

## Task Force Members

**Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld**, Co-chair, Pastor  
**Brad Wendel**, Co-chair, Professor of Law  
**Jeff Barrow**, Bishop, Greater Milwaukee  
**Bruce Berg**, Pastor, Retired Career Military  
**Diane Brauer**, Administrative Assistant  
**Clare Josef-Maier**, Therapist  
**Darren Diggs**, Solution Designer  
**Bethany Fayard**, Sales and Marketing  
**Fern Lee Hagedorn**, Media Consultant  
**Erik Heen**, Professor of New Testament  
**Linda Herrera**, Community Organizer  
**Kit Kleinhans**, Professor of Religion  
**Lori Kochanski**, Pastor  
**Sherry Liske**, Nurse  
**Mary Lowe**, Professor of Theology  
**Heber Rast**, Electrical Engineer, retired  
**William Rodriguez**, Professor of Ethics  
**Ann Svennungsen**, Bishop, Minneapolis Area  
**Solomon Trimble**, Youth Program Coordinator

### *Governance Advisors*

**Marcus Kunz**, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop  
**Robert Moore**, ELCA Church Council, Pastor  
**Linda Post Bushkofsky**, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA  
**Pamela Pritt**, ELCA Church Council, Journalist

### *Churchwide Staff*

**Mary Streufert**, Director for Justice for Women  
**Roger Willer**, Director for Theological Ethics

## What is a social statement?

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist in the discernment of social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, deliberation and thoughtful engagement as we participate in God's work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA as an institution and guide its advocacy and work as a publically engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and discernment and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Office of the Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
8765 W. Higgins Rd.  
Chicago, IL 60631  
800-638-3522



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



## About the Work Toward an ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is currently in the process of creating a social statement on women and justice. This brochure provides an overview of the process. See the website below or email for more information.

[www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice)  
[womenandjustice@elca.org](mailto:womenandjustice@elca.org)

## A Task Force-Led Process

Responding to the call received from the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, a task force has been assembled to lead the process of social statement formation. The task force is composed of 19 ELCA members selected to represent diverse walks of life, perspectives, genders, geographic regions, ethnicities and skill sets. The task force studies relevant topics and discusses important issues that will allow them to draft a social statement that represents the hopes and concerns of the whole church.

**Learn more and let us know what you think!**

Web: [www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice](http://www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice)

Email: [womenandjustice@elca.org](mailto:womenandjustice@elca.org)

## How to be Involved

### • Listening Events

A listening event is an opportunity to hear insights and concerns on issues of women and justice in church and society from ELCA members. Everyone in the ELCA is invited and encouraged to say what matters to them about the issues at hand. Your input is essential in ensuring that the social statement addresses issues that members find most pressing. To find out if there is a listening event occurring near you, contact us at the email address listed above. There is no better source of information than you!

### • Study Resources

- The task force is currently providing brief study resources for your use. See the adjacent panel for more information.
- At the conclusion of its study period in summer 2016, the task force will release a full study document to assist those looking to lead discussions relevant to women and justice.

### • Draft Comment Period

From October 2017 through October 2018, a draft of a social statement will be available for comment. Hearings will be held around the country as an opportunity for members and congregations to learn about the draft's content and give valuable feedback before the period of revision. (See timeline below.) Members are also encouraged to send letters and emails to express their thoughts and concerns.

### • Process Builders

New for this social statement process are teams of Process Builders. These individuals in a synod are trained to strengthen communication and awareness. Process Builders act as a link between the task force and congregations and other ministries. They can lead listening events and educate about the social statement formation process. If you would like to be put in touch with your local Process Builder, send an e-mail to [womenandjustice@elca.org](mailto:womenandjustice@elca.org).

## Current Resources

The Women and Justice website contains multiple resources for leading discussions and furthering education on gender issues. Use these resources with your Bible study, youth group, or class to encourage thinking about the call to advocate for justice for everyone. Check the site throughout the year for new resources.



### 'Miss Representation'

"Miss Representation" unpacks how the media objectifies women and examines the effect of this powerful medium on both men and women. A study and discussion guide was created and can be found online.

### 'Half the Sky'

The award winning book and movie present the realities of women's lives worldwide. A discussion guide can be found online.



### Human Trafficking

This curriculum series provides six one-hour sessions that present the facts of human trafficking and discuss how we as Lutherans can respond to the call to affect change in the systems that allow human trafficking to continue.

