

Recommendations for Governments and their institutions

Auditing and reforming national policies, legislation and practice

- Men in the VfC study strongly endorsed the development and enforcement of laws and policies to support gender equality. Significant relevant legislation is now available or developing at Federal and State levels in Nigeria such as the Violent against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) and Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill (GEO) and there is need to capitalise on this.
- Advocates of such change must ensure that men are engaged in and supporting these processes, that male champions are identified and mobilised and that the benefits to individuals and to society from these changes are publicized.
- There is a need to develop/implement supportive policies and measures that enable men and women to make choices about how they share the division of labour within the household to best suit their needs (such as paid maternity and paternity leave and flexible working arrangements for both parents).
- Integrate concerns relating to engaging men and boys towards gender equality and challenging harmful masculinities, particularly violent ideas of masculinity, into government gender mainstreaming efforts, building awareness and capacity with government employees and agents as required.

Working with civil society

- Fund, support and collaborate with NGOs, women's organisations, men's organisations promoting gender equality, religious organisations and social movements on tried and tested as well as innovative projects to challenge restrictive ideas of masculinity and femininity and engage men and boys in promoting gender equality.
- Encourage collaboration between all actors, providing space for sharing of research and good practice, ensuring funding is long-term.

Turning schools into non-violent and gender equitable institutions

- Education institutions should develop and/or utilise existing school policies to eliminate use of corporal punishment; and efforts by federal and state ministries of education and teacher associations are needed in order to enforce this, along with raising awareness of parents, school management boards and teachers on the negative effects of this practice.
- Schools, through their curricula, need to promote positive masculinity and opportunities for men and boys to reflect on these connections and help them to make different choices about their behaviour.