

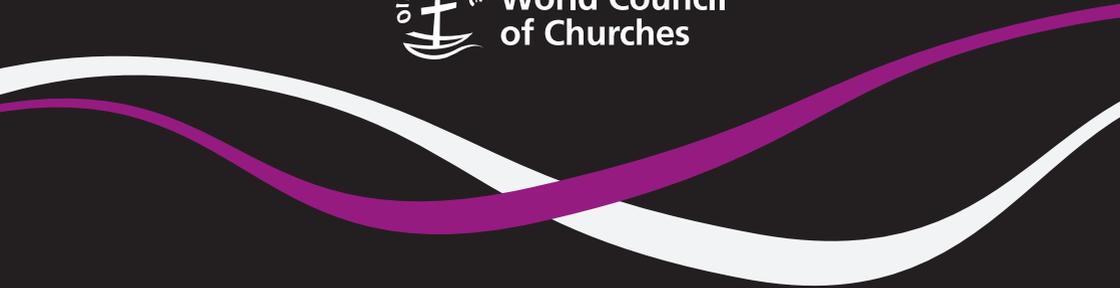


WE PRAY FOR WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
Thursdays in Black Ambassadors**



**World Council
of Churches**



we pray for women
around the world



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/WCC

Creator God, we are made in your image, and yet our society would say some are less than others. On this International Women's Day, we pray for women around the world and the many roles we play. Be present with us in the on-going quest for human rights and justice for all.

**REV. DR KAREN GEORGIA A. THOMPSON,
ASSOCIATE GENERAL MINISTER FOR WIDER CHURCH MINISTRIES
AND OPERATIONS AND CO-EXECUTIVE FOR GLOBAL MINISTRIES,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

God of mercy and justice hear your children crying. We need a safe place, filled with love. Yet too many of your beloved children are under threat, even in their homes. They are humiliated, beaten and abused. Hear their cries. Let them find refuge and support as they seek dignity and justice. God of mercy and justice hear your children crying.

**BISHOP ROSEMARIE WENNER, GENEVA SECRETARY,
WORLD METHODIST COUNCIL**

We need a safe place,
filled with love



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/WCC



Keep us from harm
and danger

God of mercy and sustenance,
We give thanks today
for all the women of long ago
and yesterday
who sacrificed for us to be free—
free to vote, to speak, to learn,
to preach, to travel;
to be free of fear and violence, to be well—
and free to know you in faith.
Keep these women in the company
of your saints.
May you live in us in the same way,
that we might live as Christ for others.
Keep us from harm and danger
and give us courage.
O, God, grant us your freedom.
Feed us through your Child Jesus Christ.
And enliven us with your Holy Spirit.

**THE REV. ELIZABETH EATON, PRESIDING BISHOP,
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**



God,
give in our hearts a thorn
of anxiety,
until repressive humility and the
roles defined by others are torn,
until everyone can live in safety
without fear of violence,
until discriminatory
and unequal structures are
broken down.
Only then give our
hearts peace.

REV. DR TAPIO LUOMA, ARCHBISHOP,
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF FINLAND



until everyone can live
in safety without fear
of violence

Photo: Paul Jeffrey/WCC

pray for those girls
whose access to
education is denied



Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

Creator of all,
we pray for those girls
whose access to education
is denied on various pretexts
and for those who are afraid
to go to school because of
the risk of being attacked
and abused on their way.

**MR JOUNI HEMBERG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
FINN CHURCH AID**



King of Kings
That on this day which
represents the history of the
struggle and the resilience of
women, may the Lord continue
to protect and give wisdom to
women in our current fights
for equity.

**MS. LARISSA AGUIAR GARCIA,
METHODIST CHURCH OF BRAZIL**



may the Lord
give wisdom

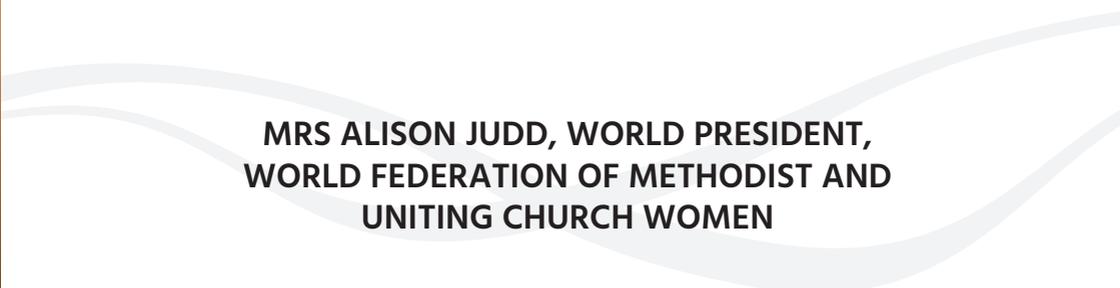
Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC

A photograph of a woman in a dark room, lighting numerous candles. She is wearing a patterned shawl and has a serious expression. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the flames of the candles. The text 'protect your daughters' is overlaid in the top left corner.

protect your
daughters

A decorative graphic consisting of two wavy lines, one black and one purple, crossing each other at the top of the page.

God of love and gentleness,
protect your daughters today.
Hold back anyone who plans
abuse or violence.
Help them to become
more like you.

A decorative graphic consisting of two wavy lines, one black and one purple, crossing each other at the bottom of the page.

**MRS ALISON JUDD, WORLD PRESIDENT,
WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST AND
UNITING CHURCH WOMEN**

Photo: Albin Hillert/WCC



Mothering God, on International Women's Day we pray for women and girls who experience violence – sexual abuse, sexual assault, domestic abuse, rape, trafficking – and we plead that this violence would end. Transform us into people who value everyone with the same respect, dignity and equality.

Mothering God, you created us in your image and set us free to make choices. Give us courage to choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality.

Mold us and shape us into a truly inclusive world. Change the hearts and actions of those who afflict violence on women and girls.

**THE REV. SUSAN C. JOHNSON, NATIONAL BISHOP,
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CANADA**



Give us courage
to choose
to challenge

let us be heartened by
ceaseless action



Let us not grow weary in our work toward a world absent of violence and terror perpetrated because of one's gender. Instead, let us be heartened by the courage taken, community of support built, and ceaseless action taken by girls, young women and women - and in our thoughts, words, and deeds join them, not only on this day of international celebration of women, but every day.

**MS. CASEY HARDEN, GENERAL SECRETARY,
WORLD YWCA**

God of life - lead us to
justice and peace

God of Love,
You created us united in one
humanity. Today we celebrate all
women and their achievements.
Give us the inspiration to create
an inclusive world where every
person is given the
same opportunities.
Liberate us from evil structures
and systems of gender bias.
Protect all those who are victims
of rape and violence.
God of life – lead us to
justice and peace.

REV. DR ANDERS GÖRANZON, GENERAL SECRETARY,
SWEDISH BIBLE SOCIETY



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/WCC



We are moving on,
holding Your hand

God, the creator of women,
We are the women of this generation built
in the image of You.
You called us
as people who resist the injustice of the world
and build a kin-dom of God,
just like Jesus 2,000 years ago.
We remember our mission.
On this land,
We will build the kin-dom
where lamb lives with wolf peacefully and cow
and bear graze together.
It is our calling and mission to create the kin-dom
where all creatures appreciate each other's existence
and love each other
without any weak ones being left out and
subjected to violence.

God,
we stand again thanks to You.
We challenge reality and convenience, walking
towards wholeness,
We are moving on, holding Your hand.
Walking this journey together with You is our joy.

**MS. HANBEET RHEE,
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF KOREA**

Amen



**Towards a world
without rape and violence**

**THURSDAYS
IN BLACK**



**World Council
of Churches**

www.oikoumene.org/thursdays-in-black