

SUCCESS STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

July 20, 2026

Following are summaries of the activities and accomplishments of 17 members of the International Council for Men and Boys and the Domestic Abuse and Violence International Alliance.

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INDIA

Deepika Narayan Bhardwaj - Ekam Nyaay Foundation

Ekam Nyaay Foundation has made significant strides in advancing issues affecting men and boys in India through legal advocacy, victim support, and public awareness.

We successfully hosted the Ekam Nyaay Dialogue Conference in Mumbai with prominent judicial personalities like retired High Court judges, practicing lawyers, psychologists and social activists leading the sessions.

We secured an exclusive screening of Bandar (Monkey), a mainstream Bollywood movie based on a true story about false rape accusations, which featured us - Ekam Nyaay Foundation and our Director, Deepika Narayan Bhardwaj, in the special credits.

On the legal front, we collaborated with the AIFCR NGO to file a successful Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Delhi High Court for the formulation of Child Access and Custody Guidelines adopting shared parenting.

We also took up the case of a deceased man's mother, Rani, securing a pro-bono lawyer to obtain a Supreme Court notice against a wife and her paramour who had been granted bail by the High Court after a murder conviction.

Our legislative advocacy included meetings with Members of Parliament Dr. Bhim Singh and Dr. Ashok Mittal to discuss the rising issue of husband murders and unequal treatment of men especially on the basis of gender biased-laws in India. Our discussions lead to Dr. Mittal moving a Private Member's Bill in Parliament for a National Commission for Men.

Finally, our grassroots support achieved two major milestones: helping to secure a 10-year conviction against the female attacker of male acid attack survivor Shyam Ruhil, and launching a crowdfunding campaign to help Krishan, a national-level boxing champion and false rape survivor, start his own boxing academy.

IRELAND

David Walsh - Men's Voices Ireland

Men's Voices Ireland was invited last March to make a submission to a parliamentary Justice committee on Tackling Domestic and Gender-based Violence. We did but were disappointed when we were not invited to the Oral Hearings in April. Then we were invited to the launch of the report on July 9. The report, certainly not major, consists of a few pages but it does

- (i) recognise the need to encourage male victims to come forward to report their abuse and
- (ii) calls for an increase in emergency accommodation for both female and male victims, and further that emergency accommodation is complimented with extensive and coordinated wraparound support.

This last is the first time such a reference has been made to male needs.

We used the open floor session to make an extensive call for the Committee to be more open to the international literature and survey findings.

ISRAEL

Benjamin Bailey - By Your Side

During spring 2026, By Your Side, Israel's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting men in distress, submitted a comprehensive policy paper to the Israeli Parliament calling for greater recognition of boys' and men's wellbeing in public policy. Our recommendations included:

- expanding support services for men;
- promoting balanced, evidence-based welfare interventions in domestic violence cases;
- ensuring transparent and equitable public funding for organizations serving men and women;
- improving gender-balanced government data collection;
- strengthening professionals' ability to recognize and respond empathically to men in distress; and
- establishing a dedicated government body to address men's issues.

These efforts led to a historic parliamentary hearing on June 9—the first ever held by the Knesset's Welfare Committee devoted specifically to the well-being of boys and men. Although Parliament is now dissolving ahead of national elections, the issues and recommendations were formally entered into the parliamentary record, providing an important foundation for future legislative and policy work. We will continue to monitor developments and work with policymakers to advance these reforms.

KENYA

Samuel Tai Omare - Wahenga Organization

During Men's Mental Health Month, we joined with Twaweza Community Based Organisation, Angaza North, Kayole one organization, Nairobi city county Government, and many others to successfully lead a six-day "Speak Up Bro" Men's Mental Health Tour in Kayole, Embakasi Central, despite starting with zero shillings in the bank.

The initiative brought the community together through a three-day grassroots football tournament featuring eight local teams, fostering brotherhood, open conversations on mental health, and awarding

trophies, medals, jerseys, and healthy goats to winners. Activities also included a community clean-up and tree-planting exercise in partnership with environmental organizations, a free medical camp, mentorship for 50 school-going teenagers, and a powerful mental health session that engaged over 250 young people.

Overall, the movement mobilized hundreds of participants and partners, fed more than 300 children, youth, and volunteers, and created safe spaces for men to break the silence around mental health challenges at venues including Kayole One Primary School and Embakasi Central Sub-County Offices. We look forward to it being an annual event.

NIGERIA

Ola Akinwe - Boys Mentoring Advocacy Network

In the first half of 2026, the Boys Mentoring Advocacy Network (BMAN) in Nigeria advanced work for boys on both global and grassroots fronts. Our founder Ola Akinwe delivered a keynote at the global "What Boys Need As Males" conference alongside 30+ international experts. BMAN also led the worldwide "Digital Father" conversation, culminating in the BFBC Global Summit and the "Pixels to Presence" 2026 Communiqué signed across three continents.

On the ground, we launched the BMAN Peace Pledge for Boys — a five-module peace-education curriculum approved by the Lagos State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education. This initiative reached 773 verified students across six schools and oriented 82 school counsellors in a second Education District, with a Year 1 target of 60,000–120,000 boys. We also mentored cohorts in Nigeria and Canada, released the "Hug Your Son, Raise a Man" father–son bonding guide, and continued tuition and emergency medical support for undergraduate beneficiaries through our L.I.F.E Support Fund.

Halima Layeni - Life After Abuse Foundation

In May 2026, to commemorate International Boys' Day, the Life After Abuse Foundation (LAAF) organized a mental health support leadership program for 100 marginalized adolescent boys in Ojuelegba, Lagos, Nigeria. This is a bustling, hard-edged community where many boys grow up carrying burdens no child should bear and where the pressure of daily survival leave little room for boys to process pain, let alone speak of it. Many of the participants came from severely disadvantaged communities affected by poverty, family instability, violence, neglect, high levels of crime and insecurity, and limited access to education, mental health services, and positive male role models.

In such environments, boys are often exposed to violence, exploitation, and the constant risk of being recruited into criminal activity or other harmful influences. Raised in cultures where they are expected to suppress their emotions and "be strong," many had never experienced a safe space to speak openly about their struggles, fears, or aspirations.

Our team organized a mental health support program for 100 marginalized adolescent boys, many of whom had never before had a safe space to talk about fear, grief, or shame without judgment. Through guided counseling circles, trained facilitators, and simple acts of listening, these boys began to unlearn the silence that society too often demands of them. Alongside emotional support, we offered mentorship and leadership training, pairing the boys with role models who showed them what strength,

discipline, and integrity look like in practice, helping them see themselves not as products of circumstance, but as future leaders of their community.

SPAIN

Charlie Edwards - Padres4Justicia

Padres4Justicia (Fathers4Justice Spain) recently achieved significant progress with the European Parliament's acceptance of Petition 1238/2026, which fights systemic violations of children's and fathers' rights in Spain. Our supporting proposal targets Gender Violence and Family Courts that issue automatic, "one-size-fits-all" contact bans without applying any principle of proportionality.

We are urging the EU to establish Minimum Procedural Safeguards, including mandatory 'Guardian ad Litem' for children across Europe and a strict 168-hour timeline for detailed fundamental rights assessments, ensuring parental separation remains an absolute last resort.

Asociación Por los Derechos de los Niños Custodia Compartida Extremadura

The "Custordia Compartida Extremadura" (Joint Custody Extremadura) Association for Children's Rights has organized various public events to raise awareness about this issue and offer assistance and collaboration through our lawyers, psychologists, and subject-matter experts.

We have a couple of events scheduled in the provincial capitals before the end of the year. We recently met with the Regional Minister for Deregulation, Social Affairs, and Family—along with the Director General for Family Affairs—of the Regional Government of Extremadura to discuss working together. In November, we will join forces with our partner association, "ANAVID," to mark "Men's Day" and "International Children's Rights Day."

Ana Lia - Women's Movement for True Equality (Movimiento Feminino por la Igualdad Real)

The women's movement has supported ANAVID; we succeeded in getting a grandmother who had been separated from her grandchildren the opportunity to speak before the Madrid Assembly (the regional government). We are constantly assisting families affected by these unjust laws.

UNITED KINGDOM

David Eggins - Temper Domestic Violence

At 78 I'm personally busy passing over the therapeutic work we have been doing with domestic abusers, both men and women, to the next generation of therapists.

An enlightening response very recently came from the Times online where I had invited the readership to "mind their language". I'd always thought that misogyny was about men's hatred/ abuse of women, but I've now learnt it is any suffering a woman experiences - presumably because it must all be the result of men. They didn't approve when I pointed out that the pain experienced by women

during an "examination of the uterus without pain relief" was probably caused by female policies, 63% of gynecologists being female and only 37 % being male. Deaf ears!

Andrew Pain - Men on Show

Men on Show hit its 60th episode last month. It's now on pause whilst I focus on my book, but I started the podcast in order to celebrate men doing amazing things in the men's field, and/or those with amazing stories, so individuals from Mark Brooks and Duncan Craig, to guys with inspiring stories like the fireman, Ricky Nuttall, one of the first Grenfell Tower responders. I wanted to spread positive news about men across the internet and simply celebrate them by helping them to tell their stories, whilst also exploring how they feel about masculinity today.

My book - Honestly Man, which is being released on Aug 6th, and from which all profits made from sales, will be invested in charities/projects supporting men and boys (like Mankind Initiative, Lads need Dads, We are Survivors and Menfulness).

Through the book, I answer three key questions: 1) Are men struggling? 2 Why are men struggling? 3) How do we help?

I draw on global research, lived experience, the voices of my 60 male podcast guests so far on Men on Show, and years of work in men's mental health and wellbeing. The book explores key issues affecting men, including:

The empathy gap towards men, Male loneliness and isolation, The impact of austerity on today's generation of men, The testosterone crisis, Fatherhood and male role models, Psychological safety, Men's communities and belonging, How we positively redefine masculinity

It's now available from most main book distributors for pre-order, before being released in paperback and kindle from Aug 6th and as an audio later this year.

Paula Maddison-Green - Trauma Stop UK CIC

Trauma Stop UK CIC Ltd - a not for profit buried in the heart of the North East of England, being the only specialist self funded male refuge has recently been a finalist in the Tees Business Awards for the "Making a difference category". The MD Paula Maddison Green said, "This is a very important step in getting the voices of male victims into the public domain so that they are heard and seen as they often feel Invisible to services."

Trauma Stop UK CIC Ltd has also launched its first Music Album reflecting the lived experiences of both male and female victims impartially and this is now available to download on Spotify on the following link with a couple of tracks Invisible and Let Me Go that she wrote following listening to men struggling with domestic abuse.

https://open.spotify.com/track/1UfQCzHNrrnmK6m9WNdYA?si=PGNjKXkvRDaULE-rrDSoEQ&utm_source=copy-link&nd=1&dlsi=9e0c28b3b67f4acb

Paula added, "I'm just trying lots of different ways right now to get messages out. Music can get messages out in ways other messages cannot and I'll keep trying to be the advocate for what I call "these missing male statistics in the world."

“My parents taught me that we are all equal and that everyone has a right to a voice in this life. They were kind and loving and taught me that all abuse is bad regardless of who it happens to. I’ll keep self-funding this till I’m put out of business hopefully when commissioners start to provide funding for male refugees here in the UK. It can be done as I’m proving the model works on my own here!”

UNITED STATES

New York Families for Tomorrow

Throughout the past year, New York Families for Tomorrow (NYFFT) has continued laying the foundation for long-term organizational growth by expanding its public policy initiatives, strengthening civic engagement efforts, and developing programs that encourage informed citizen participation in government.

In April, NYFFT Executive Director Summer Johnson was invited to serve as a guest speaker at the National Parents Organization's Shared Parenting Conference, where family advocates, legal professionals, researchers, and policymakers gathered to discuss family court reform, shared parenting, and child well-being. The opportunity to participate in this statewide event further strengthened NYFFT's commitment to evidence-based public policy and collaborative advocacy.

Building upon that momentum, NYFFT has continued developing its Public Affairs Specialist Program, an initiative designed to prepare individuals with the knowledge and practical skills necessary to engage in public policy, government relations, legislative advocacy, and civic leadership. The program reflects the organization's commitment to cultivating informed leaders who can effectively advocate for stronger families and more transparent government throughout New York.

In addition, NYFFT has expanded its efforts in public advocacy and civic engagement by monitoring local elections, following policy developments, and educating citizens on issues affecting families and local communities. Through these initiatives, the organization seeks to encourage greater public participation in government while promoting accountability, transparency, and informed decision-making.

As New York Families for Tomorrow continues to grow, the organization remains focused on establishing itself as a trusted resource for research, education, and public policy. Looking ahead, NYFFT will continue investing in strategic partnerships, educational programming, and evidence-based research to advance practical solutions that strengthen families and improve communities across New York State.

Dawn Wolfson - Advocates For the Falsely Accused

Advocates for the Falsely Accused has been working to grow its support group, put people's stories out on our podcast, and prepare for our annual International Falsely Accused Day event on Zoom on September 9th. We continue to raise awareness about the prevalence of false accusations/prosecutions/convictions in our legal system.

We are working on getting a number of stories out there for people who were convicted on eyewitness misidentification, police misconduct, ineffective assistance of counsel, etc. Additionally, we have helped

people with their clemency requests, with locating resources, and in other ways. We hope to grow the group to where we can influence legislation and make it more difficult for innocent people to end up in prison.

Joani Kloth-Zanard - Parental Alienation Consortium (PAC)

PAAA Training Program Now Live!

The Parental Alienation Accreditation Alliance (PAAA) is proud to announce that our Post-Graduate Judicial and Legal Training Program is now officially available online. This comprehensive 10-part curriculum provides CEUs and, upon completion of all modules, formally qualifies professionals as experts in parental alienation.

This flexible program “covers the full spectrum of parental alienation—from foundational definitions through diagnosis, treatment, legal frameworks, ethics, and research resources”. Each section is designed to deepen professional competence in understanding, explaining, describing, adjudicating, and treating psychological abuse within high-conflict custody cases.

The training begins with Part 1 – Defining the Problem, which “establishes parental alienation as a form of psychological abuse... distinguishing it from realistic estrangement” and continues through advanced diagnostic, legal, ethical, and treatment-focused modules.

You can now access the course here:

<https://app.calabash.courses/talk/parent-alienation-part-1-defining-the-problem?locationId=246&token=166afe77-b7a6-414c-bbf8-a8e2ebab26f6>

Professionals seeking formal recognition of expertise in parental alienation—and those working in judicial, legal, mental health, or child-advocacy roles—are encouraged to enroll.

Rael Lapenta - Interference with Child Custody Coalition

PACCS / United States Update

The Professional Alliance for Child-Centered Safety (PACCS) (www.paccs.global) has continued expanding its international educational and professional outreach by developing evidence-informed resources for family court professionals. This year, PACCS has been a sponsor at the ABA Family Law Conference and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) conference, presenting child-centered safety research and education. PACCS is filling the gap in family court cases expanding its research library, professional training initiatives, and supporting interdisciplinary collaboration focused on psychological maltreatment, parent-child contact problems, child-centered safety, and evidence-based forensic practice.

Additionally, PA Protect Kids (PaProtectKids@gmail.com) continues to provide free workshops for those falsely accused- FINDING THE GPS IN FALSE ALLEGATIONS: GROUND · PROTECT · STABILIZE

Interference with Child Custody Coalition (facebook.com/ICC) is helping parents understand the difference between civil and criminal regarding Custodial Interference, to more effectively have this U.S. law enforced.

G. Lawrence DeMarco, LLM – The Law Center (Family Court Custody Bootcamp)

This year, The Law Center (thelawcenter.net) completed a full, professional rebuild of its flagship program, the Family Court Custody Bootcamp (FCCB) — a comprehensive sixteen-module video curriculum that walks self-represented parents, step by step, through the family court process: filing and responding to motions in the correct local format, assembling evidence around the best-interest factors the judge actually scores, and preparing for hearings, custody conferences, mediation, and appeals.

Every lesson was rebuilt as a professionally narrated video, and the curriculum is paired with Lex, an embedded, case-aware AI assistant that reads a parent's own documents and answers case-specific questions around the clock. The Bootcamp was built by founder Lawrence DeMarco, a licensed attorney with an LLM in trial advocacy who was himself self-represented for 10 years. It is designed as a preparation-and-education layer that complements counsel rather than replacing it: parents do their own organizing and preparation, then bring a well-prepared case to a limited-scope attorney for the high-stakes moments — putting lawyer-caliber readiness within reach at dramatic savings never imagined before the generative AI era.

It is a concrete access-to-justice tool for the "missing middle" of parents who earn too much to qualify for legal aid but cannot absorb \$10,000 to \$75,000 in legal fees. The Law Center welcomes lawmakers, legal-aid organizations, and family court reform advocates who wish to make the program available to the parents and constituents they serve, so that every parent can walk into court prepared, composed, and treated as a capable equal at a nominal expense.