



Side by Side is a growing global movement pursuing transformational change for gender justice.

ACTIVITIES SCOTLAND 2016

1. **April:** Christian Aid Scotland roundtable meeting to sound out possible interest in engagement with Side by Side in Scotland. Steering Group mandated to explore possibilities.
2. **June:** Mapping some of the current work on gender justice within Scottish churches and ecumenical bodies.
Partnership visit with Moumita Biswas, sharing some of the experience and work of the All-India Council of Christian Women. They have had a focus on promoting Positive Masculinities, and on men breaking the silence on male violence against women. They are working towards an Asian School for Ecumenical Formation for Gender Justice, to be held in Kerala, 28th October – 2nd November, to which Moumita extended an invitation.
3. **August:** Katherine Gilmour, the recently appointed Development Worker for the Church of Scotland's Violence Against Women Task Group, spoke about her remit and main areas of work. These include:
 - Supporting the Task Group strategy
 - Inputting into theological training and formation
 - Leadership empowerment (ministers and elders), including on the nature of authority and on capacity-building
 - Responding to Scottish Government strategy proposals, consultations; in the pipeline these include on abortion, prostitution, gender analyses on such issues as social security and budgeting. This will involve considerable work on the church's own policies and strategies on these issues before a meaningful response is possible.
 - Building partnerships with other agencies and organisations, both within faith communities and secular bodies.

Discussion on the commitments of the Side by Side movement (below), reflecting on where we think we are in Scotland towards reaching these, and where our particular strengths, challenges and opportunities might be.

Together we will:

- *Engage with faith leaders and faith-based organisations, of all traditions, who desire to join this ministry*
- *Work towards gender justice, and so create a Faith Movement in which no one is excluded on the grounds of gender.*

- *Support and equip faith leaders to recognise, and use, their position of power and responsibility – within their spheres of influence – to promote gender equality.*
- *Challenge and help change harmful social norms and religious or cultural practices.*
- *Actively challenge the structures and systems that prevent women and girls from participating fully within their community and society.*
- *Fully involve men and boys in redefining just and equal gender relationships.*
- *Work to enable everyone to recognise and achieve their full potential.*
- *Seek and value the participation of all stakeholders that we can work with to promote gender justice.*

Side by Side is not just about Scotland; it is about standing in solidarity with people and faith communities across the world who are working for gender justice, often in extreme and dangerous circumstances. What does it mean to stand with them, sharing our achievements but also our disappointments and failures, learning from each other? How do we include our young people, especially those who have already made a commitment to working for gender justice? How do we best work in partnership with other bodies? How do we best make visible the invisible structures of gender injustice that still operate, in this country, and globally?

4. October: Power and Gender Learning Round Table: Women’s Experience of Participation and Leadership in Bolivia and Scotland

- Power and Gender in Bolivia - Cecilia Cordova, Programme Manager
- Christian Aid’s approach to Gender Justice in Scotland - Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland
- Power and Gender in Scotland - Dr Lesley Orr, Centre for Theology and Public Issues, Edinburgh University
- Overview of Power, Gender and Inclusion Paper - Charles Gay, Power and Governance Advisor – Christian Aid
- Round Table discussion on power, gender and inclusion: from Scotland to LAC – learning lessons and sharing

5. November/December: As part of the 16 Days of Activism on Gender-Based Violence

- Scottish Episcopal Church and Christian Aid launch of: *Loving One Another: A biblical discussion toolkit on gender-based violence*, a joint initiative of The Scottish Episcopal Church, the Anglican Episcopal Church of Brazil and Christian Aid Scotland and Brazil.
- Side by Side event: Gender, Faith and Young People
- Article by Fiona Buchanan on gender justice published in the Scotsman.
<http://www.scotsman.com/news/opinion/to-beat-poverty-we-need-equality-1-4292338#comments-area>

6. Two members of the Steering Group also attended the Asian School for Ecumenical Formation for Gender Justice in Kerela, and will be reporting back on it.