

What Churches can do to address GBV during and after Covid-19



“HEALTHY HOUSEHOLDS”

WEBINAR SERIES

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CHURCH RESPONSE: WHY?

2

Covid-19 & GBV

- During lockdown our households can be “sites of violence and abuse”.
- Covid-19 pandemic has (like AIDS pandemic) exposed the social drivers of this “shadow pandemic”, GBV
- Common vulnerability/ community
- New/ different ‘normal’?

Church & GBV

- During Lockdown our households can be sites of worship.
- The ‘Church’ has (and continues to) “call out” social injustices such as racism, poverty, xenophobia...
- “We who are many are one body”
- New/ different ways of ‘being’ and ‘doing’ church

CHURCH RESPONSE to GBV (VAW): WHY?

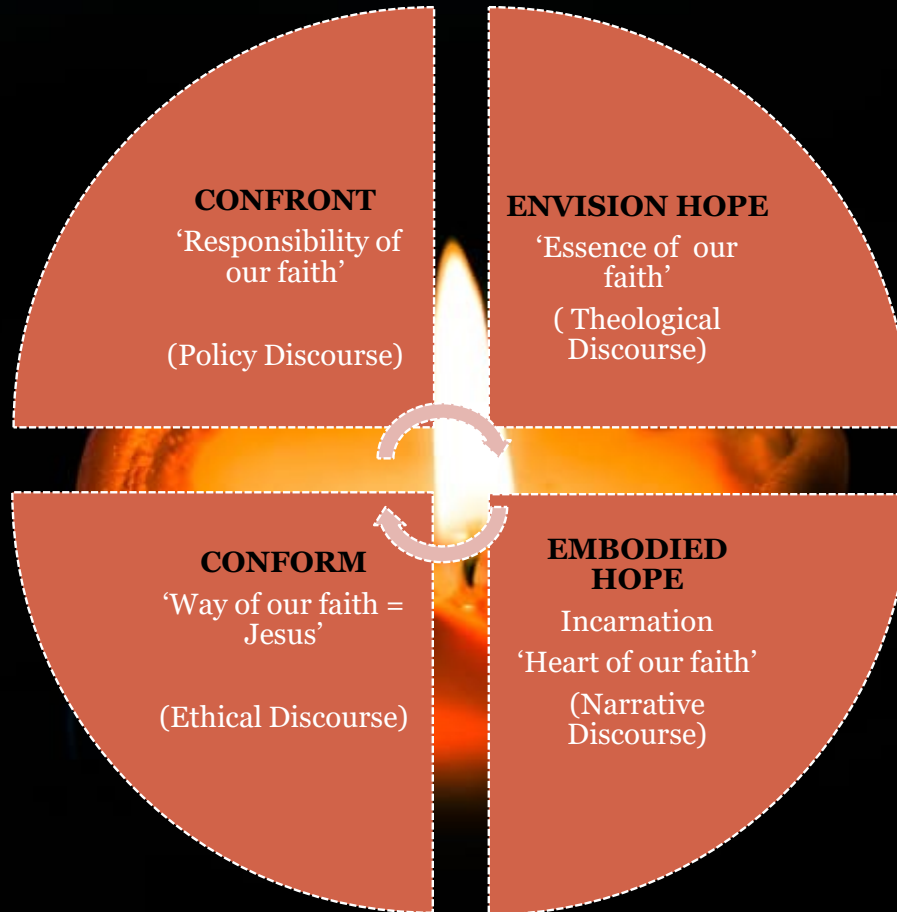


- “Men [and women?] of the cloth, where are you? We have come to unburden, we have marched and prayed, but we need **something more tangible than symbolic marches.**”
- “You declared apartheid evil and a sin, **please declare gender-based violence to be evil and a sin** as well

<https://archbishop.anglicanchurchsa.org/2017/06/mothers-union-march-against-violence-on.html>

Church Response to GBVF: HOW?

4



CHURCH RESPONSE to GBV: WHAT to DO?



Re-active

CHURCH RESPONSE to GBV: WHAT to DO?

Pro-active

Disaster

Policy and guidelines
Gender ministry vs
gender workshops only

#Consider liberative/
transformative Bible
Studies(for women & men)
(including 'texts of terror')

#Rethink sermons &
liturgies ... many resources
available

#Safe spaces

#16 Days >365/6 Days

Re-active

Response...

Relief...

Recovery



Disaster Management Continuum

Some Proactive Responses: Prevention, Intervention Mitigation

7

1. Policy & guidelines on GBV ... to deal effectively when sexual harassment happens in the church; clear guidelines on what to do when one finds oneself in an abusive situation. This will open up the subject ... and open up safe spaces in the church for both victims and perpetrators.
2. Put in place (and support) a Gender ministry ... with concrete aims and goals and outcomes. Not only once off gender workshops often seen as something outside of church business.
3. Mainstream gender-justice and GBV interventions strategies in all aspects of church-life.
4. Encourage liberative/ transformative bible study approaches for women and men.

Some Proactive Responses: Prevention, Intervention Mitigation

8

5. Be intentional about using gender inclusive language.
6. Pause ... Look and listen ... and hear the screams and see the suffering. GBV is the lived- reality for many women and girl children
7. Rethink the way things have always been understood/ interpreted and done ... what we defend as 'tradition' ... Jesus challenged the status quo.
8. Remember that representation \neq transformation
9. Intercede through Prayer ... be moved to act from Love in whose image we – men and women are created.
10. [Please add intervention strategies that is 'doable' in your context]

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