

Bijdrage van het NKV aan de enquête van de WUCWO (Wereldunie van katholieke vrouwenorganisaties) inzake de synode.

Het NKV is lid van de WUCWO. Eind juni kwam het verzoek mee te werken aan een enquête onder de lidorganisaties van de WUCWO:

*Dear WUCWO Friends,
Following a meeting with Cardinal Grech, Secretary General of the Synod of Bishops, and his suggestions, WUCWO asks its member organisations to have their members respond to the two questions below. This will provide the voice of our WUCWO women at the upcoming Synod on Synodality. As the purpose of this Synod is to facilitate a Church that listens, makes a common discernment, walks, and learns together, this is a unique opportunity for our women to have their voice heard to make that Synodal Church a reality.*

Vanuit het NKV is deze bijdrage aan de WUCWO gestuurd:

When we heard that our dear Pope Francis invited all Catholics to make their voices heard in order to achieve a more synodal Church, we, as NKV Board decided we should respond to this invitation.

So we started a project 'She has something to tell' and sent an online questionnaire to Catholic women and women's organisations in the Netherlands as well as to religious congregations, asking them to share their stories with us. Well, one could say this was a sort of wake-up call. Within two months 2238 women responded online whereas some women's groups, among them groups of women religious, sent their answers on paper. For a small and rather secularised country like the Netherlands, this really is a very big number.

All these answers and reactions were analysed by University Professor Doctor Monique Walrave and a team of professional co-readers.

As a result, we were able to present the full report to Mgr. Gerard de Korte who, within the Dutch Bishops' Conference, is responsible for the field 'Church and Society/Women and Church'.

This happened on 25th of May and since then, we had many requests from magazines, newspapers, radio and TV programmes for interviews and articles on our project. The final report is available on line, but there were so many requests for the paper edition, that it had to be reprinted within two weeks after the official presentation.

All this, as background information to the answers from the Dutch Network of Catholic Women (NKV) to the 'WUCWO questions'. It makes clear that these answers are not put forward by us, as NKV Board, but based on the 2238++ responses to the consultation among Catholic women in the Netherlands.

Contribution from the Network of Catholic Women in the Netherlands, based on the answers from 2238+ Catholic women to the questionnaire in the context of the synodal project 'She has something to tell'.

1. Please briefly note any obstacles to the Church becoming a more Synodal Church, one that listens, makes a common discernment, walks, and learns together, at the following levels: Universal Church; Diocesan level, and Parish level.

The answers from 2238+ Dutch Catholic women, reveal that the Church at the parish and diocesan levels is experienced as a closed clerical system. Although women perform many different tasks in the Church, they feel they are not valued, not heard and not taken seriously. They are not enough involved in leadership and management positions and other responsibilities of the Church. This imbalance does not do justice to their

womanhood and to the life of the Church in general, and is one of the biggest obstacles for a Synodal Church.

2. Briefly outline what improvements the Church can make to move forward as a Synodal Church on the following levels: Universal; Diocesan; and Parish.

From the point of view of Dutch Catholic women, the most important recommendation is: listen to the blowing of the Holy Spirit; take women more seriously, treat them with respect and as equal interlocutors. Listen to women and value them. Use their talents, their creativity and qualities for the betterment of Christ's Church. Involve the laity, especially women, in pastoral councils at all levels, in decision-making and in selection processes, so that the Church, through the contributions and insights of women, becomes more responsive to the signs of the times and the needs of society.

In addition to these responses, we send you the summary, in five languages, of the contributions of Dutch Catholic women to the synodal process. The full report, in Dutch, on our project '*She has something to tell*', can be found (in Dutch) at www.unkv.online/files/ugd/b6ed6b_52662190c58244b1b3574380325750ab.pdf