



Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 5 Targets:

- 5.1) **End** all forms of **discrimination against all women and girls** everywhere.
- 5.2) **Eliminate** all forms of **violence against all women and girls** in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- 5.3) **Eliminate all harmful practices**, such as child, **early and forced marriage** and female **genital mutilation**.
- 5.4) **Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work** through the provision of **public services, infrastructure** and **social protection policies** and the promotion of **shared responsibility within the household** and the **family** as nationally appropriate.
- 5.5) **Ensure women's full and effective participation** and equal opportunities for **leadership** at all levels of decision-making in **political, economic** and **public** life.
- 5.6) Ensure **universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights** as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
- 5.a) Undertake **reforms** to **give women equal rights to economic resources**, as well as access to **ownership** and **control over land** and other forms of **property**, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- 4.b) Enhance the use of **enabling technology**, in particular information and communications technology, **to promote the empowerment of women**.
- 4.c) **Adopt and strengthen sound policies** and **enforceable legislation** for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

See further resources related to Goal 5 and gender equality on page 4.

Take action toward achieving goal 5

Take action locally:

- **Congregational actions:** *Engage members of your congregation in action either through volunteering, advocacy, exercises, or wider congregational changes.*
 - **Organize a fundraiser or volunteer group for your local women's shelter.** Find your nearest women's shelter in the [U.S. here](#) and in [Canada here](#).
 - **Organize a fundraiser or volunteer group** for your [local rape crisis center](#) or for the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network's [sexual assault hotline](#).
 - **Enact the UUA's suggested actions in their [Statement of Conscious on Reproductive Justice](#)**, including:
 - Making your congregation a safe space for breastfeeding;
 - Forming a gender equality/reproductive justice taskforce;
 - Holding small group ministry sessions on reproductive justice in your congregation using the [UUA's outlined session plan](#).
 - **Organize a service or congregational recognition of [International Women's Day](#)** on March 8th. Activate a [Pledge for Parity campaign](#) at your congregation; check out resources, art, and writing from women [here](#). Hold a congregational collection for a women's rights-oriented non-profit organization of your choice (some ideas found here).
 - **Organize a service or congregational recognition of the [Transgender Day of Remembrance](#)** on November 20th to honor the memory of lives lost in anti-transgender violence.
 - **Sign up for the [UUA's Reproductive Justice newsletter](#)** or for the Human Rights Watch [Women in the World monthly newsletter](#) and advertise it to the rest of your congregation to keep in touch with the fight for gender equality.
- **Petitions:** *Sign the following petitions advocating for gender equality in the U.S. and Canada. Collect signatures at your congregation by book a table during coffee hour.*
 - **[Tell Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to create a National Action plan addressing the high rates of murders and disappearances of Indigenous women in Canada.](#)**
 - **[Tell U.S. State Legislators to eliminate sales tax on tampons](#)**, following in the footsteps of the Canadian government and making women's sexual and reproductive health more accessible.
 - **[Urge U.S. Congress to pass the Pet and Women Safety \(PAWS\) Act](#)**, which would supply funding to women's shelters to accommodate pets, removing the barrier that prevents women 1 in 4 from staying in abusive relationships for fear of the safety of their pets.
 - **[Tell U.S. Congress to move the prosecution of sexual violence in the military out of the chain of command](#)** by amending the [Uniform Code of Military Justice](#) (UCMJ).
- **Films for screening:** *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on gender equality in the U.S. and Canada at your congregation.*
 - **[Miss Representation](#)**: A documentary on the sexualization and negative portrayal of women in western media, and how this affects the self-confidence and success of women and girls.

- [**Equal Means Equal**](#): A documentary that shares the stories of what equal rights would mean to women across the US.
 - [**The Invisible War**](#): An Academy Award nominated documentary explores the sexual assault epidemic in the military, featuring stories of survivors
 - [**Ted Talks on Women's Rights**](#): Screen any of these short talks on issues related to women's rights and gender equality at your congregation.
- **Book club reads**: *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on gender equality in the U.S. and Canada.*
 - [**Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead**](#) – Sheryl Sandberg, CEO of Facebook, explores the lack of female representation in positions of political and business leadership in the U.S., challenging the idea that women cannot have it all. Watch Sandberg's [Ted Talk](#) on female leadership to supplement your reading.
 - [**Bad Feminist**](#) – Roxane Gay's series of essays on her development as a feminist woman of color, including a commentary on the feminist movement and the ways in which it can improve. Watch Gay's [Ted Talk](#) to supplement your reading.
 - [**Shortchanged: Why Women Have Less Wealth and What Can Be Done About It**](#) – Mariko Lin Chang uses data and interviews to analyze the gender pay gap in the U.S., offering explanations for the divide and solutions to achieve equality in pay.
- **NGOs working toward the cause**: *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working toward gender equality in the U.S. and Canada.*
 - [**Planned Parenthood**](#): This national provider of sexual and reproductive health services, STD tests, cancer screenings, and abortions is facing state budget cuts across the U.S., forcing many clinics to rely solely on donations to remain open.
 - [**UU Women's Federation**](#) and its [Majorie Bowens-Wheatley Scholarship Program](#) support those who identify as women of color, latina, or hispanic through Unitarian Universalist ministry/education.
 - [**Project Unbreakable**](#): A photography project that gives voice to sexual assault survivors who have been made voiceless and holds talks on college campuses across the U.S. to raise awareness of sexual violence and mobilize change.

Take action internationally:

- **Petitions**: *Sign the following petitions advocating for gender equality across the globe. Collect signatures at your congregation by book a table during coffee hour.*
 - [**Email the Prime Minister of Tunisia**](#) **urging proper support for survivors of sexual assault** under the law.
 - [**Tell Iranian Authorities**](#) **to criminalize domestic violence** and to withdraw provisions from a discriminatory bill that would allow gender-based employment discrimination.
 - [**Urge the government of Colombia**](#) **to protect transgender women** in light of recent murders of transgender women in the southwestern region.
 - **Use Amnesty International's** [**My Body My Rights**](#) **toolkit** to collect petition signatures and mobilize your congregational community toward action.
- **Films for screening**: *Host a film screening and discussion of any of the following documentaries on gender equality across the world at your congregation.*
 - [**To Educate a Girl**](#): A documentary on inequality in access to education that girls face across the world, with special focus on Uganda and Nepal.

- [Vessel](#): A documentary that follows the one physicians regular missions from the Netherlands across the world to deliver safe abortions to women in countries with restrictive anti-abortion laws.
- [Paper Dolls \(Bibot Niyar\)](#): A documentary that follows the lives of transgender migrant workers from the Philippines and their struggle for freedom and acceptance.
- **Book club reads:** *Consider forming a book club with a few members of your congregation to read and discuss any of the following books on gender equality across the world.*
 - [I Am Nujood, Age 10 and Divorced](#) – Nujood Ali tells her personal story her forced child marriage, the abuse she endured, and her own escape, a rare feat in Yemen, where nearly half of girls are married younger than the legal age.
 - [Wanted Women: Faith, Lies, and the War on Terror: The Lives of Ayaan Hirsi Ali and Aafia Siddiqui](#) – Deborah Scroggin looks at militant Islam and Muslim women’s rights through two lives on opposing political sides: the life of activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali and of religious extremist Aafia Siddiqui.
 - [We Should All be Feminists](#): Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s essay (adapted from her [Ted Talk](#)) draws upon her personal experience in the U.S. and Nigeria to define feminism in the 21st century and the harm that the gender divide causes across the world.
- **NGOs working toward the cause:** *Hold a fundraiser or collection plate for any of the following NGOs working toward gender equality across the world.*
 - [Women for Women International](#): A non-profit organization that supports women survivors of war with life, business, and vocational skills to move from a life of conflict and poverty to one of economic stability.
 - [She’s the First](#): A U.S.-based non-profit organization that raises money for girls across the world who are the first in their families to attend school to do so.
 - [World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts](#): Girl Guide and Girl Scout troops empower girls in 146 countries with the knowledge, confidence, and skill to grow into successful and enlightened adults.
 - [OutRight Action International \(IGLHRC\)](#): A UN NGO that documents violence and discrimination of all LGBTIQ people across the world (including transgender women) and advocates for human rights at an international level.

Further resources on goal 5 and gender equality:

- [Goal 5 targets and related publications](#) on women’s rights and gender equality.
- [UN facts and figures](#) on Goal 5 and the state of poverty worldwide.
- [Global Goals images](#) and infographics relating to goal 5.
- [UN Women’s digital library](#) of publications on women’s rights and global progress in the fight for universal gender equality.
- [UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW) text, history, and country reports.