At the GC session in San Antonio, Texas, from July 2 to 11 representatives from the whole world come together for business meetings of the world church.

See the interesting statistics of the delegates in the graphics:

- 17% of the delegates are women.
- Of the 18 Million members of the church 57% are women.

“We all know the church is gearing up to face the issue of women’s ordination at GC Session on July 8. The entire day is being given to this agenda item and there are many prayers being sent up for God to give us Holy Spirit guidance, peaceful discussions, healing and unity as we move forward after session…

No matter the direction this vote goes for women’s ordination, our mission to our sisters will remain the same as it is now.

Our prayer and hope is that one day soon, women of our church can stand together on the issues of education, the role of women in leadership, and affirmation of the gifts that God has given to His daughters.” – Heather-Dawn Small, Women’s Ministries Director, GC

With this thought I invite you to pray for the session ahead and for the decisions that need to be taken. Thank you.
Enditnow weekend in the North of Portugal

Espinho, June 6: A 10km walk for enditnow along the shore of North of Portugal was organized with participation of Regional Churches, Youth and Pathfinders.

Enditnow activities can be so much fun and have so much impact!

Break the Silence about abuse today! Milù Cordeiro (WM Director Portugal), Raquel Almeida (Assistant WM Director), Nelson (Youth Director in North of Portugal) - all did a great and wonderful job!

Meetings in Churches of Porto, Canelas and Espinho in Portugal – Break the Silence about Abuse

June 5-7: Meetings were organized in churches in the North of Portugal and the CAOD School with Denise Hochstrasser (Women's Ministries Director, Inter-European Division).

Antonio Rodriguez (President of Portugal Union), the pastors of the local Churches, Youth, young men and women participated with their contributions like poems, songs and special arrangements and made these meetings Inter-Generational (ICOR). Young and old, all helping each other to Break the Silence about Abuse.


PALS Program in Les Diablerets, Switzerland

May 22-25: The French-speaking women of the Swiss Union had a retreat where they were introduced to the PALS program – Prayer and Love Saves. Led by Gerd-Laila Walter of the Austrian Union they had a time of spiritual renewal and prayer, praying for family members who no longer seem interested in faith.

A highlight was a session of United Prayer that had to be continued on the next morning. It was a real modern-day Pentecost experience!

Leadership Training level 2 in Italy

May 8-10: The Leadership Certification, level 2 was held at “Casuccia Visani”, Poppi (Tuscany) where about 30 women attended the whole program.

Some pictures show the happiness of being there! The session will be repeated in Sicily 16-18 October, – reported by Franca Zucca

Spiritual Retreat in Macon, Belgium

June 5-7: 43 women attended a first Women’s Spiritual Retreat organized by the Brussels International Church with the topic “Living as a Christian Today”. The speaker was Hannele Ottschofski from Germany who spoke about the “Hole in our hearts” and the need to “See with new eyes”. Other topics were living “In the world but not of the world” and the “Essence of Faith”. Organized by Alice Guerrerio and her team the weekend was a spiritual highlight for the attending women and a culinary treat thanks to the two men who cooked delicious food. Singing, praising God, praying and generally enjoying a good time the women appreciated the time spent together and even found the time to hand out health literature and correspondence course flyers to the villages in and around Macon.
New WM Leader in the Belgian Conference

The Women’s Ministries Department was established in the Belgian-Luxemburg Conference in 2011 under the leadership of Alicia Denteneer who in 2013 was called to Franco-Belgian Union. Beginning this year Ludivine Gustave accepted the call to lead out in this work.

We wish her God’s blessings as she works to promote WM in Belgium and Luxemburg.

Photo: Ludivine and some women from her team: Ludivine, Heidi, Xenia and Alice

Adventists participate in the German Prevention Day Exhibition

June 8-9: The German Women’s Ministries Department was again present with a booth in cooperation with ADRA at the annual German Prevention Day Exhibition in Frankfurt/Main.

Professionals from Germany and other countries as well as whole school classes with their teachers and residents of the area visited the stand and were informed about the action “ENDitNOW – Break the silence about abuse”. Information was given about the Desert Flower Center and the surgeries performed at Waldfriede Hospital in Berlin to help victims of genital mutilation as well as the women’s shelter in Leipzig.

Printed material about these projects and how to stop sexual abuse and other ADRA projects was passed out. Visitors were able to take up a personal position by writing their name on a hand and sticking it onto the ENDitNOW banner.

By the end of the exhibition the banner was full of hands. Once more we had the possibility of conducting many conversations about breaking the silence about abuse.

Angelika Pfaller, WM director for both German Unions remarked: „The prevention day was very exciting. We had many Muslim girls who came with their school classes. We specifically gave them the brochure targeting children “Wenn ich mal nicht weiter weiß…” (When I don’t know how to go on). Many faces spoke volumes.” The next National prevention exhibition will be held in Magdeburg June 6+7, 2016.

A first Girls4Christ meeting in the Czech Republic and Slovakia

A first Girls4Christ meeting was held in the Czechoslovakian Union. The girls had a wonderful time and are looking forward to the next meeting in the autumn. They worshipped together and talked about things of interest to girls and stayed overnight. It was absolutely wonderful to see how much they enjoyed this occasion. – Reported by Renata Chlebkova, WM leader Czecho-Slovakian Union.

June 13, Women's Ministries Emphasis Day

We hope that many churches took note on June 13, the day on which the world-wide church puts emphasis on Women’s Ministries. Please send us reports and photos of what you did in your churches on this special WM Sabbath.
Thank You

At the General Conference in San Antonio July 2-11 the Departmental Directors will be elected. My first mandate of 5 years will be finished, and I want to thank you from all my heart. I very much appreciated working with you all.

Women’s Ministries at EUD level has experienced a development which, I hope, has been of benefit to you and to the women in our field. We have changed the main emphasis from nurturing to empowering so women are ready to go into outreach.

The First Inter-European Women’s Congress certainly was one of the many highlights we have experienced together.

It has been a blessing and pleasure for me to serve in EUD for these last 5 years.

Raquel Arrais, Associate Women’s Ministries Director GC, writes:
‘I am grateful and blessed by the way Leadership Certification a.o.m. has been implemented in EUD. Mission and goal accomplished since our meeting at the EUD WM Advisory in Italy.’

Therefore I want to thank you all that you helped reach the goals we set at our meeting in Poppy, Italy in Spring 2011.

Thank you so much for joining me, helping me, praying with me and struggling with me in difficult times, but also for rejoicing with me when things went well. In case of a re-election I will gladly serve you again in the next term, make plans with you and support you wherever possible.

Thank you for your help in the past 5 years! It was a blessing!

Denise Hochstrasser

Upcoming Events:

2015, July 2-11  
General Conference Session, San Antonio, Texas

2017, September 21-24  
WM Congress for the German speaking Unions in Friedensau, Germany

Join us on facebook women-in-action.

Further Links:
Events: Calendar Women’s Ministries EUD  
http://women.euroafrica.org/calendar

Homepage Women’s Ministries:  
www.women.eud.adventist.org

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