

Being Mary and Being Martha, for Peace!

Lutheran Peace Fellowship (LPF) Women's Initiative 2016-2017

Do you think of yourself as Mary in Luke 10: 38-42 (sitting at Jesus's feet to learn and enjoy his company) or Martha (distracted by many tasks and feeling hassled)? Maybe the reality is that we go back and forth between being Mary and being Martha. Both roles are needed, and at various times, we may sit and learn, and at other times, we will act.



To encourage church group action on violence against women and girls, Lutheran Peace Fellowship developed a Women's Initiative in 2013-2014. Five resources were compiled; links appear below. Various LPF blogposts on women's issues were published since then. Now, this 2016-2017 follow-up offers you several new links to use. Let's act, as Marys and Marthas, to help all of us and others, the Marys and Marthas of the world, who need peace!

1. "How can I inform and inspire my church group?"

["Stopping Violence Against Women and Girls: Ways We Can Help"](#)
(Action Guide)

["Nurturing Peace: the Gifts of Women"](#) (Action Guide)

["Women's Path of Hope: What Women Can Achieve"](#) (Timeline of women's non-violent actions and movements from biblical times to the present. A mix of faith-based and secular examples.)

["Women's Video Gallery"](#) (Links to trailers and full-length interviews and documentaries, with tips for viewing)

["Inspiration from Women: Quotes and Litanies for Empowerment"](#)

2. Does your "woven path" design have a special meaning?

The "woven path" design of the LPF Women's Initiative symbolizes the often curvy (rather than straightforward) road we travel in peacemaking. Though the path may be unfamiliar, we can find beauty in the motion. The texture suggests how our efforts are interconnected or interwoven with those of other peace-weavers. And the rolling quality of the weave symbolizes our commitment to keep "rolling along" for the sake of peace and justice!

3. "Give me the facts. "

[Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) Report](#) is the U.S. Government's global look (and the world's most comprehensive source) about human trafficking and government actions to confront and eliminate it. Freeing victims, preventing trafficking, and bringing traffickers to justice are the ultimate goals.

[Prostitution Research & Education \(PRE\)](#) seeks to abolish prostitution while advocating for alternatives. It provides education and consultation to researchers, survivors, the public and policymakers.

4. "Tell me about legislation that needs support."

Off the Sidelines is Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's call to action with issues, stories and resources encourages women and girls to make their voices heard.

Polaris Project operates the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline, [1-888-373-7888](tel:1-888-373-7888). It includes an action page on H.R. 5405, to establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) Health and Wellness training pilot program to address human trafficking in the U.S. health care system.

5. "What kinds of funding campaigns are underway?"

Chime for Change is a global campaign to raise funds and awareness to promote education, health and justice for women and girls. Founded by Gucci.

The Global Fund for Women is a grant-making institution that supports non-profits globally to advance the rights of women and girls; especially to improve sexual health, help them escape violence, and fight on behalf of their political and economic independence.

6. "What other organizations have you found inspirational?"

(Overview) **He for She** offers stories and "What Can I Do" action ideas for gender equality in education, health, identity, work, violence and political issues.

Stop Violence Against Women is a forum for information, advocacy and change in the promotion of women's human rights around the world. STOPVAW is a project of The Advocates for Human Rights.

(Immigrant) **Tahirih Justice Center** is the only national, multi-city organization providing direct legal services, policy advocacy, training and education to protect immigrant women and girls fleeing violence.

(Forced Marriage) **Unchained At Last** is the only nonprofit in the US dedicated to helping women leave or avoid arranged/forced marriages and rebuild their lives.

In July 2016, a group of 35 women for Unchained protested outside Newark Penn Station in New Jersey. Dressed in bridal gowns and veils, with their arms chained and mouths taped, they chanted "3-0-9-1! We won't stop until it's done!" Their demand was for NJ legislators to pass A3091, the bill to end child marriage, and for legislators in other states to follow that lead. [Watch the video](#).

(Young women) **Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)** empowers young women (12-24) who have experienced commercial exploitation and domestic trafficking to exit the sex industry and develop to their full potential.

Lutheran Peace Fellowship (LPF) is an international community of peacemakers and justice-seekers who seek to lift up Jesus's Way of Shalom on issues of Christian peacemaking and nonviolence, war and militarism, family and community violence, and hunger and inequality. Your support enables LPF's education outreach, resources for forums and groups, blogposts, advocacy updates, computer-based activities; and more.

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