

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



Photo: ELCT/Richard A. Mmbaga

- 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.