

So many issues are of concern to women around the world today. What does the Seventh-day Adventist church have to say to women about these important issues?

Abortion

These guidelines were approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Executive Committee at the Annual Council session in Silver Spring, Maryland, October 12, 1992.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that all life, including prenatal life, is a gift from God and deserves respect. While life must never be destroyed thoughtlessly, there are some very serious circumstances in which abortion may be the most acceptable alternative.

Abortion is never acceptable for reasons of birth control, gender selection, or convenience. In situations where the pregnant woman's life or health are in serious jeopardy, where the fetus is diagnosed with severe defects, or where the pregnancy results from rape or incest, a woman must make her own decision, guided by good counsel and by the Holy Spirit.

The Christian's attitude towards a woman facing difficult decisions about abortion should be one of love and support, not of condemnation.

Abuse and Family Violence

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and was released by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the General Conference session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 29-July 8, 1995

Seventh-day Adventists recognize the worth and dignity of all human beings and are seriously concerned about the problems of family violence. We believe it is our responsibility as a church community to respond seriously to reports of abuse and violence, to work with other professional services, to care for those affected by abuse and to help them access the services they need.

The Seventh-day Adventist church is also committed to family life education to give family members the tools and resources to help prevent family violence and abuse.

Pornography

This public statement was released by the General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson, after consultation with the 16 world vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, on July 5, 1990, at the General Conference session in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that pornography is destructive, demeaning, desensitizing, and exploitative. It destroys marital relationships, demeans women (and sometimes men) by portraying them as one-dimensional sex objects, and desensitizes the viewer to sin. It is dehumanizing and damaging in all its forms.

Women's Issues

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and was released by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the General Conference session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 29-July 8, 1995.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that women and men are created equal and that both have roles to play in bringing God's message of love to the world. Where societal problems such as poverty, stress, and family violence prevent women from reaching their full potential, Seventh-day Adventists are committed to helping women overcome these obstacles and achieve their full potential.



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What your church says about women:

Seventh-day Adventist Church
statements on issues relevant to women

Department of Women's Ministries
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

AIDS

This public statement was released by the General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson, after consultation with the 16 world vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, on July 5, 1990, at the General Conference session in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Seventh-day Adventists are committed to education for prevention of AIDS, including sex education that includes a Biblical approach to sexuality. The Seventh-day Adventist church has a role in caring for and ministering to those suffering from AIDS and HIV around the world.

Child Sexual Abuse

This statement was voted during the Spring Meeting of the General Conference Executive Committee on Tuesday, April 1, 1997, in Loma Linda, California.

We believe that the Bible condemns child sexual abuse in any and every form. The Seventh-day Adventist church needs to active in preventing child sexual abuse both within its own church family and in the community as a whole, and in helping abuse victims with healing and recovery.

Affirmation of Family

This public statement was released by the General Conference president, Neal C. Wilson, after consultation with the 16 world vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, on July 5, 1990, at the General Conference session in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that the family unit is blessed by God in a special way. When a family functions the way God intended, its members can reveal God's love to each other and to the world.

Families are under attack from all directions in our society today. The Seventh-day Adventist church recognizes a responsibility to support, help, and educate families so that they can reach their God-given potential.

Female genital mutilation

This document was adopted by the General Conference Christian View of Human Life Committee in April, 2000, and was referred to those Church departments and institutions which will find the material useful.

Seventh-day Adventists' commitment to human health and wholeness leads to concern about the practice of female genital mutilation. Women who have been subjected to this practice often suffer long-term gynecological health problems. Because female genital mutilation threatens physical, emotional, and relational health, Seventh-day Adventists are opposed to this practice. The Church calls on its health care professionals, educational and medical institutions, and all members along with people of good will to cooperate in efforts to eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation.

Human Relations

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and was released by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the General Conference session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 29-July 8, 1995.

Seventh-day Adventists are opposed to every form of discrimination based on race, tribe, nationality, color or gender. In a world where racial tensions are tearing apart countries and communities, the Seventh-day Adventist church, which has members in over 200 nations, is committed to love, acceptance, and respect towards people of all backgrounds.

Literacy

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) and was released by the Office of the President, Robert S. Folkenberg, at the General Conference session in Utrecht, the Netherlands, June 29-July 8, 1995.

Research shows that literacy is one of the six major challenges in the lives of all human beings around the world, especially women. The Seventh-day Adventist church's Office of Women's Ministries has a special interest in literacy training for women. Teaching people to read opens doors that allow people to access better careers, better health care, better family and parenting skills. Most importantly, the ability to read means that everyone—rich and poor, women and men—can have access to the good news of salvation through God's Word.

Marriage

This statement was approved and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Administrative Committee (ADCOM) on April 23, 1996.

We believe that marriage is a divinely established, lifelong union between a man and a woman. We believe that a monogamous heterosexual marriage is the only appropriate context for sexual intimacy, which is intended both to draw a man and a woman closer in committed love, and also to produce children who can be nurtured within that love.