

I Will Go Reach My World



NURTURE



EMPOWER



OUTREACH

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

A MINISTRY FOR EVERY WOMAN



2021.24. November 25, 2021

News from Women's Ministries Inter-European Division

#ORANGEYOURWORLD



UN WOMEN

ORANGE MEANS: END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

On 16 days from November 25 to December 10, we will be posting messages to draw attention to the problem of violence against women and girls and its devastating effects on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/eudwomensministries

This period is deliberately chosen: the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed November 25 as the Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and December 10 has been declared Human Rights Day. Under the slogan 'Orange The World', UN Women picked up the ball in 2008 and the movement has been spreading around the globe ever since.

The enditnow campaign of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and ADRA also support the action. It is time to end all violence, but particularly violence against women and children. We will be sharing messages created by UNWOMEN about people who are actively engaged in changing women's situations and making their world safer. Join us with your actions and orange your world!

Adventists say NO to Violence against Women



enditnow 2021

Participants at a training session for Religious Instruction teachers say STOP Violence against Women.

We invite you to post your statement on social media channels using the hashtags:

#OrangeTheWorld #sayNOToviolence #enditnow

Continuing Education Course Level 1 (Leadership Certification)



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES IN GERMANY

After a 4-hour trip, I reached the Bergheim Mühlenramede on the evening of November 18, 2021. The last time I had been here was as a child, for a father-child weekend, and now I came as a young, married woman and mother of two for the continuing education seminar for women level

1. I had never been to a women's weekend before and had no idea what to expect.

After arriving and unpacking, the evening started with dinner together. The dining room was filled with a diverse group of women of all ages, and a lively conversation quickly began. Shortly after, we were seated in the upper hall and got a glimpse of what was in store for us over the next few days. We looked forward to a tight program with lots of valuable content and I was so excited about every single topic!

A special item was designed by Dani Piroski. As a trained physiotherapist, Dani let us share her knowledge as a professional - but not only in theory! And so we learned to ride an elevator with our pelvic floor, we learned something about our lymphatic system and how to deal tenderly with our intervertebral discs. Oh, and our biceps are sure to start showing up soon!

Six women had prepared different topics for us and every single topic was exciting, educational, and informative! I was able to take away so much for myself and learn new things! Be it leadership after Jesus' example, communication, a woman of value, or public speaking and professional appearance. I found it very exciting when Brigitte gave us a broad insight into the life of women from Bible times.

Friday afternoon is specially etched in my memory. Dany Canedo challenged us with the task of writing a psalm, a letter to God. In the process, however, we discovered that each of us can write creatively! During our shared teatime, some of the women recited their psalms. I found it very moving to see how each woman seemed to have captured in her letter to God exactly what was troubling her most at this time in her life. It was such a colorful variety of Psalms, the uniqueness of each woman became visible, it touched me very much and spoke directly to my heart to see how open, honest, and also vulnerable some showed themselves in their letters.

The delicious food at the Bergheim also deserves to be mentioned! We were really spoiled, be it with donuts at teatime, for lunch with the most diverse dishes and the delicious salads (which were always the first to be devoured), the lovingly designed, rich, and varied breakfast and dinner buffet – simply delicious!

In her closing message before leaving on Sunday, Dany gave us some important words on the way.

The following sentences stuck with me:

"Live what we speak!"

"Rise up and let our light shine!"

"We want to touch hearts."

In the end, Jesus touched my heart through the words of a song that Dany played: "YOU ARE LOVED!"

Filled, gifted, blessed, and knowing that I am loved, I headed home after a delicious lunch.

It is self-evident that I will be at the Level 2 Continuing Education Seminar next year in November!

As reported by Lena Eschen

The Symbols of the Fight to End Violence Against Women



A REPORT FROM ITALY

Various objects have become visible symbols of the fight to eliminate violence against women around the world. Women are being killed, raped, disfigured, beaten, segregated, denigrated. There are so many forms of violence that destroy the dignity and the life of women. Several

women's organizations and individuals are trying to raise awareness of gender-based violence and promote a cultural change in society by using a symbol.

enditnow® The Women's Ministries Department of the Seventh-Day Adventist church launched the enditnow® campaign in partnership with ADRA International in 2009. The initiative has become the symbol for Adventists of affirming the dignity and value of not only women but also of every human being; and condemning and denouncing all forms of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse. enditnow® has organized flash mobs, collected signatures for a petition, organized meetings, distributed materials.

Red Shoes. Launched by the Mexican activist Elina Chauvet, "Zapatos Rojas" (Red shoes) is a way of showing to the world how many women are victims of femicide. The idea has been picked up in many Italian cities where on a town square an expanse of red shoes have been installed, symbolizing how love can turn into evil and violence. The shoes represent and denounce the violent attacks, deaths, and mistreatment suffered by women, but also the will to fight the scourge and to rise above the horror.

Amphora. An amphora is the symbol of the "Relay of women to eliminate violence against women", organized by the Union of Women in Italy (UDI). The relay race started on November 25, 2008, in Niscemi in Sicily, where a 14-year-old girl called Lorena was murdered. The relay journey lasted a whole year, passing through the whole of Italy, and ended in Brescia, Lombardy, on November 25, 2009, where the throat of a 20-year-old woman called Hiina had been slit. The amphora with two handles was carried throughout the relay together by two women, showing the importance of solidarity and closeness among women on all issues that touch them deeply. The Federation of Evangelical Women in Italy (FDEI), to which the Adventist Women's Ministries belong, welcomed the amphora in Rome.

White silhouettes of women. In various Italian cities, women's organizations have used white silhouettes of victims of femicide placed in the squares (as in Turin), painted on walls (as in Rome), installed along a main street (as in Matera), recalling zebra crossings with the slogan "do not run over" (as in Milan), to denounce and make visible the number of women who died at the hands of men who professed to love them.

Reserved seat. A simple idea, started in 2013 by Maria Andaloro, has slowly spread to many Italian cities. (<https://postoccupato.org/>). Usually, you occupy a seat at the cinema, in the theater or on the train, with a newspaper, a hat or a bag, to say "the place is mine and I will come back to occupy it". But many women will no longer be coming back because they are victims of femicide. FDEI joined the initiative, launching the action in churches beginning on November 25, 2014. Several Adventist congregations set up a seat with a scarf and red bag in their churches. A reserved seat was also set up in the offices of the Italian Union to commemorate victims of femicide.

Red bench. In many Italian cities, there are red benches, designed as a symbol of opposition to violence against women. A red bench is a permanent sign of memory and hope. Many schools have decided to set up a red bench in front of the school building. This is the case of the campus of the Adventist Faculty of Theology in Florence, where a red bench will be inaugurated on November 22, 2021, with a ceremony attended by the municipal authorities. The Enditnow® Day of Women's Ministries will also be presented.

Orange Day. The 25th of each month is an Orange Day proclaimed by the UN to raise awareness and prevent violence against women, girls, and children. On November 25 and every 25th of each month, everyone is invited to wear something orange: a scarf, a headscarf, a ribbon, a bag, a tie, whatever. Every visible sign is a testimony of who we are and an opportunity to tell others what we are passionate about. We want to eliminate violence, increase and promote respect for all people and effectuate a change away from the culture of violence. We want an end to women being forced to "wear" the signs of physical and psychological violence.

According to a report by Lina Ferrara, Women's Ministries Director, Italian Union

Women's Weekend in Linz, Austria, November 20-21, 2021



DANIELA GELBRICH EXPLAINS THE BIBLE STORY OF RUTH

The Seventh-Day Adventist church in Linz, Austria, organized a special weekend for women with Daniela Gelbrich Ph.D. It was the last possible event before the renewed Covid-19 Lockdown. Daniela Gelbrich studied Theology and got a doctor's degree in Hebrew at Sorbonne University in Paris. She brought us closer to God while presenting the story of Ruth, the Moabite woman. We learned about God's loving-kindness and care for the poor, who at that time were the widows,

orphans, and strangers. The social legislation of the time, ordained by God, was excellent. Daniela also explained to us the meaning of the word CHESED that can not be expressed in our translations. It shows us God's characteristics kindness, goodness, love, grace, faithfulness, devotion, and so much more. That is what God is like, even today.

Daniela's open and honest approach led to all in attendance feeling that they were being directly addressed. Her first topic was presented as the Sabbath sermon for the whole church with about 100 present and more than 110 on the live stream from around Austria. The program continued in the afternoon and on Sunday with a smaller group at the church and online. The renewed Covid measures kept some people from coming.

We learned so much during this weekend.

We are allowed to tell God everything that is in our hearts. The Bible does not gloss over problems, nor does Daniela. It's so good. We heard about the Old Testament Kinsman Redeemer and realized that Jesus Christ is our Kinsman Redeemer who has

delivered us from the bondage of sin. He preserves our name forever, He gives us a home, rest, and peace. He sees us. He takes care of us.

Our hearts were filled with gratitude to God and also to Daniela Gelbrich for leading us to understand God better through this story of an Old Testament woman.

According to a report by Irene Poimer

STOP violence against women



PLATFORM FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Although women now have the same rights as men before the law, women's everyday lives are still marked by inequality. For centuries, men have ruled over women as if they were property. With your possessions, you can do as you please. This has had a devastating impact on women. UN Secretary-General António Guterres puts it this way, "Sexual violence against women and girls has its roots in centuries of male domination. Let's not forget that the gender inequalities that fuel rape culture are essentially a matter of power imbalance."

As long as women are seen as inferior, they suffer under the power of men. This power imbalance exists in all aspects of life, but it becomes especially noticeable when we are dealing with violence against women. Those of us who have not experienced violence ourselves may not consider it important. Perhaps some statistics from Germany will help to show how widespread violence against women is¹:

- In 2019, 115,000 women in Germany experienced intimate partner violence.
- In 2020, 139 women were killed by an (ex-)partner in Germany.
- More than every third day, one man kills his (ex-)partner. In Germany.
- More than once per hour, a woman is dangerously, physically harmed by her partner in Germany.
- In Germany, nearly 9,000 women experience rape, sexual assault, and sexual coercion each year.
- Only about 20% of women who experience violence use existing counseling and support services.
- Every third woman in Germany experiences violence at least once in her lifetime. That means more than 12 million women.

Survivors of domestic violence are often affected by:

- Craniocerebral trauma
- Acute and post-traumatic stress disorder
- Depression
- Anxiety disorders
- Dependency disorders
- Low quality of life
- Low self-esteem

During the 16 days of activism between the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Human Rights Day, the emphasis in 2021 is especially on intimate partner violence and femicides. Femicides don't just happen somewhere in countries where women are still seen as men's property. Statistically, one woman is killed by her partner or ex-partner every third day in Germany. Austria is at the top of the list in a European comparison of the numbers of femicides. Mostly, such crimes are called family tragedies, as if the dramatic relationships of the perpetrators with the victims could be considered mitigating circumstances. Women are killed primarily in their family environment.

Even in Italy, where about 100 women a year are killed by their partners, ex-partners, or lovers, femicides are often referred to as "family tragedies." The culture of possession often still lurks behind gender violence, as if the woman, be she a girlfriend, mother, sister, or wife, belongs to the man. Italy's legislation has also been backward for a long time: Only since 1996 has sexual violence been considered a crime against a person; before that, it was an offense against public order.² In general, the number of murders overall is declining, but the number of femicides remains almost constant. This is shown by statistics from all over Europe.

Spain is considered a pioneer in Europe when it comes to protection against sexual violence. A law against gender-based violence has been in place since 2004. For example, cases of violent acts committed by partners or ex-partners against women are heard in special courts. Children of those killed also receive special protection as victims of gender-based violence. Nevertheless, feminists are calling for a modernization of criminal law.

It is not surprising, then, that the Women's Ministries Department of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Spain created and actively operates a platform against gender-based violence since 2018. The initiators believe that they can actively contribute through information to prevent violence against women. They say, "To inform is to know, to know is to avert, and to avert is, in many cases, to prevent something from happening."

¹ UN WOMEN

² <https://www.deutschlandfunk.de/frauenmorde-in-europa-wenn-das-geschlecht-gefahr-bedeutet-100.html>

The platform includes:

- **Information:** on how to recognize and act on cases of abuse. How to help and accompany victims. How to set up a counseling service.
- **Training:** for pastors, leaders, and general members of the church. Experts explain the theological, psychological, and sociological aspects of gender-based violence.
- **Prevention:** Promoting and educating people to accept a model of equality between men and women according to the character of Christ and Christian principles.
- **Evangelism:** People are introduced to the Gospel through social solidarity. Congregations must be places of refuge where hope and restoration happen.

The platform has found its mission in the Bible: “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy” Proverbs 31: 8-9 NIV.

As part of this work, the Women's Ministries Department has created videos in 2021 to address the issue of violence against women. In the video *Pistas de la Violencia de Género* (Ways of Violence against Women)³ four short enlightening episodes are shown. In them, through symbols and references, some general and basic characteristics and profiles of an abused woman are shown. They also go into detail about the abuser and show how a woman who faces violence manages to escape the abuse and live a liberated life.

Another video is about child abuse in adolescence.⁴ It is about bullying at school, child sexual abuse, and harassment through new technologies like cyberbullying etc. A video presenting the work of the Platform against Violence against Women through interviews with professionals from different fields is entitled *¿Conoces la Plataforma contra la Violencia de Género?* (Do you know the Platform against Violence against Women?)⁵ A series of training videos on gender-based violence like *El Amor no duele* (Love does not hurt)⁶ is in preparation, the aim of which is to recognize and prevent abuse in the family and relationships between partners. Thus the platform trains counselors who can help affected women. I hope that their example will motivate us in other countries to become similarly active because violence against women knows no national borders. The voice of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Spain is being heard: Adventists say NO to gender-based violence.

COVID-19 has presented us with new challenges, because in this time of limited mobility, violence has increased and requires individual and collective solutions, not only on 16 days in a year but on all 365 days. Let us contribute to making the vision of a world without violence come true. This can only happen if we all pull together. It is no longer enough to just talk about it. We need action.

Hannele Ottschofski, from womansoutlook.blogspot.com

Morning Manna



Visit our Website eudwomen.org/morningmanna regularly

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

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-9gGkj55Qc&t=29s>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h2fOQvJt0w0&t=24s>

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar1QyksQrWw&list=RDCMUCuacZqTNsh99KlCpAzJXCIA&index=4>

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhTUIId0mSmc&list=RDCMUCuacZqTNsh99KlCpAzJXCIA&index=6>