



# 2019 Faith and Gender International Conference

Ekklesia Foundation for Gender Education (EFOGE) in partnership with Christians for Biblical Equality (CBE) presents 2019 international conference in Kigali, Rwanda on the theme:

**Theme:** Man and Woman, One in Christ: Engaging Faith Narratives for Justice and Equality

**Dates:** August 22- 24, 2019 with internationals to arrive on the 21st, from 4.30 pm East African Time.

**Venue:** Kiberinka Cultural Centre – Kigali, Rwanda.

## Why Faith and Gender Conference?

Every year, Ekklesia Foundation for Gender Education (EFOGE) mobilizes religious leaders across Africa for Faith & Gender conferences, in order to create safe space for conversation and dialogue with religious community on the role of faith actors in ending violence against women and girls. During these events, delegates and faith actors are equipped with knowledge and skills about equality and justice for women and men both in the Church, Home and Society. We believe that, when faith actors teach, model and normalize male-rule as God's ideal, they fuel a powerful patriarchal trajectory that places girls and women at risk for violence and abuse. Studies and statistics confirms the same.

### Religious Context in Africa

In Africa, it is estimated that about 85% of the population identify themselves as members of a religious or spiritual group. Religion exerts a tremendous influence on women and men's identity, behavior, and beliefs. Some faith institutions still regard women as inferior to men both in church, community and family circles. It is a fact that most popular faith groups are often rooted in patriarchal and cultural traditions which always

deny and isolate females from equal decision-making in the society. Women are always treated as second class citizens and denied meaningful leadership positions within faith institutions just because they are born females. Many faith actors often use sacred texts to justify male leadership and dominance in the church and society as God's ideal. In this way and at this level, faith community contributes in the devaluation, violence, and abuse of the female human agency. However, the same faith groups have the potential to interpret scriptures and religious texts correctly to end violence against women and girls. Religious communities and faith groups in the African have contributed greatly in the humanitarian work, helping to alleviate poverty, health problems, promote democracy and other development issues and can be a powerful agent for change and women's liberation.

## **Registration**

Registration fees is \$250 for local delegates (Africans) and \$300 for internationals. This amount is inclusive of three days accommodation plus continental breakfast; the three days conference package including access to conference sessions, 10' o'clock tea/coffee, lunch, 4 o'clock tea/coffee, and three bottles of water; and supper for three days. Please register today and join us in Kigali, Rwanda for this great conversation to promote peace and reconciliation and take action to end violence against women and girls.

[Register now through this link](#)

[For Scholarship recipients, please use this link](#)

Please, do not hesitate to contact our Events Coordinator, Halima Ijeiza for more in more information, at halima@efogeinternational.org or call +254 2026 34272

### **Venue Physical address**

Kiberinka Cultural Centre 307 St, Kibagabaga, Gasabo District in Kigali, Rwanda.

Venue contacts are as follows: call +250 788 300 752 or +250 784 721 983 or email: reachorgrwanda@yahoo.com

## Speakers Line-ups



Ven. Scholar Wayua Kiilu – Lecturer – St. Paul's University, Kenya  
**“The Role Of Religious Institutions On Gender Equality And Justice”**



Dr. Mimi Haddad – President, CBE International  
**“Facts on ‘Metoo’ and ‘Churchtoo’ movements: The challenge with the Church in the 21st Century”**



Wayne Pelly – Minister – Empower International Ministries  
**“Women’s Role in the Church: Considering ‘The Whole Counsel of God’.”**



Frank Michael Tweheyo – African Program Director – Empower International Ministries  
**“Patriarchy, Dowry/Bride Price and Social Injustice in African Societies.”**



Carol Ng'ang'a – Founder – Msingi Trust  
**“Young Women Leadership Development and the Church”**



Philbert Kalisa – Executive Director – REACH, Rwanda  
**“Reconciliation and peace initiative in Rwanda”**



Rev. Pauline W. Njiru – Coordinator – WCC-EHAIA Eastern Africa  
**“Intergenerational conversation: Enhancing Gender Justice”**



Rev. Dominic Misolo – Executive Director – Ekklesia Foundation  
**“Positive Masculinity; Engaging Men for Gender Justice”**



Prof. Esther Mombo -Senior Lecturer – St. Paul's University  
**“Man and Woman, One in Christ: Bible Study Expositor”**



Amy J. Chase – Lecturer – Drew Theological School  
**“Finding an Excellent Wife: On the Speaking and Spaces of Proverbs 31”**



Nicola Lock – Christian counselor, Anglican Church in Australia  
**“Forgiveness and reconciliation after cases of abuse: Responding to abuse in your church”**



Emma Smith Cain – Associate Director for Business Development and Grants Management, World Vision, DRC  
**“The Root of It All: Patriarchy, Faith, and Social Change in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies.”**



Jane Machira – Programme Development Advisor-Gender and Inclusion  
**“Side by Side: Strengthening a faith movement for gender justice”**

## Speakers’ profiles: 2019 Faith and Gender International Conference

### **Ven. Scholar Kiilu Wayua**



Ven. Scholar Wayua Kiilu – Lecturer – St. Paul's University, Kenya

#### **“The Role Of Religious Institutions On Gender Equality And Justice”**

*International partnership Facilitator and minister, DIP (St. Paul's University), BD (St. Paul's University), M.A (St. Paul's University), PhD Student.*

Scholar is a Lecturer at St. Pauls' University with special interest in Inter-Religious dialogue, mission and practical Theology. Born in Kenya, she is also a priest with Anglican Church of Kenya Diocese of Machakos at the level of An Archdeacon, and participates in training of different departments. She is also in charge of Marketing and ISO champion for her Faculty. She is currently coordinating CCMRE (Centre for Christian- Muslim Relations Eastleigh) in the University.

Scholar is married to Rev. Judah January Mbai and together are blessed with two children Caleb Kimilu (16 years) and Hope Nduke (6 years).

#### **TOPIC: The Role Of Religious Institutions On Gender Equality And Justice**

The question about the status of women is of great concern throughout the world. Within faith based groups, gender equality and the position of women can be analyzed from religious teachings and beliefs .Women

have been kept in total subjugation by the patriarchal societies. This paper will look at the role of religious institutions on gender equality and justice. The paper will also look at some positively and negatively used scriptures to oppress women. Again, the paper will look at teachings by religious founders on equality and finally look at the role of women throughout history. The paper will use the secondary data basically the library source.

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### **Dr. Mimi Haddad**



Dr. Mimi Haddad – President, CBE International  
**“Facts on ‘Metoo’ and ‘Churchtoo’ movements: The challenge with the Church in the 21st Century”**

#### **Professional Experience:**

Dr. Mimi Haddad is president of Christians for Biblical Equality International. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado and Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary (*summa cum laude*). She holds a Ph.D. in historical theology from the University of Durham, England. Mimi received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University 2013. She is part of the leadership of Evangelicals for Justice and is a founding member of the Evangelicals and Gender Study Group at the Evangelical Theological Society. Haddad served as the convener of the Issue Group 24 for the 2004 Lausanne III Committee for World Evangelization.

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### **Wayne Pelly**



Wayne Pelly – Minister – Empower International Ministries

**“Women’s Role in the Church: Considering ‘The Whole Counsel of God’.”**

Wayne Pelly is an elder at West Side Church in Richland, Washington, U.S.A., where he serves with the Global Ministries team, helping to guide the church’s international outreach. He is also a

minister with Empower International Ministries, and is making his seventh trip to Africa to lead seminars addressing gender issues in the home, church and society. He has an M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California, U.S.A. He and his wife, Pam have been married for 46 years, and have two children and three grandchildren.

**Proposed Topic:**

“Women’s Role in the Church: Considering ‘The Whole Counsel of God’.” So often the question of what women can and cannot do in the church is “settled” by an appeal to a very few passages of Scripture – sometimes by just a verse or two! The “whole counsel of God” (Acts 20:27), however, is a biblical value, and we will consider a strategic process to address this important issue through an examination of the entire New Testament.

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**Frank Michael Tweheyo**



Frank Michael Tweheyo – African Program Director – Empower International Ministries  
**“Patriarchy, Dowry/Bride Price and Social Injustice in African Societies.”**

I am the Senior Pastor of Christian Fellowship Church Kabale-Uganda as well as the Regional Overseer of Christian Fellowship Churches in Kigezi region, South Western Uganda. I am also the African Program Director for Empower International Ministries. I have a diploma in Christian

Ministry from Joshua Nations, a graduate of International Christian Ministry from Kayiwa International Ministries and a Masters of Art in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary USA. I am married to Phobice Tweheyo and we are blessed with Twins , Samalie and Samuel .( I cannot tire to say these are God's miracles of our generation ).

**Topic: ” Patriarchy, Dowry/Bride Price and Social Injustice in African Societies.”**

I intend to review some ideal biblical passages that advocate for equality of men and women, discuss some passages that hint at dowry/ bride price such as Genesis 24(53), Genesis 29( 18..), 1Samuel 18 (25..)



comparing it with Ephesians 5 : 21-33. Dowry continues to be a great custom that makes the woman a lesser human being in many African societies and the church largely still supports it. We will learn how Patricians of Paul's day dealt with each other in honor/shame cultures of the day. What can we learn from the Bible that can free both Men and Women to live together as husband and wife in a dignified manner without thinking about dowry as an economic transaction, or a custom that promotes honor/shame culture. A proper understanding of Ephesians 5:21-33 will deal a huge blow on the demeaning culture of dowry thus promoting equality and social justice.

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### **Carol Ng'anga**



Carol Ng'ang'a – Founder – Msingi Trust  
**“Young Women Leadership Development and the Church”**

**Carol Ng'ang'a** is a community development practitioner. She has a Bachelors in Community Development from Cornerstone Institute in Capetown.

She has spent the last 9 years walking alongside various communities towards interventions for their empowerment.

In July 2017, she founded Msingi Trust whose aim is to 'Mobilize, Inspire, Equip and Network Christians and community leaders towards Social Justice, Social Activism and Social Transformation' Carol is an ardent believer of justice, equality and empowerment for all and has special interest in working with faith leaders to fight injustice within their community contexts. Follow her work on Facebook @MsingiTrust , on instagram @MsingiTrust and on Twitter @ndutahnganga

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## Rev. Philbert Kalisa



Philbert Kalisa – Executive Director – REACH, Rwanda

### **“Reconciliation and peace initiative in Rwanda”**

Rev. Philbert Kalisa returned to Rwanda shortly after the Rwandan genocide against the Tutsi. Though people told him it was impossible, he was determined to bring peace to a country destroyed by death and violence. Bringing together survivors and perpetrators, the families of those who had been enemies, Philbert

modelled and continues to model a slow and steady reconciliation, making peace possible in Rwanda today.

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## Rev. Pauline W. Njiru



Rev. Pauline W. Njiru – Coordinator – WCC-EHAIA Eastern Africa

### **“Intergenerational conversation: Enhancing Gender Justice”**

The Rev Pauline Wanjiru Njiru

#### **Ministry:**

Ordained Deacon on 13 Dec 1992 and Priest on 19 Dec 1993 in the ACK Diocese of Kirinyaga Kenya by The late Most Rev Dr David M Gitari (the then diocesan Bishop).

Served in many parishes in ACK Diocese of Kirinyaga and Thika.

Served as the Development coordinator for ACK Diocese of Thika for two years.

Taught in Carleil College as a senior lecturer for five years.

Was chaplain in same institution for four years.

Taught (and still do from time to time) in St Paul's university Limuru since 2007.

Currently coordinating WCC-EHAIA Eastern Africa In charge of eleven countries since May 2009.

**Education:**

Holds Masters in the theology of Mission and ministry from University of Nottingham UK and Master in Development from SPU currently PHD student in the same university

**Family:**

Mother of two aged 21 and 17

**Topic: Intergenerational conversation: Enhancing Gender Justice**

**Paper concept**

Since 2014 the World Council of Churches – Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy (WCC-EHAIA) has been creating safe spaces for adolescents and young people to speak about their issues related to sex, sexuality and SRHR to parents, and church leaders.

This methodology has proved to be a very powerful to address issues of Gender disparities and injustices as well sex, sexuality and SRHR. I would like to share our findings and make recommendations on the same to those seeking to work on Gender Justice with a focus on adolescents and young people

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**Rev. Domnic Misolo**



Rev. Domnic Misolo – Executive Director – Ekklesia Foundation  
**“Positive Masculinity; Engaging Men for Gender Justice”**

The Reverend Domnic Misolo is an ordained Anglican priest in the Diocese of Bondo, Kenya. He is the founder and president of Ekklesia Foundation for Gender Education ([efogeinternational.org](http://efogeinternational.org)). He studied theology at St. Paul’s University in Kenya and currently pursuing master’s degree in project planning and management at the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

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**Prof. Esther Mombo**



Prof. Esther Mombo -Senior Lecturer – St. Paul’s University  
**“Man and Woman, One in Christ: Bible Study Expositor”**

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Amy J. Chase – Lecturer – Drew Theological School

**“Finding an Excellent Wife: On the Speaking and Spaces of Proverbs 31”**

Amy J. Chase graduated in 2019 from Drew University, Madison, New Jersey, with a Ph.D. in Bible and Cultures (Old Testament emphasis). Her dissertation, passed with distinction, earned the Rabbi Dr. Sheldon J. Weltman Prize for Excellence in Bible Studies. Titled, “Making Space for Strong Women: A Socio-Narratological Examination of Proverbs 31,” this dissertation examines the gender constructions and power dynamics depicted in Proverbs 31. Dr. Chase has also earned degrees from Fuller Theological Seminary and Wheaton College. She teaches part-time at Drew Theological School and at Seton Hall University.

**Topic: “Finding an Excellent Wife: On the Speaking and Spaces of Proverbs 31”**

Proverbs 31 is well-known as a biblical description of the ideal woman. This depiction can burden women when taken as an expectation for them to joyfully take care of everyone and everything while husbands enjoy honor sitting in the gates. My examination of Proverbs 31 attends to the multiple voices and spaces mentioned in Proverbs 31 in order to shed light on this excellent wife’s qualifications for and even participation in leading her family and society. With its climactic ending that begins, “Give to her,” Proverbs 31 can be understood as a call not only to recognize this strong

woman's contributions, but also to give her the reward and the authority that she deserves. Such exhortation has bearing on readers of the Bible today in our regard for and treatment of women.

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Emma Smith Cain – Associate Director for Business Development and Grants Management, World Vision, DRC

**“The Root of It All: Patriarchy, Faith, and Social Change in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies.”**

**Topic:** “The Root of It All: Patriarchy, Faith, and Social Change in Complex Humanitarian Emergencies “

Emma Smith Cain earned her BA in History and Geography from Dartmouth College, and as a Harry S Truman Scholar, she earned her MA with distinction in Human Rights and Public Policy (focused on child rights in armed conflict) from University College London. Since 2017, she has been studying at Eastern Mennonite Seminary, where she is just now completing her MA in Christian Leadership with a certificate in Humanitarian Action Leadership. Both her research and professional interests lie at the nexus of gender equality, humanitarian relief, and Christian theology.

She is passionate about women and girls in fragile contexts and protracted crises and is committed to ensuring that the designs of humanitarian programs are gender-sensitive and empower women and girls. Her work on gender and humanitarian relief has taken her to some of the most fragile contexts, including eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, northern Uganda, and South Sudan. She served with Samaritan's Purse in eastern DRC for three years in various capacities, including grants acquisition and protection program management, and she is now currently serving as the Associate Director for Business Development and Grants Management with World Vision in DRC. She is married to Peter, and they have one 1-year-old son, Asher. They worship at Park View Mennonite Church in Harrisonburg, Virginia, and by the time of the conference, they will have relocated to Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo



Jane Machira – Programme Development Advisor-Gender and Inclusion

**“Side by Side: Strengthening a faith movement for gender justice”**

Jane Machira, a Kenyan national is Programme Development Advisor – Inclusive Programming for the Africa Division in Christian Aid. She has 25 years' experience in development and humanitarian sector. Jane has been influential in establishing the *Side by Side: Faith movement for gender justice*, across Africa and serves

on the Global Steering Group.

**Side by Side: Strengthening a faith movement for gender justice**

In this presentation, Jane Machira will communicate the importance for strengthening a faith movement to advance gender justice. While an individual, organization or institution can bring about some change, gender injustice requires that we build partnerships and strengthen collaboration to effect social, political and economic justice, for women and girls around the world. This talk will offer practical ways to learn from, and strengthen a faith movement for gender justice.