analyst, Search for Common Ground
- Laila Alodaat, Crisis Response Programme Manager, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- Henri Myrffinen, Head of Gender in Peacebuilding, International Alert

May 4

## DAY THREE:

**10:00 – 11:30**

CONCURRENT: Education, Work, and Migration. Gender Relations and the Pursuit of Opportunities

- Maria Ghazzaoui, Project Coordinator, UN Women Lebanon – moderator
- Carine Troussel, Project Manager, Quartiers du Monde
- Eugene Sensenig, Chair of the Departments of PS, PA, and IA, Notre Dame University
- Dina El Sherif, Founding Partner and CEO, Ahead of the Curve
- Bachir Hamdouch, President, Association Migration Internationale

**10:00 – 11:30**

CONCURRENT: Family Dynamics, Fatherhood, and Unpaid Care Work: Pathways to Positive Masculinities

- Jane Kato-Wallace, Senior Program Officer, Promundo – moderator
- Kathryn Yount, Asa Griggs Candler Chair of Global Health and Professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health and Department of Sociology, Emory University
- Jumanah Zabaneh, Middle East Eurasia Regional Representative, Child Protection, Save the Children
- Anthony Keedi, Masculinities Technical Advisor, ABAAD
- Lina Torossian, Negotiation and Quality Control Unit, Connecting Research to Development (CRD)

11:30 – 13:00 Lunch Break

**13:00 – 14:30**

PLENARY: Gendered Expectations: Understanding the Vulnerabilities of Men and Boys

- Roula El Masri, Senior Gender Equality Program Manager, ABAAD – moderator
- Jocelyn Knight, Senior Coordinator for Integrated Protection, International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Mariz Tadros, Professor and Co-leader of the Power and Popular Politics Cluster at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex
- Senim Ben Abdallah, Professor, l'Institut de Presse et des Sciences de l'Information (IPSI), Université de la Manouba (Tunisia)
- Curt Rhodes, Founder and International Director, Questscope

**14:30 – 15:00** Coffee Break

**15:00 – 16:30**

PLENARY: Faith-based Approaches to Achieving Gender Equality. Collaboration with Rights-Based Organizations

- Shereen El Feki, Senior Fellow, Promundo – moderator



- Aicha El Hajjami, Former Professor of Law, Fez and Marrakech
- Ahmed Ragab, Professor of Reproductive Health, International Islamic Centre for Population Studies and Research at Al-Azhar University
- Rev. Riad Jarjour, the General Secretary of the Arab Group for Muslim Christian Dialogue and President of the Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue
- Hind Alowais, Senior Advisor for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, UN Women

**16:30 – 17:30** Closing Plenary

- Ghida Anani, Founder and Director, ABAAD – Resource Centre for Gender Equality
- Gary Barker, President and CEO, Promundo
- Jean Ogasapian, H.E The Minister for Women’s Affairs, Lebanon
- Blerita Aliko, Deputy Regional Director, UN Women Regional Office for Arab States in Cairo

## ANNEX 3: INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Asmaa Guedira	The Womanity Foundation
Blerita Aliko	UN Women Arab Regional Office
Carine Troussel	Quartiers de Monde
Dima Karadsheh	CARE Regional Office Jordan
Fatma El Zanaty	Cairo University
Hadeel Abdo	UN Women Palestine Office
Hassan Joumaa	ABAAD
Henri Myrntinen	International Alert
Jumanah Zabaneh	Save the Children
Lena Karlsson	UN Women Arab Regional Office
Maria Ghazzaoui	UN Women Lebanon
Myriam Sfeir	Lebanese American University
Ohaila Shomar	SAWA Palestine
Suhail Abualsameed	Independent Consultant



# IMAGES

**MENA**

the International Men  
and Gender Equality Survey

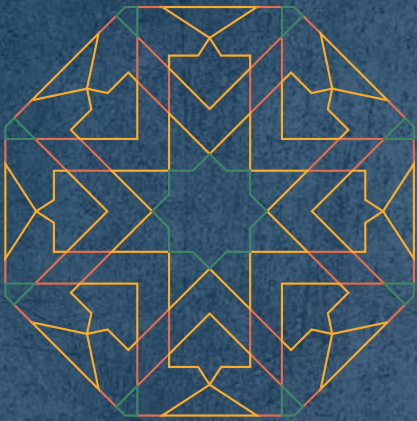
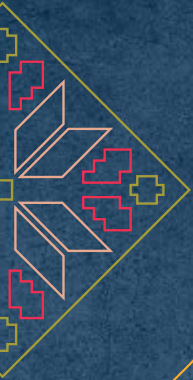
**DISCOURSES AND  
REFLECTIONS  
FROM THE  
CONFERENCE**

**“MASCULINITIES IN THE ARAB  
WORLD: TRAJECTORIES TO  
PEACE AND GENDER EQUALITY”**



**THE END**





MenEngage Alliance  
working with men and boys for gender equality



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