



a partnership
of churches
in mission

Council for World Mission

A 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV INITIATIVE

POEMS ON TRANSFORMATIVE MASCULINITIES



This is an initiative of the Council for World Mission, a response to join forces in pursuit of dismantling Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Credits & Acknowledgements

Council for World Mission Staff

- Janet McConnell – *Mission Secretary Social Justice and the Caribbean*
- Emma Rahman – *Programme Associate Social Justice and the Caribbean*

Content Creators

This devotional was developed collaboratively through prayer, study, and dialogue with the following individuals and networks:

Theological Contributor:

- Ms Belinda Crawford – *Contextual Theologian, Earth Theology Coordinator, Ujamaa Centre, Pietermaritzburg*

Gender Justice & GBV Advocates:

- Noluthando Gasa – *Body Theology Coordinator, Ujamaa Centre, Pietermaritzburg*
- uMphithi Men's Network, Pietermaritzburg
- Sizwesamajobe Sithole – *PhD Candidate, Gender and African Religion, Pietermaritzburg*

POEMS

“Circle of Men”

Inspired by Days 5, 9, and 16: Healing, justice, and transformation

We sit in a circle. Not to judge. Not to teach.
But to listen. One speaks of fists that found his mother.
One speaks of rage that burns like coal.
One speaks of crying in secret.
Another does not speak at all.
We do not fix each other. We do not mock pain.
We pass the talking stick as if it were a sacred thing.
And maybe it is. Because here,
Healing has a sound.
It sounds like silence being broken.
It sounds like “I didn’t know.”
It sounds like “I forgive you.”
And when we rise,
We are not the same men who sat down.
We are softer. Stronger. Whole.

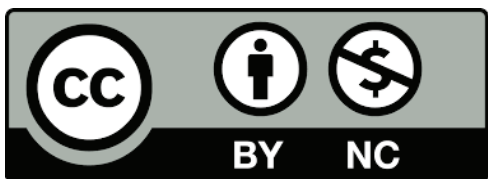
Suggested usage: Healing circle closings, men’s reflection retreats, printed in a study guide or devotional follow-up collection.

“I Refuse”

Inspired by Day 3: I Refuse to Become My Father

I refuse. To carry the rage that was poured into me,
To wear the fists like a family heirloom.
I break the bottle passed down by blood
And sip water from the river of healing.
I am not my father's shadow. I am my son's sunrise.
I will not build my home on bruises.
I will not speak in thunder when silence can hold.
I am unlearning war to raise peace.
I refuse. To call violence manhood.
To call dominance leadership.
To call silence strength.
I am not the past. I am possible.
And I walk the narrow path
Between pain and promise, until wholeness speaks my name.

Suggested usage: Men's worship, confession moments, opening or closing a men's retreat or GBV awareness session.



This book was designed and illustrated by Mariana Jorge M. B. da Silva. All images in this booklet were used with permission.

Story Contributor



a publication of the Council for World Mission



a partnership
of churches
in mission

2025