In all regions of the world women are still burdened by the universal phenomenon of patriarchy and hierarchy. Patriarchy can be defined as follows: “Patriarchy is the power of the fathers; a familial, social, ideological, political system in which men -- by force, direct pressure or through ritual, tradition, law and language, customs, etiquette, education and division of labour -- determine what part women shall or shall not play, and in which the female is everywhere subsumed under the male.” (Ackerman, Draper and Mashini 1991:130)

Many women lost their dignity and worth through experiences of patriarchy and hierarchy while some are continuing to lose their human dignity. Daily women have to face issues of discrimination, the scourge of human trafficking, child marriages, the pandemic of violence, exploitation, poverty, to name but a few global experiences. Women are becoming tired, alienated, disappointed and despondent. The cries and groans of our sisters who are hurt because their self-worth and human dignity have been taken from them must be heard and addressed.

The stories about Jesus and women are in no way degrading and dehumanizing. Jesus accepted women as full persons. He trusted women with the message of salvation thus giving them the dignity and worth of a disciple.

It is this positive attitude of Jesus that inspires the work of the Unity Women’s Desk by opposing flagrant violations of human dignity and partnering with women and girls to restore and enhance their God-given worth and dignity.

Submitted by:

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