Catholic sisters empowering the next generation of women

Nuns in Africa are using their education to become change agents and forces multipliers of good by leading and supporting young women.

Did you know that African girls and women face extreme gender discrimination from birth -- and continuing throughout their lives? That's why ASEC works so hard to educate Catholic sisters - because these women KNOW how challenging it is to be an African woman.

And once these women have an education + tools, they are fierce advocates for change. This isn’t an easy path - for the sisters or the girls they're working to save.
In Lesotho, ASEC’s SLDI and HESA programs provide education to the most vulnerable and persecuted individuals in the communities they serve.

ASEC’s **Sisters Leadership Development Initiative (SLDI)** program provides sisters with technology, administration and finance training through one month workshops over three years. Through SLDI, sisters gain the practical skills and confidence to build strong networks and take up leadership roles in their congregations and communities.

ASEC’s **Higher Education for Sisters in Africa (HESA)** program provides opportunities for sisters to access diploma, undergraduate and master’s level education. HESA is delivered through partnerships with higher education institutions in Africa and online in the USA.

**Support Sisters Uplifting the African Girl Child**

You can support young girls in Africa through the Sisters that uplift them by donating to a Sister's ASEC-sponsored education now.

*Donate: asec-sldi.org/donate*

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**Sr. Caroline** is using her SLDI education to end the human rights violation of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Kenya.

Sr. Caroline has opened a Rescue Center to provide shelter, food, counseling and educational opportunities for the at-risk girls she’s helping.

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In Lesotho, SLDI alumna **Sr. Anacletta** and the Good Shepherd Sisters are working to reduce HIV’s prevalence among adolescent girls and young women through the Determined, Resilient, Aids-Free, Mentored, Safe (DREAMS) project. The project has served nearly 17,000.

Upon completing the SLDI program, **Sr. Augustina** received a leadership position as Administrator of the Mazenod High School in Maseru, Lesotho, where she’s made a multitude of improvements and increased enrollment. Some of her many accomplishments include the installation of a solar power system, security fences and police patrols to improve safety, acquiring 70 computers for a new lab and a feeding program that benefits not only the children but her staff and teachers as well.

**Sr. Mary** is using the bachelor’s degree in education she earned through the HESA program to provide holistic education at the Bukulula Girls School in central Uganda. She says that the HESA program has brought her closer to fulfilling her career goals and achieving her dream of becoming a secondary school teacher.

*Read more: asec-sldi.org/girls*