

PRAYER FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN IN DISTRESS

violence

Psychological abuse

physical abuse

child soldiers

EXPLOITATION

loneliness



In the month of May, mothers are especially honored in our country. We therefore celebrate MOTHERS DAY (second Sunday). We want to reflect with this prayer for the month of May, and pray for all mothers and their children who have to bear heavy sorrow.

We read in Matthew 2, 16-18:

When Herod found out that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was furious. He gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its neighbourhood who were two years old or under. This was done in line with what he had learned from the wise men about the time when the star appeared.

In this way, what the prophet Jeremiah had said was fulfilled:

“A cry is heard in Ramah, lamenting and weeping bitterly: Rachel weeps for her children. She refuses to be comforted, because they are no more.”

(Silence)

Convention on the Rights of the Child

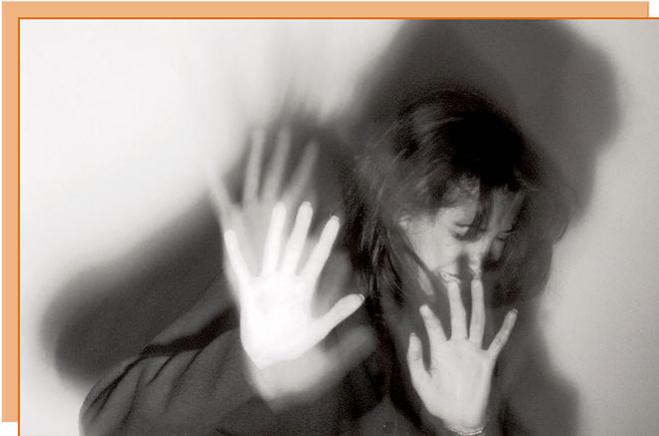
Protecting and Realizing Children's Rights

Human rights apply to all age groups; children have the same general human rights as adults. But children are particularly vulnerable and so they also have particular rights that recognize their special need for protection.

Children's Rights in the Human Rights Framework

The Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the rights that must be realized for children to develop their full potential: free from hunger and want, neglect and abuse. It reflects a new vision of the child. Children are neither the property of their parents nor are they helpless objects of charity. They are human beings and are the subject of their own rights. The Convention offers a vision of the child as an individual *and* as a member of a family and community, with rights and responsibilities appropriate to his or her age and stage of development. By recognizing children's rights in this way, the Convention firmly sets the focus on the whole child until she/he is 18 years old.

The sufferings of women have many facets:



- Beaten
- Imprisoned
- Maltreated
- Physically and/or sexually abused
- Repudiated ...

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2013

UN Secretary-General Urges States to Meet Commitments to End Violence against Women and Girls.

The global vision of the UNiTE campaign is a world free from violence against all women and girls. This vision can only be realized through the meaningful actions and ongoing political commitments of national governments, backed by adequate resources.

The United Nations Secretary-General's UNiTE campaign calls on all governments, civil society, women's organizations, men, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing this global pandemic. Through its advocacy initiatives at the global, regional and national levels, the UNiTE campaign is working to mobilize individuals and communities. In addition to supporting the longstanding efforts of women's and civil society organizations, the campaign is actively engaging with men, young people, celebrities, artists, sports personalities, the private sector and many more.



Personal Reflection: How do I feel about these situations?

What can I do about it? Think creatively!

(Silence)

Let us pray for all the woman and children in distress:

Selections from Psalm 10:

- Why, O Lord, do you stand afar? Why hide from us in times of distress?

The wicked are in power; the weak suffer harassment; the poor become victims of evil schemes. He thinks to himself: "God has forgotten; he has hidden his face and will never see this".

Repeat: Rise, Lord, O God, raise your hand, do not forget the lowly.

- But you see those in misery, O God, and you take it in hand. The unfortunate commits himself to you; the orphan turns to you for help.



Repeat: Rise, Lord, O God, raise your hand, do not forget the lowly.

- For you hear, O Lord, the longings of the lowly, and you strengthen their hearts.

Repeat: Rise, Lord, O God, raise your hand, do not forget the lowly.

- You give heed to the orphan and the oppressed. Let no human rise from earth and strike terror.

Repeat: Rise, Lord, O God, raise your hand, do not forget the lowly.

We pray: Our Father..... Amen.

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