

# A PLEDGE BY **MEN OF FAITH** TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY MEN

**For the honour of our faith,  
And the love of our people and our country and its people,  
We, South African men of faith,  
Pledge to support all efforts geared to end gender-based violence and femicide.**

As a Man of Faith, I recognise that violence against women and children is the manifestation of a profound lack of respect – a failure by us to recognise the inherent equality and dignity of women and children and that it is a violation of their fundamental human rights.

I acknowledge that I have failed in my area of influence, to be the embodiment of the love and justice of God in the context of the sexual and gender-based violence that is so prevalent in our society.

Before God, all the women and children of our land, I stand naked under the judgement of God's love and justice; and confess my sin of complicity through my silence and indifference which allowed the scourge to take root in our communities.

I acknowledge that on too many occasions I have failed to be my sister's keeper, I looked the other way even when gender violence happened within faith institutions.

I own up that either through commission or omission I have failed to act as God would have expected me to act to affirm the lives and dignity of my sisters.

I acknowledge the adverse effects violence has on the country.

I acknowledge the intergenerational impact of violence.

I acknowledge the profound psychological and physical trauma violence has on women and children, their families and on communities.

I acknowledge the impact violence has on economic growth, and reducing the quality of life for all.

I acknowledge that women everyday are in danger and they live their lives in fear wondering if they are next.

I acknowledge the moral decay in society where patriarchy is fighting back through violence against women and children.

I therefore commit myself and challenge other men to play their part in ending Gender-Based Violence and never look away when I should act.

I commit to ensuring safer communities for women.

I commit to building a safer future for our children.

I commit to being part of the change.

I say enough is enough!

**A collaboration of faith-based organisations with support from UN Women.**

