



JUNE 2023 UPDATE

EQUIPPING MEN FOR GENDER JUSTICE & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Dear Friends and partners,

Is harnessing the potential of MEN and Faith actors crucial in the fight against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)?

Yes, MEN can be engaged positively to end gender-based violence (GBV).



MASCULINITY, BIBLE AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE TRAINING

IFAGE team, through our contextualized training manual on Masculinity, Bible and Gender-Based Violence, we work with men, Faith leaders and women on positive masculinity and biblical gender equality to change patriarchal mindsets and attitudes that oppress and devalue women and girls based on gender.

But why MEN?

In the African context, culture and religion bestow power and influence on men, however, IFAGE cultivates this potential to influence men and traditional actors to end Gender-based Violence by creating safe space to talk about patriarchy and male dominance culture that affects women and girls.

Event's Gallery

From 16th April to 20th April 2023, IFAGE trained 60 facilitators to be grass root trainers at the local churches and communities at Ndere Vocational Training Center.

These 60 facilitators (T.O.Ts) were selected from our 2,848 Gender Champions that we had trained in 2022 from Rarieda, Bondo, Gem,

Ngiya, Regea and Muthiero Arch-deaconaries in Bondo and Maseno West Sub-Counties in Siaya, Kenya.



Gender champions drawing an action plan to end GBV in church and the community on 20th April 2023

Siaya County, with a population of 992,183 people and 240 local churches, the trained T.O. Ts shall reach out to at least four (4) churches on Masculinity, Bible and Gender-Based Violence. IFAGE targets to reach 75% of the population in Siaya County, a county known for patriarchal culture and religious beliefs that oppress women and girls.

Research indicates that the GBV is on the rise in Siaya County with a high percentage of cases of sexual and domestic violence being handled by the magistrates and judges. Additionally, GBV issues that have engulfed Siaya County for the past three years, have also led to a high rate of teen pregnancies and early marriages among girls.



A Mother's Union Gender Champion presenting an action plan of mentoring other women on Biblical Gender Equality and ways to end GBV.

Women and girls' mobility, access to resources, and ability to make decisions are all limited by inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV), which have an impact on how fully they may exercise their agency, including being able to make their own decisions, especially when it comes to their reproductive health - a sad situation but is their reality, hence men must be involved.



Facilitators/ToTs being trained on the Bible and Gender-Based Violence by Bishop Wasonga/ IFAGE board member, at Ndere Vocational Training Center on 17th April

How do we get Men Involved?

IFAGE steers peer to peer Biblical Gender Equality discussions among men and women. They listen to one another in a safe space for equality and justice. Our identity and uniqueness is that we use the Bible as a tool for dialogue and empowerment, in order to bring change of attitude that respects both women and men as God's image bearers. Through this, we encourage men to create safe family spaces for dialogue and reconciliation. We also encourage collective ownership and responsibility for household duties by demystifying gender stereotypes, power relations and harmful norms that harm women and girls.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

60

Gender champions trained as facilitators on Masculinity, Bible and Gender-Based Violence to reach out and lead training to 240 local churches in Siaya County, Kenya.

30

Key Faith leaders and Priests trained to embrace and encourage women in church leadership by demystifying gender stereotypes.

240

Men's breakfast meeting groups are being created in Siaya, a County with a population of 960,000 people to continue on Masculinity, Bible and Gender-Based Violence training till 2025 as per our strategic plan.

A WhatsApp Group was created for participants to share the progress of their action plans, learn from each other and help us monitor the impact of the training on society.

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Institute For Faith and Gender Empowerment (IFAGE) is a registered faith-based Non-Government Organization working in East Africa on gender justice and equality since 2013

Yours sincerely,

Rev. Domic Misolo - CEO & IFAGE Team



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