



# REFORMED CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FORUM

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## REFORMED CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FORUM: MEDIA STATEMENT

**The Reformed Christian Women's Forum (RCWF) is a movement which was established recently by Christian Women for public witness. The voices of Christian women regarding matters concerning women are often not heard. This Forum wants to form a platform for these voices. Their focus is social justice in accordance with the Word.**

**The following churches are part of the Forum: Uniting Presbyterian Church in SA (UPCSA); Gereformeerde Church, Hervormde Church, Uniting Reformed Church in SA (URCSA), Reformed Church in Africa (RCA), NG Church in Afrika (NGKA), Methodist Church, NG Church (Dutch Reformed Church) en die Uniting Congregational Church in SA (UCCSA).**

The RCWF have with pain witnessed the continued abuse of women and the many indignant ways in which women are treated in our country and in other African countries. We encourage women all over South Africa and beyond our borders to unite in making our voices heard against these human rights abuses. We shall not stand by and allow fellow women to be killed and our girl children to be used as bargaining chips.

Following the current, increasing court cases, dealing with violence against women, it is evident that as a society we need to re-visit our approaches in socializing boys and girls and the way we teach them to respect one another. Further we need to continue to raise awareness around issues of gender violence in our families, different communities and the society at large. We need to advocate for the full might of law against perpetrators no matter who they are, and lobby for the government to ensure that victims of gender violence who are financially constrained, are not denied justice. We already sent a letter to the Department of Education to advocate for a curriculum where these matters can be addressed.

As RCWF, we share in the devastation of many families in Nigeria whose daughters have been captured by Boko Haram. This is a human rights violation aimed at young girls as soft targets. The captured girls are children who are defenseless, they need the care and protection of their parents and guardians. Uprooting them in this violent way is traumatic and will change their authentic being for good. We have written a letter to the Embassy of Nigeria to request them and the United Nations to work together to ensure the protection of our girls and safe return to their families, where they belong.

As different Christian communities gather and pray for these matters we need to also act in ways that will let the perpetrators of these crimes know that we as RCWF and women around the world will not be quiet. We will claim our rightful positions in society to protect the ethical morals and values, as well as to restore the respect and dignity of women.

If you want to contact us you are welcome:

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30 May 2014

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*Uniting Presbyterian Church in SA (UPCSA); Gereformeerde Church, Hervormde Church, Uniting Reformed Church in SA (URCSA), Reformed Church in Africa (RCA), NG Church in Afrika (NGKA), Methodist Church, NG Church (Dutch Reformed Church) en die Uniting Congregational Church in SA (UCCSA).*