

BECAUSE The United Church of Canada has men in higher paid jobs and women in **lower paid** administrative/secretarial jobs, and our daughters understand **God as “she,”** yet female imagery for God is still controversial, and children are forced into **binary gender** roles, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, two-spirited, and **queer** people are marginalized, silenced, and not welcome in many churches, and women are **strong and creative** leaders, and men are **nurturing and caring** partners, and more people quote John Shelby Spong, John Dominic Crossan, and Marcus Borg than Elisabeth Schüssler Fiorenza, Kwok Pui-lan, and Carter Heyward, and the **theologians** whose work is taught in our theological schools are still primarily White men, and **feminist principles** of non-hierarchical thinking, consultation, and shared decision-making are not practised in our church, and **child care** is seen as a woman’s issue, not a community issue, and **sexual abuse** and **sexual harassment** exist in our churches, and women still suffer from **violence** in their own homes and intimate relationships but this violence is not spoken about in our churches, and it’s okay to talk about child poverty but not **women in poverty**, and women with **disabilities** are doubly marginalized, and women of colour and Aboriginal women are **second-class citizens** in our churches, and men must promote gender equality and **reach out to other men** because when well-meaning men turn the other way, they participate in the ongoing oppression of women, and God created us all in **God’s image**, and above all because The United Church of Canada should be a safe, liberating place for everyone,

I am part of the gender justice movement

