

Basics of and New Perspectives on Sustainable Development

Plural Centre for Masculinities in Barcelona



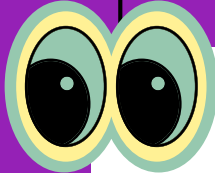
What & how?

The Plural Masculinities Centre in Barcelona as a municipal facility aims at fostering a diverse, positive, and plural perspective of masculinity to overcome the strict and outdated notion of what it means to ‘be a man’. Strictly defined binary roles of boys and girls contribute to gender inequalities in many areas, especially in valuing masculinity over femininity. Negative developments for children, adolescents, and men such as failure at school, bullying, male violence, accidents at work or the consumption of toxic substances should be counteracted. This will be done through different projects in the areas of education, culture, and sports.



The centre is located in Barcelona, as a municipal facility which is open for all citizens. Projects will be realized in collaboration with different organizations linked to masculinities. A team of ten specialists is working in the Centre which is consisting of a room with multi-purpose use and other shared facilities with the Men’s Support Service for the Promotion of Non-Violent Relations.

Where?



Wheretoo?

The goal is it to develop public policies on gender which include men and generally raise the debate about masculinity. The perspective of masculinities should provide understanding of how men profit from constructing positive and respectful masculinities and, also to convince men of actively participating in bringing about a change towards equal gender relationships.



Barcelona municipal council (Ajuntament de Barcelona) brings a team of specialists (incl. educators, psychologists, artists) to host various talks, workshops, activities and group sharing sessions. Sessions are held for all genders, not only men - however, most of the centre’s attendees are young fathers.

Who?



Ways beyond?

So far, this program is unique, but the concept can easily be transferred to any governing body (in any city) wishing to provide its citizens with new ways to learn about pluralistic forms of masculinity. The Barcelona city council is very active in sharing their ideas and initiatives with the rest of the world, and has become a global beacon of sustainable development across multiple domains.



Gender based violence is still one of Spain’s biggest issues, and the legal systems in place do not share Plural’s views. In 2018, three judges acquitted five men of gang-raping an 18-year-old woman in Pamplona on the grounds that the video the men recorded on their phones showed the woman offering no resistance. While education is key, systemic change is needed too.

But...