STATEMENTS OF ENDORSEMENT

This is a well-researched theological resource written for ordinary people with hearts seeking to know God’s intention for gender relations. The church cannot afford to be silent when a culture of violence seems to be a ‘norm’ in a religious post-apartheid South Africa. As a useful tool, this resource/training manual will go a long way in equipping Christian ministers, religious and community leaders towards addressing concerns around sexual abuse and gender based violence in our beloved country. May the dream of church and other religious institutions as ‘safe’ spaces envisioned in the manual through the use of the Bible, empower all to reverse threats of sexual abuse and gender based violence in all its forms. Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Statement of Endorsement: Rev. Dr Mvume Dandala (Seth Mokotimi Methodist Seminary President). 

The South African Council of Churches Western Cape recommends this Training manual on Gender Based Violence (GBV). It is reader friendly, full of hints and ideas that will make it extremely useful in practice for ALL those who are striving for a society free of GBV. The content of this manual is informative and transformative. The methodology of the manual encourages personal and communal discovery of knowledge and analysis on Gender Based Violence. Vena Mqondisi (SACC Western Cape - Ecumenical Director).

The South African Council of Churches Gauteng Council of Churches started engaging with this churches resource manual during the 16 days of activism against violence. The manual is relevant and easy to use for Church leaders and Church based activists as they seek solutions on Gender-based-violence, stigma, sexual reproductive education and rights. Gauteng Council of Churches recommends the use of this resource in all churches and by para-church organisations. Rev Gift Moerane (SACC Gauteng Council of Churches – Ecumenical Secretary).

The KwaZulu Natal Christian Council (KZNCC) believes that Church mothers unions, youth groups, parents and Church based activists using this resource will be better equipped and knowledgeable to help their congregations and the wider community attain a deeper understanding of gender justice, sexuality and reproductive health rights. The resource offers an excellent opportunity for Clergy to adapt and use these Bible Studies as sermons. This is a much needed contribution to the problem of gender based violence, stigma, lack of information. Dr Douglas Dziva (KwaZulu Natal Christian Council CEO).

This book reminds us of the power of Contextual Bible Studies in enabling social transformation. We in Ujamaa commend it to all. Professor Simangaliso Kumalo (Director of Ujamaa Centre, University of KwaZulu Natal).

FOUR-FOLD BENEDICTINE BLESSING

- May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.
- May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.
- May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.
- May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God’s grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

AMEN.
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