

# PRAYER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## Stand up for someone's rights today!

***“Energized by the Spirit, we risk together for Mission” CC 2015***

*“This year, Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights. It is each of our responsibility to defend human rights. Each of us must take a stand. Step forward and defend the rights of a refugee or migrant, a person with disabilities, an LGBT person, a woman, a child, indigenous peoples, a minority group, or anyone else at risk of discrimination or violence.”<sup>1</sup>*



### Challenging Situations:

We feel compelled to respond to dehumanizing situations that many people experience in our world and that need to be heard and accompanied in the style of Good Shepherd. Let the Spirit of the God of Life impel us to perceive the groans of sisters and brothers who cry out for justice, peace and solidarity:

- **Migration:** According to the United Nations, Europe is the largest recipient of migrants in the world, with about 76 million, followed very closely by Asia, which welcomes 75 million<sup>2</sup> who are seeking improved opportunities for their families.
- **Gender-Based Violence:** Of the 25 countries in the world with the highest rates of femicide, 14 are in Latin America and the Caribbean.<sup>3</sup>
- **War:** As of September 12, 2016, the number of dead in the Syrian Civil War was 301,781, including 86,692 civilians, of which 15,099 were girls and children, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights<sup>4</sup>
- **Hunger:** Around 795million people in the world do not have enough food to lead a healthy and active life. That's almost one in nine people on Earth.<sup>5</sup> (World Food Programme)
- **Climate Change:** The effects of warming are manifesting faster than anticipated and if no action is taken immediately it may be too late<sup>6</sup>.
- **Trafficking in Persons:** Trafficking in persons has claimed at least 12 million victims in 2015, according to the United Nations<sup>7</sup>.
- **Religious Intolerance:** Recent years have seen the largest displacement of religious communities in recent memory, with millions of individuals from all faiths forced from their homes on account of their religious beliefs in almost every corner of the globe.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/en/events/humanrightsday/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/los-migrantes-en-el-mundo-aumentaron-un-41-por-ciento-quince-anos-y-ya-son-244-millones/20000013-2809136>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.telesurtv.net/news/98-de-los-femicidios-en-America-Latina-siguen-impunes--20160413-0053.html>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.jornada.unam.mx/ultimas/2016/09/13/van-mas-de-300-mil-muertos-por-guerra-en-siria>

<sup>5</sup> <https://es.wfp.org/hambre/datos-del-hambre>

<sup>6</sup> [http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2016/05/23/actualidad/1464025553\\_131307.html](http://internacional.elpais.com/internacional/2016/05/23/actualidad/1464025553_131307.html)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.telesurtv.net/news/Trata-de-personas-la-esclavitud-del-siglo-XXI-20160729-0062.html#>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.opendemocracy.net/openglobalrights/marc-limon-nazila-ghanea-hilary-power/un-strategy-to-combat-religious-intolerance-i>

## 68 years after the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

*"...We seek to address global issues: poverty, human trafficking, forced migration, refugees, gender inequality, violence toward women and children, and religious intolerance."*

*30th Congregational Chapter*



If the mission of the Church involves the protection and the promotion of the dignity and fundamental rights of the human person, what is our personal and community journey?

- As Good Shepherd Sisters and Mission Partners, what challenges do we encounter in building a more just and solidary society?
- What are we doing to make the Direction Statement from the latest Congregational Chapter a reality?

## Let the Word of God Intercede for Us:

### Luke 4:18-21

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."*

*Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."*

## Let us reflect personally and together on these questions:

- What do I feel called to urgently today in the context that we live in?
- What commitment do I/we assume in the project of liberation of people in situations of exclusion?

## PSALM: The cry of the marginalized

### We believe in the cry of the marginalized

Who from their situation of injustice,  
Of poverty, of hunger and violence, have the courage  
To shout and make their voices heard.

### We believe that God, full of love and mercy

Lives in the neighborhoods of people in situations of exclusion, in the peripheral neighborhoods  
Of our inhuman cities.

**We believe in a God that dreams of a better situation**

For women in prostitution, for people with addiction,  
Beggars and delinquents.

**We believe in Jesus who engages in people's lives,**

Who heals, touches, caresses and raises up.

**We believe in the risen Jesus who fills with peace and hope**

The lives of women and men in poverty.

**We believe in the Spirit that scandalizes the heart of the person**

Of today when it assumes the reality of the excluded  
And shouts with them for their liberation and calls them to live in peace and dignity.

**We believe in a Church committed to fulfilling the Word of Jesus:**

"Come to me, the weary and burdened, and I will give you rest".  
A Church that welcomes, embarks and commits,  
Where excluded people have a place and a word.

## **Final Prayer:**

O God, you suffer with our people, whose bodies and hearts were crushed by violence. You suffer in their daughters and sons, families, friends and friends, dejected by sadness, loss and fear.

**All: God comfort us in our fear and suffering.**

Oh God, give us clarity to know what to do and strength to act and intervene in the face of the challenges of the Sustainable Development Goals.

**All: God, give us the opportunity to change the culture of indifference.**

God, grant us faith in our human rights and dignity, and ability to reaffirm life and learn to act nonviolently, through just relationships.

**All: God, heal us.**

Oh God, help us change our way of thinking. May we choose with honesty what brings essential healing to people and societies. Let us look for behavioral changes before revenge. Let us work together rather than fight to see who has most power.

**All: God, help us to love and foster life.**

God of mercy, you have stirred in our throats, in our cry of 'ENOUGH!' Give us faith, so that together we can break the cycle of exclusion and marginalization. Thank you for bringing us together so that, through you, we can gather mutual support, hope and fortitude.

**All: God, strengthen us in our solidarity.**

## Let us sing:

### **On my Knees<sup>9</sup> *Original Music & Lyrics (Spanish) by Eduardo Salas A. – Performed by Grupo Siembra - Peru***

On my knees I praise your name,  
Father and Mother of humble people  
for the life that you wanted to create,  
for the land that you give to your people,  
for the people who have learned to love.

On my knees I praise your name,  
Father and Mother of simple people  
for the tenderness I receive in your name,  
for the love and words of my people,  
for the love that is found in sharing.

On my knees I praise your name,  
Father and Mother of solidarity,  
for the fight, the desire and the courage,  
for the devotion and the defense of life,  
Because our desire to love does not die.

On my knees I praise your name,  
Father and Mother of each marginalized  
person,  
because you have set your eyes on every poor  
person  
and do not forget any excluded name  
and you are risen in every redeemed one.

On my knees I praise your name,  
Father and Mother of loving wombs,  
that you announce yourself in a woman's yes,  
that you show yourself victorious in the humble,  
those who fight, those who dream, those who  
love.

On my knees I praise your name,  
Father and Mother of my beloved country

**Prayer contributed by the Secretariat of Justice and Spirituality - Peru**

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<sup>9</sup> Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2l0qRrGThik>