

MOTHER'S UNION

- BENDIGO DIOCESE -



PRAYER DIARY

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Friday 25th November

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Saturday 10th December

2022

The Anglican Diocese of Bendigo together with Mother's Union are committed to enacting the following:

10 COMMITMENTS FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE

1

Our Church acknowledges and laments the violence which has been suffered by some of our members and repents of the part we have played in allowing an environment where violence went unaddressed.

2

Our Church leaders commit to ensure conditions that support the prevention of violence, a church culture that promotes equality, and support for those who experience violence.

3

Our Church consistently teaches about equality, freedom from violence, respectful relationships and the honour/value of every person.

4

Our Church affirms that human relationships are to be based on respect and mutuality.

5

Our Church acknowledges the different experiences of all people and that these have played a part in whether they have been treated with respect and equality.

6

Our Church actions are directed by the gospel of love, peace and justice, and are informed and engaged with local, state and national government initiatives as appropriate.

7

Our church supports cultural change in our communities by communicating effectively to our members.

8

Our Church trains our leaders, pastoral staff and parish councils to understand and be equipped to respond in ways that prevent and address domestic and family violence.

9

Our leaders and pastoral staff hold themselves to account and are guided by the Anglican Church's Code of Conduct: *Faithfulness in Service*.

10

These commitments are regularly reviewed and improved.

Gender-based violence is one of the most widespread violations of human rights. Spanning many societies, it can affect anyone at any time and takes many forms.

It can be part of a damaging cultural 'norm' or hidden behind closed doors. It can be very difficult to ask for help.

16 days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Every November for the last 30 years the international community has held the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign.

It begins on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

In 2022, Respect Victoria and Safe + Equal are partnering to deliver and support local community engagement. Check your local council website to find out what events are happening in your area.

16 Days of Bible Verses and Prayers

Mothers' Union International have responded to the call for 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence by facilitating a global day of action and prayer. Join with our 4 million members worldwide each day and especially on Saturday 26th November.

1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse and we believe this to be unacceptable.

Prayer is powerful and knowledge is empowering. Please join us this year by praying together and joining together with any local actions happening in your area.

Day 1 – Fri 25th Nov

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 – Sat 26th Nov (MU global day of action & prayer)

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 – Sun 27th Nov

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 – Mon 28th Nov

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 – Tues 29th Nov

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 – Wed 30th Nov

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 – Thurs 1st Dec

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 – Fri 2nd Dec

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 – Sat 3rd Dec

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 an end to their suffering; restore their sense of worth. Amen

Day 10 – Sun 4th Dec

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 – Mon 5th Dec

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 – Tues 6th Dec

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 – Wed 7th Dec

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 – Thurs 8th Dec

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 – Fri 9th Dec

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 – Sat 10th Dec

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

If you or someone you know is impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence call:

- Emergencies: 000
- 1800 Respect National Helpline: 1800 737 732
 - Women's Crisis Line: 1800 811 811
 - Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
- Lifeline: 131 114

For more information about a service in your state or local area download the DAISY App in your smartphone's App Store or Google Play.