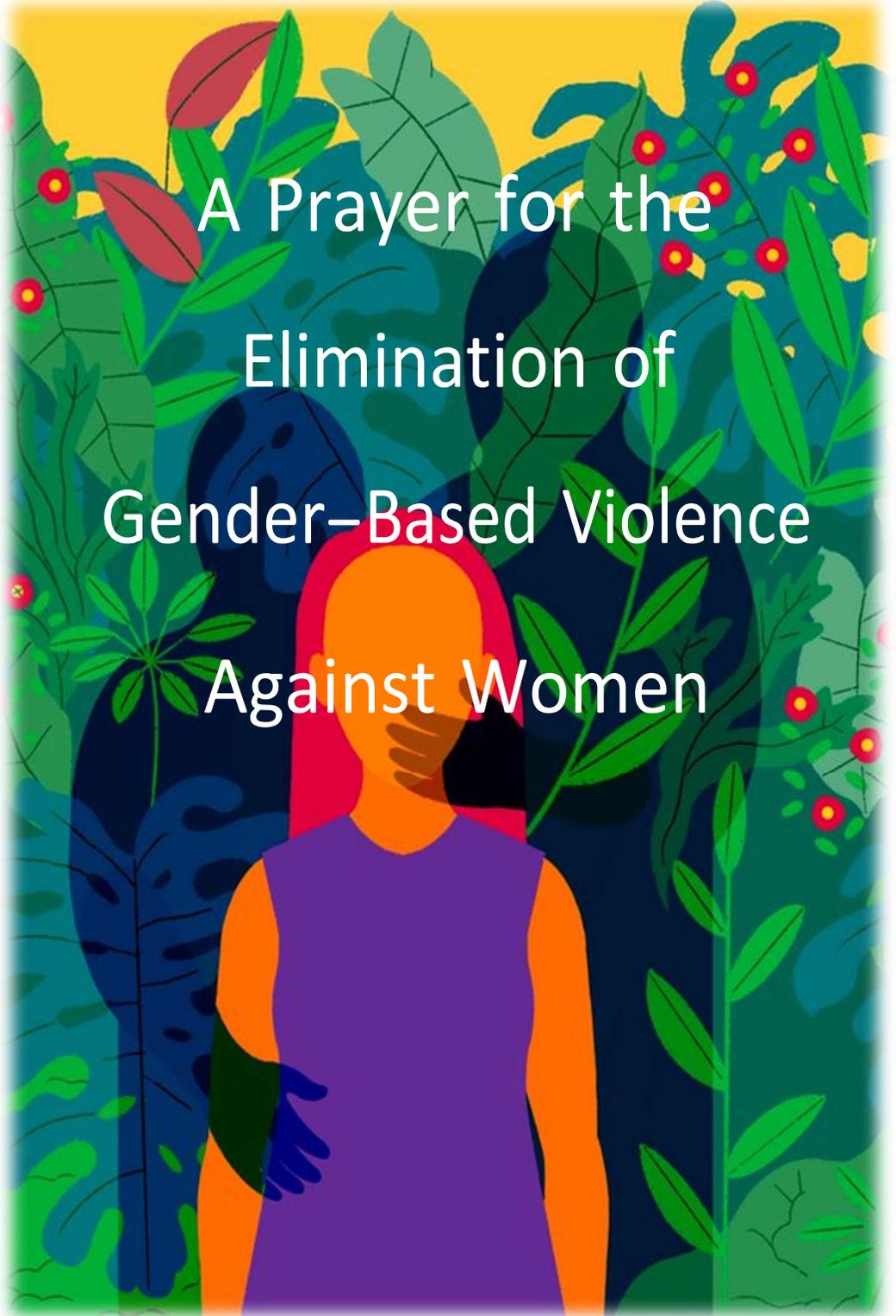


STOP
GENDER
BASED
VIOLENCE



We Gather

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners on the lands on which we gather and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Indigenous peoples in our world.

Into our sacred space, we place an orange cloth, a symbol of our support for the United Nations Unite Campaign, a multi-year effort aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls around the world by 2030. We call on governments, civil society, women's organisations, young people, the private sector, the media, and the entire UN system, to unite in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.¹

Into our sacred space we place a stone, a symbol of the hope born of the resurrection of Jesus. Faced with the pain and grief of violence against women and children, we choose to embrace God's love for the world, the comfort and healing for women and children who experience gender-based violence, and global action to eliminate it.

Into our sacred space we place a lantern, a symbol of the ministry of Venerable Nano Nagle, especially to women and children made poor. We commit to enliven the spirit of Nano in our world by speaking and acting in partnership with others for global justice from a contemplative stance, in a spirit of oneness with the whole of creation (IPA Mission, 2017 IPA Assembly).



Into our sacred space we place a map of the world, a symbol of the global presence of the International Presentation Association. Today, we are united in prayer with Presentation Sisters and Presentation People everywhere, particularly the Presentation Society of Australia and Papua New Guinea that is supporting women and children experiencing gender-based violence. We walk one, and where one is, we all are.

We light the lantern as a sign that God is present amongst us.

Let us pray: Loving God, the vision of your kin-dom is for justice for all people and all of your creation. As we gather here in Your name, open our ears to hear Your voice, open our hands to do Your work and open our hearts to know Your Spirit. Amen.

References

1. UN Women (2019). "UNiTE by 2030 to End Violence against Women campaign", <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/take-action>
2. Consedine, R. (1994). "The Stone" in Songs of the Journey (2001) published by Presentation Sisters Victoria. Reprinted 2015.



Conclude with "Roll Away the Stone" by Tom Conry, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwasHfyLpYs> or another appropriate song.

Roll Away the Stone

They have been saying, all our plans are empty.

They have been saying, "Where is their God now?"

Roll away the stone, see the Glory of God. Roll away the stone.

Roll away the stone, see the Glory of God. Roll away the stone.

They have been saying, “No one will remember.”

They have been saying, “Power rules the world.”

Roll away the stone, see the Glory of God. Roll away the stone.

Roll away the stone, see the Glory of God. Roll away the stone.

They have been saying, “No one hears the singing.” They have been saying, all our strength is gone.

Roll away the stone, see the Glory of God. Roll away the stone.

Roll away the stone, see the Glory of God. Roll away the stone.

They have been saying, all of us are dying.

They have been saying, all of us are dead.

Roll away the stone, see the Glory of God. Roll away the stone.

Roll away the stone, see the Glory of God. Roll away the stone.



We Read

IPA PNG Eradication of Poverty Project 2020 from Clare Axman

We Listen

—The Stone by Sr Raphael Consedine pbvm

Who will roll away the stone that lies between us and our buried hopes? Who will roll away the stone that

we may touch our deaths and grieve for what has been, and is not, nor shall be again? A lifetime’s griefs are gathered in this stone, nor have we power to lift its crushing weight – that task is not for mortal hands alone.

Then from the depths we cry to You, O God: Roll back the stone! Roll back the stone! Roll back the stone and bid us stand within the silent, waiting, emptied place of resurrection.

When we had reached the proper place in the rinsed dawn we saw at once the conquered stone had become radiance its dead weight only a whisper of words right for a garden where darkness guards life at its roots until the time. Then we knew, knew beyond feeling, where we must seek our heart’s yearning. The Living One is awaiting us at the very heart of this new day.²



We Respond

For women and children who experience gender-based violence and who do not experience the safety of a home or the love of a husband or father.

Response: Roll away the stone. Let us realise our buried hopes.

For women and children who are silenced and shamed and lack the support, the means and the services to report and to be protected from the gender-based violence they experience.

Response: Roll away the stone. Let us realise our buried hopes.

For leaders, legislators and law enforcement officers who are working to eliminate gender-based violence through legislation and the criminal justice system that privileges the experiences of women and children and holds perpetrators to account.

Response: Roll away the stone. Let us realise our buried hopes.

For the prophets of our time who speak truth to power and challenge the cultural, political and institutional structures that reinforce patriarchal systems and gender stereotypes.

Response: Roll away the stone. Let us realise our buried hopes.

For the Presentation Sisters in Papua New Guinea who support women and children experiencing gender-based violence through the education programs, short-term accommodation and their loving care.

Response: Roll away the stone. Let us realise our buried hopes.



We Go Out

Loving God, giver of life, justice and peace, you created us in your image and blessed us with dignity. But in our world, we know that gender-based violence is an affront to the dignity of women and children. In the same way that you gave comfort to Tamar, Dinah and Hagar, hold these women and children in your loving arms and send them your consolation and strength.

Awaken in our hearts compassion for victims of violence and deepen our commitment to your justice in our world.

Through our action may they find refuge, salve for their

wounds and healing. Through the mystery of your Son's resurrection, may we all realise our buried hopes: that all will be respected, that all will be loved, and that all will live in peace.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son.

Amen.

