



**Litany for Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action
on Violence Against Women**

Leader: As Jesus respected and honoured his mother with his first miracle at Cana in Galilee and remembered to care for her at the hour of his death, so may we, his disciples, respect, honour, remember and care for the women in our families. Help us to raise sons who will respect women at home and in the wider world. Help us to raise daughters who will feel confident, safe and empowered at home and in the wider world.

People: God, have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Leader: As Jesus felt the touch of the shamed woman on the hem of his garment and brought her forward, and made her visible, help us to recognize women who are in need in our community. We acknowledge the presence of the shame of domestic abuse and the difficulty women may have in leaving abusive relationships. Inspire us to support the women and children in shelters and the staff who minister to them. May the church always be a welcoming and safe place for them.

People: God, have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Leader: As Jesus did not scorn the woman taken in adultery but reminded the crowd that all of us sin, may we never shame and blame women for their circumstances. Grant that we humbly recognize our own need for forgiveness and compassion and our common humanity.

People: God, have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray especially for the survivors of crimes against women and their families. Comfort them. Heal their physical and emotional wounds. Help them to know that their pain is not forgotten by others and that their stories are motivating others to raise awareness of violence against women.

People: God, have mercy on us and hear our prayer.

Leader: Finally, we pray for the perpetrators of violence against women, and for those in authority whose policies may facilitate such violence or whose behaviour models disrespect of women. With Betsie and Corrie ten Boom, who suffered abuse for righteousness' sake, we believe that "there is no pit of hell so deep that the love of God is not deeper still." Therefore, we pray for the redemption of the souls of abusers. Come Holy Spirit. Convict hard hearts that they may find peace. In Jesus name we pray,

People: Amen

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