

INTERFAITH PRAYER

From the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence

We gather in sorrow as we recall so many women among us who have suffered rape, battering, harassment and abuse.

We gather in anger that these things continue with no end in sight.

We gather in hope that our commitment and our actions will matter.

We come acknowledging that we have not always heard, we have not always acted; sometimes we have turned away rather than stand beside a woman who has been victimized.

Hear the cries of those who have been harmed, O God. We are here today and in every religious assembly throughout our land. Call to account those who have caused harm. Rebuke their careless and exploitative acts. Help us to teach them a better way.

Enlighten those who are called upon to help judges, police officers, doctors, clergy, legislators, therapists and others so that their decisions and actions will bring forth justice and healing.

Send us forth as witnesses, renewed in our commitment to stand in solidarity with every woman who has been harmed by abuse and violence, encouraged in our efforts to comfort the afflicted and confront the assailants, and emboldened to speak out in our own communities so that silence may no more mask the injustice of violence against women.

We pray for God's love and justice to heal our hurt and to bring us to that day when women no longer live with fear in their homes, their workplaces, their religious assemblies, or their communities. Amen.

Prayer used at the first *Interfaith Breakfast A Call To End Violence Against Women*, sponsored by the Center for the Prevention of Sexual and Domestic Violence, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, October 11, 1996, Washington DC.