

*"The sounds of women's silence run deep. Let us attune our ears to the sounds of women's silence, to attend and listen to what is not said, what has never been said, what is only now beginning to be said. Let this silence cry aloud in our ears, let it resound and reverberate inside our heads, let it deafen our whole being with its colossal roar."* Nicola Slee

*"Peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men."* UN Security Council, 2002

## **Call for Articles: *Mozaik* Special Issue Stop Being Silent! Identifying, Overcoming and Preventing Domestic Violence**

Violence across the globe echoes out of the news, but do we hear the violence next door or within our own communities? Domestic violence is often hushed and hidden, in daily life and society, in churches and in schools, locked in the minds and bodies of the victims and perpetrators. Clichéd phrases and popular mentalities make light of it and its cycle continues from generation to generation. Studies completed by the World Health Organization and the Council of Europe have shown that at least 25% of women experience some sort of domestic violence during their lifetime. Domestic violence effects not only women but also men and children.

There is a clear link between violence in society, perhaps during a war or simply present in popular culture, and violence in the home. Domestic violence that happens during periods of peace is very much linked to the violence and rape that is directed against women and children during a violent conflict.

How can we prevent the cycle of abuse that permeates our society? From issues of trafficking to sexual harassment, raising awareness about the signs, causes, and methods to overcome domestic violence is essential; silence merely perpetuates the cycle.

Possible topics include: Case studies of domestic violence in European societies and beyond; steps towards breaking the silence; the response of NGO and government structures; programmes for victims and abusers; values and boundaries essential for human rights; domestic violence and religion; economic violence; war crime against women; violence in society (war, media, etc) and violence in the home; gender roles and inequalities; economic abuse and trafficking; how to start a public dialogue; campaigns to raise awareness about domestic violence; what to do when one becomes aware of a situation of domestic violence.

This publication seeks to follow-up a three year project organised by the Lingua Franca programme of WSCF-E. The first seminar in this programme was held in Nitra, Slovakia in August 2008, the second in Novi Sad, Serbia in July 2009 and the last will be held in the summer of 2010. Activities included lectures, discussions, role-plays, intercultural encounters, film-screenings, language lessons, and bible studies.

In our ecumenical journal, we aim to provide a forum to continue the exploration of the many various aspects of this topic and to provide resource material for future activities. It is a space to take up burning questions from theological, spiritual, cultural, social and other arenas; to explore Christian experience; to clear up misinformation; to provide a firm basis for dialogue and cooperation and to suggest innovative answers to the challenges we face.

We accept essays and articles 10.000-15.000 characters long, with endnotes, including some suggested readings when appropriate. We would also welcome contributions of art work, poetry, short stories, liturgies, interviews, reflections and reports from your SCMs. For information about format, consult previous *Mozaiks*. If you decide to contribute, please inform the Lingua Franca coordinator of your interest as soon as possible at [wscflinguafranca@gmail.com](mailto:wscflinguafranca@gmail.com).

We would also like to encourage contributions of book, film and cultural reviews related to the theme. As ever, we keenly encourage contributions from new writers.

The deadline for contributions in **September 15, 2010**. We look forward to hearing from you!

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