

MCSA CAMPAIGN AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE PROGRAMME

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is one of the major challenges facing the countries of Southern Africa. Physical, sexual and emotional violence is rife throughout all communities and is exhibited in the frightening numbers of murders, rapes, assaults and abuse which occur daily.

Serious questions need to be addressed in our Church communities such as:

- *What is our commitment to ensuring that we believe and support the rights of all women and children?*
- *What space do we allow for people who are victims of gender based violence to speak of their experiences? Receive support? Access legal assistance?*
- *How are men in the Methodist Church working to eliminate the abuse of women and children?*
- *How do we intervene when we know members of our Church and Community are victims of abuse?*
- *Are we actively participating in the many civil society and government initiatives aimed at ending this scourge on our society?*

The MCSA is developing an initiative which will play a significant role in fulfilling our mission imperative of ***“Justice and Service”***. This campaign will urge men and women in the MCSA to take a leading role in tackling and spearheading the issues of violence against women and children.

The objectives of this campaign are:

- To encourage the church to take centre stage in the elimination of the abuse of women and children by reclaiming its Prophetic voice.
- To raise awareness on the prevalence and magnitude and consequences of sexual and domestic violence
- To build capacity for the church to provide support and opportunities for healing and transformation
- To strengthen MCSA’s networking and collaborations with both internal and external stakeholders.

We Request All District Synods to discuss Gender Based Violence and to recommend representatives to work with the Connexional Task Team to assist in planning and executing the Campaign.