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A New Chapter

Men's Development Network Clg.

Men's Development Network Celebrating 21 Years

Building and Sustaining Alliances through New Conversations

Men Who Care: Why and How.

The Men's Development Network is about building and sustaining alliances and new conversations for men. Across the last 21 years the Men's Development Network (MDN) has developed its work through these conversations with men through

- Listening to men's needs
- And exploring opportunities for positive action and through engaging with those working to support men, addressing men's issues and lives.

The areas of development, work, training and advocacy in which MDN are now involved are proof of the need for this work at this time of ongoing substantial social and cultural change. This work includes

- Growing awareness and recognition of the influences of Gender conditioning on men's lives
- Supporting ourselves as men to overcome its negative consequences for our lives and wellbeing has always been and continues to be at the heart of what we do.

Through this approach, we have reached

- Hundreds of men and front line services providers, facilitating training and promoting new conversations for and about our lives as men
- Especially through growing awareness of the more harmful influences of Gender Conditioning on our lives and wellbeing.
- Vitally we continue to raise awareness of the need for relational, gender sensitive, strengths based approaches to supporting and engaging men towards wellness and fuller lives.

An essential part of our working approach for over 20 years has been

- To develop working partnerships and alliances with a host of organizations towards raising awareness of men's issues.
- All our work has been approached through an advocacy and not an adversarial approach. This has proven particularly helpful in relation to the flourishing of key pillars of our work.

Through this approach MDN has

- Supported the development of training programmes for men and for trainers of trainers,
- Supported other NGO's and government bodies including the Health Service Executive, schools and colleges, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, disability groups, Family Resource Centre's, Local Development Companies and community development organisations in establishing and developing work with and for men.
- From this work, we have built strong supportive partnerships with women's organisations towards achieving gender equality and safety.

MDN has also facilitated 20 annual National Men's Training and Development Summer Schools, engaged men in development groups, health initiatives, assisted in the development and implementation of key elements of the first and now the second National Men's Health Action Plan.

- We have informed the development of best practice for engaging men
- Engaged those who work with and for men and through our training delivery
- Have worked to raise awareness in relation to implementing and developing best practice.

MDN delivers the National Men's Development Programme, Men Ending Domestic Abuse (MEND), the Men's Health Programme

- Including through a partnership approach, the Engage National Men's Health Programme, Connecting with Young Men and the dissemination of the MDN's 7 Key Questions.
- These training programmes have been facilitated throughout Ireland, across the community voluntary and statutory sectors to workers and volunteers from a broad range of disciplines.
- MDN also provides counseling for male victims of violence and other trauma, we are key members of the Turn Off the Red-Light campaign and all-island promoters of the White Ribbon Campaign.
- MDN has built international links through this work with the UK, Europe, USA, Canada and Australia.
- Positive Change for Men Programme: An introductory Day to developing reflective practice towards positive change for men.

For more information

Visit our websites to see more information about our work:

www.mensdevelopmentnetwork.ie
www.menshealthireland.ie www.mend.ie
www.whiteribbon.ie www.whiteribbonblog.com

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