



I Will Go Reach My World

"We have different gifts according to the grace given us..." —ROMANS 12:6, NIV



NURTURE



EMPOWER



OUTREACH

A MINISTRY FOR EVERY WOMAN



2021.18. August 24, 2021

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

New Women's Ministries Director in Bulgaria



Bilyana Valchinova appointed to lead women in Bulgaria

The Seventh-Day Adventist Bulgarian Union's session brought many changes, including the leadership of Women's Ministries. We want to thank Gabriela Kudinova who has served in this position during the last period for her commitment and service to the woman in Bulgaria. We have greatly appreciated her work and wish her God's richest blessings and guidance for the future.

At the same time, we want to express a warm welcome to Bilyana Valchinova, who was appointed the new WM leader in Bulgaria. Bilyana lives in Plovdiv together with her husband where she works in their family business. Bilyana has two grown sons and a little daughter. She has been involved in several mission projects for children and is looking forward to getting involved in this new task in women's ministries. May God bless her as she picks up the leadership and puts her own stamp on women's activities in Bulgaria as she serves with the gifts God has given her.

August 25 is Orange Day



End Abuse now - ENDITNOW

As a sign that abuse and violence must end against women and children, and in fact, against all humans, women around the world are asked to wear something orange each month on the 25th day. It would be wonderful to see lots of orange on our streets and workplaces, particularly as we think of the plight of our sisters in Afghanistan at the moment, who live in fear of losing their lives as the Taliban are again taking control of the country. Let us wear orange tomorrow in solidarity, as a sign that human rights apply to all people and that human rights are women's rights as well.

ENDITNOW EMPHASIS DAY 2021 on August 28

Seventh-day
Adventist Church
www.adventist.org



OFFICE OF THE MESSAGE
August 18, 2021

Dear Friends,

I'd like to invite you to consider with me a very serious topic—the topic of abuse.

As we know, child sexual abuse (CSA) is a global problem, involving men, women, children, and adolescents. Abuse has long had a social and economic, and often lasting, impact that both victims and their families bear. It is a global problem that affects all cultures, religions, and races, with children being the most vulnerable. From that time forward, it is and always will be, and abuse has been present in this world.

The Bible reports how abuse and violence occurred in the Garden of Eden after Adam and Eve were driven out of Eden. In the Bible, we see how the serpent (the Devil) used Eve's weakness, her love for Adam, and her desire to be like God to lead her into a path of disobedience. The Bible also tells us that Eve was deceived by the serpent and that she and Adam were driven out of Eden. The Bible also tells us that Eve was deceived by the serpent and that she and Adam were driven out of Eden.

Even after the flood, abuse and violence continued. We know well the story of Joseph—first abused by his own brothers as he was thrown into a pit and afterward sold into slavery. The Bible also tells us that Joseph was abused by Potiphar's wife, and the position of power and privilege in addition to abuse and violence that Joseph experienced with her. When that failed, she attacked her with false accusations that put Joseph in prison.

In the New Testament, we read in Acts 26 about a young woman who was enticed by men who were making great promises that her husband would be freed. She had the gift of true divine possession, her husband was taken because they could no longer profit from their abuse.

Throughout history we find numerous examples of violence and abuse, and these include, rape, and incest, experiencing violence and abuse at the hands of other human beings, and sadly, our partners, children, and others.

While there are many types of abuse, domestic violence is a major issue around the world. Here in the United States, according to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, more than 1 in 4 women and more than 1 in 9 men reporting having experienced some physical violence in their lifetime by an intimate partner in the United States. Furthermore, nearly 10 percent per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the U.S.

Sadly, approximately 1 million children are reported to domestic violence every year. Children exposed to violence are at greater risk of mental, physical, and emotional problems, and are more likely to engage in violence, and commit suicide. Research shows that children who are exposed to violence are more likely to experience mental health problems, and their symptoms are likely to be more severe than those of children who are not exposed to violence.

Domestic violence is a global problem, and it is a major issue around the world. Here in the United States, according to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, more than 1 in 4 women and more than 1 in 9 men reporting having experienced some physical violence in their lifetime by an intimate partner in the United States. Furthermore, nearly 10 percent per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the U.S.

In addition to domestic violence, there are many other types of abuse, including child sexual abuse, pornography, human trafficking, sexual harassment, and much more that we recognize as devastatingly real, but do not have time to address in this letter.

As we with the Seventh-day Adventists, what can we do to counteract this terrible wave of wickedness in the world?

First, we need to be aware that it is happening—in the world, in our countries, in our neighborhoods, and sadly, even within the church. Secondly, we need to recognize the signs of abuse and learn how to help those who are experiencing or have in the past experienced abuse. One of the most important things we can do is to lift the dignity of each person, helping them recognize they are a precious child of God, who loves them intensely and offers them hope and healing.

We need to learn about precautions we can take to make our churches safe places for the most vulnerable. Here in North America, anyone working with children and youth in any capacity of the church must go through special training and have a legal background check. This is an important preventive measure and should be practiced everywhere. Furthermore, any report of possible abuse should be taken seriously and reported to the appropriate authorities for further investigation. This is vitally important to protect others from possible abuse.

While the topics of violence and abuse may be uncomfortable to talk about, as Christians it is something we need to address. To help facilitate awareness and provide education and resources, the Women's Ministries department of the General Conference coordinates the worldwide enditnow® Emphasis Day, held on the fourth Sabbath of August. This year this special emphasis day is on Sabbath, August 28, with the theme, "Bringing Peace Home."

A special resource packet has been prepared by the Women's Ministries department, containing a sermon, several PowerPoint presentations, and materials for planning an informative, helpful program for this special day. This resource packet is available for free download at: <https://women.adventist.org/enditnow-day>.

On August 28 Adventists are asked to address the problem of abuse in our churches around the world and to enditnow.

Help us continue with, share, and encourage each of you in the process.

Sincerely,
Nancy Wilson
Nancy V. Wilson

Today's Message: <https://www.adventist.org/enditnow/2021/08/18/2021-08-18>

Letter from Nancy Wilson, Wife of President of the General Conference

In a letter written on August 18, 2021, Nancy Wilson, wife of the General Conference President, addresses us as friends, asking us to consider a very serious topic – abuse. She writes, among other things:

„As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, what can we do to counteract this terrible wave of wickedness in the world?

First, we need to be aware that it is happening--in the world, in our countries, in our neighborhoods, and sadly, even within the church. Secondly, we need to recognize the signs of abuse and learn how to help those who are experiencing or have in the past experienced abuse. One of the most important things we can do is to lift the dignity of each person, helping them recognize they are a precious child of God, who loves them intensely and offers them hope and healing.

We need to learn about precautions we can take to make our churches safe places for the most vulnerable. Here in North America, anyone working with children and youth in any capacity of the church must go through special training and have a legal background check. This is an important preventive measure and should be practiced everywhere. Furthermore, any report of possible abuse should be taken seriously and reported to the appropriate authorities for further investigation. This is vitally important to protect others from possible abuse.

While the topics of violence and abuse may be uncomfortable to talk about, as Christians it is something we need to address. To help facilitate awareness and provide education and resources, the Women's Ministries department of the General Conference coordinates the worldwide enditnow® Emphasis Day, held on the fourth Sabbath of August. This year this special emphasis day is on Sabbath, August 28, with the theme, "Bringing Peace Home."

A special resource packet has been prepared by the Women's Ministries department, containing a sermon, several PowerPoint presentations, and materials for planning an informative, helpful program for this special day. This resource packet is available for free download at: <https://women.adventist.org/enditnow-day>.
On August 28 Adventists are asked to address the problem of abuse in our churches around the world and to enditnow.

Plans for Women’s Ministries highlight for Germany, Austria and Switzerland



German-speaking Congress in Schwäbisch Gmünd looming on the horizon

The next Women’s Ministries Congress for the German-speaking regions is taking shape as the DACH (Germany-Austria-Switzerland) leaders met at the venue for a planning session last weekend. The congress will be held from September 22 to 25, 2022, at the beautiful Schönblick congress center in Schwäbisch Gmünd. This event is something German-speaking women are looking forward to. Translation into English and Romanian will be provided with headphones.

Morning Manna



Get your portion of manna for the week from <https://eudwomen.org/en/home/morning-manna/devotional/>

Spiritual Retreat of the Women's Ministries Team



WM TEAM IN THE SWISS ROMANDE CONFERENCE MEETS APRIL 30 - MAY 2 AT CHALET LA SERMENT

EUDWOMEN.ORG NEWS SPIRITUAL RETREAT OF THE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES TEAM

To work well together as a team it is important to get together for a weekend to recharge spiritually, to get to know each other better still, and to create more unity. Although the weather was far from ideal we had sunshine and warmth in our hearts. We experienced deep, spiritual moments, but simply the joy of being together and cooking did us a lot of good and bonded us even more. And this is something we should not take for granted, since our team consists of three generations, with Adriana being the youngest, Karin in between, and myself the oldest. It is amazing how the Lord put us together as a harmonious team.

We meditated on Bible verses drawn at random and shared our thoughts. I drew the verse from Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation— whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life— of whom shall I be afraid?" As I look back over my life of many years, I see that the Lord has guided me since my birth. In how many situations of danger, difficulty and even sickness has He intervened! How many times He led me to find comfort, encouragement, joy, and guidance in His word, but also through people! Yes, He has illuminated my path with His light. He has saved and healed me, especially my heart. With all this wealth of experience, what do I have to be afraid of? I do not need to fear anything because I have a wonderful and powerful God, who is always at my side. I go forward with this confidence and thank Him for what He has made me to be and what He will still do for and with me.

We also found a verse that reflects our team's experience with the Lord during the past year and a half. Proverbs 16:9: "In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. How many times have we planned something and then, as if by inspiration, it all takes another direction or form? A striking example, to cite one, is the Women's Ministries recording that we made in February and broadcast via social media. We had had to change direction and ideas four times to get to this recording and broadcast. In the end, it was a success for us. So many women's hearts and others were touched.

It is amazing how the Lord speaks to us through His word, verses, thoughts, and people at the right time! Also a meditation on being a light to our fellow humans, but especially as Women's Ministry leaders, touched us deeply. To enlighten the other WM leaders of the local churches, we as a team must have a stronger light. So we need to be enlightened even more so that we can pass it on to them. This is quite a responsibility! We have to ask for it every day from the Lord. The Lord also touched our hearts during our prayers, in which we rededicated ourselves during this weekend.

As always, these days ended too quickly. We returned from this retreat recharged in every sense and more united, appreciating the individual gifts of each team member. May God guide us and bless us in the mission he has entrusted to us as women ministering to others.

Reported by Bernadette Fogliani WM Director for the Swiss-Romande Conference

Join us on [facebook eudwomensministries](https://www.facebook.com/eudwomensministries/).

<https://www.facebook.com/eudwomensministries/>

Homepage Women's Ministries:
eudwomen.org

Dagmar Dorn
Hannele Ottschofski, Editor

Women's Ministries
General Conference SDA
Inter-European Division (EUD)
Schosshaldenstr. 17
CH - 3006 Bern

Mail: dagmar.dorn@eud.adventist.org