

Useful websites:

[www.overcomingviolence.org](http://www.overcomingviolence.org)  
(a World Council of Churches site)  
[www.stopthetraffik.org.uk](http://www.stopthetraffik.org.uk) (anti-trafficking)  
[www.unaids.org](http://www.unaids.org) (UN AIDS campaign)  
[www.womenaid.org](http://www.womenaid.org) (16 Days Campaign)  
[www.womenaid.org/ukat](http://www.womenaid.org/ukat) (anti trafficking)  
[www.chaste.org.uk](http://www.chaste.org.uk) (anti trafficking)  
[www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk) (human rights)  
AND check for news on the Guild's website:  
[www.cos-guild.org.uk](http://www.cos-guild.org.uk)

This booklet has been compiled for members of the Church of Scotland Guild as a resource to help them participate in the 16 days of action against violence and as part of the World Council of Churches 'Decade to Overcome Violence'. The 16 days begin during Guild Week, when congregational groups are encouraged to share the concerns and activities of the Guild with their wider community. Congregations are invited to share in this prayer initiative, standing alongside those who suffer from any form of violent abuse.

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## ***16 days of prayer***

***.....called to walk  
humbly....***

A call to prayer during the 16 days of action on behalf of those suffering from the effects of violence against women.

**25 November – 10 December  
2011**

for 16 days  
at the 16<sup>th</sup> hour  
pray for a change



## Why 16 Days?

Over the decade to overcome violence the Guild has produced a prayer booklet taking in the '16 days'. These dates start off on 25<sup>th</sup> November with the day dedicated to all who have suffered at the hands of an abusive partner. The 1st of December is noted as the world AIDS day. And we finish with International justice Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> December.

We ask our members to pray these short prayers on the 16<sup>th</sup> hour of the 16 days. The 16<sup>th</sup> hour being significant with children coming home from school and the start of preparation for the family evening meal.

This year the readings attached to the short prayers are hymns or religious songs as these are the ways we worship in many situations.

In Biblical times songs were also used - think of the Psalms of David and then Mary's song as she approached the birth of Jesus. The Guild has been involved with, what is now known as the Interfaith Group and was started off as an ecumenical group 9 years ago. We , as a group, have been able to draw in Muslim, Baja, and the Jewish faith representatives . This has widened our scope of thinking and have benefited from their input. This year , at the General Assembly, the Guild report was the conduit to put forward a statement that was pleasing to all these faiths and was approved by the Assembly.

For 16 days  
At the 16<sup>th</sup> hour  
Pray for a change.

on all who suffer in their homeland. Pray for that same justice and peace to descend on all who suffer.

CH4 241 v 4 God, bring to fruition your will for the earth.

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## Prayer for the Decade

Loving Father may you open our eyes, so that we may see the hope of a fulfilled life in your grace.  
Shine in our hearts and in the knowledge of your love.  
May we think and act according to your expectations of us.  
In the last decade we have asked for justice in areas which we know displease you.  
We have campaigned and brought to the notice of rulers and leaders throughout the world the need to make it a place of peace and happiness in your everlasting love for each one of us.  
Let our hearts always turn to you,  
let our heads bow down before you,  
let our lips sing praises of you  
and let our hands and bodies serve you with love.  
In our Saviour's name we pray these things.

**Amen**

**DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup>**

Lord we are often forgetful of the suffering of others. Sometimes we forget to be thankful for what we have. Sometimes we remember but turn a blind eye to what we can do to help the helpless. Lord, forgive us in our frailty and strengthen us to work and to care as we should.

CH4 253 v 1 Inspired by Love and anger

**DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

Lord you have sent your Son to show us the way and to teach us to care for each other. We fail at times and we ask your forgiveness for this lack of thought for others. Let us remember who our neighbours are in a whole world of neighbours; some needing help and others needing the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

CG 105 v2 The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain

**DECEMBER 9<sup>th</sup>**

Lord give us the strength to comfort the weak and to give justice to the poor. The world knows many injustices and we ignore the cries of the weak and the powerless. Make us more aware of injustice and weaknesses in nations whose governments seem to rule with power but no justice.

SGP 103 v 4 Anointed with the spirit and with power,

**DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>**

Bring wisdom to rulers of governments that they may see that the good of their peoples are met with peace and justice. Pray for peace in far off lands whose regimes are causing fear and oppression and pray for displaced people far from their homes and their families who have to live with the fear of destruction in their homeland. Pray for your justice and your peace to descend

This year, for each day, we offer a prayer on some aspect of work in connection with overcoming violence, followed by a verse from a hymn for reflection.

**NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>**

Lord, we pray today for those who feel lonely and rejected. By your presence make your love known to them and fill them with a courage and strength from within.

CH4 548 v2 Thy promise is my only plea

**NOVEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>**

Gracious God we pray for all who feel worthless and living within an abusive home. Hear the cry in the wilderness, Lord, a wilderness of deceit, abuse and broken promises. We know your promises are never broken you will hear the small voice which is theirs and pour out your love on all who suffer in abusive relationships.

SGP 21 v 4 Feel for the lives by life confused

**NOVEMBER 27<sup>th</sup>**

Loving Lord, in the darkness of the fear felt by those in abusive situations, give them courage to speak out so others may hear their troubled voices. Let listeners be enabled to give comfort and advice.

SGP 42 v 4 Life emptied of all meaning

**NOVEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>**

Lord, as a community of faith we listen for the hidden thoughts of the abused, we pray for the situations they find themselves in and with your loving kindness we can support and encourage them in their sadness.

CH4 694 v 2 We are pilgrims on a journey

**NOVEMBER 29<sup>th</sup>**

Give your power, Lord. to make the shame and the guilt disappear and to give the gentleness of the Spirit to us to help us accept your will and to act in a way pleasing to your teaching

CG 111 v 2 Sing for Gods power

**NOVEMBER 30<sup>th</sup>**

Lord you know us by name and even in our darkest hour we know that you are there. Stay close to all who suffer at the hands of an abusive partner and make us , as loyal Christians, hear their cries and help to heal their pain.

CH4 271 v 1 Comfort, comfort now my people

**DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> WORLD AIDS DAY**

May all who need your healing find solace in your ever loving arms. May the Guild project help in the provision of food and that drugs be made available to all with HIV.

SGP 82 v 1 O Christ , the healer, we have come

**DECEMBER 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Lord, so many times people have sat at the bedside to comfort and then to mourn. With the power of our prayers and the dedication of the work done by so many, the pain of loss will be comforted by your love and the spread of the disease will be halted by the knowledge you impart to all the researchers and support workers in this field.

CG 132 v 3 By sitting at a bedside

**DECEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>**

Loving Lord who knows us and who loves us, heal our sickness and free us from fear; fear that fills our hearts in times of sadness and trouble. We know that God is with us and that Jesus loves us and the Spirit supports us in all we do and all we say.

CH4 464 v 5 I will not dread the dark

**DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>**

Jesus the great healer of all, hear our prayer as we pray for those with HIV/AIDS. You give us hope, and we believe in that hope as drugs were found. As the world looks on we pray that this endemic can be cured and that healing be easier for countries who know only too well the meaning of poverty and disease. We pray this prayer in Jesus name.

CH4 491 v 3 Lord Jesus, think on me

**DECEMBER 5<sup>th</sup>**

In our weakness Lord, hear our prayer. Hear the cry of the sick and the poor as they call for help in their despair. Jesus had his own despair to confront and each time He turned to you. Your love and your goodness is all around us and our weaknesses can be healed by the prayers we offer..

SGP 16 v 4 Power is made perfect where weakness is strong

**DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup>**

May the healing of the risen Christ come to those who need it today. May the healing be in a way acceptable to God as with his strength we are all healed in body and soul.

CG 67 v 3 Jesus Christ is healing