



GFS/USA



UNITE! to

Protect girls and women
against violence.

DAY #1

STOP VIOLENCE

On this first day of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence. At the heart of our campaigning against gender-based violence is our love for God, which motivates us to keep his commandments: to love our neighbor as ourselves.

*Together, let us take **ACTIONS**
to **SUPPORT***

the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Girls and Women Campaign.

How much does the world care about ending violence against girls and women?
We don't know.

What we do know, is that the human cost of violence against girls and women is incalculable and **MUST STOP**.

As a global GFS Family, we embrace our mission and our purpose to Bear Ye One Another's Burdens and to love one another as ourselves. Help us Lord to speak out for the vulnerable and voiceless. Help us play our part in creating a just and equal society.

In **HOPE** and **UNITY**, we offer up these prayers. *Amen.*

**LET'S RISE UP AGAINST GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE**



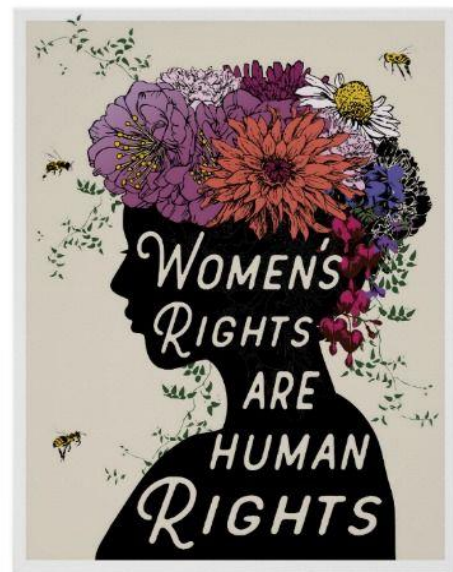
STOP VIOLENCE



DAY #2

NO ONE DESERVES TO EXPERIENCE ABUSE – PERIOD.

O Lord, help us to be strong stewards of all You have entrusted to us. Give us the courage and Your strength to stand against violence inflicted upon Your precious Girls and Women. In Jesus' name **Amen**.



We know that Jesus was delivered into the hands of the wicked, yet He prayed for His persecutors and overcame hatred with the blood of the cross. It's important that we stand against violence and pray, not only for peace of mind but also renewed faith in God protection and care. Call on God to keep us aware to the concerns of violence and to inspire those in the community to develop a sense of urgency when it comes to the many needs that surround us.

GRACIOUS GOD, You created us in Your image and breathed life into us, a life You want us to live abundantly. We ask You to free those living with abuse physically, mentally, or spiritually from their oppression, so that they may walk in peace and enjoy a life full of Your blessings. In Jesus' Name. **Amen**



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DAY #3

STOP VIOLENCE

We are created equal in God's sight. To tackle abuse, we stand together to challenge the culture and attitudes around us, and so doing reflect God's love.



How terrible it must be to be afraid when you hear a key turning in the door.

Abuse is NOT an accident; it is a deliberate act of cruelty.

Lord strengthen us to take action to support the 16 days of activism by wearing an ORANGE RIBBON as a Symbol of peace and the commitment of ending violence to girls and women. We encourage our GFS members to mark the 16-day period by using these prayers every day during our 16 days of Activism in personal or group worship.

Dear Lord, we bring our concerns to you, for all, who in their weakness are worn down by abuse, we ask for comfort and rebuilding of their strength. for acceptance of themselves for confidence to grow, for courage to speak out, to seek help. To feel hope and a fresh beginning, to turning the corner in time, to a new life ahead, healed in body, mind, and spirit, we ask this in Jesus' name, **Amen.**



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DAY #4

STOP VIOLENCE



It's important as followers of Christ to stand against all types of domestic violence and abuse not only outside of our homes but also in our homes. Call on God to bind every evil spirit associated with them. We shouldn't advocate for anyone who destroys a person's self-respect, self-worth and confidence and leaves them with feelings of low self-esteem and depression. Pray that God will heal, forgive, and show these victims that, as a person, they deserve to be respected, feel safe and valued. Also pray that those being abused to recognize that when they feel dominated, disgraced and even dejected, that they need to stand up and declare that no weapon formed against them shall prosper because they are delivered by the blood of Jesus and are children of the Most High God.

O God, you love all your children. Look with special care upon those daughters who suffer physically and emotionally simply because they are women. Surround them with your protecting angels this day, that they might know safety. Give them that measure of your Spirit that they might not lose heart but entrust their lives wholly to you. Give us the courage to stand steadfast at their side, never wavering to speak the truth of their plight and to put our own lives to the test on behalf of our beloved sisters. Grant these petitions, we pray, in the love of the One, Triune God. **Amen.**

Christ Episcopal Church Cedar Rapids, IA



DAY #5

STOP VIOLENCE

discrimination, racism.

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

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for calling us out of silence to name hidden and domestic violence. Today we pray for all those women who despite suffering from 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 considered 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.



Amen

We look forward to
banished, both
loved, and the work



the age of peace, when violence is
women and men can love and to be
and wealth of our world is justly shared.



DAY #6

STOP VIOLENCE

**No one
deserves to experience abuse
– period.**

Domestic violence and abuse is about control and enslavement, but the Lord is all about deliverance, freedom and peace. Never doubt the power of prayer and God's ability to protect and heal those who are suffering because of violence, both silently and out loud

As we offer up our prayers for our GFS Sisters and all women around the world whose lives have been affected, by gender-based violence and pray for a world where violence against girls and women no longer exists. Gender based violence knows no religion, age, nationality, culture, or socioeconomic class.

Lord open our eyes and hearts to this reality. Create within our structures that will stimulate discussion, provoke thought, and workshops to educate us and raise awareness around this human rights violation on earth.

We offer up these prayers as a sign of our mutual support with all who are affected by gender-based violence and as a sign of our unity with all who campaign for justice across the world.

Dear Lord, give us *strength* to shine a light on the horror of abuse, give us strength not to hide the truth, may we show understanding and compassion, to be involved, to care, to encourage hopes of a new life, moving into the future with confidence. In Jesus' name, **Amen**



STOP VIOLENCE

Loving Lord, this candle is lit to remember all who have been affected by gender-based violence, and as a symbol of hope as we pray for a world which is free from all forms of violence and abuse. Amen



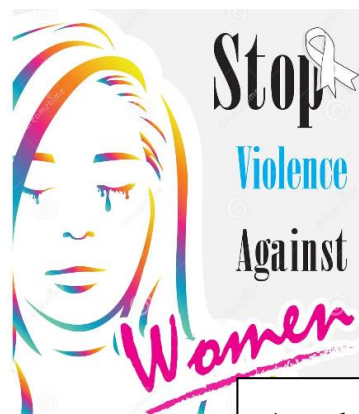
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5

We must change the story, and create a future where we are all safe, equal, and respected. We need to challenge misogyny and violence, and make sure women are heard. Women and girls everywhere should be able to access the help they need, when they need it, so we can end violence once and for all.

Let's change the story.

We all deserve to be respected for who we are.

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. *Amen.*



And *Girls*



DAY #8

STOP VIOLENCE

As we take this journey may we find encouragement, empowerment, hope and confidence in the world we share that one day there will be justice for all women and girls to live in a world where equity for all.

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 considered 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 can love and to be loved, and the work and wealth of our world is justly shared.



STOP VIOLENCE



DAY # 9

If we **UNITE** together across the world to champion the cause of justice and for girls and women who are denied the right to seat at the table.

Women in leadership must be the norm. The power imbalance between men and women remains the most stubborn and persistent of all inequalities. It finds its expression in many ways: in the rising rates of violence and misogyny that women and girls face in every society; in the extreme underrepresentation of women in decision-making positions; and certainly, in the myriad challenges faced by women in situations of conflict. In every humanitarian emergency, the clock on women's rights has not stopped, it's moving backwards. Yet too often, women remain on the periphery of formal peace processes. And they're largely excluded from rooms where decisions are made. As Shirley Chisom said "if they don't give you a chair at the table bring a folding chair" The fight continues but sounding our voices **LOUD** and **CLEAR** we are **IMPORTANT** and have a **REAL VOICE**



May the God of Eve teach us to dance.

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

May the God of Miriam bring us compassion to us when we struggle.

May the God of Deborah teach us courage for are battles.

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

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

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

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

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

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DAY #10

STOP VIOLENCE

Being a victim of domestic abuse doesn't define them. God does. He says you are loved and cherished. He says you have hope and a future.

Abuse is a form of oppression, which God hates. He wants us to live free from fear and oppression.

A Woman's Psalm

O God, I am a woman in a violent world
Let me know your peace.
Let the value of my life.
not be reduced to the jewelry I wear.
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)

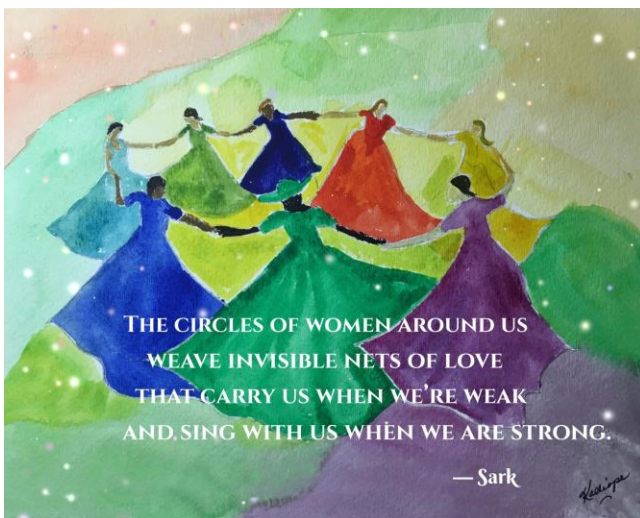
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DAY #11

STOP VIOLENCE

Gender-based violence is a global public health, gender equality and human rights priority. It remains a systemic crisis, affecting 1 in 3 women worldwide. Risks increase during humanitarian emergencies or when women face greater curtailments of their essential rights, such as access to education, healthcare, or freedom of movement.



Heavenly Father, we bring before you our sisters, victims of violence, where love has evaporated in a relationship, many, powerless, bruised and broken, longing for comfort and hope, no more hiding in corners, longing for safe places, a secure

refuge, longing for healing and peace, a new start, stability for themselves and their families, trusted relatives, friends, and colleagues. In Jesus' name, *Amen*.

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DAY #12

STOP VIOLENCE

**WE NEED TO BE
SHOUTING FROM
THE ROOFTOPS:**

all forms of Gender Base

Violence is NOT acceptable. Period!



God of the universe, you are unchanging in your goodness. And because your purposes do not change, because they remain good, we trust you to change what seems unchangeable. We ask that you bring about a reordering of this world, that those who misuse their power will be brought low, and that those who have been made low will be raised up. God, we thank you that because you will do these things, we can face even the most painful of realities. Please use these 16 days and beyond as we pray and act with hope and faith that justice for all girls and women will one day be free from violence and abuse. **Amen.**



GFS/USA

DAY #13

**Prayer for our beloved
GFS Sisters in Honduras**

Prayer Against Violence to Girls and Women.

STOP VIOLENCE

Good and Merciful Father we come before you today to put in your presence the girls and women of our Latin American communities who suffer the violence that gallops right and left in our countries. We humbly ask you to keep them Oh Lord under the shadows of your wings, protect them from pain, protect each one of them from the violence that takes their lives away, the violence that takes away their dreams, their hopes. Blessed God, Our Father, may your angels encamp around these creatures, who are your creatures! empower them, open doors of blessing so that our girls and children have access to middle school, and because they do not have higher education, send angels that give them a helping hand and give them an opportunity to have a better future. Bless our places of worship to be safe places of love where our girls and women always find a warm welcome, where we can teach them about you dear Lord, where they can be embraced by your love and your faithful company, whereby our example we are able to show them that in this world there are people who love them want a better world for all. Help us Lord to raise our voices, to open the eyes and ears of our authorities to the clamor of our people who only ask what theirs is rightfully: respect for a dignified life, physical integrity, emotional and intellectual, outside the violence of our lives!. In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and redeemer we ask and thank you

*Rev Canon Connie Sanchez+, Diocese of Honduras
GFS Advisor Province IX*

Oración contra la violencia a niñas y mujeres.

Padre bueno y misericordioso, hoy estamos ante ustedes para poner en su presencia a las niñas y mujeres de nuestras comunidades latinoamericanas que sufren la violencia que galopan a la derecha y la izquierda en nuestros países, mantenerlas en la sombra de sus alas, protegerlas del dolor. , de la violencia que quita sus vidas, que quita sus sueños, sus esperanzas, Oh Dios bendito, Padre Nuestro, que tu ángel acampe alrededor de estas criaturas, ¡quiénes son tus criaturas!, dales poder, abre puertas de bendición para que nuestros las niñas y los niños tienen acceso a la escuela intermedia y, como no tienen educación superior, envíen ángeles que les ayuden y les den la oportunidad de tener un mejor destino. Bendice a nuestros templos para que sean lugares seguros de amor donde nuestras niñas y mujeres siempre reciben una cálida bienvenida y podemos enseñarles sobre usted, su amor y su compañía fiel, donde podemos demostrar con nuestro ejemplo que en este mundo tenemos personas. que los amemos y que queramos un mundo mejor para todos, ayudarnos a alzar nuestra voz, abrir los ojos y oídos de nuestras autoridades al clamor de nuestra gente que solo pregunta lo que es legítimamente suyo: respeto por una vida digna, su condición física. Integridad, emocional, intelectual, fuera de la violencia de nuestras vidas. En el nombre de Jesucristo nuestro Señor y redentor te pedimos y te damos gracias. *Rev Canon Connie Sanchez+*



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DAY #14

STOP VIOLENCE

Our lives begin to end when we become silent about things that matter

-Martin Luther King jr.

Dear Lord, please wrap your arms around those who are hurting today, and let them feel how much You love them.

Violence against women and girls is one of the world's most prevalent human rights violations, taking place every day, many times over, in every corner of the globe. It has serious short-and long-term physical, economic and psychological consequences on women and girls, preventing their full and equal participation in society.

Violence against women and girls is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable. We cannot stay silent any longer about gender-based violence, and while there is breath in our lungs we need to **speak up, speak out!**

. There is **#NoExcuse** to not act against violence.

God our Creator, you make all people in your image. We give thanks for the growing contribution of women in church and society; for the insights and changes they bring; for their love creativity, courage, and strength: Use them to transform your world.

Christ our Companion, you walk with us wherever the road leads. Hear our prayers for women who are ignored, ridiculed, silenced, mutilated, and killed. Give them the knowledge of your unfailing love. **Amen**

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DAY #15

STOP VIOLENCE

UNITED

we will use our voices 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.

It's important that we pray specifically for the children who have been hurt, abused, neglected, criticized, dominated, betrayed, and abandoned. Psalm 27:10 says, ***“For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the Lord will take me in.”*** Call on Jesus to help these children feel loved and cared for, in a tangible way. Also pray that these children will not look for love in all the wrong places, in a fruitless attempt to fill a God-sized void. The Holy Spirit has the power to comfort them and deliver them.

Compassionate God, protect the innocent children who suffer or witness violence and abuse at the hands of the ones they love. Bring them to a safe place where they can begin to heal. Restore their minds to trust and their hearts to love and their spirits to be free. Surround them with your angels. In Jesus' name. Amen

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DAY #16

STOP VIOLENCE

UNITED *We Stand Firm Together
Against Any Form of Violence against Girls
and Women.*



As we end our SIXTEEN DAYS of prayers for girls and women who suffer from gender base violence may we continue to pray for them each month. Also, Let's challenge ourselves to purposefully set aside time to show our gratitude for all that our Father has done and will do in our lives but, never forgetting those that continue to suffer by the hands and actions of others. Let us connect with each other through our Prayers of Hope and continue praying for the voiceless.

*God, we thank you that you give us the power to learn, grow and change. Thank you for what we have learned over these last 16 days. We thank you that you have heard every one of our prayers, that they are precious to you. We thank you for paying attention to every tear we have cried because of our own suffering or that of others. We thank you for bringing about change in us and the world. We pray for those we know, or suspect are suffering or at risk of family and domestic violence. What would you have us do to care for them? Please show us and help us to help them.
Amen.*

