

Prayers to use during the 16 days of Activism

Welcome to this collation of 16 Days and Global Day of Action prayers and resources. This material may be used in a variety of contexts e.g. in worship, as an introduction to discussion about GBV and DOMESTIC ABUSE, as inspiration for prayerful and practical action – however you choose...

Mothers' Union campaigns for an end to gender based violence, including domestic abuse. Since 2013 it has been a primary focus. In discussing transformation of lives, the World Council in Kigali in 2019 affirmed three main goals for the future – *to transform lives by creating an environment that is peaceful and safe for all, where livelihoods are secure and where gender justice is a reality.*

Women and girls face many injustices. As members of Mothers' Union, we play a unique role in helping to overcome this across the world. Our 16 Days campaign has evolved into a dedicated 16 Days 365 outreach. Initiatives undertaken aim to develop understanding of the root causes of gender based violence, draw attention to unhelpful cultural norms, promote right and equal relationships, and highlight domestic abuse in our communities. We also work with other organisations and groups to increase our effectiveness.

The statistics are staggering. In 2018, two church studies¹ show that in Britain and Ireland figures are equally high in a church setting, with 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men reporting that they had personally experienced or witnessed domestic abuse. Most church goers indicated they had never heard a sermon on the topic, or felt their church was inadequately equipped to support or deal with the issue of domestic abuse.

It is hoped this latest compilation will equip, encourage and empower you on your prayerful and spiritual journey, as we seek to bring into focus God's continuing love and work together as the hands and feet of Christ in the eradication of all forms of gender-based violence.

'Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,' and 'we who with unveiled faces reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory.' *Romans 12:1 & 2 Corinthians 3:18*

¹ https://issuu.com/vox_ie/docs/women_and_the_church
https://pure.coventry.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/19148579/In_churches_too_final_report.pdf

Women: "First at the Cradle and Last at the Cross"

Perhaps it is no wonder that the women were first at the Cradle and last at the Cross.

They had never known a man like this Man—there had never been such another.

A prophet and teacher

who never nagged about them, who never flattered or coaxed or patronised;

who never made arch jokes about them,

never treated either as "The women, God help us!" or "The ladies, God bless them!";

who rebuked without querulousness and praised without condescension.

who took their questions and arguments seriously,

who never mapped out their sphere for them,

never urged them to be "feminine" or jeered at them for being female;

who had no axe to grind and no uneasy male dignity to defend;

who took them as he found them and was completely unself-conscious.

Dorothy Sayers (1893-1957)

Opening Prayer

May God give us eyes to recognise abuse where it exists.

May God give us a heart to reach out in compassion.

May God give us courage and resolve to make a difference wherever we are.

May God bless you and nurture your head, heart and hands

as we invite God to guide and comfort us as He gently directs our paths.

*Source unknown, adapted for 'Equipping The Church to take Action to End Domestic Abuse',
2022*

Opening Prayer and Confession

Loving Lord,

who came to proclaim justice,

make us bold to speak out truth

and break the power of silence.

Loving Lord,

who came to minister mercy

make us agents of compassion

to release the oppressed from fear.

**Merciful and loving God,
forgive us when we have closed our eyes
to the sufferings of others;
when we have stayed silent
in the face of abuse and oppression;
when we have declined to challenge
unacceptable actions and attitudes.**



**Take away our selfishness and fill us with new resolve
to proclaim justice and mercy in the name of Christ. Amen**
[16 days 2021 - Worship and prayer resource.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Merciful and loving God,
We confess our wrong doing,
our wrong thinking
and our hurtful words.
We recognise that abuse
imprisons and oppresses people.
We recognise that silence,
in the face of abuse,
is not an acceptable option.

Stir us with a resolve not to be silent.
To speak out against the abuse of power;
especially in our homes.
To speak up
for those who have been pushed down
in any way.
To speak to
the needs of those who are suffering
at the hands of another.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
who extended his forgiving hands to all. Amen
Restored Church Pack

Loving Lord,
who has called us to be the body of Christ,
make us ready to act as his hands and feet in the world.
to raise awareness of what must be challenged,
and to address the plight of the vulnerable. Amen

Forgive us, Lord,
who call ourselves your own
but daily cause you pain,
who see someone in need
and walk across the road,
hear about injustice
and fail to say a word.



Forgive us, Lord,
who call ourselves your own.

Renew our hearts,
our souls and minds;
Strengthen our faith
and make us a people
who are your hands,
your feet and voice
within this world. **Amen**

©*John Birch*

Lord of justice and mercy,
draw us close to those who hurt.
Let us reach out our hands in your name
to share the sorrow and lessen the pain.

Lord of justice and mercy
lengthen our strides to march for good.
Clothe our feet with your living Word
to trample the works of unrighteousness.

Lord of justice and mercy
knit us together as the body of Christ
that we may speak out with one accord
for the kingdom of God to prevail. **Amen**

**Forgive us Lord
when we hear neither your plea,
nor the cries of your people.**

**Free us Lord
from the fears that bind us,
or from any sense of powerlessness.**

**Fill us Lord
with your dream of a just world
and the tenacity to keep going
in playing our part,
in your name, Amen**
Maggie Lunan

God our Creator, we thank you for our shared calling as your children,
male and female together, to care for all of creation.

Forgive us when we fail to notice or to question that which is less than good:
when we condone or perpetuate violence of any kind.

Fill us with your Spirit of wisdom and help us to see the world
through your eyes of compassion and justice.

Give us courage to challenge and to change,
In the name of Jesus Christ our Liberator, Amen.

Erica Wishart

A selection of sample Intercessory Prayers

Intercessory Prayer 1

Loving Lord,

your care and love are ever present in our lives.

*We pray for our brothers and sisters throughout the world
who live in situations of abuse and violence.*

*Give them hope in their hopelessness;
help them find strength in their weakness;
grant them freedom from their oppression;
transform their brokenness into wholeness;
and heal their wounds, visible and invisible.*

*Grant us all the courage and wisdom, grace and humility,
to act at all times with compassion and care.
And grant all who are harmed by abuse or coercion, peace through justice.
This we ask in Jesus name. **Amen.***

(Lesley Bayley, Mothers' Union, Ireland)



Intercessory Prayer 2

Lord Jesus,
we pray for all to follow your example
of treating women with equality and respect.

We pray for all who live in fear of violence
and despair that life will ever change.
Bring to an end their suffering;
restore their sense of worth.

We pray for those who perpetrate abuse
with no sense of guilt or shame.
Bring to justice their actions;
change their inner hearts.
We pray against regimes
that endorse violence against women.
Shatter their evil influence;
initiate a rule of decency.

Loving Lord,
we pray for a better world
where justice and peace may flourish. **Amen**
MU 16 Days Resources 2014

Intercessory Prayer 3

Lord of justice and mercy,
who has called us to be the body of Christ,
use us as his hands and feet in the world;
to raise awareness of what must be challenged,
and to address the plight of the vulnerable.

We unite together across the world
to champion the cause of justice
and to offer up our prayers for all who
are affected by gender-based violence. **Amen**
MU 16 Days resources, 2021

Intercessory Prayer 4

Compassionate God,
may those experiencing all forms of violence
be given courage, hope and the means



to break free from their abuse.

We pray for all who live in fear of violence
and despair that life will ever change:
Bring to an end their suffering;
restore their sense of worth.

Bring to light deeds of abuse hidden in darkness,
that they may find safety and refuge, free from fear.
We pray for all to follow your example
of treating women with equality and respect.

We pray for the dawn of a better world
where justice and peace may flourish. **Amen**
2020 MU 16 Days Resources

Intercessory Prayer 5

**United in resolve
our voices join together
to speak out for the voiceless,
and proclaim the righteousness of God.**

God of justice and righteousness,
use us to speak against domestic abuse
with a clear and challenging voice
in a world where the vulnerable strive to be heard.

May our voices be heard in places of influence
on behalf of those who suffer in silence.
Make us strong and effective advocates
for those whose voice is too weak to be heard.

**We worship our holy Lord;
we pray for his kingdom on earth.
May his justice set the captives free
and his righteousness reign forever. Amen**
MU Global Day prayers 2020

Intercessory Prayer 6

**Loving Lord, we draw near in faith
trusting not in the strength of our prayers**



but in your power to answer.

We pray for the work of our members worldwide to combat domestic abuse; for their highlighting of the issue, their petitioning of governments and their work with victims and survivors.

As a global family we embrace our mission to share your love through speaking out for the vulnerable.
Help us play our part in creating a just and equal society

**Loving Lord, we draw near in faith.
We pray for the dawn of a better world
where all may live in safety. Amen**
MU Global Day prayers 2020

Intercessory Prayer 7

We worship you, the God of love:
You hold the world in tender embrace,
You feel the hurt and sorrow we bear,
You comfort the wounded heart.

We thank you that in Jesus Christ
You held women in high esteem,
You understood their secret heartaches,
You inspired their love and trust.

We praise you, the Spirit of truth:
You uncover the lies and distortions,
You name the violence in our hearts,
You seek to transform the pain.

O God, we ask that you will reveal
The persistent wrong in our lives,
The reality we choose to ignore,
The abuse we tolerate of other people.

Change our heart and our lives, we pray,
That your image may grow in us
And in those we love. Amen
MU 16 Days Resources, 2017

A prayer for TRANSFORMATION

Great God we give you thanks that you call us out of silence to name hidden and domestic abuse.

We pray for all those women who despite suffering from abuse and violence, continue to care for family and children, to grow and prepare food, carry water, earn a living and offer support to others.

We pray for women who are trafficked as domestic or sex workers; for women who are raped and do not know how to find words to name their pain or a way into the future.

We pray for transformation of our societies which often find it easier to judge the victims of violence than to solve the problems of injustice

We pray that women's voices may be heard and taken into account in all peace and reconciliation work.

We pray for a transformation in the violent way many men act towards and think about women.

We pray for right and just relations between women and men that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms and learn to celebrate our diversity and interdependence

We look forward to the age of peace, when violence is banished, both women and men are able to love and to be loved, and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared.

World Council of Churches

A prayer for those working to end sexual and gender-based violence

God bless you with insight to recognise violence in all its forms, and courage to name it, speaking out for justice.

The Lord Jesus bless you with compassion for the vulnerable, and grace to stand with them, sharing his strength.

The Holy Spirit bless you with a prayerful heart, and power to breathe peace, transforming the world.

The blessing of the holy and glorious Trinity, eternal Wisdom, living Word, abiding Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

With thanks to the Anglican Church of Australia

A Prayer for awareness of Domestic Violence

God of shelter, give refuge to those who suffer violence and abuse in unsafe homes.

Bring your peace.

God of deliverance, release those who are enslaved and controlled by abusers, and give them sanctuary.

Bring your freedom.

God of compassion, defend the abused and the innocents who witness violence.

Bring your hope.

God of salvation, surround, guide and heal those who abuse and bully others.

Bring your light.

God of perfect love, move us toward holiness in our relationships with you, with one another and with creation.

Bring your assurance.

God of shelter and peace, deliverance and freedom, compassion and hope, salvation and light, perfect love and assurance,

hear our prayer.

Amen.

[Prayer for Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday - The Presbyterian Outlook \(pres-outlook.org\)](http://pres-outlook.org)

The hands and feet of Christ

Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

St Teresa of Avila

A Woman's Psalm

O God, I am a woman in a violent world

let me know your peace.

Let blind rage born of despair

not find its target in me.

Let the value of my life

not be reduced to the jewellery I wear.



Let my family life not end
that life in a gang may begin.

Let rape not violate my body
nor anger ravage my soul.

Let fear not enter my heart
but caution sharpen my mind.

Let the light of Christ so shine in me
that I may reflect your love.

Let the joy that the apostles knew
infuse my spirit and alleviate my pain.

Let Love who suffered and died on the cross
find resurrection and new life in the world you love.

O God, I am a woman in a violent world
let me know your peace.

Elizabeth Kaeton, (from Lifting Women's Voices: Canterbury Press; 2009)

Breaking the chains of abuse

Loving Lord,
hear our cries for justice
and break the chains of abuse
that all may live in safety.

Loving Lord,
hear our cries for righteousness
and break the chains of oppression
that all may live in freedom

We take a moment in the quiet to bring our own prayers to God.

Loving Lord,
hear our cries for mercy
and break the chains of fear
that all may live in peace. **Amen**
2021 MU 16 Days Resources



Intercessory Biblical reflection

*You may like to show appropriate power point images to accompany this.
Have a few moments of silent reflection between each corporate response.*

**United in outcry
our voices join together
to speak out for the oppressed,
and proclaim the justice of God.**

Let me not be put to shame, Lord,
for I have cried out to you; but let the wicked be put to shame.

[Psalm 31:17](#)

**God of mercy,
we trust in you to bring every deed into judgment,
including every hidden and secret thing.**

From [Ecclesiastes 12:14](#)

Who will protect me from the wicked?
Who will stand up for me against evildoers? *Psalm 94:16 (NLT)*

**God of justice,
embolden us to speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
that we may ensure justice for those being crushed. *From Proverbs 31:8***

But you, Lord, are a shield around me,
my glory, the One who lifts my head high. [Psalm 3:3](#)

**United in response
our voices join together
to echo the pleas of the distressed,
and proclaim the mercy of God. Amen**

A Final blessing

God is waiting to be gracious to you,
will rise up to show mercy to you,
and is a God of justice.

Go out into the world to
see, listen, and speak out,
free those held captive,
and provide healing and hope to the broken.

And may the God of peace bless you,
so that you might be a blessing to others. **Amen**

Rev. Diane Wildow www.mnys.org

A Prayer for International Women's Day

Hidden and mysterious God,
we seek you in darkness and unknowing,
and you come to us with tender love.

Today we pray for:

- women who suffer because what should be uncovered is covered up
- women who have been humiliated, harassed and stigmatised and dare not tell
- women who have been beaten, tortured, threatened, and cannot tell.

Forgive us, and your church,
our complicity in silence and concealment.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

And we give thanks for the witness of women,
most of them unnamed and unsung,
who have refused to be shamed or silenced,
who have stood up and stood out for justice and truth.

Blessed are you, gracious God

who has created women in your image.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/whatwedo/in-focus/gender/prayers-for-international-womens-day.aspx>

God of LOVE

God of love,
unlock the secrets
and release from shame
all those broken by sexual violence

God of love,
unlock the taboos
and release the truth
for all those afraid to speak up.

God of love,
unlock the hurt

and release from pain
all those who need to be healed.

We pray in the name of the one
whose transformational touch
healed and brought new life. Amen

https://www.christianaid.org.uk/Images/Loving-one-another-biblical-discussion-toolkit-2016_tcm15-89702.pdf

Becoming Agents for Transformation

Lord of all, help us to be silent for a moment
so we can hear the cries of girls and women,
some loud, many muffled, enduring violence
in every area of our global community.

Help us to take the time
to reflect on the fact
that the majority of human rights violations
across your world
are acts of violence toward women.
The roots of such hatred are deep and tangled,
and justice is long overdue.
We ask Your help to act
So we may become agents of transformation,
Willing to work to change systems and structures
That have fostered and allowed such violence
To continue, to this day, in the human community.

All humans, women and men,
are made in your image and likeness,
and have immeasurable dignity.
Help us, for a moment, be silent and still
so we can recognise You in the faces
of every girl and every woman.

Taken from Jane Deren

<https://educationforjustice.org/resources>

A Symbolic Prayer

A symbolic act of prayer for an end to the stigma and shame put upon victims of gender based violence; and for the breaking of the power of silence that prevents freedom for the survivor and exposure of the perpetrator.



We *link hands* with each other
as a sign of our solidarity with all who
are affected by gender-based violence

We *reach out* our hands
as a sign of our unity with all who
campaign for justice across the world.

We *stretch up* our hands
as a sign of our prayers for an end
to all forms of violence and abuse. Amen
MU 16 Days Resources, 2017

Let Our Outcry Get to God

I will proclaim your name to my sisters.
In the middle of the congregations I will give praise to you.
To the sisters who have been hurt by injustice, I will say
“Enjoy God, and he will give you what your hearts request.”

Good and loving Father, I thank you for the gift of life
and for letting me see your face
in the faces of each woman present at the United Nations,
who with one look or a smile say
“Come on sisters, let our voices be heard, and let our outcry get to God.
No more hunger, we want water, we need homes,
We want a decent job, we want to be loved.”

*Angelica Juarez Montoya, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico (from Lifting Women’s Voices:
Canterbury Press; 2009)*

A meditation for a displaced homemaker

Displaced but not forgotten. In faith I carry on,
Jesus, dear shepherd of his sheep, to whom my heart belongs.

Thank you, dear Lord Jesus, for a most holy dwelling place.
One of joy, peace and quiet confidence for those who seek your face.

Created in God’s image, I know to whom I belong.
Abandoned I will never be. In faith I’ll carry on.
*Naomi Vitelli; Women’s Uncommon Prayers, Our Lives Revealed, Nurtured, Celebrated
(Morehouse 2000)*

Loving Lord,
who has created us all in your image,
you have called us to love our neighbour
as ourselves.
Help us to treat all with dignity and respect
as we follow Christ's example of selfless love. **Amen**
MU 16 Days Resources 2014

Hope for gender justice - Mothers' Union Midday Prayers, November 2020

Equal before God

God created human beings in his own image.
In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.
Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good! *Genesis 1:27, 31*

**Creator God,
thank you that we are all made in your image
and equally loved by you.
Open our eyes to behold your face
in those of our sisters and brothers.**

As we draw near to Christ
in whom we are united through faith,
let us be ready to value each other
as beloved children of God.

**We pray for all to follow Christ's example
of treating women with equality and respect.
We pray for the dawn of a better world
where justice and peace may flourish. Amen**

Hope for change

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves;
ensure justice for those being crushed.
Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless,
and see that they get justice.
Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT)

**God our Creator,
we thank you for our shared calling**

**as your children, male and female together,
to care for all of creation.**

Forgive us when we fail to notice or
to question that which is less than good:
when we condone or perpetuate violence of any kind.

Fill us with your Spirit of wisdom
and help us to see the world
through your eyes of compassion and justice.

**Give us courage to challenge and to change,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Liberator. Amen**

©Erica Wishart

Hope of transformation

God created both male and female and blessed them,
the whole human race. *Genesis 5:2 (The Message)*

**Lord, we pray for transformation of our societies
which often find it easier
to judge the victims of violence
than to solve the problems of injustice**

We pray for a transformation in the violent way
many men act towards and think about women.

We pray for right and just relations between women and men
that together we may transform and overcome violence in all its forms
and learn to celebrate our diversity and interdependence.

**We look forward to the age of peace, when violence is banished,
both women and men are able to love and to be loved,
and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared. Amen**

From www.gfsworld.org

Actions of hope

He has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. *Micah 6:8*

Lord of justice and mercy,



**draw us close to those who hurt.
Let us reach out our hands in your name
to share the sorrow and lessen the pain.**

Lengthen our strides to march for good.
Clothe our feet with your living Word
to trample the works of injustice.

Knit us together as the body of Christ
that we may act with one accord
for the kingdom of God to prevail.

**Lord of justice and mercy
fill us with new resolve
to pursue actions of hope
in the name of Christ. Amen**

United in hope

Will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones,
who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?
I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. *Luke 18:7-8*

**Loving Lord,
we draw near in faith;
united in hope and purpose.**

We pray for the work of our members worldwide
to combat gender injustice;
for their highlighting of the issue,
their petitioning of governments
and their work with victims and survivors.

As a global family we embrace our mission
to speak out for the vulnerable and voiceless.
Help us play our part in creating a just and equal society.

**Loving Lord,
in hope and unity we offer up these prayers,
as we campaign for gender justice across the world. Amen**

Hope for the future

The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy.

I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness. *John 10:10*

**Lord of life,
thank you that many women and girls
are free from injustice and violence.
Thank you for your healing power
which brings hope for the future.**

Heavenly Father,
continue to move amongst the earth
to change attitudes that promote,
accept and perpetuate
all forms of gender injustice.

May fear be vanquished
and freedom reign,
that all may lead positive lives
in safety and peace.

**We pray for all to follow your example
of treating women with equality and respect.
We pray for the dawn of a better world
where justice and peace may flourish. Amen**
Mothers' Union, Midday Prayers, November 2020

Global Day Creative Prayer Ideas 2020

Inspired by God's Word

This idea could work well when holding a vigil. When each prayer is shared a candle could be lit as a symbol of God's light overcoming the darkness.

Provide Bible verses connected with aspects of domestic abuse on pieces of card or paper – there are some examples in this resource but feel free to use your own ideas. Give people opportunity to choose a card and then have a time of quiet for each to reflect on their verse.

Then take turns to use your verse for prayer. Each read out their verse and then either finish with Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer or if people are confident, speak out their own prayer arising from their reflection.

This idea could be combined with the use of a prayer tree with the verses hung on a tree after being shared.

Prayer Tree

Provide a prayer tree along with labels for people to write their prayers on and hang on the tree. If you can participate in a service, you could bring the tree forward in the service and offer up the prayers as part of the intercessions.

Or you could use the same idea as part of an event.

Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.

This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure for ever.

Isaiah 55:13

*Loving Lord,
we offer up these prayers
for all who are affected
by domestic or sexual abuse.
May blighted lives be transformed
through the healing power of the Spirit. Amen*

Accompanying Bible Verses

God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Then God looked over all he had made, and he saw that it was very good. *Genesis 1:27, 31*

The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. *Psalms 34:17-18*

**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves;
ensure justice for those being crushed. *Proverbs 31:8***

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
Isaiah 41:10

**Jesus said: Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these
brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. *Matthew 25: 40***

He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see,
that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favour has
come. *Luke 4:18-19*

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all
your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself.**
Luke 10:27

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear
that their deeds will be exposed. *John 3:20*

**The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy. I have come in order
that you might have life – life in all its fullness. *John 10:10***

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and
female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. *Galatians 3:28*

**Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in
truth.**
1 John 3:18

16 Days of Bible Verses and Prayers

Day 1

God created human beings in his own image.
In the image of God, he created them;
male and female, he created them.
Then God looked over all he had made,
and he saw that it was very good! *Genesis 1:27, 31 (NLT)*

Creator God, thank you that we are all made in your image, and equally loved by you. Open our eyes to see your face in those of our sisters and brothers. Amen

Day 2

He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,
that the blind will see that the oppressed will be set free,
and that the time of the Lord's favour has come. *Luke 4:18-19 (NLT)*

Compassionate God may those experiencing all forms of violence be given courage, hope and practical help to break free from their abuse. Amen

Day 3

Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest
if we do not give up. *Galatians 6:9*

Steadfast God, give us resolve to work tirelessly to change attitudes that promote, accept and perpetuate all forms of violence and abuse. Amen

Day 4

The Lord God has told us what is right and what he demands:
"See that justice is done, let mercy be your first concern,
and humbly obey your God." *Micah 6:8 (CEV)*

Righteous God help those who administer justice for victims and survivors of gender-based violence to make decisions with integrity and compassion. Amen

Day 5

Remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison,
and those who are ill-treated as if you yourselves were suffering. *Hebrews 13:3*

Righteous Saviour, who came to free the oppressed, use us to challenge social injustice with a clear voice, in a world where the vulnerable strive to be heard. Amen

Day 6

The thief comes only in order to steal, kill, and destroy.

I have come in order that you might have life – life in all its fullness. *John 10:10*

*Lord of life, thank you that many women and girls are now free from abuse and violence.
Thank you for your healing power which brings hope to survivors. Amen*

Day 7

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your mind and with all your strength
and love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these. *Mark 12:30-31*

*Loving Lord, you have called us to love our neighbour as ourselves. Help us to treat all with
dignity and respect as we follow Christ's example of selfless love. Amen*

Day 8

Do not fear, for I am with you.

Do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you.

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. *Isaiah 41:10*

*God of righteousness, we pray against regimes that endorse violence against women and
girls. Replace their evil influence with a rule of justice and decency. Amen*

Day 9

God will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning,
festive praise instead of despair. *Isaiah 61:3 (NLT)*

*Transforming God, we pray for all who live in fear of violence and despair that life will ever
change. Bring to an end their suffering; restore their sense of worth. Amen*

Day 10

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?'
And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' *Isaiah 6:8*

*Holy Spirit fill us with new resolve to challenge unacceptable mindsets and actions and to
champion the cause of righteousness in the name of Christ. Amen*

Day 11

Then the king will answer,

"The truth is, anything you did for any of my people here, you also did for me."

Matthew 25:40 (ERV)

Lord Jesus be with those who work with survivors of gender-based violence. May they be given the resources they need to offer long lasting support. Amen

Day 12

Jesus said: Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me. *Matthew 18:3-5*

Heavenly Father protect children who witness violence in the home. May they be given support to enable them to lead positive lives, in freedom from fear. Amen

Day 13

Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world,
but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
Romans 12:2 (NLT)

All-powerful God break the patterns of abuse committed down the generations. Transform attitudes and behaviour for current and future relationships. Amen

Day 14

Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
May he judge your people in righteousness,
your afflicted ones with justice. *Psalms 72:1-2*

Lord of the nations, we pray for governments as they deal with gender-based violence. May they make policy and law with wisdom and discernment. Amen

Day 15

Don't take part in doing those worthless things that are done
in the dark. Instead, show how wrong they are.
The light will show what these things are really like. *Ephesians 5:11, 13*

Merciful God bless those working with perpetrators of gender-based violence. Give them your resources to bring about lasting transformation of lives. Amen

Day 16

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free,
nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. *Galatians 3:28*



Lord of heaven and earth, we pray for all to follow Christ's example of treating women with equality and respect. We pray for the dawn of a better world where justice and peace may flourish. Amen

Further Sources of prayers in regard to Domestic Violence:

The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5:16

[Prayers \(overcomingviolence.org\)](http://overcomingviolence.org)

[Prayer for Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday - The Presbyterian Outlook \(pres-outlook.org\)](http://pres-outlook.org)

[Social Justice Resource Center » Domestic Abuse Prayers](#)

[Prayer Against Domestic Violence And Abuse - ChristiansTT](#)

[A Prayer For Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Interrupting the Silence](#)

[8 Prayers Against Domestic Violence and Abuse | Prayers for Abusive Relationships | Prayers for Abuse Victims | - Beliefnet](#)

[Domestic Violence Pray - Common Grace](#)

A Liturgy for Raising Awareness of Domestic Violence

https://llandaff.contentfiles.net/media/documents/Liturgy_Caroline_Downs.pdf

Sources of sermon material in regard to Domestic Abuse and Gender Based Violence:

'Just imagine! We must speak up and do something.' Judges 19:30

[Global Day 2021 \(Mothers' Union Responds to 16 Days of Activism\) | Mothers' Union \(mothersunion.org\)](http://mothersunion.org)

[Church Guide - Restored \(restored-uk.org\)](http://restored-uk.org)

https://www.ministrymatters.com/files/164/Telling_the_Truth.pdf - a book - preaching about sexual and domestic violence; 1998 United Church Press

[175509_Text_Greyscaled.pdf, page 2 @ Preflight \(2\) \(responding2017\) \(churchofengland.org\)](http://churchofengland.org)

[Clergy Resources](#) | [Resources Categories](#) | [Rave \(theraveproject.org\)](#)

[Sermons about Domestic Violence - SermonCentral.com](#)

[Sermon](#) | [PastorLife](#)

[what can Christians do about domestic violence leaflet \(cumbria.gov.uk\)](#)

Blessings

A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really CAN make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done. **Amen**

Franciscan blessing

Benediction

May the God of Eve teach you to dance.

May the God of Hagar bring you comfort in the desert.

May the God of Miriam bring companions to you when you struggle.

May the God of Deborah teach you courage for your battles.

May the Christ who knew Mary and Martha show you the way of balance.

May the Christ who healed the bent-over woman heal your pain.

May the Christ of Mary Magdala send you out to proclaim your story.

In the name of Christ who is the memory, hope and authority of the future.

Adapted from a worship created by Jane Stranz for the World Council of Churches

A Closing Prayer and Blessing

May God give us eyes
to recognise abuse where it exists.

May God give us a heart
to reach out in compassion.

May God give us courage and resolve



to make a difference wherever we are.

And the Blessing of God Almighty,
the Holy Trinity,
guide our steps today,
this week and always.
Go in peace and in resolve. Amen
Source unknown