

# women's ministries



SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION



2019.20 November 25, 2019

## News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

### STRONGER TOGETHER



#### Women in Leadership Conference of the European Evangelical Alliance

The interdenominational "Women in Leadership Conference" of the European Evangelical Alliance was held in Schladming, Austria, from November 21 to 24, 2019, organized by the „Hope for Europe Network“ and „Prisca Team Austria“.

About 160 women from 28 nations and various Christian Confessions united under the motto STRONGER TOGETHER. These conferences are organized every two years in different countries and are meant to build a network for Christian women, strengthening and encouraging each other reciprocally. Representing the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Angelika Pfaller, Director of Women's Ministries in Germany, and Dagmar Dorn, EUD Women's Ministries Director, were in attendance.



The first of two main speakers was Dr. Kate Coleman, a Baptist Minister, who has over 30 years of leadership experience in the church, charity and voluntary sectors and is a mentor and coach to leaders. She is also author of "7 Deadly Sins of Women in Leadership". The other main speaker was Sabine Kalthoff, who serves as Secretary for Scripture Engagement in IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students). Coleman showed how leadership principles were put into practice using biblical examples (even of women) and how we can transport these principles to our time. Her motivating and enthusiastic style is inspiring. Kalthoff presented inter-active Bible study which touched the hearts of the participants in a special way.

Reports from the various countries showed the diversity of what women initiate and how they live their Christian faith. In several countries religious freedom and freedom of opinion are endangered and cause concern. These instances were subjects of special prayers during prayer times.

In the "European Village" the participants were able to present their projects. Women's Ministries presented the enditnow project with a small exhibit.

Breakout sessions were offered on Friday afternoon with relevant topics: Abuse, Reconciliation, women in leadership, Mentoring, training for women etc. The program of the prayer night was stirring. Prayers in words and music, prayer stations for personal prayer as well as for the countries with their prayer requests.

The conclusion of the conference concentrated on the „Celebration of female heroes from our countries“: the participants had been invited to present a woman from their country who has accomplished something extraordinary. This made up a big colorful bouquet of female heroes – some well known, others completely unfamiliar. Among them were women from different centuries. Katharina von Bora (Germany), Matilda Wrede (Finland), Ewa von Thiele-Winkler (Poland), Corrie ten Boom (Netherlands), Marie Dentièrre (Switzerland), Sabina Wurmbrand (Romania) and many more. All of them had in common their passion for furthering God's work, even risking their lives, in order to be the salt and light in their community. They are great examples for us.

Our conclusion of the conference: It was a good occasion to create contacts with other Christian women from other countries, to hear of their challenges and learn how they are working. We identified much common ground and it was an enriching and blessed experience.

Reported by Dagmar Dorn, EUD WM Director Photos: WM EUD

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## November 25: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women



### enditnow® Emphasis Day

November 25 is the "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women". The colour orange is used as the identification color. Angelika Pfaller, Director of the Women's Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventi Church in Germany, refers in this context to the worldwide annual "enditnow" emphasis day.

Pfaller explains that Adventists abhor violence in any form, regardless of whether it is violence against women, children, men, young or old people. Violence is disgusting and should not be tolerated.

#### Action "enditnow"

Under the motto "enditnow" - Break the silence against violence, the Women's Ministries Department offers the enditnow emphasis day every year in August. Every year on the fourth Saturday in August Adventist women from all over the world hold church services and seminars on, in which they point out how important it is that the church does not conceal the problem of abuse and violence. Extensive information material is available for this purpose. At an "enditnow emphasis day" Seventh-day Adventists say a clear NO to any form of violence. On this day there are opportunities for local church congregations to address the issue and thus remove taboos, break the silence, sensitize church members and church leaders to this problem, inform society and offer help to the victims.

#### Orange Day

"In fact," says Pfaller, "let's not only position ourselves against violence on November 25. Nonviolence should be our motto in life." The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, also known as Orange Day, wants to draw attention to the problem and contribute to sensitizing the concerns of women and girls and call for help. The sixteen days from "Orange Day" on 25 November to "Human Rights Day" on 10 December could thus be well used to carry out joint actions and initiate projects to address and combat violence against women.

Women's rights activists have observed 25 November as a day against gender-based violence since 1981. This date was selected to honour the Mirabal sisters, three political activists from the Dominican Republic who were brutally murdered in 1960 by order of the country's ruler, Rafael Trujillo (1930-1961).

On 20 December 1993, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women through resolution 48/104, paving the path towards eradicating violence against women and girls worldwide. Finally, on 7 February 2000, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/134, officially designating 25 November as the International day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and in doing so, inviting governments, international organizations as well as NGOs to join together and organize activities designed to raise public awareness of the issue every year on that date.

In 2001 the World Church leadership of the Seventh-day Adventists introduced an annual Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day. In 2014, it was renamed "enditnow® Emphasis Day", and focuses on domestic and sexual violence against girls and women.

#### Resource packets

From the website of Adventist Women's Ministries, materials in German, French, English, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian, Romanian/Hungarian can be downloaded for this day. These include sermon outlines, power-point presentations and seminars on the topics of "Resilience" and "Forgiveness". Although an uncomfortable topic for many people, it has become increasingly clear that abuse is a serious problem for Christians, [also] Seventh-day Adventists". Abuse in any form distorts the body of Christ - this applies both to victims and perpetrators as well as to the church community, which is left with injured members.

According to a report by [www.apd.info](http://www.apd.info)

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## Girls4Christ in Lübeck, Germany



### Pyjama Party has become an appreciated Tradition

From 26-27 October 2019 our annual Girls4Christ Pyjama Party took place in the Seventh-Day Adventist church in Lübeck. We had the pleasure to talk and reflect with Kirsi Müller (pastor in HANSA) about what God sees in us. After a devotional with Andreas and Maren Schmidt, we were spoiled by Verena and Kirsten who prepared delicious smoothies. We also had a photo box for nice souvenir photos and were allowed to make the corresponding picture frames. It was a beautiful weekend all around. Photos: WM Hansa



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## “I Am Loved” 2020 Women's Devotional Book



### Women helping Women through Book

Once again Adventist women around the globe have written short articles that have been put together by Carolyn Rathbun Sutton to make a wonderful devotional book. The women's devotional book is packed with personal experiences of these women and how they have felt God's love in their lives.

Do you crave frequent reminders that Someone treasures you above all else? Does your heart need to hear a love song? Then spend a few moments each day reading the stories in this devotional book. They not only highlight God's multifaceted love but also bring the blessed assurance that His undying love is focused on you.

“The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.” —Zephaniah 3:17, NKJV

God—through a little verse in a short book written by a minor prophet—reveals a great, big love!

It's:

a persevering love that transforms fear into faith,

a faithful love that repurposes failure into redemption,

a patient love that calls careless hearts to obedience,

an abiding love from which nothing can separate us,

an enduring love that exchanges human weakness for divine strength,

an abundant love that fills every empty nook and cranny of the soul, and

an unparalleled love that impels the divine King of heaven to break into joyful singing as He watches over each of His precious daughters.

Yes, you are loved!

The proceeds from the book are used to fund scholarships for women.

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## Leadership Certification Level 1 in Hatten Sandkrug, Germany



### Sincere Recommendation for Participation!

From October 24 to 27, 201, the Women's Ministries Leaders invited women to come and pursue further education at the Leadership Seminar Level 1 in northern Germany. I decided to participate in the women's training weekend Level 1 in Hatten-Sandkrug just before the registration deadline. My expectations were exceeded.

The speakers presented the topics for us with love and devotion. We were able to learn a lot about the history of women's ministries as well as the women of the Bible and their living conditions. We talked about professional appearance and communication, but creativity was not neglected either. The many case studies made us think. Behind me lies a weekend with many "Aha" moments and interesting conversations.

I was able to meet wonderful and inspiring women and exchange ideas with them. I am grateful for the time together and that God brought us together.

The women's training weekend showed me how important and necessary women's ministry is within the church and how many opportunities we have to get involved in our congregations.

This is a heartfelt recommendation to take part in the further training of the women's department, because after all we are all daughters of God.

From a report by Nancy, a young participant

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