Women-Church Convergence Issues Statement on DACA

"Women-Church Convergence believes the Trump Administration’s rescinding of DACA, and Congress’s inability to pass legislation to protect this population, is unconscionable and violates the human rights of these individuals who made no choice to come here as children and know no home but the United States."

"Therefore, we call for Congress to pass, and the president to sign, legislation that protects Dreamers’ human rights and provides them a reasonable pathway to citizenship. These young victims deserve the legal right to live and work here, acquire an education and keep their families intact in this country, without fear of deportation. We oppose efforts of the Trump Administration and legislators to the hard-line provisions to legislation protecting Dreamers, including an expansion of the wall at the U.S.-Mexico border, cracking down on minors migrating from violence-torn countries in Central America, and curtailing federal grants to ‘sanctuary cities’.”

WATER is a member of the Women-Church Convergence, a coalition of autonomous Catholic-rooted groups working to build just social and ecclesial structures. For more information and to read other statements, visit www.womenschurchconvergence.org.

Please Stay in touch
8121 Georgia Avenue, Suite 310
Silver Spring, MD 20910, USA
301.589.2509
watertstaff@heres.com
www.waterwomenssalliance.org

Who We Are
WATER is a global network, an educational and spiritual space, a center for dialogue on feminism, faith, and Justice. We connect activists, religious leaders, students, scholars, and allies who are using feminist religious values to create social change. Founded in 1983 by Mary E. Hunt and Diann L. Neu, we have been empowering people to address structural violence for thirty-five years—making WATER one of the oldest feminist religious non-profit organizations in the world.

Join the WATER community as we work toward inclusive theologies and rituals, push for social change, and collaborate from different perspectives. To learn more about what we do, visit us at www.waterwomenssalliance.org.

Mary E. Hunt, Diann L. Neu; Co-directors | Hannah Dorfman, Janaya Sachs, Haneewe Kaj, Rachel Beaver; Staff Associates | Joe Schino; Volunteer
WATER is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible. We thank you for your support. © 2017 Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual.

Time’s More than Up
By Mary E. Hunt

Whether in Hollywood or Congress, training rooms for young gymnasts, restaurant kitchens, and everywhere in between, survivors are calling a halt to the sexual violence powerful men inflict on women. A public reckoning over sexual misconduct, discrimination, and harassment is in motion. There will inevitably be some false positives. But believing women for a change, despite the perpetrators who insist they were just communicating with their “soul mates” or providing medical care, is becoming the new norm.

This unprecedented outpouring of pent up frustration with unchecked male power results in large part from the visceral reaction of many people to the Perpetrator in Chief who, until now, has abused with impunity. But the time is more than up for such desplicable actions to go on unsanctioned. Details are shocking and disgusting, some beyond comprehension as scene after scene of workplace violence makes clear the scope of the problem.

“My mother insisted upon things that other people postponed insisting on,” was how early feminist theologian Anne McGrew Bennett was remembered by her son. Feminists in religion have been working for decades to create a safer world for women and girls, nearly all of whom experience violence.

Anne Bennett worked in the 1970s to eradicate violence. Since then, scholars and activists, including many through WATER, have clarified the links between religion and violence, theology and misogyny, religious laws and the oppression of women, male entitlement and women’s subordination. We have not won popularity contests or feathered our nests, but we have persisted for justice.

#MeToo, Time’s Up, and related movements show that others are catching on. Since religions are central to how ethics are shaped—both supporting violence in some profound ways and having some potential to overcome it—feminist religious analysis can play a constructive part in contemporary movements.

I have to go no further than my own Catholic community to point to the epidemic of priest pedophilia and episcopal cover-ups that flow seamlessly with male-only decision-making and masculine language/imagery for the divine. Therein are the seeds of violence.

Endless Catholic clerics’ repetition of banal blather against birth control and abortion, not to mention the priests’ demonizing-to-boo approach to same-sex love by a mostly gay clerical caste is the violence part. But the masks are falling fast and light is shining brightly on many offenders, and on the top-down system that undergirds their actions.

Women in many circumstances are helping one another speak their truth, what another pioneer feminist theologian, Nelle Morton, called “hearing each other into speech.” Much remains to be done, but the sheer numbers shock. Abuse is more common than not.

Unlike earlier times, when a few mostly white, upper educated women had access to redress, today’s movements are broadly based. Sexual abuse happens to virtually every woman albeit differently. Black and brown women are especially vulnerable. Class, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical/mental ability, age, nationality, country of origin, and so much more condition safety and survival.

Check Out Our New Podcast!
We are delighted to announce the launch of WATERcast, our new podcast! Each episode will feature conversations about feminism, faith, justice, and more!

Hosted by WATER Staff, WATERcast is a new way to engage with Mary E. Hunt on issues you are passionate about, to celebrate rituals with Diann L. Neu, and to have conversations with leaders in the field of feminist theology and ethics. Listen to our inaugural episode, “The Myth of Origins,” where Mary and Diann tell the story of WATER’s founding. You can also enjoy episode two, “A Cup of Blessing,” a ritual with Diann to center yourself for the New Year.

Subscribe for free to WATERcast on iTunes, Stitcher, SoundCloud, or Spreaker. Visit our website, www.waterwomenssalliance.org, for more information.

(continued on page 2)
Feminist Liberation Theologians’ Network 2017 Annual Meeting Report by Mary E. Hunt

Resistance, Resilience, and Creativity was the theme that gathered more than ninety participants from over ten countries at the twelfth-annual meeting of the Feminist Liberation Theologians’ Network in Boston, MA on November 17, 2017. The theme of the Feminist Theologians’ Network’s Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion/Society of Biblical Literature. Christine Pae, chair of the Religion Department at Denison University, spoke of Feminist Spiritual Activism in the Militarized World. She discussed lifted up Rohingya women, and turned her major attention to matters of diversity, especially bi-diversity as a foundation for creative, sustaining life. Sharon Welch, a faculty member at Meadville Lombard Theological School, presented The Soul of Democracy. She laid out the consequences of authoritarian values, proposing the term “gendered interdependence” as a fruitful way forward.

WATER Rituals: Thanks to ReSisters By Diann L. Neu

This International Women’s Day and Women’s History Month we raise up women re:sisters worldwide for giving people voice and hope. We honor silence breakers. We thank feminists and womanists of the #MeToo and Time’s Up movements. We celebrate the Women’s Marches and the Pussy Hat Project. What women re:sisters do you thank?

Listen to ReSisters
“I don’t want to be remembered as the girl who was shot. I want to be remembered as the girl who stood up.”—Malala Yousafzai, An Inspiration for Everyone

“True resistance begins with people confronting pain... and wanting to do something to change it.”—besthooks, Wearing: Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics

“The likelihood that your acts of resistance cannot stop the injustice does not exempt you from acting in what you sincerely and reflectively hold to be the best interests of your community.”—Susan Sontag, At the Same Time: Essays and Speeches

“There is no limit to what we as, women, can accomplish.”—Michelle Obama

Stand in Solidarity with ReSisters on the Seven Continents

We march with you, Women Re:sisters of North America, and anyone who stands with women’s rights, racial equality, immigrant protection, health care reform, and democracy.

We protest with you, Women Re:sisters of Asia, and declare “no more nuclear weapons.”

We revolts with you, Women Re:sisters of Africa, and shout “no” to human trafficking, “no” to violence against women, and “no” to colonial architecture.

We organize with you, Women Re:sisters of Europe, and confront climate change by protecting nature and working for clean water.

We demonstrate with you, Women Re:sisters of Latin/Central America, and work for human rights, basic liberties, and protection for Dreamers.

We march with you, Women Re:sisters of Antarctica, and applaud your scientific research.

We rally with you, Women Re:sisters of Australia/New Zealand, and call for the end of all forms of sexual assault laws and a deep respect for indigenous people.

Send Blessings of Peace to Women Re:sisters Worldwide

Take Action

• Email thanks to a woman re:sister who has inspired you.

• Support and vote for women who are running for office.

• Register to vote. Run for office.

• Put pictures of women re:sisters around your home or office.

• Organize. Resist. Persist.

© 2017 Diann Neu, Women’s Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual (WATER).