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We Women: Our Voices

Women Concerns Ministry-NCCI

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Interfaith women travel India promoting religious amity

Women of different faiths travelled across parts of India to foster peace and goodwill in their country, which they say is beset by sectarian intolerance and violence. Some 100 women began their journey named "Batein Aman Ki or Talks of Peace" on Sept.20. Five caravan groups began from different States of the country namely Kashmir, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Assam and Uttar Pradesh and converged in New Delhi on Oct.13. The five caravans, each comprising some 20-25 women, passed through hundreds of towns, cities and villages with the message of peace and unity.

The expedition was led by Shabnam Hashmi an Activist after she was perturbed by gang rapes, crime against minorities and lynching cases in the country. She said women have the highest take in every conflict, yet their voice is unheard so its time for them to raise voices against such issues.

Joycia Thorat, a Christian social worker and part of the organizing team said. "We are getting very good response from people of all walks of lives," Several rights groups and faith-based women groups with Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi and Sikh backgrounds have joined the program." She further said "The purpose is to stress the need to uphold the constitutional values of secularism and religious freedom to help harmonious existence of people of different religions in the country."

Rajkumari Durga, a Hindu social worker from western Rajasthan state and campaign participant, told that India's social situation has worsened after hard-line Hindu groups began attempting to make India a nation of Hindu hegemony.

Last year, 111 people were killed and at least 2,384 injured in 822 cases of sectarian violence, the highest figure in the past three years. In 2016, some 86 were killed and 2,321 injured in 703 incidents of religion-based violence, said an official report released earlier this year.

Source: ucanews.com



**In the face of
hatred, they're
spreading
a message of
love**



16th General Assembly of the Church Women's Conference

Asian Church Women's Conference organized the 16th Quadrennial General Assembly and 60th anniversary of ACWC at The Church of Christ in Thailand (CCT), Bangkok on October 3 – 8, 2018. The theme for the Assembly was "Now Choose Life, Change our Ways and Actions". ACWC voting Delegates and Observers, and members of the International Committee of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC) participated in the Assembly. Mrs. Wellorich Sohkhet, Presbyterian Church of India, Mrs. Sushma Tirkey, Gossener Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jharkhand and Jenifa Rani, Intern, National Council of Churches in India represented NCCI in the ACWC general assembly at Bangkok.

Source: Jenifa Rani– Intern, NCCI



CSI Women Fellowship Celebrates Its Seventieth Year

The Seventieth Year Celebrations of the Women's Fellowship of the Church of South India (CSI) had a grand beginning at the Bishop's Cotton Girls' School in Bengaluru on 27th of September 2018. The date of the formation of the CSI Women's Fellowship (CSI WF) coincides with the date of the formation of the Church of South India, which is the biggest united and uniting church in India, which took place exactly one year ahead of the formation of the CSIWF on 27th September 1947. In the inaugural ceremony, Dr. Susan Thomas, the President of the Women's Fellowship, threw light on the history of the beginning and growth of the CSI WF as an important and influential body, both in terms of the size of its membership across South India and even other parts of the world, and in terms of the social activities. Dr. Brineila Desouza, professor in TATA Institute of Social Sciences in Mumbai, pointed out how the new economic policies in India and other socio- political scenarios adversely affect the vulnerable and how Christian Women groups can combat the situation.

Sources: Bishop Cotton Girls' School
<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.2089777021057238&type=3>

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16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN

Orange
the
World

#HearMeToo
END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN
AND GIRLS

Women Theologians Seek Mechanism to Address Clerical Abuse

Women theologians in India have asked the Catholic hierarchy to develop an effective mechanism to address clerical abuse aiming to ensure justice "from the perspective of Jesus". They said directly referring to a nun's allegations of rape against a bishop. The Church must get back to its original Gospel values," Indian Women Theologians Forum (IWTF) said in a press release issued after their Sept. 28-30 annual gathering in Bangalore. The women expressed solidarity with the nun who dared to complain. Her appeals for justice in the Church were met with silence. We understand that she was left with no option but to go to the civil authorities to seek justice they said.



They sought "a radical change" in the formation of consecrated persons, especially of priests, based on Gospel teaching.

The release said the nun "met with condemnation and contempt by many within the Church." The Church leadership has failed to understand the impact sexual abuse has on a victim, the trauma that a victim has to undergo to process the abuse from someone who is a spiritual leader who takes the place of God in her life," they said. The theologians wanted the "hierarchical structures" to become "more humane" and pro-active in addressing issues such as rape, regardless of the position of the person involved. They sought "a radical change" in the formation of consecrated persons, especially of priests, based on Gospel teaching. The theologians' demand comes in the backdrop of a June 28 police complaint filed by a 48-year-old nun. She accused Bishop Franco Mulakkal of Jalandhar of raping her in 2014 and abusing her 13 more times in the next two years. Bishop Mulakkal claims that the nun, former superior general of the Missionaries of Jesus congregation under the bishop's patronage, began making baseless allegations when church authorities started disciplinary action against her for violations of her religious vows.

Sources: <http://m.ucanindia.in/news/>

Alarming Fact:

India continue to face the problem of female

Infanticides

Sources: <https://indianexpress.com/about/female-infanticide/>



PRAYER MATTERS

1. We pray for little girls who grows up being told they are a burden, so that they will know their value.

2. We pray for the safety and protection of little children's who are forced into Child Labour, Child Marriage, Human Trafficking and Prosti-

3. We pray for mothers who takes risk to give life to their baby girls.

4. We pray for people who face gender based violence in their day to day life.

5. We pray for all the organizations and institutions who work for justice and peace in the world.

6. We pray for the upcoming programmes such as FLC, 16 Days Activism Campaign, and Christmas Celebra-

Women Win Right To Enter Ancient Indian Temple

India's top court on Sept. 28 ruled that the ban on women's entry in Sabarimala Temple was against the sex equality guaranteed in the constitution, and ended the ban on women of menstruating age between 10 and 60 from entering the 12th century Sabarimala Temple in Kerala.

The communist-led government in Kerala favoured the entry of women of all ages when the court sought its opinion in 2007.

The Indian Young Lawyers Association, which moved the petition, said the ban discriminated against women and violated the principle of equality.

Sabarimala, billed as the world's largest Hindu pilgrim center, welcomes people of all castes. Pilgrims track a forest path to the temple dressed in black after leading an ascetic life for 41 days as part of a custom.

HIGHLIGHT

Supreme Court accused of interfering in religion after lifting gender ban at Sabarimala Temple in Kerala. The communist-led government in Kerala favored the entry of women of all ages when the court sought its opinion in 2007.



Source: : [UCAN](#)



FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN:

The Fellowship of the Least Coin has flourished as a global ecumenical women's prayer movement. **Each time a woman prays, she sets aside the least coin of her local currency as a symbol of the prayer.** Women's national groups collect the coins and send them to the central FLC Fund c/o World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland. The prayers offered and the least coins collected support projects for women and the children around the world.

Film On First Khasi Woman Church Icon

A biopic on Khasi Church legend Nabon Sawian is set for release. Nabon, a legendary figure of the Presbyterian Church, was born at Mawmluh in the picturesque Sohra region of Khasi hills in present day Meghalaya in 1832. She did her primary education in the village before moving on to study at the mission school in neighbouring Nongsawlia village.

She is an icon of the church as she became the first Khasi woman to embrace Christianity amid stiff opposition from her family and clan. The Presbyterian Church at Nongsawlia is 177 years old and it was here that the seeds of the church were first sown in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills and in the Northeast in 1841.

In 1847, Nabon became a member of the Presbyterian Church and was baptised on July 16 the following year.

She died at the young age of 25 at Shella not too far from Sohra, in 1857. Now, 161 years after her death, a biopic of the legendary figure, titled Nabon, A Journey of Faith, is ready for screening. Nabon's role has been played by Lasubon Lyngkhohi.

Nabon developed a thirst for education at an early age. She was allowed to attend school at her village and later at the mission school in Nongsawlia. When her family learned that she was interested in Christian belief, her mother and uncle tried their best to bring her back home," film director K.K. Kharlukhi said.

Nabon was abused, tortured and threatened by her family members but she stuck to her new found faith. Her plight continued with challenges and trials.

"Amidst alienation and sufferings, Nabon firmly believed that God's way was beyond human reach of understanding. Her strength in faith enlightened her spiritually," Kharlukhi said. Her sufferings at the hands of her relatives and society at that time drew sympathy and her struggle to uphold her new found faith amidst opposition and alienation endeared her to the successive generation in the church.

Sources: [The Telegraph](#)



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