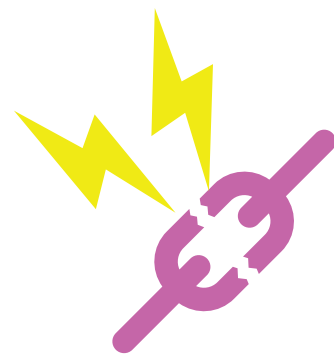


8 March Manifesto #BreakTheBias



We people of faith must break the chains of bias. Be bold in our commitment. Be unflinching in our beliefs. **We must speak truth to power**, speak with the vulnerable and have no fear to speak.

We must break the bias in our structures and confront the patriarchal prejudices and practices that oppress, dominate and exploit women. **The preconceived ideas against their sexual and reproductive health and rights.** The heinous beliefs around those who are different from us in all their diversities. Those beliefs and practices that aim at excluding, cornering, controlling, belittling and erasing.

We must break the bias in our societies. The toxic masculinity that is harming women and men, girls and boys. The ideas of what a woman should be, what she should say, what she should wear, what she should own. **The way women are pictured** in the movies, the stories, the magazines. **In our heads.**

We must break the bias in our theologies. We need a new way of looking at Scriptures. We must feel the urge for liberation, for equality, for justice. We need to wear new glasses that let us see the beauty of the Word and the liberating freedom that comes from its wisdom. **We must choose love over fear:** fear of the other, fear of change, fear of empowerment. **And we need more women:** in theology, in churches, in religious structures.

We must reaffirm our connection to our earth and land, without it we are lost. Without it we won't go as far as humanity. **Without it we'll put our brothers and sisters at risk of drought, hunger, famine and poverty.** We need to break the bias that convinced us that we are above Creation. Above nature. Above others. We need to challenge the structures that don't serve us well any longer. Structures that are dehumanizing us and putting society at risk of extinctions.

We must break the egotic beliefs that we can do it alone. That we don't need anyone. Justice is intersectional, is diverse, is colorful. **Justice is a mosaic of differences** and can only be achieved if we all contribute to it. Justice is not young, nor old, nor black, nor white. Justice was not invented in the west or the east. Justice is not delivered by someone else, top down, it doesn't only speak English nor French, nor just Spanish. **Justice is us.** Justice is humanity in all its glorious beauty, in all its diversity.

We must have the courage to welcome. The higher the walls we build, the hardest the fall we are going to face. **We must break the bias that we are divided,** separated, competing. Secular vs Religious. Men vs Women. Global vs. Local. The vision of justice is shared. We are walking on the same road towards equality. **Isn't it time to hold hands? Isn't it time to walk together?** Isn't it time to speak with one voice?

We must break the silence, the loneliness that women defenders feel when they are left alone. When they are followed, harassed, insulted for speaking the truth to power, including religious power. When they are killed for those beliefs, when they lose their jobs, their titles, their dreams.

**We must break the chains of bias.
Together. Today. Every Day.**