



Churches Campaign Against SGBV in Africa

Call for Project Proposals

Introduction

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) is a continental ecumenical body that accounts for over 200 million Christians across the African continent. AACC is the largest association of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, and Indigenous churches in Africa, and a member of the worldwide ecumenical network. As an ecumenical body, AACC is a fellowship of 210 members comprising of Churches, National Christian Councils (NCCs), theological and lay training institutions, and other Christian organizations in 43 African countries. To accompany African young people in achieving this, the AACC launched the Churches' Campaign Against SGBV in Africa on 21st November 2023 during its 12th General Assembly in Abuja Nigeria. Running with the Slogan: Let Love lead: End SGBV now.

Context Analysis

The AACC since its inception in 1963, has continuously championed the rights of women, working with national leaders, religious leaders and communities to advocate for and implement policies on women's rights and Gender Justice. At the AACC General Assemblies held in Maputo, Kampala and Kigali in 2008, 2013 and 2018 respectively, a call was made to end all forms of violence against women including GBV. Further, the AACC 11th General Assembly held in Kigali, Rwanda (1-7 July, 2018), mandated AACC to continue amplifying its advocacy work for gender justice with its member churches, Theological Institutions, Faith-Based Organizations, and other stakeholders such as multilateral organizations, national and local governments, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and development partners, with an emphasis on the key issues affecting the African people (men, women, widows, youth & children and those with disabilities in the continent). Although the AACC has engaged in campaigns for gender justice since its birth in 1963, SGBV remains a burning issue in the African continent.

It has been widely reported that at least one in three women experience physical, sexual, or emotional violence. The causes for such are social, cultural, political, ecological and economic. Each of those aspect have serious negative consequences on the victims, depriving them of their God given dignity. Socially speaking, societal norms are such that women and girls have lesser value than men. On political ground, Africa has been prey to violent conflict sending young people, women and children on the route of displacement, a route full of danger; and even on the way, some suffer exploitation, SGBV and other injustices inorder to survive. Further young people are prone to be used during political contestations either as perpetrators or victions of sexual and gender-based violence.

Currently, 125 million girls and women in Africa have experienced child marriage, having been married before their 18th birthday¹. Additionally, an estimated 200 million girls and women globally have been subjected to the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM)². An estimated 55 million girls under the age of 15 in 28 African countries have experienced or are at risk of experiencing FGM, which remains prevalent in parts of West, East, Central, and Northern Africa. If FGM practices continue at recent levels, 68 million girls in Africa will be cut by 2030³. It is important to note that this figure has recently been revised upwards from the previous estimate of 55 million, indicating the escalating severity of the issue. Young women aged 15 to 19 are the most affected by Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). By the time they are 19 years old, almost 1 in 4 adolescent girls (24%) who have been in a relationship have already been physically, sexually, or psychologically abused by a partner (WHO). Young men and boys also experience gender-based violence too, however, data is scarce. Gender-based violence is not only a traumatic experience for the individuals who are subjected to it, but it also increases people's vulnerability to HIV and is an urgent public health issue thus requiring urgent action by churches to end SGBV.

Some of the root-causes of GBV include construction of masculinities and femininities in gender-biased ways where men's powers are differentiated, naturalized and privileged in ways that 'other' the female gender. The Agenda 2063; The Africa we want; envisages a non-sexist Africa, where girls and boys can reach their full potential, and where men and women contribute equally to the development of their societies. To achieve this, all forms of SGBV must have been eliminated by 2063, and this means putting an end to all harmful social practices.

This indeed is possible given that the majority of Africa's Population are young people capable of unlearning the social, cultural, and religious values, norms, and practices that propagate SGBV, and learn new ways of living built on the core of Christ's love that compels us to see ourselves in each other. With the slogan, 'Let Love Lead: End GBV Now!', the Churches Campaign against SGBV in Africa is a response to the young peoples' request to the AACC to continue accompanying their efforts to eliminate GBV, during the All Africa Youth Congress, in Accra Ghana, in 2022. One of the key theories upon which the campaign is built is that 'accelerating the realization of SDG 5 and Aspiration 6 of the Agenda 2063 requires continuously engaging and empowering young people to advocate for an end to all acts of SGBV and promote gender justice in all their spheres of influence. The campaign thus runs on the young people's desire to build Africa into the kind of home they want to have now and, in the future, as expressed in the AACC's campaign on the theme: Africa: My Home. My Future.

The main objective of the Churches Campaign Against SGBV in Africa

To empower Youth leaders (Women and Men) to advocate for an end to SGBV in Africa and contribute to the realization of SDG5 (Gender Equality) and AU Agenda 2063 Aspiration 6 (Aspiration 6: An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children).

¹ <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/10/policy-paper-emerging-lessons-from-child-marriage-programming-in-malawi-and-zambia>

² <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/female-genital-mutilation/>

³ <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/female-genital-mutilation-fgm-frequently-asked-questions#:~:text=An%20estimated%20200%20million%20girls,reflection%20of%20global%20population%20growth.>

Specific objectives

1. To Empower Youth (Male and Female) from AACC member churches play a more active role in transforming toxic gender ideologies to promote life-affirming gender norms, values and practices and advocate for an end to SGBV for gender Justice in Africa
2. Enhanced capacities of churches to respond to SGBV in a life affirming manner

Call for proposals

The All Africa conference of churches is calling for proposals of youth led projects contributing to the fulfillment of the above objectives through the following activities:

1. Organizing radio and TV shows focusing on shunning SGBV on a regular basis
2. Developing and advertising messages promoting gender justice on bill boards, banners and posters
3. Produce and disseminate posters with contextually relevant messages against SGBV in local areas—churches, schools, community places and other public places

Grant size: Upto 3,500 USD.

No part of this grant can be used to meet staff salaries and/or allowances, purchase organizational property like land, cars, office furniture, etc.

Grant Period: 12 Months (September 2024 – September 2025)

How to apply

Please complete the application form [here](#) and submit it via email to: annkioi@aacc-ceta.org, [cc youth@aacc-ceta.org](mailto:youth@aacc-ceta.org)

Application deadline

26th July 2024

[Click here to download the application form](#)

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