



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Department for Planning  
and Operations

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)

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*Further information*

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## Statement: Strengthen efforts for gender justice and women's empowerment

### Vital to maintain momentum built towards CSW64

9 March 2020

GENEVA, Switzerland

On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), is urgently calling on the international community, governments and its member churches to step up their work towards gender justice and women's empowerment. In a context of an overall backlash against human rights, the rights of women and girls, and gender justice, this is more important than ever.

It is imperative to take into account the social, economic, and political risk that results from gender discrimination, and gender-based violence. Femicide, to name one example, continues to take a high toll on women worldwide.

The momentum which was building towards the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, must be maintained to advance gender justice and equality. The CSW is a vital instrument to ensure awareness, action and accountability, for the promotion of gender equality and addressing gender-based violence.

There is no room for complacency. Governments have a clear obligation to work for gender equality and protect the rights of women and girls.

As a communion of churches, the LWF believes that all people are created in the image of God. Our faith inspires us to uphold women's human rights and is integral to the LWF's commitment to gender justice.

The LWF calls on governments and the international community to:

- Renew their commitment to gender equality and gender justice and redouble their efforts towards achieving the goals set out in the Sustainable Development Goals and the Beijing Platform for Action

- Remain committed to multilateral approaches such as the CSW, which is of critical importance for achieving gender justice
- Work with churches and faith-based organizations as a part of civil society to ensure the full promotion of gender justice and women's empowerment
- Ensure that the calls of churches, faith-based organizations and civil society actors committed to gender justice are reflected in the outcomes of the procedural meeting of the commission that will convene on 9 March

The LWF calls upon its member churches to:

- Continue to preach, teach, and serve to end violence against women, to promote safe spaces and work towards gender just communities, where all women and men can flourish
- Call on their national governments to work towards gender equality, women's empowerment and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women

*The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 148 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 75 million Christians in 99 countries. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication and the various aspects of mission and development.*

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