

8<sup>th</sup> March 2026

## **AACC Statement on the 2026 International Women's Day: Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls.**

*“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.” Luke 4:18.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, on this International Women's Day, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) joins the global community in celebrating the courage, resilience, and leadership of women and girls in Africa and around the world. With great gratitude, we glorify God for the tremendous contributions that women and girls make to the church and society. As we mark this day, we also recognize that women and girls continue to suffer from various forms of gendered inequalities that undermine their dignity and rights and, we renew our commitment to working for a world that is just, inclusive, and safe for all.

This year's global theme, “Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls,” urges us to do all within our means to guarantee equal access to justice, legal protection, and essential resources for every woman and girl, irrespective of geography, identity, race or socioeconomic status. As we reflect on this theme, we affirm that:

- I. Every woman and girl is created in the image of God and deserves the full respect, protection, and fulfillment of her human rights;
- II. Systems of law and governance must protect and not persecute women;
- III. Christians and all faith communities must be ambassadors of God's justice, leading societies in transforming beliefs, teachings, norms, practices, and cultures that perpetuate gender inequalities and gender-based violence.

It is, therefore, my prayer that the words of our Lord Jesus Christ in Luke 4:18 inspire us to act boldly, break every barrier that hinders the dignity and full flourishing of women and girls, and turn the theme of this International Women's Day, “Rights. Justice. Action. For All Women and Girls,” from a declaration into a lived reality across Africa.

Happy International Women's Day!

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