

# Religious Leaders' Statement

As leaders of churches and Christian organizations, we are called to labor in God's work of ending hunger in the world. To achieve the goal of ending hunger by 2030, we know it will require the full participation and leadership of women. It is clear that our churches and organizations—as well as our government—have a role to play. We urge the U.S. government to take an active role in ending hunger and to make the full inclusion of women a guiding principle in its efforts.

Women suffer disproportionately from hunger and poverty—yet research shows that much of the reduction

in child malnutrition can be attributed to improvements in women's status. Given the special mission and vocation that women have in society—often children's first teachers, nurturers, and witnesses to God's love—women's empowerment, that is, their flourishing, is integral to our mission as Christians. We affirm that women are:

- Created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1: 26-27).
- Play a critical role in the proclamation of the reign of God (Judges 4: 4-9).

## SIGNATORIES

### **Mr. Marv Baldwin**

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- Active participants in the reconciliation of humanity to God (Luke 1: 26-38).
- Powerful agents of God’s purposes in the world (Acts 16: 11-13, 18: 26).

These scriptural truths and a holistic understanding of the critical role that women played in Scripture and continue to play in families, communities, and societies guide our efforts to invest in women’s empowerment. We recognize that women and men must work together to achieve mutual empowerment that leads to an authentic restoration of right and loving relationships.

We also acknowledge that the Church has, at times,

encouraged social and cultural norms that prevent women from flourishing. We lament our failure to challenge the social systems and sinful actions that have dehumanized and disempowered women.

Following in the example of Jesus, who treated women with dignity and love, we commit to removing barriers that prevent women from participating fully in society, especially barriers that perpetuate hunger and poverty.

Finally, we call on world leaders to ensure that the post-2015 sustainable development goals include universally applicable goals that focus on women’s empowerment and food and nutrition security.

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