

# NO MORE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

## A VOICE THAT I KEEP HEARING VERY CLOSE TO ME

Violence against women continues to appear in the world. The numbers are increasing despite efforts by the States and campaigns at a global level.

Violence is caused by different factors ... but, who are the main actors that cause this violence? Statistics at the global level show that the main people who generate violence against women are men. On the other hand, we cannot ignore the fact that we women also generate violence against ourselves, when we speak inadequately about our gender, or simply continue to forge the long history of patriarchy in our family, community or mission, with attitudes that highlight the inability and distrust towards women.



We can say then that this is not a "problem" that only men cause. It is worth asking ourselves: what violence do we women generate with ourselves and with others? We may also generate violence against ourselves, when we do not stand up to offensive words, gestures or actions that come from men or other women.



To support what we do, to congratulate ourselves, to recognize the qualities of others, to be proud of our achievements, to listen to ourselves, to treat each other with kindness, and to build solidarity between us are some of the actions that reduce violence worldwide against women. We are sure that everything we do, however small, has an impact on the Universe.

Let us take a few minutes of silence. And let us ask ourselves:

What does this reflection stir up in me?

### OPENING PRAYER

**Beloved God, we are here before your presence with joy and confidence. We want to go forward fighting for our rights and the rights of others, from the small and everyday, and thus contribute to the end of Violence in the world.**

### PSALM OF A RESTORED WOMAN



You recovered my life and then you raised me up  
Soon you took me and healed my wounded and betrayed heart  
You restored my life and now I smile and live for you Beloved God.  
Because you forgot my sin and you prepared me to help to other  
women that you redeemed like me and to return to the true love to  
which you destined me.

Yes ... And you call me every day to be with you in solitude and calm  
You call me every day so that I can sit at your feet and hear your voice speaking to me at  
dawn.  
You call me every day to scatter your perfume, which comes with the smell of prayer  
Fruit of the encounter with you that gives meaning to my struggle to rise  
And to help other women who, like me, have redeemed themselves in dignity and peace.  
Amen.

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 7:53-8:11

Then each went to his own house, while Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them.

Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. They said to him, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

They said this to test him, so that they could have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger.

But when they continued asking him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Again he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, beginning with the elders. So he was left alone with the woman before him.

Then Jesus straightened up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She replied, "No one, sir." Then Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin any more."



## SHARE

- What does this text tell me about the issue of violence against women? Perhaps within the crowd that accused the woman there were also women with stones in their hands ... What is my attitude when accusing a woman, mistreating and offending?

After sharing and listening we join hands and say the Lord's Prayer.

## FINAL PRAYER

**Dear God, thank you for helping us to walk without getting tired in the daily struggle to recognize ourselves as worthy women deserving to live without violence. Thank you for the multitude of people who raise their voices to defend and end the cry of violence against women. Amen.**

Prayer contributed by Sister Fabiola Tapasco Gómez, Colombo Venezolana Province