**UNFPA inputs to OHCHR’s report pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/35/10 entitled, “Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against all women and girls”**

**31 January, 2018**

**Introduction**

UNFPA works with governments and civil society partners at all levels to protect, respect, and fulfill the human rights of women and girls, including efforts to prevent violence against women and girls. Aligning with the International Conference on Population and Development’s 1994 Programme of Action, UNFPA’s goal is to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.

Due to the strong linkages between gender-based violence and higher rates of unintended pregnancies, increased risks of miscarriage, unsafe abortions, maternal morbidity, and increased vulnerability to HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, UNFPA sees the elimination of violence against women as inextricable from the full guarantee of access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for all.

In UNFPA’s new Strategic Plan for 2018-2021, the elimination of gender-based violence is one of its three transformative goals. Essential to achieving this goal is the engagement with men and boys. UNFPA’s Strategic Plan Outcome 3 (*gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, and reproductive rights are advanced in development and humanitarian settings*) reflects UNFPA’s commitment to engaging men and boys in ending gender-based violence and promoting women and girls’ health and rights. Output Indicators 9.2 and 11.1, within this Outcome, call for tracking the number of countries with a national mechanism to engage men and boys in national policies and programmes to advance gender equality and reproductive rights; and establishing a national mechanism to prevent and address gender-based violence respectively.

**UNFPA’s Approach to Engaging Men and Boys in the Prevention of Violence Against Women**

In engaging men and boys in the prevention of violence against women, UNFPA utilizes a model that frames men and boys as both agents *and* beneficiaries of efforts to eliminate gender-based violence and achieve gender equality. When women are healthy and empowered, not only do women thrive, but entire families, communities, and economies flourish. UNFPA works with men to eliminate gender-based violence through programmes that encourage men and boys to abandon harmful stereotypes, embrace respectful, healthy relationships, and support the human rights of all people, everywhere. UNFPA’s work with men and boys includes initiatives that engage husbands and partners; adolescent boys and young men; civil society organizations; faith-based organizations and religious leaders; members of government; local community and traditional leaders; as well as uniformed personnel. For example, to tackle violence against women in Lesotho, UNFPA worked on the one hand with law enforcement officials to strengthen their responses to gender-based violence, and on the other hand, provided workshops to young male goat herders on respectful, consensual relations and comprehensive sexuality education. UNFPA is committed to carrying out programming that strives to transform gender norms, as well as to monitoring progress in engaging men and boys, through its ongoing data-collection and analysis efforts.

**Resources**

For a deeper look at UNFPA’s approach to and initiatives in engaging men and boys in the elimination of violence against women, please find the key resources below:

Publications:

* [Engaging Men in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Including Family Planning](https://www.engenderhealth.org/pubs/gender/gender-toolkit/toolkit.html) (2017)
* [Adolescent Boys and Young Men: Engaging Them As Supporters of Gender Equality and Health and Understanding Their Vulnerabilities](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Adolescent-Boys-and-Young-Men-final-web.pdf) (2016)
* [Strengthening Civil Society Organizations and Government Partnerships to Scale Up Approaches: Engaging Men and Boys for Gender Equality and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/50694_-_Scaling_up_Men_and_Boys_-_revised.pdf) (2016)
* [Mobilising Men in Practice: Challenging Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Institutional Settings](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Mobilsing_Men_in_Practice.pdf) (2012)
* [Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Package for Men and Adolescent Boys](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/IPPF_UNFPA_GlobalSRHPackageMenAndBoys_Nov2017.pdf) (2017)
* [UNFPA Engagement in Ending Gender-Based Violence](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/UNFPA_Brochures_on_GBV_Prevention_and_response.pdf) (March 24 2017)
* [Engaging Men and Boys: A Brief Summary of UNFPA Experiences and Lessons Learned](http://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/UNFPA%20Engaging%20men%20and%20boys_web-2.pdf) (2013)
* [Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality: Vignettes from Asia and Africa](http://www.unfpa.org/publications/engaging-men-and-boys-gender-equality) (2011)
* [Engaging Men and Boys, Communities and Parents to End Violence against Women, Child Marriage and Other Harmful Practices in Nepal](http://nepal.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/ICRW.pdf) (January 2014)

Case Studies:

* [To tackle sexual violence in Lesotho, programme targets men and boys](http://www.unfpa.org/news/tackle-sexual-violence-lesotho-programme-targets-men-and-boys) (Jan 2018)
* [Men take a stand against gender-based violence in Azerbaijan](http://www.unfpa.org/news/men-take-stand-against-gender-based-violence-azerbaijan) (Oct 2017)
* [Not just a women's issue: Men in Myanmar take on gender-based violence](http://www.unfpa.org/news/not-just-womens-issue-men-myanmar-take-gender-based-violence) (Dec 2016)

Toolkit:

* [Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality and Health: A Global Toolkit for Action](https://promundoglobal.org/resources/engaging-men-and-boys-in-gender-equality-and-health-a-global-toolkit-for-action/) (2010)