

Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations toward a Social Statement

There is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ – Gal. 3:28



Contribute to the social statement process while exploring the social issues that intersect at faith, sexism and justice. The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ seek your input as they work toward drafting the social statement. Join the conversation!

The seven modules of the user-friendly study can be used in various combinations according to the interests of your group. Each module includes a guide for leaders, devotional materials, and an easy-to-follow discussion format.

To date, over 100 Listening Events have provided input across synods and the task force has heard presentations from nearly two dozen specialists. This study makes available what the task force has learned and provides you the opportunity to learn, listen and let the task force hear from you.

Don't wait! The response period ends **August 31, 2017**.

Available at <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Women-and-Justice>

Study Contents of Faith, Justice, Sexism

1. Why do we need to talk together?
2. What problems do women face and what does justice require?
3. How is sexism personal and how are we the body of Christ together?
4. What does economic sexism look like and how can we seek equity for all?
5. How can we address violence against women and girls?
6. Why do images and words for God matter?
7. How can we challenge the misuse of Scripture against women and girls?



A Social Message on: Gender-Based Violence



“Gender-Based Violence is an ancient sin that for thousands of years has harmed countless women, children and men. It is a sin that Christians need to recognize, understand and confront, for our religious history also bears its stain. . . . Each one of us has the responsibility through Christ to intervene in appropriate ways, to work toward healing, and to prevent gender-based violence.”

- *The Social Message on Gender-Based Violence*

God says “No” to violence, but gender-based violence continues to affect adults and children of all genders. In November 2015, the ELCA Church Council adopted both a social message on Gender-based Violence and an accompanying foundational documentation. The social message is easily used in educational settings and discussion groups, and the foundational documentation provides analysis, statistics and context. (For an additional resource see *Faith, Sexism and Justice* Module 5 “How can we address violence against women and girls?”)

These two documents are among the first on this subject to be adopted by a national denomination and are widely seen as a call to new understanding and action grounded in Lutheran theology. Study the documents to consider what you can do in your community.

The message considers:

What is gender-based violence?

Why do people inflict gender-based violence?

How does Christianity sometimes contribute to these problems?

Where is God in the midst of this pain and suffering?

What should we do?

The online text of the message and foundational documentation are available at www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues.aspx (click on “ELCA Social Messages”). Call 800-638-3522 to receive one complimentary paper copy of the social message.

For more information, go to www.elca.org/justiceforwomen/resources

Recently adopted by the ELCA Church Council