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STATEMENT

**WOMEN IN  
THE CHURCH  
MAKE THE  
DIFFERENCE**

ANDANTE STUDY DAYS AND GA

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SNAGOV, ROMANIA 2019



# WOMEN IN THE CHURCH MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

## 01 THE THEME

The theme of the Study Days of Andante, the European Alliance of Catholic Women's Organisations, held in April 2019 in the Carmelite monastery in Snagov, Romania, was "Women in the Church make the difference".

60 Catholic women from 13 different European countries met for five days to discuss this subject.

## 02 HISTORY

Since the time of Christ and through the centuries women have been making a difference in the Church and in spreading the Gospel. They have been disciples, saints, scholars and educators.

## 03 TODAY

Women today want the Catholic Church to become a home where all are welcome and all can flourish. A Church which looks outward and which uses the gifts of the Spirit in all its members.

## 04 IS IT A HOME?

However many women do not feel at home in the church. They often feel silenced, marginalised and excluded from decision-making.





## **NEEDS OF CHANGE**

in Christian churches

Women are able to use their special gifts in many aspects of service, but often find themselves unable to use their expertise and experience in leadership roles within the church. Here the contribution of women religious could most profitably be employed.

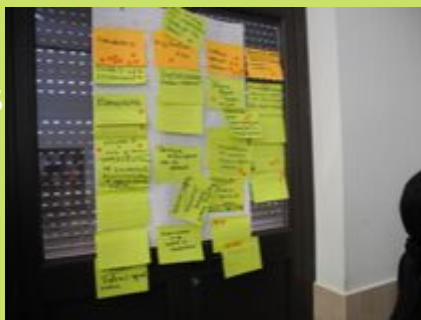
The appointment of a token number of women to decision-making posts is not sufficient.

There needs to be a change to a more inclusive culture at all levels and we need to learn from experiences in other Christian churches.

In order to impose changes in the Church, the participants of the Andante Study Days exchanged ideas for current and future activities. The diversity of cultures and spiritual traditions inside the Andante network empowers and encourages women in working together in Europe.



# HOW CAN WE IDENTIFY COMMON GROUND WHILE CREATING SPACE FOR DIFFERENCES?



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