**International Day for the Elimination of**

**Violence Against Women**

**Sunday nearest 25 November**

Prepared by the Council for Australian Catholic Women

Prayer

Thank you Lord our God, for the love that you have for us; because we were created in your image as man and woman; so recognizing us as different, we seek to complement each other: the man as support for woman and woman as support for man. Thank you, Lord our God for women and their mission in the human community.

**We pray for the woman who is a daughter**: that she be accepted and loved by her parents, treated with tenderness and kindness.

**We pray for the woman who is a sister**: that she be respected and defended by her brothers.

**We pray for the woman who is a wife**: that she be recognized, valued and respected by her husband, so that living both the communion of hearts and of desire they are blessed with children.

**We pray for the woman who is mother**: that she experiences in motherhood a flourishing of her identity.

**We pray for the women who are good and generous** and who have given their lives to give us life.

**We pray for the women who are feeling alone**, women who do not find meaning in life; for the marginalized and those used as an object of pleasure and consumption; women who have been mistreated, raped and murdered.

**We pray Lord for all of us, men and women**; that we may know, understand, appreciate and help each other, so that in a relationship, which is friendly and positive, we may collaborate together in the service of family, society and life. Amen.

Adapted from http://www.buonpastoreint.org/jp-en/good-shepherd-international-justice-and-peace-office-gsijp\_1605/gsijp-news\_1609/prayer-for-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women

Suggested Bulletin Notice

The United Nations (UN) International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November, raises public awareness of violence against women in all countries around the world and at all levels of society. The costs and consequence of violence against women last for generations. We can help through prayer and increasing public awareness.

Globally 35% of women and girls experience some form of physical and or sexual violence in their lifetime, with up to 7 in 10 women facing this abuse in some countries. An estimated 133 million girls and women have experienced some form of female genital mutilation. Worldwide, more than 700 million women alive today were married as children, 250 million of whom were married before the age of 15. Girls who marry before the age of 18 are less likely to complete their education and more likely to experience domestic violence and complications in childbirth.

The Australian domestic and family violence statistics are alarming:

* 1 in 5 Australian women have experienced sexual violence;
* 1 in 4 Australian women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner; and
* 1 in 3 Australian women have experienced physical violence.

Suggestions for Prayers of Intercession

*Please adapt to fit the format of your parish intercession.*

That your wisdom and power guide all leaders, so that women and girls may live in peace and mutual trust, sharing with justice the resources of the earth. Give the men and women of this land a spirit of unselfishness, compassion, and fairness in public and private life.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

That all women and girls who are victims of violence will receive the care they need and that together we will work for the creation of a world of gentleness and equality.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

That we will be strengthened for witness and work in the world. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may faithfully live the gospel and confront the violence that affects women and girls.

Lord, hear us,

**Lord hear our prayer.**