



# Five Steps: Walking with Women's Global Mission Network

In a few steps you can create a project for your community to engage in God's mission while serving and empowering women and girls. This five-step process is offered by Kim Polhemus, the founder and coordinator of the Women's Global Network in the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. If you have any questions or ideas, please contact Kim at [womensglobalmission@gmail.com](mailto:womensglobalmission@gmail.com).

1. **PASSION:** Identify an area of passion. Where might you take a small step to make a difference in the life of a woman or girl? Where do the human rights of women suffer? What issue speaks to you? Human trafficking, girl's education or maternal health are just a few areas of great need. Maybe this means building on a current partnership.

2. **PROJECT:** Come up with a project. Brainstorm and follow the Spirit. Here are a few ideas to explore:

**kiva.org** An extraordinary way to make a difference. Learn about micro lending and how your loan (yes, it will be repaid) will make an immediate impact. You choose the recipients and re-lend to create a perpetual mission of empowerment.

**episcopalchurch.org/page/human-trafficking** Our national church website is a wonderful resource for information on human trafficking from a faith perspective. One of the best pieces is a panel discussion on human trafficking led by Presiding Bishop Katherine Jefferts Schori. The panel is made up of experts from around the church. Plan a screening and maybe include an expert of your own to make comments and answer questions. Hand out information on the epidemic of U.S. and global trafficking.



**facebook.com/days-for-girls-orange** Led by an Episcopalian, *Days For Girls* (Orange CT Chapter) is passionate in their commitment to girls education. What if the lack of feminine hygiene products kept you from school for a week every month? You would quickly fall behind, need to repeat a grade and eventually drop out. By cutting and sewing personal hygiene kits your parish can make an immediate, sustainable difference in the life of an impoverished women or girl.

**stophungernow.org** *Stop Hunger Now* works in 65 countries to eliminate hunger across the globe. Plan a meal packing event at your parish. 40 people can package 10,000 meals in just 2 hours. What a wonderful way to engage parishioners of all ages (Sunday school and youth group!) to make a real difference.

**soles4souls.org** Collecting unwanted shoes for the needy around the world is a great summer project. Set a goal and watch your collection grow and grow. Can you collect 1,000 pair? Get permission to set a collection box at strategic points around town. Near the time clock at a factory, the employee entrance of a hospital, teachers' lounge at a school etc. After collection the shoes are picked up by a freight carrier and shipped to *Soles 4 Soles* in Colorado for distribution. See their website for details.

3. **PLAN:** Have a planning session to create your strategy. What do you need to make the project a success? What is your timeframe? A big part of your project is education. How will you educate and engage your parish in the issue you are addressing? Maybe create a bulletin board on your issue or give a very brief summary at announcement time.
4. **ENGAGE:** Engage in the project. Make a big deal! Be sure everyone knows about what you are doing so all can support you. Invite nearby churches into the project. Multiple churches participating with you will allow your project to go from great to extraordinary.
5. **SHARE:** Share your ideas and results. How did the Holy Spirit inspire you? What effect did this project have on your parish? What are your hopes going forward? While working to empower others you will see we are the ones who become empowered. How was your group empowered by creating and working on your project? Offer pictures and tell the story behind your past, current, or future project. Please send a link, or a copy, to Kim Polhemus at [womensglobalmission@gmail.com](mailto:womensglobalmission@gmail.com).

May blessings and joy abound as you work to bring voice, justice, and equality to women globally.