



CWC Press Statement Synod October 2024

Women lead the change!

Catholic Women's Council (CWC), a global network of more than 60 Catholic women's organisations, will once again be in Rome during the opening week of the 2024 Synod on Synodality (October 1-5) with a delegation of international women. We offer several contributions to the ongoing discussions:

- **The Sanctuary of Listening** (3 October 2024 from 1:30 pm – 7:00 pm, followed by a reception at 7:30 pm)
 - An immersive experience designed to honour the voices, testimonies, and contributions of women within the Church. Contemporary narratives from around the world will be woven together with the stories of women in Scripture (Phoebe, Junia Thekla, Mary of Magdala, for example) who have exemplified courage and perseverance. Through video, storytelling, art, prayer, and audio elements, we will reflect upon the vital role women play in the life of the Church, particularly their often unrecognised pastoral leadership.
- After numerous listening sessions and discussions CWC has produced **two reports** outlining concerns, expectations, and demands by women. Focusing on spiritual and physical violence against women, and the ongoing exclusion of women from ordained ministries, these reports will be made available to synod delegates and the public for consideration.

Women are excluded from all ordained ministries in the Roman Catholic Church and face considerable resistance when they try to claim their equality and dignity. Nevertheless, women have never stopped demanding admission to all sacramental ministries.

Innumerable experiences of vocation, as well as theologically well-founded research from different regions, have shown that the role of women in the Church and sacramental ordination are of central importance for the synod process and can only be discussed as a whole. **To ignore the question of equal rights for women, is to exclude women from synodality.**

Women expect answers and visible signs that the Church will stand up for their rights. The previous stalling and delaying tactics must come to an end.

Women expect the synod to work towards an end of the exclusion of women and clerical dominance. Women expect the synod to work towards the recognition of women's rights as demanded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention.

For further information:

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