

Women against Violence Sunday resources from Chile

The following resources were collated by a Methodist Church Mission Partner, Chris Esdaile, as part of his work as Director of a project of the Chilean Methodist Church to support women suffering from domestic abuse. The resources are a small part of a collection of Spanish language materials that he edited for use in Chile to promote the churches' response to the problem. Chris has recently returned to the UK with his wife, Rev Alison Facey (who was part of the staff team in the project) who has taken up a ministerial post in Hertfordshire.

BIBLE READINGS

In order to support those harmed by violence and abuse in the most intimate relationships, I believe we must highlight the Biblical themes of liberation and healing. These themes are repeated several times in the stories of Jesus. Examples of these include;

John 8: 1-11

Luke 13

John 4: 4-42

Luke 19: 1-10

Mark 5: 25-34

A PRAYER: *Adapted by Izani Bruch, Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile. A prayer by Virginia Mónico of the Liturgy Programme, CLAI (Latin American Council of Churches)*

Leader: Loving God, who is always by our side and who loves us, help us find the strength to defend peace and justice in this world through simple action in our daily lives.

Leader: Loving God,

All: HELP US BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

Leader: Awake in us hearts of solidarity, and open minds and ears to hear Your eternal Word and to apply it to our reality which is marked by violence.

Leader: Loving God,

All: HELP US BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

Leader: Sustain us during difficult moments so as not to commit acts of violence that would harm others.

Leader: Loving God,

All: HELP US BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

Leader: Give us the responsibility of promoting peace every day in our homes, our places of work and study and our towns.

Leader: Loving God,

All: HELP US BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE.

Leader: Remove the veil from our eyes so we may see you walking amongst the vulnerable, the

displaced, the sick, the destitute, victims of discrimination and of all types of violence, because although we all walk with you, many times hand in hand, we don't always realise it.

Leader: Loving God,

All: HELP US BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE,

Leader: Stir in us the strength to cry out to you, to cry out for your justice, to speak in truth, to renounce violence and build a world with bricks of peace and love.

Leader: Loving God,

All: HELP US BUILD A WORLD WITHOUT VIOLENCE. A WORLD WHERE "LOVE AND FAITHFULNESS MEET TOGETHER; RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE KISS EACH OTHER. FAITHFULNESS SPRINGS FORTH FROM THE EARTH AND RIGHTEOUSNESS LOOKS DOWN FROM HEAVEN" (PSALM 85:10-11).

POEM: WOMAN

Taken from the book 'Celebração' by Andre Baggio, Brazil.

Woman, bone from "Adam's" bone,
When will this discrimination come to an end?
Woman, made in God's image!
May your rights be recognised.
Woman, she is a person
And not an accessory.
Women deserve to live in a home,
Not in a prison.

Woman, a complete human being,
As such to be respected.
Woman, not only an assistant,
But a leader as well.

Women vote
And can be voted for.
Women should be loved,
Must stop being used,
Exploited,
Bought,
Deceived,
Raped,
Must stop being towed along
Must begin a resistance.

A woman is not soil, she is earth,
She is people, she is action,
She is history and decision,
A woman is life...bread.....
Shared out in the fight for our liberation,
Together with man,
Who is not her master
But her brother.

POEM: THERE ARE HANDS...

Mónica Tirabasso

There are soft and warm hands.
There are hands worn away by work.
There are hands with thousands of little wrinkles
And little hands that want to play.

There are hands which sow and which harvest.
There are hands which teach how to walk
There are strong hands that protect me
And hands open and ready to play.

But there are other hands which only do harm.
That dirty the earth, the sky and the sea.
They are ugly and selfish hands,
They are hands which make the world cry.

Raise your hands, all those who want
A new way of living together.
Let those bad hands be isolated
And let only the good ones prosper.

The hand that heals and the tired hand,
The mischievous hand and the wrinkled hand.
The trembling hand and the hand that brings comfort.
The hand that kneads and the hand that prays.

The hand that seeks justice and truth.
Your hand, my hand...hand in hand for peace.

SYMBOLIC ACT

You could carry out this act after the above poem "There are hands..."

Take hold of the hands of those next to you, raise your hands, and in order to demonstrate our commitment to working together for a world without violence and a world where people live in peace, shout out together, "Your hand, my hand...hand in hand for peace".