

## Field Visit 1: Engaging with Men & Boys

### 1. Background

The Gender Equality Network (Gendernet) organizes a global face 2 face (f2f) that will take place from 28<sup>th</sup> of April – 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2019 in Switzerland (Hünigen, Bern).

The f2f aims at **sharing learnings and exchanging among peers** within the **three strategic topics of the Gendernet**, notably the various approaches and activities on 1) Women's Economic empowerment; 2) Women's Rights and Protection, and 3) Women's Political Empowerment.

To enhance learning and exchange, **three parallel field visits** are being organized along the three above mentioned themes. The field visits take place on **Tuesday 30 April afternoon**.

### 2. Visit description

**Title: Gender-transformative work with men in practice: working on male awareness and attitude and behavior change through responsible fatherhood work and perpetrator counseling in Switzerland.**

#### Overall Aim:

The overall aim is to provide an insight into concrete forms of gender-transformative work with men and boys in two different practice fields in Switzerland. Gender-transformative work starts with conscientisation and self-reflexion, which then, through further empowerment, can lead to concrete attitude change and the seeking of new forms of behavior. The field visit will present an opportunity to get to know maenner.ch, the most important men's network in Switzerland. We will learn about their political as well as practical work in empowering men, fathers and boys in taking new male roles in the society and reducing structural barriers for gender equality from a male perspective. The second visit will focus on violence counseling work with men who use violence with voluntary as well court ordered perpetrators. The specialized violence counseling centre in Berne is a non-governmental perpetrator counseling service that is fully integrated in the formal violence intervention and victims' protection system. We will learn how perpetrator counseling functions and how it combines cognitive behavioral therapy with gender-transformative processes and learning. We will furthermore get an insight into the integration of perpetrator services into the coordinated community response system in cases of violence and also learn about difficulties in cooperation and sharing of agreed concepts of what men need for gender-transformative change.

#### Part 1 / Empowerment of men, fathers and boys for social norm change and responsible fatherhood

##### Objectives:

- We will learn about the men's movement and its different sub-groups and their most relevant advocacy issues in Switzerland
- The participants will have the possibility to get a concrete insight into practical gender-transformative work with fathers through the example of the father crash course in companies
- The participants will meet the first male employed counselor at a mothers' counseling centre in Switzerland who works also for manner.ch / MenCare Switzerland.
- We will discuss on gender role change from a male perspective and what men want to win through improved gender equality and how they are ready to contribute for.

#### Host Institution / maenner.ch umbrella organisation of Swiss men's and father's organisations

maenner.ch/masculinities.ch brings together men's organizations and groups, individuals and couples as well as professionals working on boys', men's, and fathers' issues in Switzerland. As

the umbrella organization of men's and father's organizations advocating for gender equality in Switzerland, [maenner.ch/masculinities.ch](http://maenner.ch/masculinities.ch) has been working since 2005 to ensure that men do not miss the opportunity to participate in the struggle for gender equality—or miss out on its results. [maenner.ch](http://maenner.ch) views emancipation as the historic opportunity to realize equal opportunities and gender justice for everyone. They believe gender equality offers boys, men, and fathers entirely new opportunities to live their lives free from the obligation to act as the provider and to measure their self-worth based on their job performance. [Maenner.ch](http://maenner.ch) engages in programmatic resource oriented work with boys, men and fathers for gender-transformation and also contributes with analytical and conceptual work to the gender debate from a male perspective in Switzerland. Practical work on caring masculinities integrates father crash courses in companies and counselling of human resources departments for integrating family friendly human resources policies that also allow men and fathers to contribute actively and gender equal to family life.

**Location:** Fachstelle Gewalt, Seilerstrasse 25, Berne

**Timing:** from 14h00 to 15h15

**Contact:** Markus Theunert, member of the directorate, head of MenCare programme

**Website:** [www.maenner.ch](http://www.maenner.ch)

## **Part 2 / Work with men (and women) who use violence**

### **Objectives:**

- We will have the possibility to get an insight into practical counseling of men who use violence and learn about the concepts, the working tools and the gender-transformative aspects in counseling; we will also learn about the differences in counseling of male and of female perpetrators.
- The participants will be introduced to the history of the violence counseling centre and the work with perpetrators in the Canton of Berne and understand the coordination of the violence intervention and victim's protection work on cantonal level.
- They will be familiarized with the Istanbul Convention and what it means as framework for work with perpetrators.
- We will discuss the opportunities and risks of formalization and system integration of a non-governmental violence counseling service for men and talk about the need for gender-transformative work also on institutional level

### **Host Institution / Fachstelle Gewalt Bern (violence counselling centre Berne)**

Since 2003, the Violence Counselling Centre Berne (formerly STOPP men's violence) advises violent people in the canton of Berne. The Centre builds on the conviction that violent behavior is changeable and is committed to a professional and effective promotion of non-violent coexistence. Taking responsibility for the violent acts is central to behavioral change and the success of counselling. In their work the Centre clearly rejects the act of violence, but not the person who exercises it. Therefore, violence counselling is characterized by empathy with the people seeking help and simultaneous confrontation with their violent actions.

The Centre counsels male and female perpetrators as well as adolescents and provides training and education to professionals on issues of violence intervention and prevention. Professional case documentation, as well as regular supervision and intervision ensure the quality of the work.

**Location:** Fachstelle Gewalt, Seilerstrasse 25, Berne

**Timing:** from 15h45 to 17h15

**Contact:** Basil Glanzmann, director

**Website:** [www.fachstellegewalt.ch](http://www.fachstellegewalt.ch)

### **Participants:**

SDC Gender Focal Points from the headquarters and cooperation offices

Up to a maximum of 20 participants per visit

### **Logistics:**

Rented passenger bus

Pick up from f2f venue at 12h30

### **Language(s):**

The main language will be English or with translation to English and French if needed.