

Join the movement and make your mark!

Join the growing movement of people from different faiths who are uniting and taking action to end GBV. Here are some things you can do:

- Sign the **Joint Interfaith GBV Statement of Commitment** and encourage those in your circles to do the same.
- Workshop the new **Interfaith GBV Prevention and Mitigation Strategy 2030** in your faith community and create a practical Action Plan.
- Join the **Online Community of Praxis Platform** to access support and solidarity.
www.interfaithendgbv.org.za
- Join the **Faith Action Collective Community** – Forum meetings are on the 1st Wednesday of every month – for active networking, shared learning, joint planning and sharing about our work.



YOU DON'T' HAVE TO GO IT ALONE –
Together we have a much bigger impact.
Together we can end GBV!



Interfaith Statement of Commitment

Gender-based violence is unacceptable, inexcusable, and intolerable in all its manifestations.

Yet, we confess that we have sometimes chosen not to see, or tolerated gender-based violence. We have been collaborators and co-conspirators against the very essence of our creation.

From our platform within local communities, people of faith potentially play a vital role in raising awareness, advocating for survivors' rights and against impunity, holding perpetrators accountable, and challenging harmful gender norms and gender injustices - without fear or favour.

Yet, we confess that we have often been complicit by our silence, our inaction, our misuse of sacred texts and our rigid structures that silence or exclude diversity. Thus, we have undermined God's image in all people.

Therefore, we commit to standing up, speaking out and taking decisive action, and to being accountable to survivors, to each other, and to God.

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Sign the
Statement
Here:



Who are we?

**Diverse
PEOPLE OF FAITH**
who speak out,
stand up,
collaborate,
share knowledge,
disrupt harmful norms,
act decisively
with SURVIVORS in the
centre
to end gender-based
violence and femicide



Faith ACTION

to end Gender-Based Violence



FAITH COMMUNITIES ENDING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

The Faith Action to End GBV Collective was launched in June 2020 in response to increasing GBVF incidences during Covid-19 lockdowns **and in response to the launch of the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide.**

We Will Speak Out SA (WWSOSA) was launched in 2013 as a **coalition for faith GBV activists** to collaborate and equip people of faith – with survivors at the centre – to end GBV and mitigate its current impact. Faith Action coordination and secretariat support are offered by WWSOSA.

Together, the Faith Action Collective and the WWSOSA Coalition aim to grow an effective **faith movement, comprising faith-based organisations and individuals working together and in our own spaces, to create a South Africa free from gender injustice and GBV.**

Together, the Faith Action Collective and WWSOSA have engaged well over 900 partners and subscribers of diverse faiths in the past three years. We strive to create an **impactful, unified faith-based response to GBV**, so that the faith sector can become a key player in achieving the objectives of the NSP on GBVF.



Faith ACTION
to end Gender-Based Violence

WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA
FAITH COMMUNITIES ENDING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

“When you are abused, your spirit is attacked”

Nompilo Gcwensa, Chairperson
of Phephisa Survivors Network

Can the faith sector make a difference?

Since more than 85% of South Africans report being religious, the strong influence religion can have on people's attitudes can help to change social norms and end gender-based violence.

There are places of worship in every urban and rural community that can play a vital role in prevention and survivor support.

We know that some religious leaders abuse their power through sexual misconduct and condone GBV. We also know that some religious institutions are speaking out strongly and acting against GBV and offer much needed support.

It is true that we have a patriarchal history and there is still much work to be done so we work to transform internally while also engaging in GBV response and prevention broadly.

To enhance our internal capacities, we run innovative programmes with diverse partners:

- **Community of Praxis** to offer ongoing support to diverse faith leaders and institutions, engaging both online and in person, including:
 - **An Online Learning and mutual engagement Platform:** access to resources, a blog spot, online mutual learning and accountability forum, a joint calendar of events, and networking opportunities.
 - **In-person support and training on request:** Resource Teams; Practical GBV Skills modules:
 - o GBV Facilitation in faith contexts
 - o GBV and the Law
 - o Trauma Response counselling
 - o Contextual approaches to Bible study
 - o Other support on request
 - **Faith Leaders' Gender Transformation Programme:** A 10-month holistic practical programme to equip faith leaders to become agents of institutional change and transform their lives.
 - **Promoting and Enriching Healthy Families** for GBV prevention.

We are **shifting patriarchal underlying narratives about gender, GBV and faith** both within the faith sector and in wider society, through:

- **Joint advocacy** initiatives to mobilise increasing numbers of faith leaders at all levels.
- **Media campaigns** to shift underlying patriarchal discourses and create greater GBV-competence amongst ordinary people of faith and their leaders.