

Declaration for Gender Equality

We are determined to tackle persisting gender inequalities and to actively promote a just society; therefore:

We, Mission 21 and its global partners,

Gravely concerned about the existing inequalities between women and men in this world, having assembled, in a spirit of trust and cooperation, at the high-level segment of the fourth Women's Conference of Mission 21 on future priorities and urgent action to counter issues of concern to women in Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe, and mindful of the important lessons learned from the experience of women working with the aim of achieving results,

1. **Reform** Christianity by abandoning androcentrism and reaffirm our commitment as Christian faith-based organizations to expand and accelerate efforts to promote gender equality,
2. **Acknowledge** that in spite of the advances reached, there are still important inequalities between women and men in the exercise of their rights; including, the protection of their sexual and reproductive rights;
3. **Deeply concerned** about women's lack of representation and partaking in politics and in decision-making processes,
4. **Recognize** that, while women bear the brunt of conflicts, including rapes and killings, they are largely excluded from conflict prevention, peace negotiation, and peace building processes;
5. **Gravely concerned** that malnutrition and hunger situation caused by conflicts and climate change, as well as the HIV/AIDS epidemic, through its devastating scale and impact, constitute an emergency and are among the toughest challenges to human life and dignity, as well as to effective exercise of human rights,
6. **Noting** with serious concern the neglect of the large global displacement of people caused by conflict and crisis, including the high numbers of displaced women and children;
7. **Calling attention** to the urgency of countering human trafficking in all its forms;
8. **Bearing in mind** that those who are in vulnerable situations are most endangered to abuse and exploitation;

9. **Fully aware** that femicide/violent death of women associated with gender, are problems of increasing magnitude, as well as the "normalization" of violence against women;
10. **Acknowledge** that in particular for women from marginalized ethnic, religious, social and economic groups suffer inequalities in all stages of life, that the different forms and expressions of violence preclude their individual development, undermine their rights and freedoms, prevent full development of their capacities and physical autonomy; and limit public, economic, social and political participation, in our societies;

Do hereby agree to jointly work for the exercise of human rights for the attainment of women's full autonomy, including their capacity to protect themselves from gender-based violence and their participation and contribution as agents of development and democracy; as well as taking action for our sisters in need;

while regularly providing each other with updates on progress.

We pledge to be agents of change, to overcome gender inequalities and to thrive towards a world with gender justice.

Basel 7th of June 2017