



## Creative prayer ideas for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence 2018

*These prayer ideas may be used and adapted for a variety of contexts; as part of a service or meeting; as part of a vigil or as an ongoing opportunity for prayer throughout the 16 days.*

### United in Prayer

This prayer may be used as a symbolic act of unity with our members worldwide and with all who are affected by or work against gender based violence

**We link hands with each other  
as a sign of our solidarity with all who  
are affected by gender-based violence**

**We reach out our hands  
as a sign of our unity with all who  
campaign for justice across the world.**

**We stretch up our hands  
as a sign of our prayers for an end  
to all forms of violence and abuse.  
Amen**

### Inspired by God's Word

This idea could work well when holding a 16 Days vigil. When each prayer is shared a candle could be lit as a symbol of God's light overcoming the darkness.

Provide Bible verses connected with aspects of gender based violence on pieces of card or paper – there are some examples below but feel free to use your own ideas. Give people opportunity to choose a card and then have a time of quiet for each to reflect on their verse.

Then take turns to use your verse for prayer. Read out the verse and then either, if people are confident they may speak out their own prayer arising from their reflection or, they could read out the verse finishing with *Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer*. Candles may also be lit.

This idea could be combined with the use of a prayer tree with the verses hung on a tree after being shared.

## Prayer Tree

Provide a prayer tree along with labels for people to write their prayers on and hang on the tree. If possible you could provide gold and purple labels or plain labels with gold or purple ribbon (the colours representing the 16 Days campaign)

If appropriate, set up the tree somewhere in the church so the wider church community can access it and add their prayers throughout the time. On the final Sunday of 16 Days you may be able to bring the tree forward in the service and offer up the prayers as part of the intercessions.

Or you could use the same idea as part of a branch or group meeting which focusses on the issues highlighted by 16 Days. Again, you may like to open the meeting to the wider community.

*Instead of the thorn-bush will grow the juniper,  
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.  
This will be for the Lord's renown,  
for an everlasting sign,  
that will endure for ever. Isaiah 55:13*

*Loving Lord,  
we offer up these prayers  
for all who are affected  
by gender-based violence.  
May blighted lives be transformed  
through the healing power of the Spirit.  
Amen*

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*

The Lord hears his people when they call to him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed. *Psalms 34:17-18*

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. *Proverbs 31:8*

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*

Jesus said: Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. *Matthew 25: 40*

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*

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and love your neighbour as yourself. *Luke 10:27*

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. *John 3:20*

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*

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*

Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth. *1 John 3:18*

