

1 St Teresa of Avila

Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion is to look out to the earth. Ours are the feet by which he is to go about doing good and ours are the hands by which he is to bless us now.

2 Mothers Union Prayers

2.1 **Symbolic Prayer offering**

You may like to use the hands and feet templates provided to write prayers on as part of your intercessions. Display a prayer tree or other holder at the front and bring the prayers up to be attached and offered to God. If doing this online you could send out the templates before then so participants can print or draw out, fill in and then hold up on screen as you pray.

Lord of justice and mercy, who has called us to be the body of Christ, we offer up our prayers for those who are affected by gender-based violence and as a sign of our unity with all who campaign for justice across the world.

2.2

Loving Lord, who came to expose the darkness, make us bold to reach into the shadows and release the oppressed from fear. Merciful and loving God, forgive us when we have closed our eyes to the sufferings of others; when we have stayed silent in the face of abuse and oppression; when we have declined to challenge unacceptable actions and attitudes. Take away our selfishness and fill us with new resolve to proclaim the cause of righteousness in the name of Christ. Amen

2.3

As followers of Christ we stand against all types of violence and abuse wherever it is found.

We remember and pray for homes where loved ones are betrayed - where there is no respect for each other and where there is neglect or apathy, abuse and animosity. We remember those who suffer through the thoughtlessness and cruelty of others.

Forgive us, Lord, who call ourselves your own but daily cause you pain, who see someone in need and walk across the road, hear about injustice and fail to say a word. Forgive us, Lord, who call ourselves your own.

Renew our hearts, our souls and minds; strengthen our faith and make us a people who are your hands, your feet and voice within this world. Amen

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3 Prayers from Common Grace Australia <https://www.commongrace.org.au/>

3.1 Lord, give us eyes to see and ears to hear the many different ways in which domestic and family violence and exploitation are carried out against all sorts of people, in all sorts of ways, in our communities. Thank you that you see and you hear everything that happens in this world. Give us understanding and keep us vigilant to recognise those who need assistance, knowing that violence does not always involve physical scarring and bruising. Give counsellors and pastoral care workers understanding and wisdom as they offer support in these painful circumstances. Amen.

Intercession Prayers suitable for use during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
25 November to 10 December 2020

3.2 Lord, today we bring before you people in our communities who have experienced violence and exploitation in a context where they already confront social inequality and disadvantage. We are mindful today of the way in which our society often forgets and excludes those who, due to disability, cultural background or sexual orientation, fall outside the 'mainstream'. Help us Lord to see them as you do. May our response to abuse within all groups be with love and acceptance. Amen.

4. YWCA Ireland

4.1 Compassionate God, may those experiencing all forms of violence be given courage, hope and the means to break free from abuse. We pray for all who live in fear of violence and despair, that life will change: Bring to an end their suffering; Restore their sense of worth. Bring to light deeds of abuse hidden in darkness, that victims 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.

5 Girls Friendly Society

5.1 A prayer for the perpetrators of violence

Loving Saviour, touch the hearts of those who abuse or exploit others. Heal their thinking, so that they may turn to You and seek Your ways. Help them to know that every human being is a treasure to You. Help them to know that You are a forgiving God and can lead them on a path to new life.

5.2 For survivors of violence, abuse and neglect and for their abusers.

We pray that You will be with the survivors of Gender-based violence in their confusion and pain. We ask You to heal their wounds, free them from fear and restore them to full health of body, mind and spirit.

We remember those who exploit or abuse others and pray that their eyes will be opened to reveal the evil they are committing and their hearts turned to new ways of understanding and behaving.

6. Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Convent NJ USA

6.1 A Prayer for the End of Human Trafficking

God of freedom, beauty and truth we believe that your deepest desire, your most powerful energy, is that all creation might know abundant life. We raise our voices in prayer for our sisters and brothers, who are modern day slaves; They are your beloved daughters and sons, exploited sexually or forced to work because of human violence and greed. Fill us with your holy anger and your sacred passion that those who are trafficked might know healing and justice; that traffickers will come to repentance and conversion; that all of us might live in such a way that others are not made to pay the price for our comfort and convenience. Hasten the coming of the day when all people and our precious Earth itself will be treated, not as a commodity, but as radiant images of your freedom, beauty and truth. Amen.