

## **Suffering of Women because of Corruption**

In its 2014-2018 plan of action, WUCWO brought up an issue that causes great suffering in the world, particularly for women: corruption.

Corruption is present in every country throughout the world even if we have a tendency to believe that it only exists in countries with economic and/or political difficulties.

In May 2015, a questionnaire was sent to all member organisations. The few responses shows that this is a sensitive matter, that corruption generates violence, and creates pressure that few would dare to denounce. This violence is exercised over all persons and emphasizes the sufferings of women. Victims of countless discrimination, they are victims even more so to systems that make up all dimensions of their lives, in their access to basic rights, work, shelter family and children. Women suffer equally as a result of living alongside members of their families who are corrupt and have forgotten the values that are most often instilled by mothers carrying out their role as educators.

### ***Defintion***

Corruption is an act that has undoubtedly existed for a longtime, too long in fact. It is a system that allows people to put pressure on others to further one's own interests.

According to the (French) dictionary, corruption is the act of trading your authority or trying to corrupt others to do so. Corrupt: bribe someone with gifts or otherwise.

### ***Corruption can present itself in different forms***

Extortion, fraud, trafficking, embezzlement but also nepotism and collusion fall into it. The most direct acts do not always imply an exchange of money but any other kind of 'gift' or advantage. Whatever form it may take, corruption always implies some kind of exchange; there will be an offer (the bribe) and a request (benefit).

### ***Cost of corruption***

Corruption has an extremely high cost especially for the poorest people to the extent that it prevents access to the most basic, essential services. In countries where poverty is systematic and organised, corruption is an evil that is not only at the basis of hard misery in families but morally and spiritually impoverishes leaders of States who fall foul to this practice.

### ***Corruption and crime***

Corruption is so institutionalised that it can now be said to breed 'bad development'. It is a phenomenon that continues to grow in the majority of countries throughout the world, there is no geographic or cultural border, it comes from organised crime. As a result of its internationalization, corruption can be found in all forms of government and every country has to bear the social, political and economic costs it entails.

### ***Women who suffer because of corruption***

Corruption is considered a violence against women. At all levels where they operate, they encounter difficulties. Different studies in some African countries have shown that more than one in four people live in a household headed by a woman; and in more than eight out of ten cases, these female head of households are single, widowed, or divorced. Having consideration for the familial situation, for years, women are first in line to be able to give an insight on the impact of corruption on life.

- Access to posts of responsibility: suffer from isolation because as women they come across situations of corruption that impedes them.

- Equally in politics, in high decision making positions, they are at the mercy of corrupt offices which are held by men over a number of years and which prevent the essential renewal of good management for the common good.

- Access to healthcare: for themselves and for their children: paying professors and 'distinguished' doctors more than the normal price can get essential and effective drugs, corruption can be found in access to care homes for the elderly, and private clinics are reserved for the rich...

- Justice: rights of the rich and rights of the poor

- Young girls and children : corruption also has a feminine side and it flourishes in the dark, children taken for sexual exploitation and pornography leading to an explosion of moral corruption, badly developed education system (choosing rich children to go to high school in the west).

- Fundamentalism: the rise in fundamentalism in Muslims and Apostasy, young Christians changing religion because of money or social influence (young people seeking employment join terrorists in exchange for a moped).

Any practice of corruption is wrong. Any action deemed corrupt is unworthy by a Christian because we love God, omnipresent and omniscient, and our conscience is the voice of the Lord in our heart. It is good that Christian women are aware that we must grow in dignity as children of God and that God is love "*Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread*" Proverbs 30,8.

### **Slogans :**

- Corruption is not a right, even less so a favour
- Stop squandering our resources
- Save our cultures from corruption
- Decision maker, leader of opinion, technical and financial partners, lets act together to fight against corruption
- Women of WUCWO, let us join hands to fight against violence
- From peace at home to peace in our communities, let us work together to eliminate corruption

- From peace with oneself to peace in the world, defy corruption because the suffering of women speaks to women
- With corruption, women are at the heart of insecurity.

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