

JANUARY 2015

Happy New Year to all MenCare partners, colleagues, and friends!

MenCare's first newsletter of 2015 features events and updates from our partners in Belarus, Bulgaria, Chile, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa, and around the world. Read about the case for global paternity leave, competitions that are getting dads involved in caregiving, new initiatives to prevent domestic violence, and more!

## FEATURED EVENT

Join us **TOMORROW** to discuss the case for global paternity leave



**What:** Where's Your Daddy? The Case for Global Paternity Leave  
**When:** Wednesday, January 28, 12:15 pm – 3 pm EST  
**Where:** New America, 1899 L Street NW Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036 (and live [online!](#))

Many new fathers spend the days and weeks after their baby is born roughly the same way: at the office, buried in work. Around the world, paid paternity leave policies are still relatively rare. And even when a country or business has one, it's often still culturally taboo for a man to use the time. Why should we worry about the lack of paternity leave policies around the world? And how do we bridge the gap between progressive policy and slowly changing global culture that too often continues to malign the man who takes leave? Where are the global paternity leave success stories – and the cautionary tales?

On Wednesday, January 28, MenCare's global co-coordinator [Promundo](#) and [New America](#) will host a seminar entitled "[Where's Your Daddy? The Case for Global Paternity Leave](#)" in Washington, DC to address these questions, and more. The event will join experts in an afternoon of discussions about the positive impact of paternity leave on children and families, as well as the benefits it can bring to businesses and societies.

RSVP or watch the event live online [here](#).

[Tweet](#)

## WHAT'S NEW

**Chile holds 5th International Colloquium on Men and Masculinities Studies**

## UPDATES AT A GLANCE

[Join us TOMORROW to discuss the case for global paternity leave](#)

[Chile Holds 5th International Colloquium on Men and Masculinities Studies](#)

[MenCare Bulgaria releases results of study on male involvement in childcare](#)

[MenCare+ Indonesia hosts cooking competition for dads](#)

[Russia holds conference: No tolerance towards domestic violence!](#)

[South Africa distributes six new MenCare+ posters in media campaign](#)

[MenCare+ Indonesia holds training on involving men in the health sector](#)

[Father of the Year Awards celebrate involved fatherhood in Russia](#)

[Government of Belarus to discuss law for domestic violence prevention](#)

[Featured Report](#)

[In The News](#)

[Featured Interview](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Who's Who at MenCare](#)



CHILE - The [5th International Colloquium on Men and Masculinities Studies](#), "Patriarchy in the 21st Century: Changes and Resistance," attracted over 300 participants to Santiago, Chile from January 14-16, 2015. Seminars, debates, and panel discussions during the three-day event covered a range of topics related to men and masculinities, including gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexual diversity, and the construction of nonviolent masculinities. There were also discussions on men and care, emerging models of fatherhood, and men's involvement in maternal and child health.

Learn more about the conference, co-organized by [MenCare Chile's EME/CulturaSalud](#), by visiting [www.coloquiomasculinidades.cl](http://www.coloquiomasculinidades.cl), and learn more about MenCare Chile [here](#).

[Tweet](#)

## MenCare Bulgaria releases results of study on male involvement in childcare



BULGARIA - [MenCare Bulgaria](#) conducted a study assessing attitudes and norms around men's participation in caregiving. Entitled "Attitudes, Practices, and Barriers to Active Men's Engagement in Child Care," the study highlights the importance of the active involvement of men in children's lives, and it aims to shed light on social norms related to gender roles in the household. A key finding of the study is that while engaged fatherhood has become more widely accepted in Bulgarian society, the proportion of fathers who are involved in childcare, education, and health is considerably lower than that of mothers.

Participants reported the stigma of male involvement in caregiving as a barrier to engagement. The study found that the main barriers to the active involvement of men in childcare and home activities were a preoccupation with providing financial security, stereotypes around men and caregiving, and insufficient public awareness of the importance of the paternal role in child care.

For more information on the study, contact [Deyan Petrov](#), Head of MenCare Bulgaria's "Being a Father" Campaign, and find out more about MenCare Bulgaria [here](#).

[Tweet](#)

## FEATURED REPORT

### State of the World's Fathers



*State of the World's Fathers*, a new MenCare Global Campaign report, will be launched in June 2015.

The *State of the World's Fathers* report will highlight research, data, policies, and programs from around the world related to men's participation in caregiving and fatherhood, and it will define a global advocacy agenda for involving men and boys in care as part of the solution to achieve gender equality and positive outcomes for women, children, and men themselves.

We hope that the report will be a useful tool for MenCare partners and other organizations advocating for change.

For more information, contact MenCare Global Co-Coordinator [Ruti Levtoy](#).

## IN THE NEWS

### These South African men tackle the country's epidemic of violence against women, starting with themselves



*"South Africa's economy under apartheid put huge pressure on black families. Men often left home for months or years at a time to work in mines, or held menial jobs that inflicted daily humiliations.*

## MenCare+ Indonesia hosts cooking competition for dads



INDONESIA - In Jombang, East Java, where patriarchal culture remains strongly rooted within the community, designing initiatives to increase men's participation in sharing the household workload requires creativity. Many of the activities that are included in the [MenCare+ Indonesia](#) ("[Laki Laki Peduli](#)") campaign touch on parents' personal qualities and employ creative entry points for getting fathers involved in sharing the care work. One such activity is the campaign's "Cooking Competition for Dad."

"Cooking Competition for Dad" was held in December 2014 during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. There were 25 male participants in this competition who were eager to be involved in the MenCare+ program.

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

[Tweet](#)

## Russia holds conference: No tolerance towards domestic violence!



RUSSIA - On December 5, 2014 in St. Petersburg, a forum entitled "Social Integration in the Changing World" brought together MenCare members from Russia, Belarus, and Scandinavia to raise awareness about domestic violence, and to discuss current practices and possibilities for bringing domestic violence to an end. Executive and legislative authorities; leaders and representatives from public organizations, as well as from mass media and educational institutions; scientists; CEOs; and entrepreneurs participated in the conference.

Find out more about MenCare Russia [here](#).

[Tweet](#)

*Under those circumstances, it was hard to hold a marriage or a family together."*

[Sonke Gender Justice's](#) Patrick Godana is working to change that legacy through MenCare programming in [South Africa](#).

Learn more in this story from [Public Radio International](#).

## FEATURED INTERVIEW

### Interview with Francisco Aguayo



*"Mirar a los hombres sin ver a las mujeres y ver a las mujeres sin mirar a los hombres, no consolida la construcción de equidad."*

Francisco Aguayo, co-coordinator of [MenCare Chile](#) (and more) discusses the [5th International Colloquium on Men and Masculinities Studies](#) in Santiago, Chile in this interview with "Entre Hombres."

Listen to the full interview in Spanish [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 23rd Conference on Men and Masculinities

The American Men's Studies Association will host the [Twenty-Third Conference on Men and Masculinities](#) with MenEngage and the Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities of Stony Brook University. The conference will take place March 5-8, 2015 in New York City. For more information on the event and registration, click [here](#).

### 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

## South Africa distributes six new MenCare+ posters in media campaign

SOUTH AFRICA - January 2015 has seen a large-scale distribution of new [MenCare+ South Africa](#) posters to partner organizations and stakeholders in the country, including health care facilities, psychosocial care providers, local government service providers, community-based organizations, and NGOs in support of the [MenCare+](#) focus areas.

The MenCare+ South Africa poster series is made up of six posters that depict fathers' involvement at different stages of childhood. These posters build on a billboard campaign launched in the second half of 2014.

The posters, along with program-specific reading materials, billboards, and regular media slots, aim to collectively raise awareness of the various roles that a father can play throughout the life of his child.

Check out the posters below, and find out more about MenCare+ South Africa [here](#).



The [Fifty-Ninth Session](#) of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) will take place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City March 9-20, 2015. The main focus of the event will be the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#). Click [here](#) to find out more.

### Who's Who at MenCare

#### Ruti Levtov

MenCare Global Co-Coordinator  
Program Officer, Promundo-US  
Washington, DC  
[r.levtov@promundo.org.br](mailto:r.levtov@promundo.org.br)

#### Wessel van den Berg

MenCare Global Co-Coordinator  
Programme Manager, Sonke  
Gender Justice  
Cape Town, South Africa  
[wessel@genderjustice.org.za](mailto:wessel@genderjustice.org.za)

#### Giovanna Lauro

MenCare Global Advocacy  
Deputy Director, Promundo-US  
Washington, DC  
[g.lauro@promundo.org.br](mailto:g.lauro@promundo.org.br)

#### Alexa Hassink

MenCare Communications  
Communications Officer,  
Program Associate, Promundo-US  
Washington, DC  
[a.hassink@promundo.org.br](mailto:a.hassink@promundo.org.br)

#### Jane Kato-Wallace

MenCare Asia Representative  
Program Officer, Promundo-US  
Guangzhou, China  
[j.kato@promundo.org.br](mailto:j.kato@promundo.org.br)

#### Nina Ford

MenCare Updates & Media  
Communications Assistant,  
Promundo-US  
Washington, DC  
[n.ford@promundo.org.br](mailto:n.ford@promundo.org.br)

#### Tatiana Elghossain

MenCare Communications Intern  
Communications & Media Intern,  
Promundo-US  
Washington, DC  
[t.elghossain@promundo.org.br](mailto:t.elghossain@promundo.org.br)



[Tweet](#)

## MenCare+ Indonesia holds training on involving men in the health sector



INDONESIA - From December 15-19, 2014, [MenCare+ Indonesia](#) held a training on male involvement in the health sector. Twelve participants from four provinces in Indonesia participated in this program.

The training highlighted the need for health workers to increase their awareness and action around key issues, including: promoting men's presence in the health system as supportive partners to women, as well as encouraging male involvement in maternal and reproductive health, especially during childbirth. The aims of the training were to address the importance of prenatal and antenatal care and to discuss how health care professionals can actively engage fathers - more specifically, how professionals can improve interactions with one or both partners, right up to the last prenatal care visit

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

[Tweet](#)

## Father of the Year Awards celebrate involved fatherhood in Russia



RUSSIA - On December 20, 2014, Russia held the 2014 Father of Year Awards. Hundreds of fathers from 25 regions competed, and 11 received awards. The public voted for the nominees online, and a jury approved the final winners. The award brought attention to the importance of responsible and involved fatherhood and to the promotion of positive father figures across Russia.

Read more on [PapaToday](#) in Russian, and learn more about MenCare Russia [here](#).

[Tweet](#)

---

### **Government of Belarus to discuss law for domestic violence prevention**

BELARUS - The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection in Belarus have been working toward [a law for the prevention of domestic and family violence](#), to be prepared for discussion in May 2015. According to research conducted by UNFPA in 2014, 77 percent of Belarusian women and men aged 18 to 60 have experienced some form of domestic violence. In addition, one in three women are subjected to physical abuse, and one in five experience sexual violence in their family. With regards to childrearing practices, only a third of children in Belarus are raised without the use of violence.

The development of a law on domestic violence is an important step both at the state and the international levels. Similar laws are already in place in Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Lithuania, Austria, Great Britain, Spain and many other countries. Belarus and Russia, however, still do not have laws to address the prevention of domestic violence.

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

[Tweet](#)

---

**[MenCare](#) is a global fatherhood campaign, coordinated by [Promundo](#) and [Sonke Gender Justice](#). Our mission is to promote men's involvement as equitable, non-violent fathers and caregivers in order to achieve family well-being and gender equality.**

Follow  
Promundo



Follow  
Sonke

