

Project Violet Requests for Change – R24

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| Short title | Have a women’s ministry advisor in each Association |
| Identifying number | R24 |
| Request for action by | Associations; Faith and Society Team, Ministries Team |
| Text of request | <p>The request for change is: We ask that Associations appoint a paid women’s ministry advisor to contribute to supporting the recruitment, retention, and thriving of women in their Association.</p> <p>The impact of this is evidenced within our research and is fundamentally important for the future of Baptist’s Together. The provision of safeguarding advice is often delivered within a partnership model between Associations, and we would suggest this is a helpful model to consider for this role, recognising the current financial constraints. This role could be modelled on the Anglican experience of having a Dean of Women’s ministry within each diocese with the remit of women’s ministry.</p> <p>Her role will include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting ordained and lay women in ministry, particularly in churches which have rejected or placed limitations on women in ministry • Advocating and raising issues with the Ministerial Recognition Committee (MRC) to highlight discrimination, harassment and the abuse of women • Educating MRC as necessary on issues which women can face as they consider entering ordained ministry • Encouraging women Ministers to apply for senior leadership posts and committees and actively facilitating opportunities for study and personal development • Advising other Ministers on women’s issues • Facilitating conversations, relationship-building meetings, and ambitious training and CMD opportunities • Offering opportunities for women to discern a calling to ministry (see R42) • Coming alongside women with ministerial difficulties • Encouraging a wholeness of ordained ministry with both men and women working happily alongside each other according to giftings rather than stereotypes |

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| Relevant co-researcher reports | <p>Women's Experience of Pioneering Contexts</p> <p>Receptive Space report - ecumenical learning for Project Violet</p> <p>Enabling women to prepare for ministerial training</p> <p>Ministering through the Menopause</p> <p>Marital Status and Ministry</p> <p>Experiences of accredited ordained women Baptist Ministers leaving, seconded or on long-term sabbatical with the Baptist Union</p> <p>Understanding the financial barriers to training and accreditation What does affirming women in our Association look like?</p> <p>Understanding the journey into ministry for Asian women.</p> |
| Relevant Theological Reflections | Group 2 |
| Location on Requests Map | Ways of working - Justice Hubs |

Agreed at the Project Violet Co-researchers conference on 17 April 2024.