



URCSA Bloemendal  
P.O. Box 17099, Saltville, PE, 6059 | Tel. 041 481 5741 | Fax. 041 481 5743  
DRC Somerstrand  
P.O. Box 32050, Somerstrand, PE, 6019 | Tel 041 583 5115 | [ngksomer@global.co.za](mailto:ngksomer@global.co.za)

14 February 2012

Dear sisters and brothers

We greet you in the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. May he bless us with grace and peace.

We were saddened this week to learn of another young girl in our community, raped and murdered. We are overwhelmed by statistics, claiming that a woman is raped every four minutes in South Africa, that a woman in our country has a better chance of being raped than learning to read. As Prof. Denise Ackermann stated (already in 1997)\*: *“A war is being waged against the bodies of women and children in this country. This is both a theological and a pastoral issue – one on which the church’s silence is obscene.”*

We can no longer be silent! As members of the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:27), we are mindful that “if one member suffers, all suffer together with it” (1 Cor. 12.26). We call on the Body of Christ to speak up with us, to say, “Enough!” Women and children are precious, meant to be respected as created in God’s image, not to be used and abused.

- We pray for the *safety of every woman and child* in our country.
- We pray for all *men of faith*, that they will embody Christ’s caring love, never lifting a hand against any woman, but respecting them as fellow members of Christ’s body.
- We pray for every *survivor of sexual and domestic violence*. May they be healed, physically and emotionally.
- We pray for the *Church*, that we may lovingly care for survivors of sexual violence, standing with them against all forces seeking to silence and shame them.
- We pray for the *men perpetrating* these atrocious crimes, that God may forgive them, but also that justice will be served.
- We pray for *government*, that they will see this crime for the atrocity it is and work to establish a safe, just society.

We call on fellow members of the Body of Christ, to put their voices with ours, praying with us and standing up with us. We especially ask our respective moderatures to stand with us, speaking out against the violence being committed against women and children. Let us name it for the sin it is and say: “Enough is enough.”

May the Lord bless us and keep us safe,  
may he make his face shine upon us and be gracious to us.  
May he lift his countenance upon us and give us peace.

Commission for Ecumenical Liaison: URCSA Bloemendal & NGK Somerstrand

\* Ackermann, D. 1997. Forward from the margins: Feminist theologies for life. *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, 99 (November 1997): 63-67



VGK Bloemendal  
Posbus 17099, Saltville, PE, 6059 | Tel. 041 481 5741 | Faks. 041 481 5743  
NGK Somerstrand  
Posbus 32050, Somerstrand, PE, 6019 | Tel 041 583 5115 | [ngksomer@global.co.za](mailto:ngksomer@global.co.za)

14 Februarie 2012

Liewe susters en broers

Ons groet u in die Naam van ons Here, Jesus Christus. Mag hy ons seën met genade en vrede.

Dit was met hartseer dat ons hierdie week kennis geneem het van nóg 'n jong meisie in ons gemeenskap wat verkrag en vermoor is. Ons is oorweldig deur die statistieke wat beweer dat daar elke vier minute in Suid – Afrika 'n vrou verkrag word, dat 'n vrou in SA 'n beter kans het om verkrag te word as om te leer lees. Soos wat Prof. Denise Ackermann reeds in 1997 gesê\* het: *“A war is being waged against the bodies of women and children in this country. This is both a theological and a pastoral issue – one on which the church’s silence is obscene.”*

Ons kan nie langer stilbly nie. As lede van die Liggaam van Christus (1 Kor. 12:27), weet ons “wanneer een lid ly, ly al die lede saam” (1 Kor. 12.26). Ons roep alle lede van die Liggaam van Christus op om hulleself uit te spreek, om saam met ons te sê: “Genoeg!” Vroue en kinders is kosbaar, bedoel om gerespekteer te word as geskape na die beeld van God, nie om gebruik en misbruik te word nie.

- Ons bid vir die *veiligheid van elke vrou en kind* in ons land.
- Ons bid vir *alle gelowige mans*, dat hulle Christus se omgee-liefde sal beliggaam; dat hulle nooit 'n hand teen enige vrou sal lig nie, maar vroue sal respekteer as mede-lede Christus se liggaam.
- Ons bid vir *elke oorlewende van seksuele en huishoudelike geweld*. Mag hulle genees word, fisies en emosioneel.
- Ons bid vir die *Kerk*, dat ons die oorlewendes van seksuele geweld liefdevol sal versorg en saam met hulle sal staan teen alle magte wat hulle wil stilmaak of beskaam.
- Ons bid vir die *mans wat hierdie gruwelike misdade pleeg*, dat God hulle sal vergewe, maar ook dat reg en geregtigheid sal geskied.
- Ons bid vir die *regering*, dat hulle hierdie misdade sal sien vir die gruweldade wat dit is en dat hulle sal werk om 'n veilige, regverdige samelewing te vestig.

Ons roep ons mede-lede van die Liggaam van Christus op om hul stemme by ons s'n te voeg, om saam met ons te bid en saam met ons op te staan. Ons vra spesifiek ons onderskeie moderature om saam met ons te staan, om hulle uit te spreek teen die geweld wat teen vroue en kinders gepleeg word. Kom ons noem dit die sonde wat dit is en sê: “Tot hier toe en nie vêrder nie.”

Mag die Here ons seën en ons beskerm.

Mag die Here tot ons redding verskyn en ons genadig wees.

Mag die Here ons gebede verhoor en aan ons vrede gee.

Ekumeniese Skakelkommissie: VGK Bloemendal & NGK Somerstrand

\* Ackermann, D. 1997. Forward from the margins: Feminist theologies for life. *Journal of Theology for Southern Africa*, 99 (November 1997): 63-67