

## **We are facing four Pandemics, and one is “Gender-based Sexual Violence”**

Covid-19, Poverty/Greed, and Environmental Degradation are the other three, and we are addressing these in other forums. Let's focus on GBV. We have recently been confronted with some of the most horrific accounts of “Gender-based Sexual Violence” in our country. As the Church, the Body of Christ, this affects all of us – therefore we are all challenged to play an active role in confronting these heinous acts of abuse and violence.

“Gender-based violence is an ancient sin that for thousands of years has harmed countless women, children and men. It is a heinous sin that Christians need to recognize, understand and confront, for our religious history also bears its stain. People continue to be harmed. Gender-based violence is a global evil that marks millions of lives. As the church of Jesus Christ, we deplore this suffering and we confess our collective and individual complicities in this violence - in both church and society.

The complex factors that contribute to the prevalence of this sin are deeply woven into society and into individual lives. ACSA shares in the brokenness and judgment brought on by gender-based violence. The church has within its ranks members who are survivors, perpetrators and bystanders. 2 Samuel 13 paints a horrific picture of how Amnon violated his step-sister. We too have violated others. Like David, we have protected perpetrators. Like Absalom, we have silenced survivors. Like all of them, we have often created a web of isolation, shame and desolation.” (ELCA)

So where do we go from here? GtC has sourced an excellent document that is being used ecumenically across the world by many. It contains:

1. Sermon material for preachers based on the 12 excellent Bible studies within this resource.
2. Twelve Bible studies which could be used widely by small groups in churches. It comes with excellent notes which will help to guide those who will facilitate these small group studies.
3. Pastoral material which provide valuable guidelines for a variety of actions and circumstances.

We believe that the use of this material should be seriously considered and widely used in our churches at this time! Please share with our ecumenical partners too. We have attached the document. But you may click here also for the full document:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1oC3dN3AhLVvImUzxGFcycKe2-t3NiXsV/view?usp=sharing>



Bishop Tsietse Seleane  
Liaison Bishop: GtC & AA



The Revd Trevor Pearce  
Director: GtC & AA