



Awareness & Action

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2019

Welcome to our prayers and Bible readings for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence. As members of the body of Christ we draw near in faith to commit ourselves to be Christ's hands and feet in the world: hands to raise awareness by pointing out injustice and unrighteousness, and feet to march for change and to run to those in need of help.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an international campaign. It takes place each year from **25 November** (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until **10 December** (International Human Rights Day). **Throughout the campaign, Mothers' Union joins with many others, globally, to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, gender-based violence in all forms and in all societies.**

1. 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.

2. 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. Amen.

3. 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.

4. Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. God has put the body together, giving greater honour to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. *1 Corinthians 12:12, 24-27*

5. 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. Amen.

6. 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. Amen.

7. 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.

8. Lord of justice and mercy, who has called us to be the body of Christ, we offer up our prayers for those who are affected by gender-based violence and as a sign of our unity with all who campaign for justice across the world. Amen.

9. Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth. Ours are the feet by which he is to go about doing good and ours are the hands by which he is to bless us now. *St Teresa of Avila*

10. O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. *Micah 6:8*

11. Dear Lord we know that violence and abuse is ALWAYS wrong and NEVER acceptable. We know the responsibility for the abuse lies with the perpetrator. Help them to see what they do is wrong, and now and in the future to see what is right and pleasing to you. Amen.

12. Holy Father, help the abused and violated find someone to walk with them, to listen to them, to mentor them and to direct them to places of help.

13. God of Love, unlock the secrets and release from shame all those broken by sexual violence. Unlock the taboos and release the truth for all who are afraid to speak up. Unlock the hurt and release from pain all who need to be healed. We pray in the name of him whose transformational touch healed and brought new life. Amen.

14. Merciful God, use us to speak against social injustice with a clear and influential voice in a world where the vulnerable strive to be heard. Amen.

15. Forgive us Lord, when we hear neither your plea, nor the cries of your people. And fill us, Lord, with your dream of a just world and the help to keep going in playing our part. Amen.

16. Now may the God of peace equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen.

Gender-Based Violence: Facts and Figures

- At least **one in three** women **globally** will experience some form of gender-based violence at some point in their lifetime (*World Health Organisation*).

- An estimated **35 percent** of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives.
- Women aged 15-44 are **more at risk from rape and domestic violence** than from cancer, car accidents, war and malaria, according to World Bank data.
- **Forty-three percent** of women in the European Union have experienced some form of psychological violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- In the European Union, 1 in 10 women has experienced some form of sexual violence since the age of 15, and 1 in 20 has been raped. Just over 1 in 5 women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence from either a current or previous partner.
- An estimated **133 million girls and women** have experienced some form of female genital mutilation across Africa and the Middle East.
- In 2012, 1 in 2 women killed worldwide were killed by their partners or family. One out of 20 of all men killed were killed in such circumstances.
- More than **700 million** women alive in the world today were married as children (*UN Women*).
- **4.5 million** people worldwide are victims of forced sexual exploitation. **98 percent** of these are women (*UN Women*).
- **60 million girls** are sexually assaulted at, or on their way to, school each year (*USAID*).
- In England and Wales **seven women a month are killed** by a current or former partner (*ONS Wales, Crime Survey England and Wales, 2015*).
- **In England and Wales, for the 12 months to 30 June 2016, domestic abuse-related crime made up just over 11 percent of all recorded crime and represented 33 percent of all recorded crimes that involved assault with injury.**