Complicity. Conflation. Compassion.
Can Faith Leaders Prevent VAW/G?

Extreme violence and disintegration of family structure over two wars led to higher roles and normalization of VAW/G, exacerbated by the infraction of faith and culture through appropriated holy texts. Our baseline study showed that religious leaders were not trusted by GBV survivors for support and guidance.

FAITH COMMUNITY IN LIBERIA
(Based on a population of 4.7 million)

- Christian: 85.6%
- Muslim: 12.2%
- No Religion: 1.4%
- Other (Less than 1%)

Methodology
Engage Christian/Muslim faith leaders at all levels through participation in a learning process of self-identification, reflection, analysis and action; deconstructing concepts of gender and power; using research methodologies at liturgical texts; and shifting internalized attitudes and behaviors around VAW/G. Faith leaders engage congregations and communities through seminars, counseling, interfaith radio discussions, campaigns, participation in government working groups and improving service referrals.

Experiential Learning
Do/See → Reflect/React → Think/Learn → Plan/Act

Changing Perceptions
- % of Faith leaders informed and confident to speak out against VAW/G increased by 14%
  - Women/Girl confidence: Baseline: 29% Midline: 53%

Leading Awareness
- % of GBV survivors reporting cases to faith leaders and seeking support/guidance increased by 13%
  - Baseline: 1.2% Midline: 14%

- % of Communities responding to messages and changing their attitudes/behaviors increased by 83%
  - Men and Women: Baseline: 14% Midline: 97%

- % of Faith leaders actively providing support for women and girls increased by 19%
  - Baseline: 7% Midline: 26%

Moving Forward
Increasing accountability between civil society and public sector: How faith and government are working together

- Inter-Religious Council of Liberia
- GBV Task Force Ministry of Gender & Social Welfare
- Community Faith Leaders (Clergy & Lay)
- State or Private Response Services
- Faith Leader Coalitions
- County GBV Task Force

Replication and Sustainability
- United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) supports expansion on faith leader training in 4 counties
- National Teacher Code of Conduct campaigns
- GBV School Committees in 30 schools from 2 counties
- 4 faith leader and youth coalitions established in 1 county
- Faith leader coalitions establish 2 safe houses for GBV survivors in 2 counties
- GBV FAMA education integrated into 62 savings groups