10 THINGS FAITH LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF FAITH COMMUNITIES CAN DO NOW TO ADVANCE GENDER EQUALITY



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1. Say it as it is: Gender based violence is a sin, and teaching male dominance is a heresy; both violate God's image and human dignity.
2. Equip yourselves to become champions for gender equality in your place of worship and communities.
3. There is no contradiction between women's equality and faith: use contextual faith teachings, sermons and social media to speak out against gender inequality.
4. Embed life-giving gender relationships: Develop and adopt gender policies to institutionalise a gender transformative agenda within your faith institution.
5. Most members of congregations are women: Provide space for women of faith to take leadership roles within faith institutions and places of worship, and support them.
6. Transform your place of worship and faith institution into a safe space for all: Develop, review and enforce in-house sexual harassment and abuse policies.
7. Hold perpetrators accountable and openly tell leaders who have committed sexual assault: "You will not be covered by your clerical robes".
8. Create safe platforms and support groups for women and other survivors to share their stories and promote healing; amplify the voices of inspirational role models.
9. Create local action networks and or GBV watch-groups using your ecumenical and internal linkages; and collaborate with local partners and civil society to report GBV crimes and support survivors in the justice seeking process.
10. Transform skills development programmes from charity to opportunities for women to empower themselves, build confidence and become self-sufficient.

A collaboration of faith-based organisations with support from UN Women.

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