

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MEN AND BOYS

P.O. Box 221
Odenton, Maryland 21113, USA
<https://www.menandboys.net>
email: info@menandboys.net
Phone : [+1-301-801-0608](tel:+1-301-801-0608)

October 6, 2026

Members of the United Nations Security Council
New York, NY

Re: The UN Charter's Promise to Men and Boys and the Next Secretary-General

Dear Ambassador:

The Preamble to the Charter of the United Nations reaffirms "the equal rights of men and women." (1) Articles 1(3) and 55(c) of the Charter promote respect for human rights for all persons "without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion." (1)

The International Council for Men and Boys (ICMB) has documented 12 areas in which men and boys, who constitute half of the world's population, have been neglected by UN agencies over the past 15 years:

1. **Education:** UN Gender Education Initiatives Reveal Unacceptable Policy Gaps for Boys and Young Men
<https://www.menandboys.net/pr/un-gender-education-initiatives-reveal-unacceptable-policy-gaps-for-boys-and-young-men/>
2. **Health:** UN Gender Health Initiatives Reveal Significant Imbalance Between Men and Women <https://www.menandboys.net/pr/un-gender-health-initiatives-reveal-significant-imbalance-between-men-and-women/>
3. **The boy crisis:** Double-Standard: UN Child Protection Framework Ignores Risks to Boys <https://www.menandboys.net/pr/double-standard-un-child-protection-framework-ignores-risks-to-boys/>
4. **False allegations:** False Allegations and the United Nations: A Policy Blind Spot with Serious Consequences for Men
<https://www.menandboys.net/pr/false-allegations-and-the-united-nations-a-policy-blind-spot-with-serious-consequences-for-men/>
5. **Male victims of violence:** United Nations Policies Silence Male Victims of Violence <https://www.menandboys.net/pr/united-nations-policies-silence-male-victims-of-violence/>

6. **Fatherhood and shared parenting:** UN Parenting Policies and Family Court Systems Exclude Fathers
<https://www.menandboys.net/pr/un-parenting-policies-and-family-court-systems-exclude-fathers/>
7. **The criminal system:** United Nations Criminal Justice Policies Ignore Male Offenders and Detainees
<https://www.menandboys.net/pr/united-nations-criminal-justice-policies-ignore-male-offenders-and-detainees/>
8. **Partner abuse:** UN Policies Leave Male Victims of Partner Abuse Unprotected
<https://www.menandboys.net/pr/un-policies-leave-male-victims-of-partner-abuse-unprotected/>
9. **Homelessness:** Gender Blind Spot: United Nations Neglects the Global Crisis of Male Homelessness
<https://www.menandboys.net/pr/gender-blind-spot-united-nations-neglects-the-global-crisis-of-male-homelessness/>
10. **Workplace injury and death:** UN Workplace Policies Ignore Men Despite Highest Death Rates
<https://www.menandboys.net/pr/un-workplace-policies-ignore-men-despite-highest-death-rates/>
11. **Adoption and reproductive rights:** UN Reproductive Policies Exclude Fathers From Major Family Decisions
<https://www.menandboys.net/pr/un-reproductive-policies-exclude-fathers-from-major-family-decisions/>
12. **Media portrayals of men:** UN Media Campaigns Normalize Bias Against Men
<https://www.menandboys.net/pr/un-media-campaigns-normalize-bias-against-men/>

In 2010, the UN General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2) But to date, the UN has no counterpart agency for men and boys. (3)

Impending Crises

Serious structural problems at the United Nations have been revealed. In October 2025, the Secretary-General warned of a "race to bankruptcy" unless member states pay their dues in full and on time. (4) His revised 2026 budget proposal was 15.1% below the 2025 budget, with 18.8% fewer staff posts. (4)

Secretary-General candidates have also commented on the crisis. María Fernanda Espinosa writes that "what is now in question is not the relevance of the United Nations, but its credibility." (5) Rebeca Grynspan writes that "trust in the UN is waning." (5)

The systemic neglect of men and boys is another concern. ICMB's review of 12 areas in which males lag behind females found the same pattern for each

area: a substantial male disadvantage, with no targeted or dedicated UN response. (3)(6)

In addition, some UN programs present one-sided claims that negatively stereotype men. For example, in November 2025, UN Women promoted an aggressive campaign titled "UNiTE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls." (7) The campaign asserted that digital violence "targets women more than men." (7) Yet scientific surveys have concluded that men are at least as likely as women to experience online harassment. (8)(9)

Selection of the Next Secretary-General

The selection of the next Secretary-General formally began on November 25, 2025. (5) The Security Council held its first straw poll on July 30, 2026. (10)

Michelle Bachelet of Chile was among the first candidates nominated, and was described as "the leading feminist candidate." (5)(11) But after a Security Council straw poll on September 18 gave her only one "encourage" vote and 11 "discourage" votes, Ms. Bachelet withdrew her candidacy the next day. (12)

To date, the remaining candidates have not explained in their vision statements how they would address the major disparities affecting men and boys. (5) None of the statements proposes any program or initiative aimed at rectifying the global disadvantages faced by men or boys. And four of the vision statements specifically single out women or girls for special attention. (5)

The International Council for Men and Boys respectfully requests that each candidate:

1. Provide written recommendations on how to address and correct the disparities affecting men and boys worldwide, and
2. Indicate which UN agencies would play the lead role in addressing these disparities.

The Charter's promise to end sex discrimination was made to all persons — men and women — in 1945. The challenge rests with the next Secretary-General to bring an end to the long-standing neglect of men and boys.

Respectfully,



Edward E. Bartlett, PhD
President



Lawrence DeMarco, LL.M
Executive Manager
International Council for Men and Boys

Links:

1. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>
2. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/about-us/about-un-women>
3. <https://www.menandboys.net/un-2/>
4. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166128>
5. <https://www.un.org/en/sg-selection-and-appointment>
6. <https://www.menandboys.net/pr/reports-reveal-the-un-gender-agenda-as-one-sided-ideological-and-indefensible/>
7. <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/stories/announcement/2025/09/16-days-of-activism-2025>
8. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/01/13/the-state-of-online-harassment/>
9. <https://jameslnuzzo.substack.com/p/online-harassment-victimization>
10. <https://1for8billion.org/news/2026/7/29/un-security-council-conducts-first-straw-poll>
11. https://c-fam.org/friday_fax/female-frontrunners-for-secretary-general/
12. <https://passblue.com/2026/09/18/third-straw-poll-for-un-secretary-general-race-shows-no-consensus/>

Copy to the candidates for Secretary-General: Ivonne A-Baki, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Rafael Mariano Grossi, Rebeca Grynspan Mayufis, Olara Otunnu, Carolyn Rodrigues Birkett, and Macky Sall

Co-signing Organizations:

Name	Organization	Country
David Maywald	Celebrating Masculinity	Australia
Kat Anna	Men Need Love Too	Canada
Diego Rivadeneira Icaza	Fathers for Justice	Ecuador
Lyn Crabtree	International Falsely Accused Day	England
Dr. Carl Augustsson	The Lagomist Society	Georgia
MRA Nandini Bhattacharjee	All Bengal Men's Forum	India
David Walsh	Men's Voices Ireland	Ireland
Dr Benjamin Bailey	By Your Side	Israel
Yonadav Stern	Fathers for Justice	Israel
Pieter A.N. Tromp MSc	Platform for European Fathers	Netherlands
Ola Akinwe	Boys Mentoring Advocacy Network	Nigeria
Jakub Mamelski	The Polish Association for Boys and Men	Poland
Leonard Košir	Fathers' Association of Slovenia	Slovenia
Carl Roberts	Colorado Resilience	United States
Jim Semerad	Dads and Moms PAC	United States
Tom Golden	Men Are Good in the USA	United States
Steven Prohaska	National Coalition for Men	United States
Edward Bartlett, Ph.D.	Stop Abusive and Violent Environments	United States
James L. Nuzzo, Ph.D.	The Nuzzo Letter	United States
Richard Procida	Truth and Democracy Coalition	United States
Tony Bickel	WISCONSIN for Children and Families	United States
Jack Kammer, MSW, MBA	Working Well With Men	United States

