Task Sheet 7. Religion and the Politics of Gender

Suggested Task

Aim
To compare and contrast the role and significance of gender within two religious traditions (your own and that of your tandem partner).

Objectives
On your own and with your partner define your objectives for this tandem exercise. What do you want to learn?

Consider asking yourself
- How does my religious tradition account for sexual differentiation?
- Does my religious tradition ascribe distinctive roles to men and women?
- Does it affirm their fundamental equality?
- What kind of leadership roles do women occupy in my religious tradition?
- What impact has feminism had on my religious tradition?

Consider asking your tandem partner
- You may ask all or none of the suggestions above plus:
  - Is it permissible for women to lead worship in your religious tradition?
  - Do men and women share the same rites of initiation?
  - Are there any conventions or rules governing dress or modesty?
  - Do men and women have distinctive responsibilities in the household?
  - How does your religious tradition account for them?

Things to reflect on together
- What are our similarities? Why?
- Where do we differ? Why?