

We stop in our tracks...

We stop in our tracks, to listen to the voice of Jesus who invites us to be alongside him, and inspires and encourages us to play our part in God's inclusive liberating plan.

We stop, like the Samaritan woman at the well, to claim our right to water and a full life, a life of justice and dignity, respect and acceptance of diversity.

We stop, because we want no more women to be murdered, because it would seem that we have learned nothing, since that wife of the Levite was raped, killed and dismembered.

We rise up against harassment, insulting words, provocation, ill treatment, perverse gazes. We show ourselves for what we are: free women, owners of our own bodies, free to make our own decisions, people with their own dreams and plans.

We stop, to show our solidarity with the Syrophenician woman, and with all women who fight for their rights, and for the rights of their loved ones.

We stop, in the midst of the daily hustle and bustle - as Mary did to listen to Jesus - in order to read a book, to increase our capacities, to build our own lives, because we choose not to conform to the roles traditionally assigned us by the cultures of patriarchy.

We stop, to learn from Mary Magdalene, who overcame prejudice, who claimed the space denied her, who made sure she was seen when others ignored her, and ran more quickly than others, and fearlessly dared to shout to the world that the light had overcome darkness, that life had triumphed over death, and that no tomb could stand in the way of God's plan of inclusiveness.

We stop to remember those great women who blazed new trails, who sowed the seeds of new worlds, who at the cost of their own blood defended our dignity, who refused to make concessions to their oppressors, who resisted indecent advances, and even those, who beaten down by the strength of weak cowards, did not allow their condition of free women to be taken from them.

We stop, because we do not wish to see any more women killed,
because we do not wish to be prevented from being what we want to be,
because we feel the pain of so many beaten, raped and hurting women.

We stop, because we feel the cries for help, because we hear the weeping,
and because we hear the silence of those who are afraid and are compelled to be
silent.

We stop, because it high time to say: 'Enough is enough.'

We stop, because that is the only thing to do in the midst of so much hypocrisy and
dishonesty.

We stop, because we no longer trust in mere words, in good intentions, in promises.

We stop, because it is not enough to say 'These things shall not happen to any more
women.'

We stop, because 'we are alive and we love what we are.'

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Translated from Spanish