

October 2021

Dear AMUA members

Greetings to you from a wet day here in southern Queensland. My thoughts and prayer are with those of you who are struggling with restrictions, particularly those who cannot visit family. Our only grandchildren live in America, giving me a new diagnosis of “empty arms syndrome”.

Despite all, we are in a privileged place here in Australia, when compared with other part of the world. Please pray for the people of Papua New Guinea where COVID 19 is killing large numbers of people and hospitals have had to shut their doors to any new patients.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence November 25 to December 10.

Many of you have been involved in and are now preparing for the United Nations international campaign against gender-based violence (GBV). These 16 days are bookended by the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25) and Human Rights Day (December 10), making it a significant time to shine a light in protest against this worldwide suffering. Many of the Mothers Union projects around the world have a focus on addressing GBV. In countries such as Melanesia, MU members work with NGOs in their own communities to find ways forward to reduce GBV (see previous Mia Mia articles). Last year MU UK initiated MU Global Day, providing an opportunity for members around the world to take unified action in their communities, churches and families to campaign against GBV. You may have seen pictures from 2020 on the MU UK website or on social media sites such as Facebook.

MU Global Day 27 November 2021 (The following information is from the MU UK website)

Global Day is centred around the disturbing figure that “1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced domestic or sexual abuse” and that Mothers’ Union as a leading women’s organisation believe this to be unacceptable.

This year we are coming together on Saturday 27 November, marking it by wearing a purple scarf.

*We will gather, where possible, **for a three-minute silence at 1.03pm** (linking to the 1 in 3 theme). We want to make this as big as we can, combining the voices of our four million members around the world – calling for action on an international scale and in the countries where we live.*

What can we do locally?

November 27 is a Saturday, giving us the maximum opportunity to make a public statement. I encourage you to talk about how you might gather others around you as you wear your purple scarf (op shops are good places to acquire one if your wardrobe does not extend to purple) and protest against GBV. You might get together as a branch, a parish or a deanery. I know of one parish who is holding their Christmas fair that day. The AMUA members plan to stop fair activities

at 1pm, group in 3s with No more 1:3 placards and wear purple scarves – one person’s face wrapped to signify the “victim”. For those who cannot meet in groups, may try doing something at home, even if you are only able to wear a scarf and pray at 1.03pm on 27 November.

At the Diocese of North Queensland AMUA conference held towards the end of September, we talked about MU Global Day, then grouped in 3s with purple scarves, held the placard and used a short liturgy from the 2020 resources.



Further resources for a wider protest such as writing to politicians and discussing the theology of GBV, as well as a liturgy for worship are available on the MU UK website.

I have also adapted the worldwide placard to include the AMUA logo if people would like to use this version (attached to the email).

May God continue to bless you all, as you stand with your sisters across Australia and around the world.

Robin Ray

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