



WOMEN WHO LEAD:

"Undoing the Lies that Lead:
Approaches to Dismantling
Patriarchal Theology and
Advancing Gender Equality"

Digital
Resource
Guide
2022

WOMEN LEADING CHANGE

As we continue to witness the dangers of authoritarianism and destructive masculinity, Women Leading Change was an opportunity to gather together across geography and faith lines to build intergenerational relationships for support, safety, and greater impact.

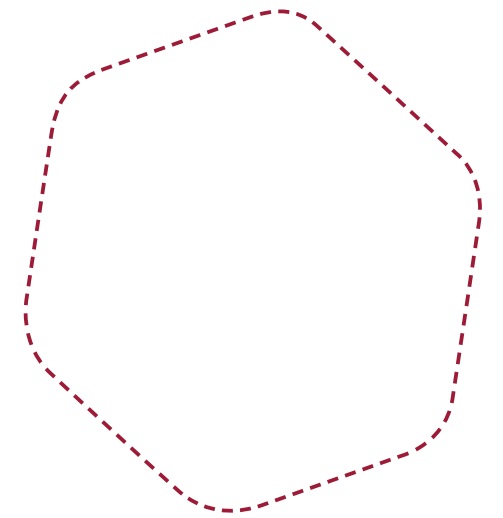
Women Leading Change emerged out of the 2021 17 Rooms flagship process- a partnership between The Rockefeller Foundation and The Brookings Institution. In Room 5, led by Blessing Omakwu and Jean Duff, we explored the opportunities to accelerate the positive influence of faith actors for gender equality. Through these discussions, it became apparent that the support of women leaders who are advancing gender equality in faith contexts is an urgent priority and we are delighted to invite you now to join this unprecedented gathering of diverse changemakers and multiply ongoing efforts in the field.

Taking place virtually March 30-31, 2022, Women Leading Change sought to build on the work and success of previous convenings focused on faith and gender equality. Women Leading Change brought together more than the usual suspects. Faith practitioners, theologians, social media influencers, and creatives were all in the room to affirm the commonality of our cause and our action.

Honoring the power of a single story, Women Leading Change was a unique opportunity for every participant to give voice to their own experiences of driving change within their context and continue to build the bridge from past efforts into the work of the future.

While we often feel isolated as we do this work, we know that we are not alone. As we gathered together, Women Leading Change connected participants to others for mutual support—to women and male allies doing the hard work of dismantling power structures that oppress women. Additionally, lifted best practices that will enable us to scale the transformative work we're doing in our communities.

A significant component of Women Leading Change was the exploration of the role that the digital space plays in women driving change in faith contexts. As we highlighted strategies to heighten visibility, we also lifted collective protection responses to the violence women face online when doing this work. Women Leading Change participants were also invited to opt in to a Facebook group following the convening for further discussions and connection. To foster a safe and informal space amongst peers, the convening was held under the Chatham House Rule.



WOMEN LEADING CHANGE SECRETARIAT

Candice Marie Benbow

Jean Duff

Blessing Omakwu

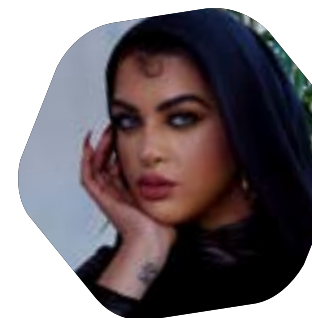
Nathalia Arcencio de Marchi dos Santos

Sarah Geisenheimer



WLC

PRESENTERS AND FACILITATORS



AMANI AL-KHATAHTBEH

AMANI is an author, activist, and pioneer in modern media representation. She is the founder and editor-in-chief of the award-winning MuslimGirl.com, the premiere online platform for Muslim women's voices in Western societies. Her keen eye for diverse opportunity in entrepreneurialism grew her teenage blog to become the first Muslim company on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list, making her the first veiled Muslim woman to be listed in media. In 2020, AMANI became the first Muslim woman to run for Congress from New Jersey in U.S. history and among the youngest women of color to run in the national elections. The New York Times selected her first book, "Muslim Girl: A Coming of Age" (Simon & Schuster) as an Editor's Pick and dubbed her a "media titan." Among many projects, she created the award-winning #AskAMuslimGirl web series with Teen Vogue and starred in the Emmy-nominated "Secret Life of Muslims."



EMILY ALLISON

Emily Joy Allison is an author, activist, and co-founder of the #ChurchToo hashtag, a #MeToo spinoff created to expose sexualized violence and abuse in churches, Christian schools, and parachurch ministries. Emily published her debut non-fiction book #ChurchToo: How Purity Culture Upholds Abuse and How to Find Healing with Broadleaf Books in 2021 and has been a critical voice in the conversation about Christianity, purity culture, and abuse for a decade. Emily works as a Campaign Communications Manager for EMILY's List and is currently finishing her Master of Theological Studies degree with a concentration in Religion, Gender, and Sexuality at Vanderbilt Divinity School. She resides in Nashville, Tennessee with her wife Caitlin, their dogs Harley and Oscar, and their cat Debbie.

"SHE BELIEVED SHE COULD, SO SHE DID."

-UNKNOWN



NICQI ASHWOOD

Rev Nicqi Ashwood is an ordained minister of Word and Sacrament with the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI). In Summer 2002, Nicqi relocated to St Louis, MO, completing her MDiv at Eden Theological Seminary. As a student intern with Memorial Boulevard Christian Church, she was supervised by Rev Margie Pride from the South-East Gateway Area of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Upon graduation and ordination in May 2003, Rev Ashwood departed to Geneva, Switzerland to pursue a second masters – in Ecumenical Studies at Bossey Ecumenical Institute. Currently, Rev. Ashwood mobilizes grassroots, change agents, and denominational advocates globally through liturgy, Bible Studies, webinars/conferences, and awareness-raising for transformational masculinities and femininities; as coordinator for the World Council of Churches' Just Community of Women and Men Transversal and the Thursdays in Black campaign.



CANDICE MARIE BENBOW

Candice Marie Benbow is a multi-genre theologian who situates her work at the intersections of beauty, faith, feminism, and culture, giving voice to Black women's shared experiences of healing and journeying toward wholeness. Reimagining how faith can be a tool of liberation and transformation for women and girls, she challenges Black women to think critically about how they see God and the world. Named by Sojourners as one of "10 Christian Women Shaping the Church in 2020", Candice has written for various outlets including ESSENCE Magazine, Glamour Magazine, The Root, theGrio, VICE, Shondaland, MadameNoire and the Me Too Movement. Her first book, Red Lip Theology: For Church Girls Who've Considered Tithing to the Beauty Supply Store When Sunday Morning Isn't Enough (Convergent Books) was released in January 2022 and named an Editor's Pick by Amazon.



SARAH BESSEY

Sarah Bessey is the editor of the New York Times bestselling book, "A Rhythm of Prayer." She is also the author of three popular and critically acclaimed books: "Miracles and Other Reasonable Things," "Out of Sorts: Making Peace with an Evolving Faith," and "Jesus Feminist." Sarah co-leads Evolving Faith and she serves as president of the board for Heartline Ministries in Haiti. Sarah lives in Calgary, Alberta with her husband and their four children.



TRACI BLACKMON

Rev. Traci Blackmon is the Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ. As a public theologian, Rev. Blackmon's voice is featured on many local, national and international platforms spanning the breadth of the White House to the Carter Center to the Vatican, as well as several documentaries and print publications. She currently serves as pastor in residence for Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, MO. During the Ferguson uprising, President Obama appointed Rev. Blackmon to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships for the White House and awarded her special recognition for her community service.



JENNY TE PAA DANIEL

Dr. Jenny Te Paa Daniel (Te Rarawa) is Te Mareikura and Interim Director at the National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, Otago University, Dunedin. Previously she served for 23 years as Te Ahorangi (Principal) at St Johns Anglican Theological College in Auckland. During her lengthy tenure there she established herself as one of a very small group of leading Anglican women theological writers and teachers. Highly respected globally and nationally for her fearlessness in critiquing injustice, and for her relentless advocacy for women's leadership, she has been awarded five international honorary doctorates and two prestigious Distinguished Alumni Awards in recognition of her own leadership example and her prolific scholarship.

Dr. Te Paa Daniel lives now in both Aitutaki and Auckland enjoying a perfectly balanced lifestyle which now prioritises affinity with and affection for, whanau (family), whenua (the land) and moana (the ocean).



JEAN DUFF

Ms Duff works for full engagement of the positive power of local faith actors for the common good. She serves as an advisor to faith groups, and to governmental and private organizations seeking to enhance global and local faith engagement on community development and humanitarian issues. Recent focal areas include Gender, Climate Change, WASH, People on the Move, and principles of effective partnerships. She co-moderated the working group on Gender Equality for the 17 Rooms project, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and Brookings institution. In 2012 she co-founded the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities which she served as CEO until 2020. In 2008, she co-founded the Center for Interfaith Action on Global Poverty at Washington National Cathedral. Previously, she led the Cathedral's global poverty program as Managing Director of the Center for Global Justice and Reconciliation.



LUSAMARINA CAMPOS GARCIA

Lusmarina Campos Garcia is a Lutheran theologian and pastor and holds a Ph.D. in Law. Her work focuses on Human Rights, especially women's rights. Her speech at the Supreme Court of Brazil in 2018 in support of women's right to an abortion caused her intense persecution, including death threats. In order to confront gender injustice in Brazil, her most recent research work focused on the impeachment of President Dilma Rousseff aiming to analyse how the political and legal systems together fabricated the destitution of the first and only woman President of the country.



DIANA GERSON

Rabbi Diana S. Gerson is the Associate Executive Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis (NYBR), where she has served since 2005. A major focus of her work has been to advance the NYBR's leadership role in confronting family violence, domestic violence, sexual abuse, and the exploitation of children by reaching across faith communities. She has provided prevention education to thousands of community leaders and clergy, whose role she considers critical to ending gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, and all forms of violence against children. Rabbi Gerson serves as an NGO representative for the NYBR. She is a past interim President of NCADV and past chairperson of its Jewish Women's Caucus. Rabbi Gerson received her Master's degree and Rabbinic Ordination in 2001 from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.



BRANDI GROVE

Affectionately known as "Briz", Brandi Grove is a singer/songwriter, a wife, the mother of two extraordinary girls (Camille and Caris), a sister, and a friend. She believes music is the soul's language and that loving-kindness paired with courage can heal the world. It is her joy to share the gift of music with the hope of making someone's journey a little more enjoyable.

NONTANDO HADEBE

Dr. Nontando Hadebe is currently the International Coordinator for Side by Side Gender Justice which is hosted by We Will Speak Out South Africa. She is: a feminist African woman theologian; a member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians and Catholic Women Speak; a board member of Future Church and Christian Aid; and hosts a weekly one hour radio program on Radio Veritas, South Africa. Her awards include: International Fellow, Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University, California, USA; Fulbright Scholar in Residence, Emmanuel College, Boston, USA; postdoctoral fellow - University of South Africa. Publications include: The Crisis of sexual abuse scandal as Catalyst for Reform in the Catholic Church Z(2022); A Time Like No Other. Covid-19 in Women's Voices (2021); The Cry of the Earth is the Cry of Women: Eco-feminists in dialogue with Laudato Si; and Not in our name without us' - The intervention of Catholic Women Speak at the Synod of Bishops on the Family: A case study of a global resistance movement by Catholic women'.

FATIMA HALLAL

Fatima Hallal is a Lebanese young female, a Women Peace and Security Fellow at the Women International League for Peace and Freedom, and the MENA representative for the International Youth Committee of Religions for Peace. Holding an MA in interdisciplinary gender studies and BA in political science and international affairs, Fatima contributed to multi-disciplinary research projects with different research institutions assuming the role of field junior researcher. In 2017, Fatima joined Hartford International University for Religions and Peace as a fellow for the International Peacemaking Program focusing on interfaith dialogue and Muslim-Christian relations. Parallel to her studies, Fatima was also an avid volunteer and a member of the different youth networks leading her to represent her country at the Student Leaders Program at Georgetown University and won the Spirit of Service Award from the Outreach and Civic Engagement Unit at her university. Fatima is currently focusing on expanding the network of the Global inter-faith youth network and advocating for women and girls' leadership in faith communities and within religious contexts.



NONA JONES

Nona Jones is a rare combination of preacher, business executive, author, and entrepreneur. In her day job, she serves as the Director of North America Community Partnerships and Global Faith Partnerships at Meta, the company formerly known as Facebook. She is the bestselling author of two books; Success from the Inside Out, chronicling her unlikely story of success after a childhood filled with physical and sexual abuse, and From Social Media to Social Ministry, the globally acclaimed guide to digital discipleship for churches. Since being licensed into the gospel ministry at the age of 17, Nona has preached around the world. As a business executive and entrepreneur, she has been profiled by ESSENCE Magazine as an "Under 40 Woman to Watch" and Florida Trend Magazine as one of Florida's "30-Something All-Stars." She holds a Bachelor in Communications and Master of Business Administration from the University of Florida where she has been recognized as an Outstanding Young Alumnus and she has completed graduate studies at the Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation. She is the Founder of Faith & Prejudice, a social justice organization that is convening, equipping, and mobilizing local churches across North America to build bridges to racial equity.



AZZA KARAM

Prof. Dr. Azza Karam serves as the Secretary-General of Religions for Peace – the largest multi-religious leadership platform with 92 national and 6 regional Interreligious Councils. She also holds a Professorship of Religion and Development at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, The Netherlands – of which she is a citizen. She served as a Senior Advisor on Culture, at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA); and as Coordinator/Chair of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Religion and Development (UN IATF-R&D); and founder of the Multi-Faith Advisory Council of the UN IATF R&D. In those capacities, she coordinated engagement with members of a Global Interfaith Network for Population and Development with over 600 faith-based organizations from all regions of the world, representing all religions and interreligious affiliations. She was the Lead Facilitator for the United Nations' Strategic Learning Exchanges on Religion, Development, and Diplomacy, building on a legacy of serving as a trainer cum facilitator of intercultural leadership and management in the Arab region as well as Europe and Central Asia.



DWI RUBIYANTI KHOLIFAH

Dwi Rubiyanti Kholifah is the Secretary-General of the Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN) and Country Representative of AMAN in Indonesia. In this role, she seeks to expand peace initiatives across nations and generations, especially to bring the leadership of women into decision-making process relating to peacebuilding, facilitate inter and intra faiths, and strengthen collaborations across Muslim communities in Asia.



ESTHER MOMBO

Professor Esther Mombo is at St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, where she has served in senior management positions. Her research and teaching interests span the fields of Church History, with a focus on Mission History, Inter-faith Relations, and Theology & Gender Studies with a focus on African women's theology. While connected to the University of St. Paul's, University of Dublin and University of Edinburgh, she has directed and examined Postgraduate students in research, most of whom are serving the church in senior positions or teaching in Academic institutions. She has mentored many women students now in church and religious organizations across East Africa. In 2007, she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Virginia Theological Seminary for her work in bringing to the fore issues of gender disparity and gender justice in Church and society. A board member in several organizations including American Friends Service Commission. She serves as trustee of Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA). She is a member of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians and a Coordinator of East African Region. Prof Mombo is a gender activist, working with religious groups on issues of Gender and patriarchy in as far as the later affects women's full participation in church and society.



ASHELLA NDHLOVU

Ashella Tshedza Ndhlovu is a Gender Justice activist who promotes work against all forms of violence against women and children. She is co-founder of the Speak One Voice movement that seeks to promote a collective understanding of how religion, culture, and society inadvertently perpetuate Violence Against Women and Children and how women and youth can be agents of positive change in creating lasting solutions. Currently active in Zambia, Malawi, and Zimbabwe, the movement seeks to break the silence about violence and begin dialogue that makes a difference – in the church, the home, and the community. Ashella is also affiliated to Prison Fellowship International as Regional Manager, Africa, and within that, provides program support to National Ministries in the Africa Region with respect to in-prison and children related programs. Ashella was awarded the African Women's Public Service Fellowship by the Oprah Winfrey Foundation to study at New York University where she obtained an MPA in Public and Non-Profit Organisations. She also holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree, as well as a Diploma in Biblical Studies.



ELAINE NEUENFELDT

Rev. Dr. Elaine Neuenfeldt is the Gender programme manager at ACT Alliance. She has experience in teaching and facilitating contextual Bible study groups and participating in the popular reading of the Bible movement, organized at CEBI – Centro de Estudos Biblicos – Biblical studies centre and has served on the board for several years. Her professional trajectory is grounded in work on gender equality and women's empowerment with academic institutions, faith-based organizations, and churches.



MICHAEL NGARA

Michael Ngara is the Advocacy Lead at Faith to Action Network, where he manages the advocacy portfolio and represents and assists faith actors in developing stronger and more successful movements on gender justice, peace and pluralism, and SRHR in key international and regional arenas. Michael Ngara has a background in public policy and is dedicated to bridging the gap between policy and practice through evidence-based lobbying and the formation of understanding and perspective alliances. In order to support the redrafting of the East African Community Sexual Reproductive and Health Bill 2021, I'm currently assisting in the establishment of faith-based coalitions among six East African member states, as well as mainstream faith-based technical ideas.



BLESSING OMAKWU

Blessing Omakwu is a Nigerian-American women's equality evangelist and a deputy director at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, where she leads the foundation's Goalkeepers initiative. Goalkeepers is a campaign, a community, and a catalyst for action on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, using powerful stories, data, and partnerships to highlight the progress achieved and to energize a diverse group of leaders. She previously led the design of a learning strategy for the foundation on "Building Faith Allies for Gender Equality" as part of the foundation's Gender Equality Special Initiative leading up to the Generation Equality Forum. Raised by faith leaders, her parents' sermons and spirituality exposed her to the art of non-fiction storytelling at a young age. Blessing's personal essays explore the intersection of womanhood, religion and (pop) culture, and she ran the On Being a Woman blog between 2015-2020. Blessing earned a J.D. her Juris Doctor degree from the George Washington University Law School and is a current member of the New York Bar.



YOLANDA PIERCE

Dr. Yolanda Pierce is a Professor and Dean of the Howard University School of Divinity. She is a scholar of African American religious history, womanist theology, race and religion, and an alumna of Princeton University and Cornell University. Pierce served as the founding director of the Center for the Study of African American Religious Life at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History & Culture. A widely published author, Pierce's newest book is *In My Grandmother's House: Black Women, Faith, and the Stories We Inherit*. She is a native New Yorker, mentor, public theologian, community activist, cable news commentator, and ordained minister.



SARAH SNYDER

A theologian and anthropologist, specialising in inter-religious peacebuilding and dialogue, Sarah brings wide-ranging international experience in situations of violent conflict. She has worked for many years to promote faith-based reconciliation, most recently as the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor for Reconciliation – supporting the Anglican Church to be an agent of conflict-transformation in conflict or post-conflict contexts. On his behalf, she also initiated the "Women on the Frontline" programme, recognising the influential roles played by the wives of senior religious leaders in conflict zones. Sarah is the Founding Director of the Rose Castle Foundation - an international centre of peace and reconciliation offering a safe space in which to address misunderstanding of the "other", particularly those of different religious traditions. Their residential programmes equip emerging leaders to act sustainably and resiliently across deep divides within their spheres of influence. She is passionate about working with the next generation of reconcilers, preparing them for leadership in a conflicted world.

INDHIRA UDOFIA

Indhira Udofia, MDiv, LCSW (she/they) provides community and clinical care through a wide range of praxis including therapeutic and spiritual services, clinical and academic research, writing, and collaborative projects. Her extensive work experiences in clinical and community settings (since 2009) and faith communities (since 2014) shaped her deep passion for helping communities and individuals recover from trauma, especially in spaces of spiritual abuse and grief. Indhira believes that her work is a collaborative effort to empower others in their own lives and healing journey. Indhira utilizes strengths-based methodologies that holistically embrace individuals. As a former licensed youth minister, therapist, and spiritual practitioner, Indhira has spent the majority of her academic and professional life examining spirituality's impact on socio-cultural functioning among individuals and communities. Seeing how many experiences within various church spaces influenced people's ability to build and sustain relationships and the lasting impact on community functioning, Indhira felt the vocational pull to provide therapeutically minded spiritual care and counseling through spiritual coaching and consultation, educational resources and experiences, and therapeutic programming. In the context of community, they utilize client-based appropriate practices and rituals, restorative practices, and trauma-informed consultation to address power dynamics, conflict resolution, self-care, and other issues that may arise within a healing framework for the flourishing of the collective.

ANI ZONNEVELD

Ani Zonneveld is a writer, singer/songwriter, founder, and President of Muslims for Progressive Values, a human rights organization that advocates for social justice and equality for all, a strong supporter of freedom of expression and of conscience, women's rights, and as an ally, LGBTQ rights. Ani promotes these values at the United Nations by challenging human rights abuses in the name of Islam, and by offering an inclusive understanding based on universal human rights. In 2017, in Tunisia, Ani founded Alliance Of Inclusive Muslims, a global umbrella human rights organization registered in Geneva, made of members spanning six continents.

Women Leading Change is situated within a legacy of vital convenings at the intersection of religion and gender equality. Here's a small list of those events.

TIMELINE OF PAST FAITH AND GENDER EQUALITY CONVENINGS AND EVENTS



'75

Beginning in 1975, the UN began hosting **World Conferences on Women and 5-Year Reviews**. In 1995, the fourth conference in Beijing launched the most important global policy on women's empowerment: the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action**.

In 2019, the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians' **5th Pan African Conference** lifted "Mother Earth and Mother Africa in Religious Imagination".

'19

Taking place in 1994 and 2019, the **International Conference on Population and Development** were key events where sexual and reproductive health and rights are discussed, sparking controversy regarding discussions on family planning and implications for debates on abortion.

'94

The **1st Assembly on "Women, Faith and Diplomacy"** was held in November 2020, with the purpose of equipping faith-inspired participants with knowledge and analysis, connectivity and narratives, linking religions to peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights.

'20

'08

In 2008, the **Women Faith and Development Alliance** held the **Breakthrough Summit in 2008** and raised \$1.3billion from major funders for gender equality initiatives.

ANNUAL

Annually, the **Commission on the Status of Women** takes place with a host of events dedicated to women and faith.

BIANNUAL

Biannually, the **Sexual Violence Research Institute** hosts a forum that includes panels and research on faith and gender equality.



RESOURCES FOR APPROACHES TO DISMANTLING PATRIARCHAL THEOLOGY & ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY

QUICK GUIDE

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Religious Institutions and Structures

(2021) [Powerful Partnerships: Engaging Faith Leaders in Norms-shifting Interventions](#) — Institute for Reproductive Health, Georgetown University for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

(2020) [Invisible Targets of Hatred: Socioeconomically Excluded Women from Religious Minority Backgrounds](#) — Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Movement

(2020) [Strengthening the Role of Faith-Based Actors in Promoting the Beijing +25 Agenda](#) — Leite Marianna, Alison Doig, Matti Kohonen, Alejandro Gonzalez, Rachel Tavernor and Karol Balfe

(2020) [Violence and Discrimination against Women of Religious Minority Backgrounds in Pakistan](#) — Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Movement

(2019) [Keeping Faith in Faith Leaders](#) — Bridger Emma and Jo Sadgrove

(2016) [Revisiting the Legacy of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians Today: A Lesson in Strength and Perseverance](#) — Helen A. Labeodan

(2017) [Collective Action for Adolescent Girls Initiative](#) — Christian Aid

(2016) [Religion and Development Dialogue on Gender Rights and Sensitive Issues](#) — Norad

(2016) [Women, Faith and Human Rights](#) — UNFPA

(2015) [Religion and Gender Inequality: The Status of Women in the Societies of World Religions](#) — Kamila Klingorová and Tomáš Havlíček

(2014) [A Mapping on Sexuality, Human Rights and the Role of Religious Leaders: Exploring the Potential for Dialogue](#) — Brenda Bartelink and Erik Meinema

(2012) [Gender Differences in Religious Practice and Significance](#) — Linda Woodhead

(2008) [Challenges of Change: Faith, Gender, and Development, Berkeley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs](#) — Katherin Marshall and Alisha Bhagat

(2008) [Intelligent Design?: A Gender-Sensitive Interrogation of Religion and Development](#) — Ruth Pearson and Emma Tomalin

(2006) [Reflecting on Gender Equality in Muslim Contexts in Oxfam GB](#) — Adrienne Hopkins and Kirit Patel

(2006) [The Challenges of Incorporating Muslim Women's Views into Development Policy: Analysis of a Dutch Action Research Project in Yemen](#) — Brenda Bartelink and Marjo Buitelaar

(2004) [Writing, Sharing, Doing: The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians](#) — Bridget Marie Monohan

(2002) [Religion and Gender: A Congregation Divided](#) — Gallup

(2001) [Religious Fundamentalisms and the Human Rights of Women](#) — Courtney W. Howland



Health and Gender Based Violence

(2022) [8 March Manifesto #BreakTheBias](#) — ACT Alliance

(2021) [A Time Like No Other: COVID-19 in Women's Voices](#) — The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians

(2021) [Engaging Faith-Based and Traditional Actors in Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls](#) — UN Women

(2021) [Scoping Study: Looking Back to Look Forward—The Role of Religious Actors in Gender Equality since the Beijing Declaration](#) — Nora Khalaf-Elledge

(2021) [Women in the COVID-19 Crisis: Disproportionately Affected and Protagonists of Regeneration](#) — COVID-19 Vatican Commission

(2020) [Interfaith Brief on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights](#) — Faith to Action Network

(2020) [ACT CHAT: COVID and Gender](#) — ACT Alliance

(2020) [Domestic Abuse and COVID-19: How Churches Can Respond](#) — Mandy Marshall

(2020) [Preventing Violence During COVID-19](#) — Raising Voices

(2019) [Working with Religious Leaders to Address Child Marriage](#) — Girls Not Brides

(2019) [Summary of Policy Briefs on Early and Forced Marriages](#) — Islamic Relief Worldwide

(2018) [Role of Religious Leaders in Promoting Contraceptive Use in Nigeria: Evidence From the Nigerian Urban Reproductive Health Initiative](#) — Sunday Adedini, Stella Babalola, Charity Ibeawuchi, Olukunle Omotoso, Akinsewa Akiode, Mojisola Odeku

(2018) [Broken Silence 2.0: Pastors' Attitudes and Actions Around Domestic and Sexual Violence in the #metoo Era](#) — IMA World Health and Sojourners

(2018) [Engaging Faith Leaders to Prevent and Respond to Violence Against Women and Girls in Liberia](#) — Episcopal Relief & Development

(2017) [“Behind Closed Doors” Report: Voices Against Gender-Based Violence, Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery](#) — Carrie Pemberton Ford

(2015) [Faith-Inspired Initiatives to Tackle the Social Determinants of Child Marriage](#) — Azza Karam

(2015) [Interrogating the SILENCE](#) — Harvard Divinity School

(2014) [Faith Leaders and Family Planning: A Review of the Literature Plus Resources](#) — Adrienne Allison and Elizabeth Foulkes

(2012) [Redemptive Masculinities: Men, HIV and Religion](#) — Ezra Chitando and Sophie Chirongoma

(2006) [Tackling HIV and AIDS with Faith-Based Communities: Learning from Attitudes on Gender Relations and Sexual Rights within Local Evangelical Churches in Burkina Faso, Zimbabwe, and South Africa](#) — Mandy Marshall and Nigel Taylor





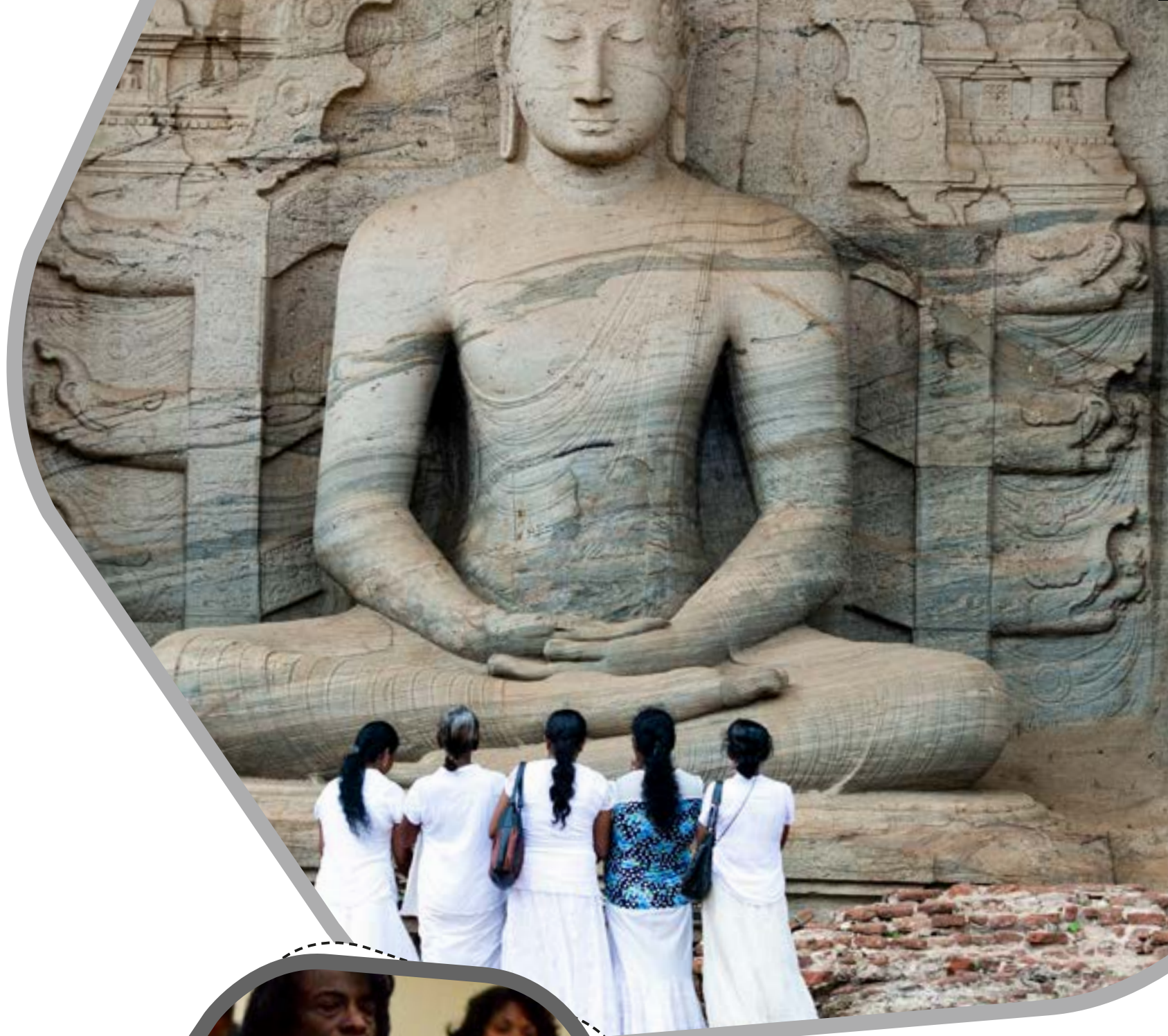
**“Where
there is a
woman,
there is
magic.”**

**–Ntozake
Shange**



Scriptural Interpretation and Theological Education

- (2022) [Red Lip Theology: For Church Girls Who've Considered Tithing to the Beauty Supply Store When Sunday Morning Isn't Enough](#) — Candice Marie Benbow
- (2021) [Abuelita Faith: What Women on the Margins Teach Us About Wisdom, Persistence and Strength](#) — Kat Armas
- (2021) [A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church](#) — Wilda Gafney
- (2021) [The Role of Religious Leaders in the Light of Buddhism to Prevent the Perpetration of Violence against Women and Children](#) — Neeru Barua
- (2019) [Wanted: Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family](#) — Zainah Anwar (editor)
- (2018) [Violence Against Women and Girls: Re-evaluating Traditional Islamic Understandings](#) — Reyhana Patel
- (2018) [Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians](#) — Austen Harke
- (2017) [Islam and the Question of Gender Equality](#) — Musawah
- (2016) [Perspective on Engaging Men and Boys to End Violence in the Family](#) — Ayesha Chaudhry and Rumea Ahmed
- (2015) [I Found God in Me: A Womanist Biblical Hermeneutics Reader](#) — Mitzi J. Smith
- (2015) [Feminist Theology from the Third World: A Reader](#) — Ursula King
- (2014) [Domestic Violence and the Islamic Tradition: Ethics, Law and the Muslim Discourse on Gender](#) — Ayesha Chaudhry
- (2014) [Of the Same Flesh: Exploring a Theology of Gender](#) — Christian Aid
- (2012) [Making Paper Cranes: Toward an Asian American Feminist Theology](#) — Mihee Kim-Kort
- (2008) [A Christian Perspective on Gender Equality](#) — Lynne Marie Kohm
- (2004) [Muslim Women's Challenges to Islamic Law: The Case of Malaysia](#) — Rebecca Foley
- (2003) [Doing Theology from the Perspective of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians](#) — Esther Mombo
- (2002) [Postcolonialism, Feminism and Religious Discourse](#) — Laura E. Donaldson and Kwok Pui-lan (editors)
- (2001) [Introducing Feminist Theology](#) — Anne Clifford
- (2001) [Globalization, Gender, and Religion. The Politics of Women's Rights in Catholic and Muslim Contexts](#) — Jane H. Bayes and Nayreheh Tohidi (editors)
- (2006) [Encyclopedia of Women and Religion in North America](#) — Rosemary Skinner Keller and Rosemary Radford Ruether



Peace and Reconciliation

(2021) [Women of Faith Engagement in Peace and Reconciliation](#) — Norwegian Church Aid

(2020) [Religion and the 'Women, Peace and Security Agenda'](#) — Hanna Scheffer and Anne Kwakkenbos

(2020) [Engaging with Faith Groups to Prevent VAWG in Conflict-Affected Communities: Results from Two Community Surveys in the DRC](#) — Elisabet Le Roux, Julianne Corboz, Nigel Scott, Maggie Sandilands, Uwezo Baghuma Lele, Elena Bezzolato and Rachel Jewkes

(2019) [Dishonourable Violence: Changing the Narrative on Honour and Shame Among Canadian Muslim Communities](#) — Nadine Ljaz

(2019) [Rethinking Relationships: From Violence to Equality in the DRC](#) — An Evidence Brief — Tearfund

(2019) [War on Women: The Global Toll on Conflict and Violence](#) — Chine McDonald, Marianna Leite, Nadia Saracini and Karol Balfe

(2018) [Women, Religion, Violence and Peace-Building: The Need for a Gender-Relational Approach to Conflict Transformation](#) — Elisabeth le Roux and Selina Palm

(2016) [Realizing the Faith Dividend: Religion, Gender, Peace and Security in Agenda 2030](#) — UNFPA

(2015) [Women, Religion and Peacebuilding: Illuminating the Unseen](#) — Katherine Marshall and Susan Hayward (editors)

(2004) [Women of Faith Transforming Conflict: A Multi-Religious Training Manual](#) — Angela Oliver, Azza Karam and Elisa Levy (editors)

(2002) [Women, Religion, and Peace-Building: Gusii and Maasai Women of Faith in Kenya](#) —





Podcasts, Videos, Learning Communities and Creative Projects

[2Revs NoChurch](#) (Podcast)

[A Plea to My Father](#) (Video)

[All Places Together](#) (Podcast)

[Beyond the Gatekeepers](#) (Video Broadcast)

[Conversatorio: The Other Pandemic, Collective Action to Address and Prevent GBV](#) (Video)

[The DOPE Muslim Woman Podcast](#) (Podcast)

[DREAMS Project in Nairobi](#) (Video Podcast)

[Faith and Feminism Podcast](#) (Podcast)

[Gender Justice is Climate Justice: From Words to Action](#) (Video)

[The Love God, Love Sex Community](#) (Online Learning Community)

[Mindful Muslimah Speaks](#) (Podcast)

[The Nap Ministry](#) (Online Community)

[Naptime is Sacred](#) (Podcast)

[Pink Robe Chronicles](#) (Online Community)

[The Qarawiyyin Podcast](#) (Podcast)

[Reclaiming My Theology](#) (Podcast)

[Religion For Her](#) (Online Learning Community)

[Salam, Girl!](#) (Podcast)

[The Shiloh Project: Rape Culture, Religion and the Bible—Interview with Professor Mercy Oduyoye](#) (Video)

[Truth's Table](#) (Podcast)

[Woman Evolve](#) (Podcast)

[Women in Africa: Spirituality, Health, and Healing](#) (Video)

TEN FAITH ACTORS ADVANCING GENDER EQUALITY AND SCALING CHANGE IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

The digital space and social media provide dynamic opportunities for faith actors to advance gender equality and scale change. These ten changemakers represent a subset of those who are utilizing digital tools to make the world more just, equitable and transformative.

Khristi Lauren Adams is a public theologian and author of *Unbossed: How Black Girls are Leading the Way* and *Parable of the Brown Girl*.

Amani Al-Khatahtbeh is an author, activist, founder and editor-in-chief of the award-winning *MuslimGirl.com*, the premiere online platform for Muslim women's voices in Western societies.

Bushra Amiwala is the youngest Muslim elected official in the United States and is said to be the only hijab-wearing officeholder in Illinois.

Emma Holten is an activist who, after being the victim of revenge porn, began pushing for stronger internet privacy policies and launched the online project **CONSENT**.

Abir Ibrahim situates her work at the intersections of economic development, women's empowerment, African affairs, youth leadership and global health, with an emphasis on protecting children.

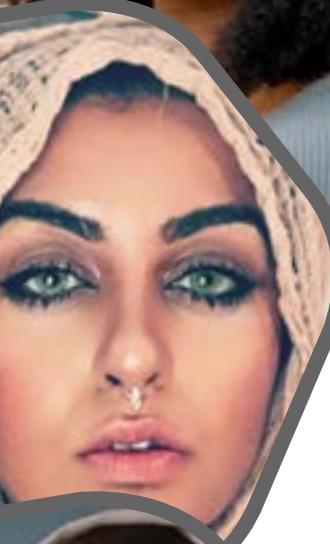
Sarah Jakes Roberts is a New York Times bestselling author, pastor, businesswoman, media personality and creator of *Woman Evolve*, a global ministry committed to erasing limits and challenging the norms of what it means to be a modern woman of faith.

Jo Luehmann is a public theologian and public that teaches about dismantling systems of oppression, the effects of trauma, restorative justice, and centering the needs of the marginalized to ensure their safety and well-being.

Sheila Katz is a feminist Jewish activist and creator of #MitzVote, a non-partisan get-out-the-vote campaign that utilizes Jewish wisdom to empower and enable students to engage in the electoral process and celebrate their civic engagement.

Semler is a Christian singer/songwriter, making history and a profound impact in the Christian music industry as an openly queer, nonbinary performer.

Porsha Williams-Gates is a multi-dimensional spiritual practitioner who makes media magic as the founder and visionary of Porshanality Media, whose mission is to create "a genuine sound for the whole of humanity one podcast at a time."



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Access to resources remains a consistent barrier and challenge for women and allied faith actors seeking to scale change and advance gender equality. The following list represents a small group of organizations and institutions that have funded and continue to fund faith actors advancing gender equality.

The Arthur Vining Davis Foundation
Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
The Equality Fund
GHR Foundation
GIZ, International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development
Henry Luce Foundation
Hilton Foundation
Islamic Relief USA
The John Templeton Foundation
The Lilly Endowment
Philanthropy and Gender Equality Report
Porticus
Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
UK AID, Department for International Development
United Nations Population Fund
USAID, The Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives
Women and Girls Funders Resource List
World Vision

**WLC does not endorse any funding organization or guarantee funding.*

Digital Resource Guide Designer

