

OCTOBER PRAYER CYCLE

The International Decade for People of African Descent: A 2020 Prayer Cycle

Naming is an important part of eradicating injustice. It is important to resist attempts to deny the truth by reframing injustice in ways that blame those who are casualties of injustice, or trying to convince those who suffer that their suffering is not real. Strategies that euphemize oppression, that seek to provide a façade of beautiful words while keeping the structures of injustice operating, must also be resisted. Injustice is to be named—in its entirety and in its intensity.

During this month we name the injustices faced by people of African descent. We pray for:

1-Oct	International Day of Older Persons (UN)	Elders in the African continent and the African Diaspora who are denied access to health care and basic services
2-Oct	International Day of Non-Violence UN)	The violence unleashed by the state and agents of the state against people of African descent who struggle for political, social, and economic change
3-Oct		People of African ancestry who are underpaid and are denied adequate rest and respite from work
4-Oct	World Space Day (UN)	Young people of African ancestry who are denied the opportunities to fulfill their potential to become scientists, as astronauts Mae C. Jemison and Ronald McNair were able to do
5-Oct	World Teacher's Day (UNESCO) World Habitat Day (UN)	Lack of adequate shelter, and laws and customs that deprive people of African ancestry of ownership of land and housing
6-Oct		The destruction and despising of African systems of knowledge by colonial powers
7-Oct		Undocumented African migrants and people of African descent in countries where they are forced to work in abusive or exploitative situations
8-Oct	World Sight Day (WHO)	The church failing to ensure that persons with disabilities from Africa and the African Diaspora enjoy full participation in theological discourse and the ministries of the church
9-Oct	World Post Day (UN)	Global economic model that privileges profit and promotes economic growth at the expense of social protection for people of African descent

10-Oct	World Mental Health Day (UN)	The lack of access to good health care for people of African descent in North American countries
11-Oct	International Day of the Girl Child (UN)	That all girls of African ancestry will have a voice, resources for development, and the opportunity to contribute to a brighter future
12-Oct	Thanksgiving Day (Canada)	Thanksgiving for Indigenous people and people of all ethno-cultural heritages who have advocated for an end to anti-Black racism
13-Oct		For the pioneers who fought against institutional racism, causing laws to be changed allowing for people of African descent to gain more human rights under the law
14-Oct	International Day for Disaster Reduction (UN)	For Black youth and adults who face disproportionately high rates of incarceration in penal institutions in North America
15-Oct	International Day of Rural Women (UN)	Black women farmers who are denied ownership of land
16-Oct	World Food Day (UN)	For people of African descent who hunger for food, a healthy diet; for justice and peace.
17-Oct	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (UN)	Exploitation of resources across the African continent to enrich a few international private companies and deprive African peoples of just and equitable access of Africans to resources to end poverty
18-Oct		The discrediting of the diverse cultures and spiritualities across the African continent and in the African Diaspora, which provided a healthy sense of identity, meaning, and purpose
19-Oct		Racial profiling that causes people of African descent to be exposed to extra scrutiny when travelling through countries in North America
20-Oct		Environmental racism that results in toxic waste being dumped in countries across the African continent
21-Oct		For committed allies in the struggle to end anti-Black racism
22-Oct		That people of African ancestry may be strengthened to hold true to the highest ethical principles in the face of racism and injustice

23-Oct		Redlining: the systematic tactic by governments and private sector to prevent people of African descent from having access to financial resources and social services
24-Oct	United Nations Day (UN)	For African and African-Caribbean nations to have equitable power and influence in the United Nations
25-Oct		For the return to the original owners of artifacts and art taken from African countries to museums and private collections in other countries
26-Oct		For the release of victims of human trafficking, whether of African or other ancestry
27-Oct		Cultural, social, and political systems that value and privilege White people over people of African descent
28-Oct		That people of African descent will reclaim the wisdom of their ancestors that is helpful in facing current challenges
29-Oct		Voter suppression, intimidation, and all barriers to the full participation of people of African descent in determining leaders of government for the countries in which they live
30-Oct		Racism in health systems in North America, resulting in higher infant mortality among people of African descent
31-Oct		Refusal to apologize and pay reparation to Africans affected by the atrocities of the 16th- to 19th-century transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans