



Council of Europe
Conseil de l'Europe

Draft Report on the Place of Boys and Men in Women's Rights and Gender Equality Policies

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INTRODUCTION

WHY this report now ?

A central issue
because Gender is
relational

An issue more and
more visible

Urgent to clarify
the « WHY » before
embarking on the «
HOW TO »

Important to avoid
pitfalls and to act
strategically

INTRODUCTION

HOW did we work ?

- **[READING] Norms and Key Documents:**
international standards; IO reports; contributions of Member States of COE; research articles...
- **[INTERVIEWING] 11 experts with diverse perspectives:**
GEC's members; UN Women; Men Engage; LEF; researchers...
- **[WRITING] A structured, short and practical report:**
Executive summary, Framing, Operational Mapping, 6 Recommendations

INTRODUCTION

Historical background

A new label, but a old questioning at different levels:



- Civil Society

- Academic sphere

- Anti-feminisms

- States and International Organizations

INTRODUCTION

3 PLACES FOR MEN & BOYS

BARRIERS

***AGENTS OF
CHANGE***

CO-VICTIMS

1. BOYS AND MEN AS BARRIERS

BOYS AND MEN AS BARRIERS



How many hours per week do men spent on unpaid work compared to women?

7 hours less

17 hours less

Source : ICMEQ, 2016

BOYS AND MEN AS BARRIERS



Key Figures

- **17 hours** less per week in unpaid work
- **99.5%** of women who have experienced physical and/or sexual violence indicated that it was a male partner

Source : CoE, 2017

BOYS AND MEN AS BARRIERS



Political Goals

Promote & enforce laws against GBV

Promote binding mechanisms for an equal sharing of unpaid work (parental leave) and power (quotas)

Promote research on masculinists and anti-gender movements and recognise masculinist violence as a form of terrorism

BOYS AND MEN AS BARRIERS



Initiatives

BOYS AND MEN AS BARRIERS : INITIATIVES

I. Sharing responsibilities and resources in the public and private spheres



Spain - a 16-week "birth and childcare leave" for both parents, non-transferable and paid at 100% of salary

II. Sanctioning violence and discrimination and preventing recidivism



Istanbul Convention - Article 45 Sanctions and Measures + Article 16 Domestic and sexual violence perpetrator programmes

III. Combating violent collective movements against women's rights and gender equality



Denmark - study "The Angry Internet: A Threat to Gender Equality, Democracy and Welfare"

***2. BOYS AND MEN
AS AGENTS OF CHANGE***

BOYS AND MEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE



What share of top positions in politics are held by men in Europe ?

71%

83%

Source : CoE, 2017

BOYS AND MEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE



Key Figures

- 83% top positions in politics are held by men in Europe**
- 95% in the technology sector**
- 94% of Heads of top 100 media companies**

BOYS AND MEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE



Political Goals

Promote awareness-raising initiatives and the elimination of sexism throughout the educational process

Promote a discourse of responsibility towards men especially those in positions of power by allocating the adequate funding

Promote as men a supportive discourse towards feminists and women's rights movements

BOYS AND MEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE



Initiatives

BOYS AND MEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE : INITIATIVES

I. Holding accountable men in positions of power



Albania, Andorra, Austria, Finland, France, Spain and Sweden - of the 14 countries in the world to have 50% or more women in government, half are in Europe

II. Education and training in human rights, equality and non-violence



Belgium - online module for initial and in-service teacher training, « *Girls-Boys: one school* » + EVRAS programme (education for relational, emotional and sexual life)

III. Working in a mixed environment



Norway - national programme « *Men In Health* » implemented in one on six municipality to recruit more men in the health and care sector

3. *BOYS AND MEN AS CO-VICTIMS*

BOYS AND MEN AS CO-VICTIMS



**What is the prevalence
of boys sexually
assaulted in Europe?**

10%

6%

Source : CoE, 2017

BOYS AND MEN AS CO-VICTIMS



Key Figures

- ❑ **The prevalence of sexual assault is 6% among boys** (14% among girls)
- ❑ **Suicide rates are 13.9 per 100,000 for men** (6.3 for women)
- ❑ **11.9% of men aged 18-24 left the education system with at most, lower secondary education** (8.4% of women)

BOYS AND MEN AS CO-VICTIMS



Political Goals

Mobilise gender studies to better analyse the roots of violence and other pressures between men

Support the development of gender mainstreaming in all sectoral policies

BOYS AND MEN AS CO-VICTIMS



Initiatives

BOYS AND MEN AS CO-VICTIMS : INITIATIVES

➔ Fewer initiatives on this area than the previous ones.

I. Combating sexist and sexual violence against boys, gay men or trans men

II. Combating sexist biases in health



Denmark - vaccination against HPV is also recommended from the age of 12 for boys, and general practitioners are made aware of the symptoms of **penile cancer**. Work is also being done at municipal level to improve **men's mental health**, or to **break the solitude and malaise of elderly men** (*similar initiatives take place in **Norway** and in **Switzerland***)



Great Britain - regarding men's contraceptive choices, vasectomy is systematically presented as one of the various contraceptive methods by the health services, and accessible free of charge and fairly widely

RISKS

RISKS



Losing sight of the course set by international standards to strengthen women's and girls' and rights



Deviating from analysis based on agreed-upon definitions and gender research



Weakening feminist organisations through increased competition (fundings, visibility or practices like non-mixity)

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Invest in existing policies

2. Respond to masculinisms

3. Strengthen gender mainstreaming

4. Elaborate operational guidelines

5. Support research development

6. Co-operate with feminists



THANKS for your attention

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