

SIDE BY SIDE FAITH MOVEMENT TANZANIA CHAPTER OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED ON 30TH NOVEMBER 2017

Introduction

Side by Side Faith Movement for Gender Justice in Tanzania was launched in Dar es Salaam Tanzania on 30th November 2017. The launching was made possible through working tirelessly and in strong collaboration with our partners from Church of Sweden and Norwegian Church Aid. Together with other deliberations we committed ourselves as faith leaders and faith actors in Tanzania to end gender based violence, we had a meditation program towards 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Standing together as Faith Community in Tanzania we work together whenever possible to meet our local challenges in bringing about justice and equality for all people irrespective of gender. Religious affiliations include Christianity, Islamic and Africa Traditional Religion.

Our Vision

All people are free from cultural and interpersonal systems of privilege and oppression and from violence and repression rooted in gender inequality.

The Problem/ Challenge/ Our Issue

Gender issues in general continue to be among the most controversial issues in national, regional and global dynamics. However various interventions have been taken on board by Faith Actors, Civil Society Organization and Humanitarian Activists through different measures, but still more efforts are needed to ensure a just society free of inequalities and miseries. There is still a challenge of women participation in leadership and other decision making organs. Issues related to gender based violence cause prolonged miseries and trauma to both faith communities and society in general. In most cases Tanzanian women and children and some men suffer from domestic beatings and other brutal treatments from family or community which also affect the Faith based community.

However women are the victims of early and forced marriages, female Genital Mutilation, illiteracy and extreme poverty.

How should we reverse the situation?

One of the strategies to reverse the situation is through imposition of Side by Side Faith Movement for Gender Justice, Tanzania Chapter where we can have a platform and stand jointly and strongly commit ourselves to end Gender Based Violence in Tanzania. Side by Side is a movement of HOPE, therefore we stand firm to strengthen that HOPE by ensuring sustainability of the movement. The desire of the movement is to see, experience and practice just relationships between women and men, girls and boys in our nation, community and homes. It will also help stakeholders to open up, network, share experiences, learn new things and build capacity to be better equipped to work for transformation needed for a just relationship to become reality. Our is to encourage and building capacity of faith leaders to take a lead in mobilizing their communities to tackle gender injustices.

Why Faith leaders?

The movement is targeting Faith leaders since they have the enormous power to influence their communities because they have an on going leadership role and influence as opposed to NGO's which come and go. They know their people and their local culture, hence they have authority to

question cultural traditions and practices that harm, burden or diminish women and girls dignity. Since religion touches people's hearts, minds and actions, religious have enormous power, influence and crucial voice in the public space.

Unity in Diversity

We Tanzanians, we are part of the global movement, drawing in faith institutions and individuals from many different countries and cultures. We are therefore diverse in our cultural background and understanding of the society. Nevertheless, we are united by a common desire to see all forms of injustices overcome and people from every background treated with dignity, respect and justice regardless of gender. What unite us is much more worthy than what divide us.

The linkage with the United Nations and African Union

The Side by Side Tanzania Chapter will add value to the stipulated position on gender justice and equality in "Agenda 2030" on SDGs specifically SDG5 on Gender Equality targeting attending all forms of discrimination against all women and girls and SDG10 on Reducing inequality targeting at empowering and promoting social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or other status. It will also foster the "Agenda 2063" of the 'Africa we Want' Aspiration for Gender Equality.

Sustainability Plan of Side by Side Tanzania Chapter

- Having common mission and vision for the movement
- Prioritization of the most pressing issue and dealing with it conclusively to demonstrate Side by Side effectiveness and comparative advantage
- Effective coordination of members rotating roles to enhance ownership
- Joint funding of initiatives
- Joint fundraising
- Speaking with one voice and
- Enhance capacity of faith leaders and faith actors in Gender Justice Advocacy

Reported by;
Faustina Nillan
Director- Women and Children
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania
Email@ tinnanm@gmail.com
Mobile: +255 767 823 144
Arusha, Tanzania.