

## Lecture Series Public Theology: An International and Intercontextual Assessment

*Task sheet: Selina Palm\* Doing Public theology Internationally*

This lecture is available free of charge as comprehensive video file (mp4) or as audio file (mp3) with accompanying slides in pdf-format.

This task sheet contains:

1. Three questions to the below text material
2. Three discussion questions for group discussion
3. Two suggested titles for further reading
4. A list of references for the lecture

### 1. Three guiding questions to the below text material

1. Describe the concept of spiritual capital and how it is different from social and access capital. How do you see these three operating in your own faith tradition in relation to the public international issue of ending violence against children?
2. What harmful beliefs do you feel that your own faith tradition still holds publicly in relation to international social justice issues that need to still be prophetically disrupted and transformed?
3. How can public theology help to make the 2017 Declaration by faith leaders on ending all violence against all children a reality and contribute to Albert Nolan's theological call for the family to become a place where the rights of women and children are respected (Palm 2020, p. 47)

### 2. Three questions for group discussion:

1. Identify and reflect critically on some of the beliefs that have (or are being) perpetuated within your faith tradition that have had harmful practical effects in the world e.g. on women and children. What theologies that have underpinned those beliefs. How could you make contributions as faith leaders to changing these beliefs?
2. .Pick one or two particular international shared concerns on social justice that you all feel is relevant in your context. Identify and reflect together on some of the positive spiritual capital resources which exist within your faith traditions to make a theological contribution to bringing change on these issues that could be shared internationally.

3. Take a moment to engage in a 'translation task' with another person in the group. Take a theological concept within your own faith tradition such as e.g. grace, crucifixion, resurrection, salvation, reconciliation, forgiveness, image of God. Explain why you see this concept as relevant to the social justice issue you selected above to the other person. For this exercise, the listener can imagine they might hold a different faith or no faith.

### 3. Suggested titles for further reading

Palm, S. & Eyber, C. 2019. [\*Why Faith? Engaging the mechanisms of faith to end violence against children\*](#). Washington DC: Joint Learning Initiative

Le Roux, E. & Palm, S. 2021. *Learning from practice: Engaging religious & traditional actors for preventing violence against women & girls*. Washington DC: UN Trust Fund. (forthcoming in May)

### 4. References

Eyber, C. & Palm, S. 2019. [\*A Mixed Blessing: roles of faith communities in ending violence against children\*](#). Washington DC: Joint Learning Initiative.

Palm, S. 2020. "[\*Seen but not heard? Engaging the mechanisms of faith to end violence against children\*](#)" In *Childhood Vulnerabilities in South Africa. Some ethical perspectives* (eds) C Jones & J Grobbelar. South Africa: Sun Press.

Palm, S. 2019. "[\*A Time to Confess? An ecclesiology of vulnerability in the light of #metoo\*](#)" *Luce Verbi* 53, 4. 1-8.