



FAITH MOVEMENT FOR GENDER JUSTICE

# Side-by-Side: Faith Movement for Gender Justice

## Project Brief

August, 2018

**Gender Justice: Where everyone is valued equally and able to share equitably in the distribution of power, knowledge and resources.**

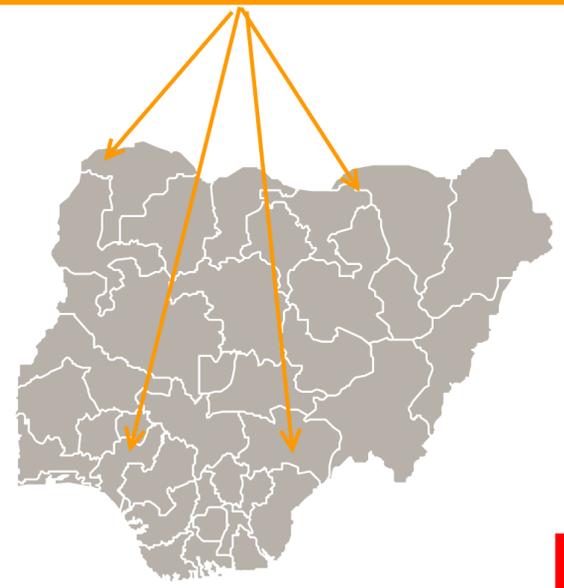


Side-by-Side is a growing global movement of people of faith who want to see gender justice become a reality across the world. Through this movement, faith leaders will work together to pursue transformational change for gender justice by addressing the inequality and powerlessness faced by women and girls who suffer systematic disadvantage and discrimination – particularly those who are poor, live in rural areas, and are from particular social groups.



The Side by Side movement consists of not only faith leaders, but all people of faith and faith-based organisations (FBOs) across the world who are committed to partnering together to challenge barriers to gender justice. It is a movement initiated and catalysed by Christian Aid, but owned by all faith actors committed to change, regardless of religion.

### National Faith Actors' Dialogue Forum



In Nigeria, we will work through a National-level Faith Actors Dialogue Forum to cover all the 36 States of the country in order to strengthen the existing actions faith leaders and institutions are already taking to advance gender justice.

For wider reach and effectiveness, it is expected that faith leaders will engage in public debate of gender equality and empowerment of women, men, boys and girls as well as the inclusion of other socially excluded persons through sermons, messages and wider educational activities among their congregations and on the media.

**We are united by a belief that each person is made in the image of God and has intrinsic value and dignity**

### The Side-by-Side Approach

When faith leaders speak out against gender injustice, they give permission and the moral authority for others (including men and politicians) to do the same, and thereby begin to change long-standing and often entrenched social norms which lie at the root of gender inequality. Therefore, the approach of Side-by-Side is use the influence of faith leaders to stand firmly on fighting for gender equality and transforming discriminatory and unequal power relationships; an approach that can be used to achieve inclusive and sustainable development.

#### How?

- A National Faith Actors Dialogue Forum will be established to address social norms and change behaviours for gender justice.
- Provide greater coordination of national faith-based movements with an agreed set of principles, priorities and action plans for advancing gender justice in Nigeria.
- Priorities and lessons learnt will be shared under a global umbrella of inter-faith based movement which will strengthen and amplify the voices of national movements at a global level.
- The movement will advocate and address all manifestations of gender inequality in a coordinated and comprehensive way through national action, including providing guidance materials for local faith leaders on how to engage their communities on various gender justice issues.
- Provide safe spaces for people of faith to engage in open debate on various gender justice issues. Apply “do no harm” approach by avoiding confrontational strategies but instead, instigate natural conversations allowing religious actors/groups to discuss these issues freely amongst their peers, holding each other to account.

### We expect to see outcomes at two levels in the first three years

#### At state level:

1. Increased awareness, capacity and commitment amongst faith leaders of their need to challenge and change damaging social norms.
2. More faith leaders implementing community-based response mechanisms to address social, political and economic gender inequality issues in their states and communities.
3. More male faith leaders and people of faith becoming champions for gender equality

#### At national level:

1. More faith leaders are advocating for appropriate laws, policies and services which recognise, prevent and respond to gender inequality and Gender-Based Violence
2. Faith leaders are increasingly aware of, and advocating for the gender transformative possibilities of our current policy priorities of peaceful society, climate change, tax justice and the post 2015 agenda.
3. A more robust evidence base for the efficacy of faith institutions in effectively addressing gender social, political and economic gender justice issues.
4. Governments and donors are increasingly recognising, supporting and financing faith institutions as key actors in achieving gender justice outcomes



The Side-by-Side movement is a long-term project given that the gains and anticipated changes for equality for all as well as inclusive and sustainable development will only become sustainable over time as other faith actors join the movement when they begin to see the significant gains of shunning all forms of discrimination in the society.

Given this, in the first three years of the project, we aim to help firmly establish, build the capacity of and support a coordinated national faith movement for gender justice which is making a demonstrable impact on gender justice at community, states and national levels.



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