

A Liturgy For The Many Women in Situations of Violence

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CALL TO WORSHIP

Voice: In India, in every fifty-four minutes, a woman is raped.
In every thirty-eight minutes, a woman is tortured.
In every seven minutes, one woman is undergoing violence.

All: Our eyes shall be opened! The present will have new meaning and the future will be bright with hope of freedom and equality.

Leader 1: People of God, remember the life and the presence of the living god within You.

Leader 2: Listen to the women
Listen to the many voices
Spoken and Unspoken

Members of the worship to reflect silently on the many instances of violence.

Leader: Rise up and hear the cries of our sisters. They have come out of the taboo of silence.
They are fighting.
They need our support, our strength and solidarity.

All: We are the survivors
We are with the God who cares for life and values life
Our God is with us to fight for the injustices in society

CONFESSION

All: Forgive us Oh God for not hearing the cries of our sisters
For not reaction to the situations of violence
For not claiming our rights
For not building up communities of resistance

POEM

The Roots

Those birds that are killed in skies
Through stars, clouds, wind
And the sun do not testify against the murderers
And the horizon does not want to listen
Mountains and waters forget them
Yet some tree must have witnesses the crime.
And will write the names of the murderers on its roots – Sherko Bekas
This eye is not for weeping
Its vision must be unblurred
Though tears are on my face, its intent is clarity

It must forget nothing
Where do we find God? Who is our God?
How do we women entrust our faith in situations of violence
Can we go with the patriarchal interpretation of God?
This is not the time for us to remain silent
Leader: Rise up and hear the cries of our sisters. They have come out of the taboo of silence.
They are fighting.
They need our support, our strength and solidarity.
All: We are the survivors.
We are with the God who cared for life and values life.
Our God is with us to fight for the injustices in society.
All: Forgive us Oh God for not hearing the cries of our sisters
For not reacting to situations of violence
For not claiming our rights
For not building up communities of resistance.

OVERCOMING VIOLENCE

Members could share their stories and light the traditional lamps as symbolic expression of their overcoming violence

All: Women have begun to see with new eyes
We have begun to shift the parameters of history and ideologies
We have dared to call rape and act of provocation
We have dared to call the battering, the burning and brutalisation
of women as female sexual slavery
We know today that most refugees and the most internally
displaced are women
that women are the poorest of the poor
that women are the most discriminated in society

Members to hold lamps together and pray

PRAYER

God of the oppressed and the marginalised, hear our prayers
We are no more victims
We are the survivors
Of domestic violence
Of sexual assaults
Of rape
Of communal tensions
Of military hegemony
We fought everywhere
We don't have to turn back
Millions of women are with us

PRAYER OF COMMITMENT

God of life, hear us when the women all around the world pray. Give us the power to realise the forces of patriarchy around us. Endow us with the power of reason and sharpen our creativities. Give us the

courage to face the challenge of domination and violence. We are here to resist all forms of violence and oppression. Give us the determination to fight against the system and dream together for a world of equality. God of humanity, help us affirm our self so that we may be strong enough to express our identities. May we be filled with your spirit to build up communities of justice and peace. Amen.

WOMEN'S CREED

Women, powerless to name the world,
Women without a history, a history without women:
Walking with women who have found courage
to refuse the humiliation, or degradation;
Women bursting forth in collective expressions of organising for their rights:
Women understanding in the dailyness of our lives;
Women protesting dowry, rape, religious laws;
Women telling our own stores, creating the worlds of our lives
Finding new rhythms, discovering new roots, searching for other frames
Other names
Watching the cosmic canvas and anticipating the awakening wind.