May God go with us as we seek the values of his Kingdom, making every effort to learn from each other as we are mutually transformed by his grace. So long as there is need for women to rise up against these oppressive forces, we will continue to raise our battle cry: 

the waters are rising, but so are we. We are not going under, but over!

THE WATERS ARE RISING
but so am I...
‘The waters are rising, but so am I.’ These words are attributed to co-founder of The Salvation Army, Catherine Booth, in her final days. For Catherine, ‘the waters’ was likely a reference to her battle with an aggressive illness. But what can this message mean for us today?

Women and girls are often among the most vulnerable to social injustice. Though issues and severity differ, the value of women and girls is continually undermined on a global scale. The Salvation Army believes that both male and female are made in the image of God and are equal in value and therefore is opposed to sexism. We reject any view that subordinates women to men, or men to women.*

‘The waters are rising, but so am I.’ Within the context of social injustice faced by women, these rising waters represent systemic oppression, covert mistreatment and lack of equity. Crucially, as Catherine Booth’s quote lays out for us, the battle is not yet won. Even as the waters are rising, we see the possibility for women to rise, too.

As The Salvation Army continues its global efforts to achieve gender equity, international Women’s Ministries has identified and prioritised three focuses, forming a battle cry for individuals and groups involved in Women’s Ministries across the world. We want to see:

- Improved access to healthcare and a better understanding of women’s health
- Increased education and development opportunities for women and girls, with fair compensation for their skills and labour
- The elimination of violence against women and girls.

*The Salvation Army International Positional Statement: Sexism, May 2019

‘We envision women who are engaged in social justice and action to positively impact the world’