

FATHERS IN AFRICA – AN INTRODUCTION

Who are We?

Fathers in Africa is a non-partisan, non-profit organisation established in 2006.

We believe that fatherlessness is the most significant family/social problem facing South Africa. The lack of responsible fathering (male mentorship) has contributed significantly to the socialisation of young men into a “toxic” masculinity, manifesting with high rates of rape, gender based violence, violence against children, teen pregnancies, substance abuse and other crime.

What do We do?

We are aiming for radical social reform through:

- Partnering with Government to promote Policy development/change and effective implementation thereof.
- Advocacy, activism and community mobilisation through our media campaign, www.frontpagefather.co.za
- Networking and coalition work nationally, regionally (ESA) and internationally e.g. PAN (Parenting in Africa Network) and Men Care (Global).
- Programming designed to cause social change.
- Community education (e.g. Botswadi Parenting Course, including fatherhood module)
- Mentorship- we are currently running programmes at Kathorus Child Family Organisation in Thokoza, Diepsloot and Soshanguve.

Our values

Our work with men and boys is focused on intervention and prevention and encompasses the following values:

- Promotes men as caregivers
- Promotes the rights of women and girls
- Helps boys see the benefit of gender transformation

Examples of our work (these are just a few examples of what we do)

Policy

Part of a working group that provided input to the new White paper on families to be unveiled by the Department of Social Development this year

<http://parentinginafrica.org/d2/index.php/topics/89-a-call-to-action-iyf-20> The Plan of Action calls on Member States to “develop national capacities to reduce poverty at the family level and to increase the income per capita and GDP” (p.10). It also aims at guiding African Union Member States

in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating appropriate national policies and programmes for the family on the basis of their specific requirements and needs.

Programmes

Programme P – See separate file (attached)

Boyz will be men - <http://vimeo.com/75861858>

Community education

Botswadi parenting programme. Ubaba Unathi Fatherhood programme – Accredited trainer.

(http://www.savf.co.za/botswadi_parenting_guidance.html)

We also partner with Brainboosters – See www.brainboosters.co.za

Advocacy

We constantly feature on radio and television. So far we have featured on: SAFM, Radio Metro, Radio 702, Mix FM, Radio Pulpit, Cliff Central, Bush Radio, Doctors orders, Expresso, 3 Talk, Good morning Africa, Blue couch and much more. We have also featured, (and written for) in magazine (Mamas n Papas, Accelerate, Baby) and newspaper articles.

Speaking

Kevin Rutter has spoken at the following events:

Global conference on Violence against Children (Swaziland)

DSD “Mens Revival Conference” – over 300 men being released from a Correctional Facility

National Prosecution Authority (NPA) Sexual Offences conference

Programme Director – National Department of Social Development, International Mens Day

Plenary Speaker at International Year of the Family, 20th anniversary Summit

Plenary speaker at International Mens Day event hosted by Department of Social Development

Facilitated workshop at Men Engage Global Symposium in Delhi, India 2014

St Mary’s Parenting Forum

St Stithians “Pathway’s to Adolescence” Conference

School of Merit, Edenvale

....and more (Alexander Forbes coming up in June)

Network Involvement

We work with the following organisations, amongst others;

Sonke Gender justice

SAFV Famnet (Chairman)

Character Company

Dads in the Picture

FAN – Father a Nation

African Fatherhood Initiative

The Parent Centre

Parenting in Africa Network

RIATT

GAMEF (Gauteng Men's Federation, Board Member)

Social Media

www.frontpagefather.co.za

www.fathers.co.za

<https://www.facebook.com/frontpagefather>

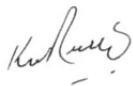
Twitter: fathersinafrica

Conclusion

The effort to get South African fathers back into our families should be placed front and center on our national agenda.

The only credible strategy for reversing the current trend of declining child well-being is to begin the process of re-connecting millions of South African children to their fathers, or significant male role models.

We would love you to come on board to help us achieve this objective.



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