

Hope for gender justice – reflection and prayers

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)