

16 Days of Prayer and Action to End Gender-Based Violence

Introduction to Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a profound injustice that impacts individuals solely based on their gender, inflicting physical, emotional, and psychological suffering. It devastates millions worldwide, especially women and girls, stripping them of dignity, safety, and fundamental freedoms. GBV arises from unequal power dynamics and often reveals itself through physical abuse, sexual violence, psychological trauma, economic exploitation, and harmful cultural practices. As people of faith, we affirm that God created both man and woman in His image, and every person deserves respect, love, and protection. Violence of any form violates God's command to love one another and defies our calling to care for our neighbors.

During these 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, we stand in solidarity, seeking justice, healing, and transformation. We lift up prayers, hoping to embody the love and compassion that Jesus demonstrated in the story of the Good Samaritan, who showed boundless care for his neighbor. Let us pray fervently, trusting in God's power to bring an end to GBV and striving to live as instruments of His peace and justice.

16 Days of Prayers to End Gender-Based Violence

Day 1:

Psalm 82:3

Lord, we come to You in humility, seeking strength as we stand against gender-based violence. Help us to "defend the weak and fatherless" and to "uphold the cause of the poor and oppressed." Open our eyes to the suffering around us and give us the courage to speak up and act for justice. Amen.

Day 2:

Genesis 1:27

Heavenly Father, You created each of us in Your image. Remind us to honor and respect every person, regardless of gender, as we strive to restore the dignity of those who have been harmed. May Your love shield those who suffer and remind them of their worth. Amen.

Day 3:

Isaiah 61:1

God of peace, we lift up victims and survivors of gender-based violence. You came to "bind up the brokenhearted," so we ask for Your healing on their wounds. Comfort their hearts, restore their joy, and let them know they are cherished by You. Amen.

Day 4:

Psalms 34:18

Father, we ask that You bring an end to the cycle of violence that devastates lives and families. You are "close to the brokenhearted," so please be near to those who live in fear. Empower us to be agents of peace and reconciliation, and let Your wisdom guide those who work for justice. Amen.

Day 5:

Luke 10:33-34

Lord Jesus, just as the Good Samaritan showed compassion, may we also be moved by the needs of those around us. Help us to be true neighbors, willing to protect and advocate for others, without turning away from suffering. Let us be faithful keepers of one another, reflecting Your love. Amen.

Day 6:

Proverbs 31:8-9

Merciful God, forgive us when we fail to act or speak up for the oppressed. Ignite a righteous anger within us against injustice and give us the courage to intervene. Help us to "speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves" and to bring hope to the brokenhearted. Amen.

Day 7:

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Creator of all, remind us that violence against anyone is an offense against You. Teach us to practice the love described in Your Word—"patient, kind, without envy or pride"—and help us to promote respect, love, and harmony in all relationships, reflecting Your divine love. Amen.

Day 8:

Psalm 46:1

God of justice, we pray for strength for those in dangerous situations. You are "our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble." May those who feel unsafe find shelter in You, and may supportive communities rise up to provide them with care and compassion. Amen.

Day 9:

Matthew 19:14

Lord, we lift up children who have witnessed or endured violence. You said, "Let the little children come to me." Shield them from trauma, bring loving adults into their lives, and surround them with Your nurturing love. May they feel safe and cherished in Your embrace. Amen.

Day 10:

Ezekiel 36:26

Father, we pray for transformation in the hearts of those who inflict harm. Remove hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh. Lead them to recognize the sanctity of life, to value others, and to walk in repentance and renewal. Amen.

Day 11:

John 13:34

Jesus, You commanded us to "love one another, as I have loved you." Let Your love drive out violence and hatred in our communities. Help us live out this command daily, fostering respect and empathy in every encounter. Amen.

Day 12:

Psalm 140:12

Heavenly Father, we lift up those who have no one to defend them. Your Word says You "secure justice for the poor and uphold the cause of the needy." Let Your justice prevail on their behalf, and help us to create a society that honors the dignity and worth of each person. Amen.

Day 13:

Isaiah 58:10

Lord, equip and protect those who work with survivors of gender-based violence. Your Word reminds us to "spend ourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the

needs of the oppressed." Give them wisdom, resilience, and compassion as they serve, bringing hope to those in need. Amen.

Day 14:

Philippians 4:7

God, renew the hearts and minds of communities impacted by violence. Replace fear and oppression with Your peace that "transcends all understanding." Let unity and respect flourish, and may each person feel valued and safe in their community. Amen.

Day 15:

James 1:22

Father, empower us to act boldly to end gender-based violence. Let us not merely "listen to the word" but "do what it says." May our faith be visible in our actions as we stand against oppression and injustice, strengthened by Your purpose. Amen.

Day 16:

Matthew 5:9

Lord, as we conclude these 16 days of prayer, let our hearts remain vigilant and our commitment unwavering. You said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Help us to live as Your peacemakers, working toward a world where everyone lives in safety and dignity. Amen.

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