

# JCoR Global Community Hour

FEBRUARY 2022



LET US PRAY

## ...for educational opportunities for girls

COVID-19 has wreaked havoc all around the world, but the impact hasn't been felt equally. While more than 90% of the global student population has been affected by coronavirus-related school closures, education hasn't been continued for everyone everywhere.

About 40% of low- and lower-middle-income countries haven't taken any measures to support learners at risk of exclusion during the global health crisis. Those at-risk learners include children living in poverty, linguistic minorities, and learners with disabilities.

Poverty continues to lead children — especially girls — to make the decision to drop out of school.



God, guide us in fulfilling many girls' longing for wisdom and a better life. Bless them with a quality education, school supplies, and a family that supports their scholastic goals. **Bless the work of our hands and voices when we act to bring greater knowledge and possibility to their lives.**

Adapted from a prayer from World Vision

LET US PRAY

## ...for an end to child marriage

Nearly 650 million girls and women alive today are married before their 18th birthday. That's one every three seconds being married before the age of 18.

Due to the pandemic's disruptions in planned efforts to end child marriage and wide-reaching economic consequences, an estimated additional 13 million child marriages will take place between 2020 and 2030 that otherwise would not have occurred.



Adapted from a prayer from World Vision

God, show Your compassion to the multitudes of girls and women who endure the damaging physical and relational effects of child marriage. Holy Spirit, help us to reveal alternatives to parents and change the hearts of those who consider giving up their daughters for social status or financial gain. **Bless the work of our hands and voices when we act to bring autonomy and extended opportunities for personal development to girls' lives.**

LET US PRAY

## ...for access to clean, safe drinking water

Girls and women in many cultures are in charge of household chores. In developing nations, these duties often include collecting water for drinking, bathing, and cooking. They must often walk hours every day to get it, keeping girls from going to school, and depriving mothers of time that could be spent with their children or making an income.

Fracking for natural gas and other mining and industrial operations around the world are threatening both the quantity and quality of water available to support basic life. These strains will continue to impact women the most as long as gender inequity continues to place the highest rates of poverty and household responsibility on women and girls.





God, as millions of women and girls continue to walk every day to collect water, walk beside them and keep them from harm. Holy Spirit, inspire our national leaders to recognise and deliver the human right to safe, clean water. **Bless the work of our hands and voices when we act to protect water sources and increase the health and freedom for women and girls that comes with safe, accessible water.**

Adapted from a prayer from World Vision

LET US PRAY

## **...for women and girls trapped in sexual exploitation and forced labor**

Worldwide, 120 million girls and women younger than 20 years have suffered some form of forced sexual contact. Unsuspecting children are often forced into child labor or the sex trade. The full extent of the problem is unknown, but governments and organizations have made progress in recent years to prosecute traffickers and identify and rehabilitate survivors of the crime.





Adapted from a prayer from World Vision

God, we come to You, humbled by the struggles many women and girls face every day. Guard and protect them from the sexual exploitation and child labor. Restore them to trusting relationships and self-confidence. Inspire leaders to create policies that address the root causes of sexual exploitation and forced labor. **Bless the work of our hands and voices when we act to end the objectification of women and girls and to build a culture that fully respects their dignity.**



LET US PRAY

## **...for decent economic opportunities for women and girls living in poverty**

Around the world, 90 countries have gender discrimination encoded in laws about employment.

Rural women experience a triple work burden in the productive, reproductive, and social spheres. And, unlike men, their work is mostly unpaid and unrecognized. This means that women and girls work longer hours and have less time to engage in income-generating activities or attend school.



God, You delight in us when we honor You in our work. Bring opportunities for employment or business that fulfills parents' desires to make life better for their children. Bless ventures like small-business loans for women that disrupt global systems that have long diverted financial resources away from women. **Bless the work of our hands and voices when we act to bring greater health and security to their lives.**

Adapted from a prayer from World Vision



## A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE & GRATITUDE

O Living God, we pray for all people, that we may be freed to serve you in truth and grace.

We remember our foremothers.

We remember all women who have recognized that to be a person of faith is to respond in action.

We give thanks for the women who became prophets, disciples, founders. For all the women leaders who inspired our faith, who we name now...

## A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE & GRATITUDE

Recall aloud the names of the women who have inspired you in your faith journey...

Recuerde en voz alta los nombres de las mujeres que le han inspirado en su camino de fe...

**All:** We remember and we give you thanks, O God.

**Todas y todos:** Los recordamos y te damos gracias, Dios.



## A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE & GRATITUDE

Let us remember women who have struggled to change the course of our human history, who have sought in their time to minister to the needs of those who are hurt, disadvantaged and alienated in our land.

We give thanks for all women in our countries and communities whose faces and names are unknown, yet whose work helps to fulfill God's vision of peace on earth. For such women who we name now...

## A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE & GRATITUDE

Recall aloud the names of the women who are peacemakers and reformers...

Recuerde en voz alta los nombres de las mujeres pacificadoras y reformadoras...

**All:** We remember and we give you thanks, O God.

**Todas y todos:** Los recordamos y te damos gracias, Dios.

## A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE & GRATITUDE

Let us remember all those women who have faced the unknown and met fear, discrimination, and violence with courage.

We give thanks for all those women who have dared to step forward and lead, for all those women who have challenged the stereotypes of society and risked standing alone. For such women in our own countries and communities who we name now...

## A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE & GRATITUDE

Recall aloud the names of the women who are challenging stereotypes and showing resilience to injustice...

Recuerde en voz alta los nombres de las mujeres que están desafiando los estereotipos y mostrando resistencia a la injusticia...

**All:** We remember and we give you thanks, O God.

**Todas y todos:** Los recordamos y te damos gracias, Dios.



**God of the poor**, come to us as a devout woman offering what little wealth she has to a cause greater than herself.

**God of the lost**, come to us as a prudent woman seeking a stray coin and celebrating its recovery.

**God of the outsider**, come to us as a migrant woman, seeking shelter in which to bring her child into the world.

**God of the sick**, come to us as a bleeding woman grasping for a healing touch.

**God of the humble**, come to us as the mother of a suffering child petitioning for crumbs off our table

**God of the condemned**, come to us as a judged woman fallen before her accusers.





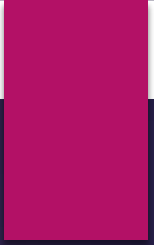
**God of the hurt,** come to us as a repentant woman washing our feet with her hair.

**God of those who mourn,** come to us as sisters whose faith in the midst of grief can evoke the miracle of a new beginning.

**God of hope in absolute darkness,** come to us as a woman who would entrust her child to the river for a chance at his liberation from persecution and slavery; come to us as another mother waiting further down the river with an open heart and an open mind.

**God of mercy,** come to us as a woman who bends to wipe the brow of a man sentenced to death and stumbling under his cross.

**God of peace,** come to us as a Queen who intervenes to prevent a King's blind anger from leading a nation into senseless conflict and violence.



**God of good news,** come to us as a woman running to announce that the tomb of the beloved is empty and life is eternal.

**God of diverse and free-flowing life,** come to us as women mystics who used many names and images to praise you and tell of your goodness;

**God of creative devotion,** come to us in the mothers of children, mothers of communities, and mothers of movements, which are all unique incarnations of your love.



Source: World Council of Churches

Compassionate God, You have visited us through the women who have been filled with your Spirit. You have blessed us all with dreams for a common future and gifts for a common life.

Open our hearts to receive you so that we may mark this day as a time when we recommit ourselves and our communities to be in solidarity with all women and girls.

In all things keep us faithful to the message of your gospel, so that, as women and men, we may together bear witness to your love in Christ.

Amen.



**Open our hearts to be in solidarity with all women and girls who are facing...**

- Sexual abuse, including within our own Church communities and institutions
- Restrictions on practice of their cultural traditions and personal expression through style of dress
- Lack of safe spaces for recreation and healthy development during youth
- Physical insecurity and vulnerability to kidnapping and assault by gangs