

Human Rights Team Statement on Issues of Gender Justice

SUMMARY

Community of Christ affirms its faith. God created all human beings diverse, of equal value and of inestimable worth. World Conference Resolutions and recent passages of the Doctrine and Covenants also challenge the church to confess limitations in human understanding and to celebrate human diversity in creation. Therefore, we uphold the fundamental and equal human rights of all people regardless of sex and gender differences. We challenge individuals and communities to uphold the equal worth of all persons, across all nations, societies, and cultures and to seek justice and equality for all persons regardless of sex and gender differences.

FOUNDATIONS

Community of Christ proclaims the worth of all persons, and God's gift of human diversity. We confess our human failures of prejudice and abuse. Doctrine and Covenants 165 3:c-e focuses our confession and affirmation of faith:

c. You do not fully understand many interrelated processes of human creation. Through its wonderful complexity, creation produces diversity and order. d. Be not consumed with concern about variety in human types and characteristics as you see them. Be passionately concerned about forming inclusive communities of love, oneness, and equality that reveal divine nature. e. Oneness and equality in Christ do not mean uniformity. They mean Unity in Diversity and relating in Christ-like love to the circumstances of others as if they were one's own. They also mean full opportunity for people to experience human worth and related rights, including expressing God-given giftedness in the church and society.

We recognize that the limits of human understanding are both individual and cultural. Community of Christ affirms that the gospel intervenes and affirms that human diversity, and the inestimable worth of persons are gifts of God.

Our faith calls Community of Christ to do justice as a requirement of the gospel. World Conference Resolution 1161, passed in 1980, affirms the gospel requires proclaiming justice. It also calls the church to unite in common commitment to pray and work for the elimination of all inhumane conditions that nations and peoples heap upon the poor, the dispossessed, and the imprisoned. It directs the church to focus on those who suffer from social conditions that limit freedom, such as discrimination by reason of tribe or race, age or sex, and to promote peace, justice, freedom, and respect for personal dignity.

World Conference Resolution 1184 passed in 1984 affirms that all people have essential rights. It encourages disciples to support organizations and movements that specifically work to secure the human rights of those whose rights are being violated. Sex and gender difference continue to be a basis for discrimination, inequality, and violation of equal human rights across the globe.

World Conference Resolution 1226, passed in 1992, reaffirms that the gospel of Jesus Christ reveals the unqualified love of God and the inestimable worth of all people. The resolution recognizes that human beings fear, hate, and abuse each other in ignorance over differences. Differences include socioeconomic status, culture, race, gender, age, size, sexual orientation, and mental or physical ability. In response, we confess our own imperfections, both in attitude and action, as people of faith. In response, our faith affirms and celebrates the rich diversity of human life. We accept responsibility to resist fear and hate in all forms and to strive continuously to eliminate expressions of prejudice and discrimination.

Lastly, our call to peace includes efforts to heal the causes of prejudice, discrimination, and oppression. World Conference Resolution 1227, passed in 1992, calls on the church to intensify efforts to heal the causes of violence, prejudice, discrimination, and oppression. The Human Rights Team believes this statement on Issues of Gender Justice clarifies this call as it relates to sex and gender differences.

STATEMENT

Community of Christ affirms its faith that God created all human beings with equal and inestimable worth. We call this faith principle “Worth of All Persons.” The term “all” is not figurative, but universal and inclusive of human diversity.

In pursuit of equal human rights for all, ensuring the worth of all persons begins with those excluded, marginalized, oppressed, and vulnerable. We aim our efforts toward full inclusion and equality in society and human relationships regardless of sex and gender differences. We seek inclusion and fundamental human rights for all.

Sex refers to biological differences. Gender refers to social identity characteristics. Individual and systemic inequalities, prejudice, and discrimination persist regarding sex and gender differences. Policies, laws, and actions that diminish human worth or undermine basic human equality based on sex or gender differences violate our faith in the equal and inestimable worth of all persons. As a global faith community, we uphold and seek to protect the worth of all persons individually and in community. We oppose policies, laws, or practices that diminish or deny human worth based on sex or gender differences. We challenge all to uphold the inestimable worth of persons and equal rights of all, regardless of sex and gender differences.

We invite the church in all nations, cultures and communities to listen to voices of those marginalized in their own communities and cultures because of their sex and gender differences. Seek to understand the experiences of those diminished, excluded, or made to feel lesser. Pursue the Worth of All Persons, seeking justice for those oppressed and diminished based on sex and gender differences. Act to establish and protect the fundamental human rights of all.

COMMUNITY OF CHRIST ENDURING PRINCIPLES

We seek diligently to uphold the following principles (values, concepts, themes) as a faithful response to our heritage and our continuing experience with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

Enduring Principles

- Grace and Generosity
- Sacredness of Creation
- Continuing Revelation
- Worth of All Persons
- All Are Called
- Responsible Choices
- Pursuit of Peace (Shalom)
- Unity in Diversity
- Blessings of Community

For more information on Community of Christ's Enduring Principles, see <https://cofchrist.org/about-us/>.