

Litany for Women of Justice and Peace, 2013

God, Creator of all in Your image and likeness,
We ask your blessing and your grace
For women in our global community who toil and struggle
To bring about a new world of justice and peace.

We also remember all the women who are constrained from speaking out.
Help us to work for the day they can live their lives in dignity and freedom.

We remember all the women who have been able
To give voice to the call for justice--and who do so today.

Among these women, we affirm the ministries of:

Aung San Suu Kyi, who endured house arrest for many years in Burma
but continues to speak truth to power.

Marian Wright Edelman, who continues to speak out for children mired
in the scandal of poverty amid the riches of American society.

Marcelina Bautista, who is calling for workers rights and dignity
for domestic workers who work long hours for low pay in Mexico.

Malalai Joya, who speaks out against the abuse of power in Afghanistan,

Milly Auma, who endured captivity as a young sex slave for the LRA in Uganda
and uses her freedom to work to rebuild the lives of other former captives.

Grace Said, a Christian Palestinian whose family lost their home and homeland
and who works with interfaith groups to bring peace and justice to the Middle East.

Sr. Helen Prejean, who has called us to respect the dignity and life of all God's children
and has worked unceasingly for decades to abolish the death penalty.

Malala Yousafzai, the young Pakistani who has vowed to keep speaking out for
the right to education for girls and young women, even as she recovers from
violence for being a such a voice.

In addition,

We pray for politicians such as Dilma Rousseff in Brazil and Eleanor Norton Holmes in the United States, who work to bring all citizens equal rights and economic development;

We pray for human rights lawyers and activists such as Shirin Ebadi of Iran and Monica Feria of Peru who seek rights, equality and access for all;

We pray for community workers such as Anita Ahuja of India and Chheng Cheeung of Cambodia, who bring new ideas and new hope to their local communities;

We pray for women who seek to oppose gun violence, such as Sarah Brady and Gabby Giffords;

We pray for the journalists such as Amy Goodman and Gwen Ifil, who seek to uncover and share significant news stories with the public;

We pray for the musicians such as Sweet Honey in the Rock and Tracey Chapman, who sing out truth to our souls;

We pray for artists, actresses and film makers such as Mariska Hargitay and Franny Armstrong, who create vivid images and characters to witness to injustice;

We pray for theologians such as Elizabeth Johnson and Rosemary Radford Ruether, who open up new perspectives on God's wisdom.

We pray for women religious, such as Sr. Joan Chittister, Sr. Florence Deacon, Sr. Carol Zinn, and all women religious' work for justice and peace.

We pray for the many other women who are working for justice and peace today:

(add names of women in your local area, and others in the national and international arenas who work to create a new world)

We pray for women of justice and peace whose names are unknown to us.

We pray for all the women of justice and peace who are no longer with us but whose stories and spirits remain beacons of hope for all of us alive today.

God, Creator of all in Your image and likeness,
Give us the grace to recognize and support
All your children in the global community
Who toil and struggle and celebrate
To bring about a new world of justice and peace. Amen.