



#OVERCOMING SILENCE

Uniting global voices to promote gender
equality in the Catholic Church

www.overcomingsilence.com

WHY DO WE NEED THIS CAMPAIGN?

The Catholic Church is facing a crisis.

A new generation of Catholics are questioning the Church hierarchy and its response to a changing world and emerging problems, such as sexual and power abuses.

Many questions are coming from deeply faithful Catholic women who are asking why the Church is so slow in recognising their value and opening decision making roles to them; roles that incorporate their faith, charisma, expertise and education into structures of authority at all levels.

With over 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide and over half of them women, we must ask why there are so few female decision-makers in the Catholic Church.

Decisions that affect all of us, cannot be voiced by half of us. Without female voices in leadership, half the Church remains silent.

**ALL VOICES
MUST BE HEARD.
ALL VOICES
MUST COUNT.
SILENCE IS NOT
AN OPTION_**



MARY LOU FALCONE (USA)

Read the full message on Instagram [@vofwomen](#)



**EN CUANTO JOVEN
MUJER DE FE,
DEBERÍA PODER
TENER EL MISMO
ACCESO QUE LOS
HOMBRES A
POSICIONES DE
LIDERAZGO EN LA
IGLESIA CATÓLICA_**

**MARIA COSTANZA ALVAREZ
DE CASTRO (LATIN AMERICA)**

Read the full message
on Instagram [@vofwomen](#)

**ICH BIN
ÜBERZEUGT,
DASS DIE
FRAUENFRAGE
SCHON SEHR
BALD EINE FRAGE
VON SEIN ODER
NICHTSEIN FÜR
UNSERE KIRCHE
WERDEN WIRD_**

**SISTER PHILIPPA RATH
OSB (GERMANY)**

Read the full message
on Instagram [@vofwomen](https://www.instagram.com/vofwomen)



OUR GOALS_

1

Women have voting rights in future synods.

In October 2019, the Synod on Amazonia is planned. We want to make sure that religious sisters can cast their votes at this synod, for the very first time.

2

Women begin assuming Vatican leadership roles.

Evidence has repeatedly shown that a diversity of leadership for any institution makes for positive results and culture. We continue to lobby for transparent hiring practices and work with faithful Catholic women who have skills and expertise to lead at the highest levels of the Church.

3

An official process of change to bring women to leadership roles at all levels in the Catholic Church.

What could an open, consultative process for women in the Church look like? We must begin to discuss this now.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

This campaign is about action.

The website will collect faces and messages from Catholic women and men globally who believe in our goals and the overall need for women in decision-making roles.

FOR INDIVIDUALS



Visit our website

www.overcomingsilence.com



Upload a clear picture of yourself and write a message to the leaders of the Catholic Church outlining why women belong alongside them



Post your message and your voice will be counted in our campaign to the Church



Share the campaign on your social media

FOR ORGANISATIONS

Become a partner of the campaign. This means we give you permission to own the campaign, using all of the materials as if it were your own initiative.

Send out information to your membership and networks and help us collect photos and messages.

To become a partner, contact steph.lorenzo@voicesoffaith.org

TIMELINE

We plan to deliver a visual petition of thousands of faces and messages from this campaign to Pope Francis and Curia leaders on International Women's Day 2020. This will showcase the urgency and importance of gender equality in Catholic leadership.

**WOMEN HOLD UP
HALF THE SKY.
THEY CERTAINLY
HOLD UP MORE
THAN HALF
THE CHURCH!_**

MYRON J. PEREIRA S.J

Read the full message
on Instagram [@vofwomen](https://www.instagram.com/vofwomen)



#overcomingsilence

WHO'S BEHIND THE CAMPAIGN? ---

This campaign has been created by Voices of Faith to be shared and owned by a wide variety of partners across the globe. The campaign can be adopted by anyone, anywhere, who believe that women's voices must be heard in the decision-making processes of the Catholic Church. We are proud for others to use this campaign as their own.

Find out more about Voices of Faith
www.voicesoffaith.org



**VOICES
OF FAITH**

For any questions or more information
please contact —

Stephanie Lorenzo

Communications Director, Voices of Faith
steph.lorenzo@voicesoffaith.org