

Recommendations for religious institutions

There is need for religious institutions and their leaders to promote transformative masculinities and promote gender equality:

- Provide opportunity and spaces for reflection on how religion - and its leaders - actively promote gender inequality and equality, providing space for religious leaders and preachers to reflect on their role. Use pre-existing platforms for addressing gender equality within Christian and Muslim communities, with an open mindedness to inter-faith collaboration on reflecting on religion and masculinity.
- Encourage, support and provide guidance to religious leaders, including providing guidance to preachers to deliver sermons that uphold positive views on equality between women and men, condemn violence against women and girls and do not perpetuate ideas of men's 'natural' superiority, dominance and leadership,
- Support and encourage those traditional and religious leaders that are already promoting positive ways of being male and support greater gender equality. Find effective ways for these roles models to engage with other religious leaders, facilitate exchange between these role models and deepen their collaboration.
- Promote opportunities for women to become leaders and for women congregations members to take part in decision-making hierarchies.
- Put in place and act on social sanctions that e.g. break the silence and culture of acceptability on violence against women and girls and discriminatory practices e.g. child marriage.
- Religious leaders need to bring about attitudinal, behaviours and policy change in the wider enabling environment for gender equality. They can use their extensive networks and communications channels to disseminate messages about gender equality and gender-equitable masculinities, mobilise volunteers, financial and advocacy support, and influence government policy.