

Sample Intercessory Prayers and Blessings

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

Intercessory Prayer 8

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**
(MU 16 Days Resources, 2021)

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 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)

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

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