

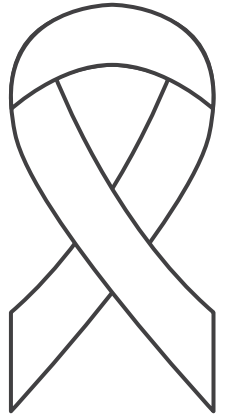
SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

"Created in God's Image"

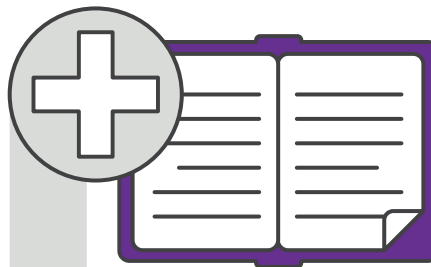
In sub-Saharan Africa it is estimated that **39%** of girls are married before their 18th birthday, while **13%** are married by their 15th birthday. Early marriage seriously harms the development and wellbeing of girls, through limited education and employment opportunities, social isolation, domestic violence and rape.¹



We believe that we cannot stand by and watch when our people are without information on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) within a region which accounts for **10% to 13%** of maternal mortality,² **95% of teenage pregnancies worldwide³** and an HIV burden that estimates **one in five** adults aged between 15 and 49 to be **HIV positive**.⁴



Child brides are most likely to be found in rural areas, among the poorest and most illiterate segments of the population.



Upholding the common humanity and dignity of all people means granting all human beings access to knowledge, information and services relating to their health, sexual and reproductive roles whilst upholding their dignity. Sexual and reproductive health and rights expresses this quest for all human beings to be who they have been created to be.

15 of the 20 countries with the highest rates of child marriages in the world are in Africa.



Bahai faith

"Knowledge is as wings to man's life, and a ladder for his ascent."

Baha'u'llah kitab-i-aqdas, pp 51-52



Christianity

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

Hosea 4: 6



Islam

"My lord! Enrich me with knowledge..."

Quran 20:114

"We bring about the compassionate face of god in sexual reproductive health and rights discussions"

Father Oliver Siandele



1. UNICEF 'The state of the world's children 2015: Re-imagine the future', data.unicef.org/wp_content/upload/2015/12/sowc_2015_Summary_and_Tables_210.pdf
2. Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance SRHR Policies and ... **Figure 1: Number of countries with stand-alone SRHR policies & laws.**
3. WHO Fact Sheet on Adolescent Pregnancy 2018.
4. Mapping HIV prevalence in sub-Saharan Africa between 2000 and 2017.

"CREATED IN GODS IMAGE"

Southern Africa Faith Leaders Support Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights for All



CREATED EQUAL

We seek to promote the positive interpretations of sacred texts to reflect the dignity of all human beings. Our Communities of faith will continue to strive to teach and exemplify the principle that all human beings, regardless of sex and gender, are created equal.



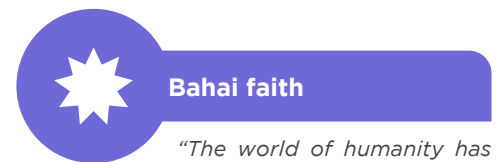
Christianity

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all are one in Christ Jesus"
Galatians 3:28



Islam

"And the believer, men and women, are friends of one another. They preach virtue and discourage evil. They observe salat, pay zakat and obey Allah and his messenger. It is these upon whom Allah will have mercy"
Auran 9:71



Bahai faith

"The world of humanity has two wings - one is women and the other men. Not Until both wings are equally developed can the bird fly. Should one wing remain weak, flight is impossible. Not until the world of women becomes equal to the world of men in the Acquisition of virtues and perfections, can success prosperity be attained as they ought to be."
Selections from the writings of 'Abdu'l-baha, sec. 227 p.302

REFLECTING THE FACE OF GOD

"We consider human beings as being, "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14) and "All created by God" (Quran 39: 6).



"Walk this path of faith with us. Bahai teachings say that education is extremely important. If I can't educate my own child, it is a duty to educate a child of the community." - Abdia Naidoo



COMPASSIONATE CARE

Our different faiths make it clear: we are responsible for each other's welfare. We are 'our brother's and sister's keeper.



DIGNITY FOR ALL

We uphold the conviction that all human beings must be respected and that their dignity should not be compromised.



CONSCIENCE

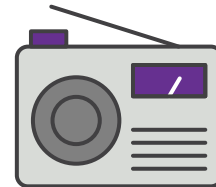
Conscience is a powerful resource that facilitates people of faith to respond to contested SRHR issues.



SPREAD THE MESSAGE: USING OUR ALREADY EXISTING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL PLATFORMS



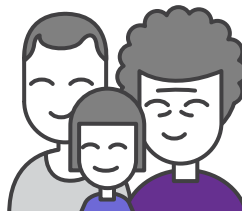
Preach from the sacred platforms



Community radio



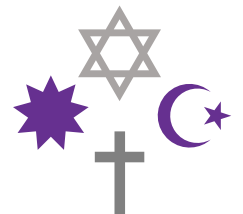
Documentation



Engage the different faith structures within our organisations



Collaborate with other stakeholders



Share with other faiths

ACT UBUMBANO

The Methodist Church of Southern Africa
A Christ-healed Africa for the healing of nations

UBOM'BAM LUVUYO
TRADITIONAL HEALERS FORUM

WE WILL SPEAK OUT SA
FAITH COMMUNITIES ENDING SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

APOLLO
TRADITIONAL HEALERS FORUM

ZANERELA+
POSITIVE FAITH IN ACTION

UNITED ACTION AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

SAFARI

SAFARI
GROWING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

PSH
Partners in Sexual Health

oikoumene

CELESTIAL OFFICE OF INCUBATION

Bahai Community of South Africa

actalliance

FAITH TO ACTION NETWORK

BECAUSE WE CAN

Al-Ghurbaah
Foundation

GENDER LINKS
FOR EQUALITY AND JUSTICE

"AN INJUSTICE TO ONE IS AN INJUSTICE TO US ALL AS A COMMUNITY OF FAITH. WE NEED TO GO BACK TO THE PEOPLE WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE AND NOT TO POWER." - Bishop A.M.Mnisi.