

International Women's Day

Stand in Solidarity Stop Violence against Women

International Women's Day is observed each year on March 8. The **Thursdays in Black** campaign of the World Council of Churches encourages people of faith worldwide to wear black as a sign of our solidarity with the victims and survivors of gender-based violence.

The United Church has been participating in Thursdays in Black since 2015. As we journey through Lent, consider what you can do to end violence against women. Your prayers, attention, and action make a difference!

Gender-based violence is a global issue that harms men, women, and children in their most private spheres. We often feel helpless and hopeless in the face of so much pain and injustice.

In particular, we await with hope Canada's National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. We pray that it will uncover the systemic causes of this violence and provide a path to eliminate it.

We can all take part in the simple but powerful Thursdays in Black campaign to address gender-based violence. Every Thursday, people around the world wear black as a symbol of strength and courage.

Thursdays in Black expresses not only solidarity for women in countries at war, but recognizes that violence takes many forms: domestic violence, sexual assault, rape, murder, female infanticide, female genital mutilation, sexual harassment, systemic discrimination, and sex trafficking.



Thursdays in Black focuses on the ways individuals and communities can challenge the causes of rape and violence. It is an opportunity to become part of a worldwide movement that transforms despair, pain, and anger about rape and gender-based violence into prayer, advocacy, and action.

Ideas for Action

- ❖ Post a photo of yourself or your congregation wearing black on social media on Sunday, March 5, International Women's Day, or any given Thursday throughout the year. Use the hashtags #ThursdaysinBlack, #jeudisenoir, #UCCan, #WCC.
- ❖ Be present to Canada's National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and pray for the families and communities affected.
- ❖ Explore violence against women and gender justice more deeply.
- ❖ Share this information with those who are not here today.

Visit
www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now
to learn more.



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