

# women's ministries

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
INTER-EUROPEAN DIVISION

2020.16. August 20, 2020

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

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### AUGUST 22 IS ENDITNOW EMPHASIS DAY 2020



#### A MESSAGE FROM THE DIVISION WM DIRECTOR DAGMAR DORN

You can find the Video message here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3yruf7R0daY>

Although violence affects everyone, women, children, and the elderly seem to bear the brunt of nonfatal physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

This year's enditnow emphasis day gains even more relevance. During the COVID19 lockdown an increase in domestic violence has been observed. More have been affected under these circumstances. We will encounter more persons who have been hurt and suffer of various health related issues that are accompanied by abuse and violence.

Consider the rates of various types of abuse:

Women report higher rates of lifetime exposure to rape, physical violence, and stalking than do men.

Abuse has many facets. It can be physical, sexual, emotional and verbal. Unfortunately this is a concern not only outside the church, but also inside.

Do we see the one who are hurting? How do we as a church react to this? What do you do in your local church? I am glad that this year again GC women's ministries provides a very valuable package with excellent material that gives help to the local churches. It is helpful in dealing and becoming familiar with the topic.

This year the sermon is also available as a video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-TJS-5rAKPI&t=58s>

In addition to two seminars, the package includes a valuable, informative brochure on the dynamics of domestic violence. We as a church are much concerned about health, which is so good, but we are also called to apply our perspective to the huge problem of violence and do all we can to end it now.

In Luke 4, 18 Jesus proclaims his mission:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed."

Anyone who suffers from violence is oppressed, and anyone who suffers abuse is imprisoned. Let us follow in Jesus' steps and take up the cause of helping to liberate the oppressed. We can't watch and be silent.

We must end it now!

You can find the enditnow emphasis day material package on our website: [women.eud.adventist.org/index.php](http://women.eud.adventist.org/index.php)

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## ONCE AGAIN, ADVENTIST CHURCH WILL RALLY AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



### ANNUAL ENDITNOW EMPHASIS DAY PROVIDES RESOURCES FOR PROACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

By: Marcos Paseggi, Adventist Review

In a year marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, family experts believe another pandemic has been going on that doesn't often make headlines but is often as insidious and deadly — violence against women and children.

And in a year that has seen many programs and initiatives delayed or canceled, Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders believe that now is an urgent time to highlight the scourge of domestic violence and advance proactive steps to prevent it. As on every fourth Saturday (Sabbath) in August each year, August 22, 2020, will see thousands of local Adventist congregations around the world hold a special service to create awareness and reflect on fighting violence against women and children across communities and churches. The initiative, called enditnow, was launched in 2014, and every year the program seems to become more comprehensive. Leaders reiterated that, while at the beginning the idea was promoted by the Women's Ministries department of the Adventist Church, it has grown to reach across other departments and ministries of the world church.

"We are glad to report that in 2020, enditnow has involved several church departments, including Health Ministries, Education, Family Ministries, and Children's Ministries," said Raquel Arrais, associate director of Women's Ministries for the Adventist Church. "There is a committee, chaired by Women Ministries director Heather-Dawn Small, that even includes Youth Ministries and the Ministerial Association," she added.

According to the website created by Women's Ministries, the enditnow special Saturday (Sabbath) this year will feature a sermon by Adventist Church associate ministerial secretary Anthony Kent and a seminar by Health Ministries associate director Katia Reinert. It will also include a handout on individual and community responses to domestic violence by Mable B. Dunbar, who also authored the booklet *The Dynamics of Domestic Violence*.

#### A Global Scourge

"We live in a world filled with uncertainties and fear," reads the letter sent to family ministries, women's ministries, and children's ministries leaders around the world. "We are faced with political unrest, wars, epidemics and pandemics, loss of jobs, inability to handle the daily needs of our families, and the list goes on and on.... All these factors impact us spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Sadly, emotional distress without a firm spiritual foundation leads to abuse in our house and society of many kinds."

The enditnow website explains why it's essential to help the fight against domestic violence. According to the quoted statistics, in the United States, one out of every six women is a victim of an attempted or completed rape. Worldwide, up to 50 percent of sexual assaults are committed against girls under 16, and one out of four women experience violence during pregnancy. Statistics also reveal that one million children, mostly girls, enter the sex trade each year. Church advocates believe Adventists should work actively to change these statistics. Leaders believe it is something that Seventh-day Adventists are uniquely positioned to do, thanks to their emphasis on whole-person treatment.

"Treatment of families experiencing violence and abuse requires integrating the needs of the whole person," wrote expert Marie Fortune, quoted in a handout on individual and community response shared around the world. "Thus, the importance of developing a shared understanding and cooperation between secular and religious helpers to deal with family violence cannot be emphasized too strongly."

#### Individual and Community Response

The handout included in the 2020 enditnow package calls for people to educate themselves about the topic and become aware of domestic violence dynamics. It is something, it reads, that includes, among other things, reading books, watching videos, and attending workshops and seminars. It also calls people to be proactive in contacting and assisting programs in their area that provide safety, advocacy, support, and other needed services for victims and perpetrators. Among other suggestions, the list calls for promoting a victim-centered response to violence and access to community resources, holding offenders accountable, and ensuring all communities, including underserved populations affected by domestic violence, have a voice and access to culturally appropriate responses and resources.

"[It is essential to] promote a collective position on awareness of domestic violence as a community problem and a community responsibility to prevent it and an intervention protocol when it occurs," it reads, and to "establish a

coordinated community response to domestic violence to include representatives from law enforcement, the school system, [and] mental health professionals.”

### Why Adventists Should Do More

The Seventh-day Adventist Church’s longstanding campaign against violence and abuse started originally with a focus on women and girls and has moved to a more global focus on violence and abuse against anyone — male, female, young, and old, Reinert said in the seminar included in the 2020 enditnow package. According to her, faith leaders from many denominations have shared how these materials have been a blessing to them also. Yet, Reinert believes, there is much more that pastors and church leaders can do to raise awareness, prevent abuse, and help survivors.

“Too many still live under the unhealthy control of an intimate partner, parent, child, boss, pastor, teacher, or someone else who employs sexual, physical, or emotional abuse without recognizing it as such,” she wrote. “Too many who do recognize it and try to get help by speaking to a pastor, church leader, or fellow member still may not find appropriate, well-informed help and, instead, may find themselves blamed for their situation or told to pray about it. Too many remain indifferent, unaware, or unintentionally blind to the needs of survivors or perpetrators who are desperately seeking hope and healing for their brokenness.”

Reinert said she wonders what would happen if every congregation had an enditnow coordinator who is knowledgeable about abuse and, working with the pastor, engages the church in prevention and assistance for those in need. The goal applies to future pastors as well.

“What if every seminary student and pastor could receive training in basic knowledge about abuse and how best to help a survivor and a perpetrator?” she asked.

Reinert said she believes there is much more we can do, and every pastor, church leader, and member must assess how they can make a difference. “We must not grow weary but continue to make our presence felt in words and action as we learn together and bring to light forms of abuse that dehumanize others,” she wrote.

Why should we do more? For Reinert, perhaps the most crucial reason to do more is that we are God’s hands and feet in this world, called to represent His love and healing power and serve others as He did.

“Jesus summons us to treat each other with love and respect when He says, ‘A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another’ [John 13:34, 35],” she wrote. “Therefore, it is our duty as pastors and church leaders to continue reaching out to abuse survivors with compassion — as Jesus did — doing what we can to prevent and appropriately deal with abuse and violence in all its forms.”

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## FIRST WOMEN’S MINISTRIES TEAM MEETING IN BAVARIA UNDER NEW LEADERSHIP



### PLANS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

On August 2, 2020, the Bavarian Women’s Ministries team met with Lydia Lukic, the new Women’s Ministries Director in order to discuss and plan future events. In spite of uncertainties, subject to conditions, hygiene concepts and certain restrictions regarding Covid-19, women’s retreats and meetings will continue to take place. The team is looking forward to picking up the work after the Corona restrictions with their new leader, enjoying companionship as they seek to serve women in Bavaria. Photo: Roland Wagner

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## JOURNALING IS NOT ONLY SOMETHING FOR WOMEN



### PARALLEL VERSION OF „HOME HAVEN“ – A JOURNAL FOR MEN - IN GERMAN

How often are the leaders of Women’s Ministries faced with the question: „Why is there no Men’s Ministries Department?“ The answer is, of course, „Nobody hinders you from ministering to men, but don’t expect the Women’s Ministries Department to do that, too.“ But now that the Women’s Ministries Director in Austria prepared a Women’s Journal in cooperation with the Austrian publishing house, a parallel version for men was also developed. Journaling is not only something for women – it can benefit men as well.

Addressing men, Jeanine Rollgaiser writes: „This devotional journal can help you to revive your longing for a deeper relationship with God. Your spiritual life gains more depth. It will have an impact on all areas of your life, you will feel secure, face challenges and be a blessing to your fellow human beings. This journal contains three categories that cover the topics "Prayer", "Bible study" and "thankfulness". It can be compared to "writing a diary", with the difference that in "journaling" what is written focuses on our inner experience. This includes reflecting, meditating or contemplating on thoughts and texts. In each category you can write down your personal thoughts. You can start the day strengthened and blessed and end it accordingly.“

Are you looking for a present for the man in your life? There are exactly 130 days until Christmas. But the gift for the man in your life will be available at a special price until the end of August. And I'm sure there are other occasions when you need to buy a gift for a man. A man's journal.

You can order the MEN'S VERSION of the journal ‚Home Haven‘ - ‚Heimathafen‘ at [https://www.wegweiser-verlag.at/shop/artikel\\_319651.php?v\\_sid=20200806AqIWupUE](https://www.wegweiser-verlag.at/shop/artikel_319651.php?v_sid=20200806AqIWupUE)

More information at [frauen.adventisten.at/blog/NEU-MAeNNERVERSION-Journal-Heimathafen/2714/](https://www.frauen.adventisten.at/blog/NEU-MAeNNERVERSION-Journal-Heimathafen/2714/)

Photo: WM Austria

## WOMEN’S MINISTRIES ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIA



### MORE THAN WORDS

Women in Bulgaria are making a difference in the lives of many people. Not only do they post encouraging Bible verses every morning and evening on Facebook, they have also been praying as a team for different people and their needs during the Covid-19 crisis. But beyond that they have given practical help to vulnerable people living in a house community, providing toilet articles and adult diapers, which were greatly appreciated. They also provided them with nice, comfortable furniture together with ADRA.



During the Corona crisis WM has made and donated 600 face coverings. May God continue to bless the Women’s Ministries work in Bulgaria. Photos: WM Bulgaria

## SPANISH UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



### #SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 21 DID YOU KNOW?

Maria Ángeles Gutiérrez Palenque, called Angelita, was called to serve as the first Women’s Ministries Director for the Spanish Union in 1996. The last five years before her retirement in 2012 she worked full time in the department with great enthusiasm and laid a solid foundation for Women’s Ministries in Spain. She organized leadership training, saw the start of the magazine ISHA-AD which has become a valuable missionary tool, created a platform

protesting violence against women and cooperated with public organizations. We are grateful for her input and service. Simona Anca took over the leadership with reduced means. Abuse prevention is still one of the pillars of the work in Spain with many events. The current director is Amalia Reta who is picking up the good tradition of Women’s Ministries in Spain, working with much energy and creativity on a volunteer basis.

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## SWISS UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



### #SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 20 DID YOU KNOW?

#### Swiss Union Women's Ministries

The multilingual Swiss Union consists of two conferences: The Swiss-German Conference and the Swiss-Romande Conference. The Women's Ministries Department in the Swiss-German Conference has had a series of competent leaders beginning in 1995 with Dorothea Starek, Christa Hang Lüdke, Evelyne Bürgi, Denise Hochstrasser, Heidi Albisser and currently Dagmar Latuski. In 2009 WM became a full independent department. WM in the Swiss Romande Conference has been directed by Christiane Benoit, Ildiko Jennah and currently Bernadette Fogliani.

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## AUSTRIAN UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



### #SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 19 DID YOU KNOW?

Women's Ministries began in Austria in 1997 when Gerd-Laila Walter was appointed to start the work with women. Under her leadership during 21 years Women's Ministries developed and became a full independent department in 2002. In the development of the co-operation of the German-speaking regions in providing leadership certification training and in organizing joint congresses as well as providing printed resources the Austrian Union was a vital element. Unfortunately, when Gerd-Laila reached her well-earned retirement age, the Union leadership decided to cut funding for the position, asking for volunteer-based leadership. The search for a successor took 6 months until the Union finally appointed a new leader, Jeanine Rollgaiser, with minimal pay. We hope that the good work can still continue to be a blessing to all women in Austria.

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## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN THE ROMANIAN UNION



### #SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 – 18 DID YOU KNOW?

The Romanian Union embraced the Women's Ministries initiative from the start and appointed Teodora Nae as its first director. From 2000 to 2009 Silvia Dima followed in her footsteps and experienced a favorable development, benefiting from the good original start, the support from the Division and General Conference as well as the vision of the leaders of the Romanian Union who understood how important it is to involve a large number of women in service. The Women's Ministries team is formed by the directors of the six Conferences and a Singles Ministries director. From 2009 to 2019 Teodora Goran served as Women's Ministries Director for the Union. The desire of adventist women to develop and fulfill their role in the family, church and society and to be prepared for the meeting with the Lord has led to many creative ways of social work and mission initiatives as well as educational projects. The current director is Liliana Radu.

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## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN THE GERMAN UNIONS



### #SDAWOMENSMINISTRIES25 - 17 DID YOU KNOW?

The need and support for women's involvement in the church became evident already in the 1980s when various women in the three German Unions of the time initiated programs for women. One pioneer was Ingrid Naumann, a motivator and mentor for women in many European countries. As the Women's Ministries Director for the South German Union she had a vision of active WM teams in all conferences, laying the foundation for a successful ministry. She is one of the Women of Distinguished Service honored by the General Conference. Other leaders in Germany include Ruth Wittwer, Rita Pütz and Ann-Katrin Blum in the North German Union and Angelika Pfaller in both South and North German Unions

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Further Links:  
Events: Calendar Women's Ministries EUD  
<http://women.euroafrica.org/calendar>

Homepage Women's Ministries:  
[www.women.eud.adventist.org](http://www.women.eud.adventist.org)

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