



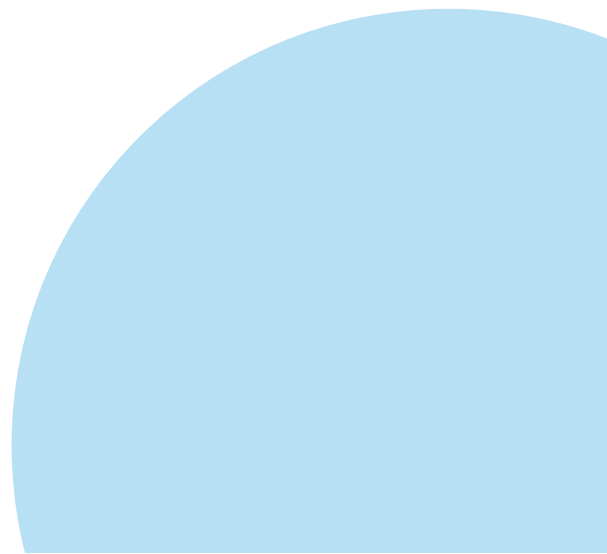
TRACI ANNUAL
CONFERENCE 2023

Online

ENGAGING THE GENDERED WORLD AS CHRISTIANS

11-12 February 2023

Call for Papers




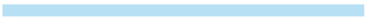
Concept Note

Gender as a social construct has legitimized gender bias leading to gender discrimination in every sphere of life. This has resulted in a gendered world where, “advantage and disadvantage, exploitation and control, action and emotion, meaning and identity, are patterned through and in terms of a distinction between male and female, masculine and feminine.” (Acker, 2003). Gender largely determines access to opportunities and resources, the possibility to enjoy security and stability and the prospect to live safely without fear of abuse or violence. Every space, position, experience and expression, which should have been gender neutral, overtly or covertly, perpetuates superiority, hierarchy and control based on gender resulting in different forms of powerlessness, oppression, marginalization and discrimination. Most structures and systems in society continue to reinforce gender disparity and inequality on an everyday basis through practices, which are firmly embedded in the culture. Despite the modernization and advancement that the world has witnessed, these discriminatory cycles are reproduced to sustain the gendered world. This is largely the lot of majority of women who are devalued on account of their gender and whose experiences are intricately linked to their identity as women. While persistent efforts have empowered women bringing about some changes in systems and structures the world has still not succeeded in ensuring gender justice in every sense of the term.

Over the centuries the Church and Christians have engaged the gendered world at multiple levels in empowering women to find their space and amplify their voice. Women have found access to health care, education, livelihood options and finance to name just a few, through the efforts of Christians as well and non-Christians. Christians of course have been in the forefront of many of these struggles to create a fairer world. The change has been appreciable in some areas while injustice continues to plague several others. We must persist to explore the possibilities that would transform our gendered world and usher in gender equality.

At the root of every gender injustice in the gendered world is the perspective of gender one carries, which may be of entitlement, power, ownership and control. Women’s experience in private spheres is affected by the messages that are deep rooted in the public sphere. Despite the Christian contribution to the empowerment of women, we find a world pointing fingers at the church and the Scripture for being perpetrators of gender injustice. What is the message of gender that we as Christians communicate to the world both in our perspectives and practice? The model that we depict is of immense significance to the women who are oppressed, deprived and abused just on account of being a woman if our message has to be considered seriously. While within our circle we grapple with gender issues and its implications in the church the larger question that begs an answer is: Are we limiting ourselves in being agents of change in an unfair world because we lack the credibility? Some of the gender injustices in the world are but a shadow of the matters that are wrong in our own midst. We still have many churches that overlook the inclusion of women or accord an inferior position to women or limit women at various levels. Since our stand on how we perceive and conduct ourselves has its impact on the gender concerns in the world, will we be guilty of falsely representing God to an unfair world?





The message of the Scripture of gender equality should be unequivocally conveyed to the gendered world. The mission of the church in the context of the gendered world is to practice gender equality and introduce hurting people to the love and justice of God that provides us an equal footing as men and women both in His presence and out in the world as we live our lives. Our perceptions and practices on gender should heal, liberate, provide justice and communicate the redeeming power of the gospel in our gendered cultures. As we consider the concerns of the gendered world in this conference we can deliberate on the kind of change we can usher in as Christians.

TRACI invites scholars and practitioners to write papers reflectively and critically on various facets of this theme that will enable us to engage the gendered world as Christians. The following is a suggestive list of topics that can be considered but writers are welcome to write on aspects beyond the listed ones but within the main theme. The papers must include the aspect of engaging as Christians.

- Biblical Perspectives
- Gender and the Church
- Gender and Leadership
- Family and Relationships
- Gender and Society
- Gender and Economy
- Gender and Polity
- Gender and Culture
- Violence and Abuse
- Legal Access and Justice
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Gender and Sexuality
- Gender, Structures and Systems
- Gender and Right to Life
- Gender, Conflict and Displacement
- Migrant and Refugee Women

Important Dates and Information

Conference Date: 11-12 February 2023

Last Date for Abstract Submission: 30 November 2022

Last date of Full-length Paper Submission: 30 January 2023

The conference will be held over Zoom.

No registration fee.

Abstract Submission

Abstracts not exceeding 250-300 words on any aspect linked to the theme and a brief biographical statement in a word doc format should be sent to traci.conference@gmail.com by 30 November 2022.

Phone: (+91) 9289642711.

The abstracts selected by the organizer will be notified to the author through email on or before 5 December 2022.





Submission Guidelines

1. Papers for the conference must conform to the word limit of approximately 3500 words along with an abstract of 250-300 words.
2. Provide 3-6 key words at the end of the abstract.
3. Do not quote from Wikipedia.
4. Authors are requested to follow Chicago Manual style for the purpose of referencing. Use footnotes instead of endnotes.
5. Authors are requested to use TIMES NEW ROMAN font throughout the text.
6. Line spacing should be "1.5".
7. Paper should be submitted only in MS-Word format.
8. Plagiarized materials or articles submitted or published elsewhere will not be accepted.
9. Selected papers will be published as a book with ISBN number.
10. Editors of the conference may edit the manuscripts for clarity and reduce the length of the paper if it exceeds the word limit.

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