

'On the Wings of a Dove' - Prayerline

DAY ONE: WHITE RIBBONS FOR HEALING

'Christ is our peace: in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us'



November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This represents the largest effort by men across the world, working in partnership with women, to end men's violence against women. The day relies on support from men and women and their organisations and from business, industry and

government, and is symbolised by the wearing of white ribbons. For wearing a white ribbon is a personal pledge to not commit, condone nor remain silent about violence against women and children. White ribbons are worn by men who want to encourage other men to speak out against violence towards women, and by women who are supporting men.

In Australia, the **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Council** has been developing a **Women's Network** to link up Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Christian women, enabling women to share knowledge, experiences and support across denominations and distances. The network is open to all Indigenous Christian women throughout Australia who are working either individually or as part of a group to improve the social, spiritual and cultural, environmental, or economic wellbeing of their communities. The Women's Network seeks to focus on both theological and social issues, particularly in the areas of health, domestic violence, employment and education, enabling Indigenous women to come together, learn, share and support each other, and to feel empowered in their spiritual/ church life so that empowerment flows into their work with their communities, giving them renewed energy as they face the various struggles and challenges of their work. For more information, please contact:

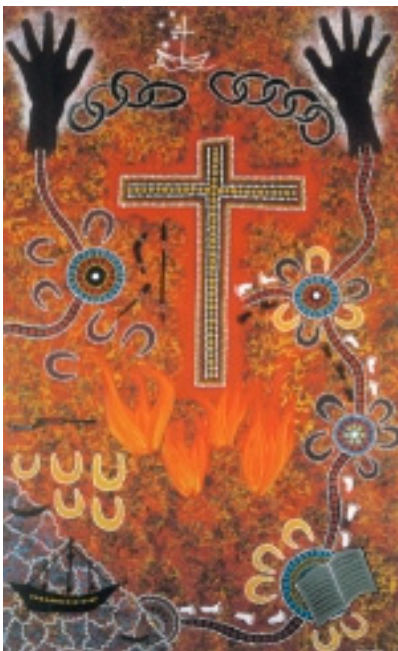
UNIFEM website: <http://www.unifem.org.au/www.unifem.org.au> email: ribbons@unifem.org.au
NATSIEC Women's Network Phone: 02 9299 2215 Staff: Jen O'Hanlon (NATSIEC Program Officer)
http://www.ncca.org.au/natsiec/projects/womens_network

READ Ephesians ch.2 vv.11-22

The New Testament makes it clear that 'in Christ' all humanity is created anew, made into one Body, whatever the differences of our law and lives. We are no longer to be 'strangers and aliens' to one another but fellow 'citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God'.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

- * all Aboriginal and Torres Strait in violent situations this day
- * Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men in overcoming violence against women
- * the work of the NATSIEC Women's Network



Prayer for the Day ('for the Journey of Healing' NATSIEC)

Almighty and loving God, you who created ALL people in your image, lead us to seek your compassion as we listen to the stories of our past.
You gave your only Son, Jesus, who died and rose again so that sins will be forgiven.
We place before you the pain and anguish of dispossession of land, language, lore, culture and family kinship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have experienced.
We live in faith that all people will rise from the depths of despair and hopelessness.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have endured the pain and loss of loved ones, through the separation of children from their families. We are sorry and ask God's forgiveness.
Touch the hearts of the broken, homeless and afflicted and heal their spirits.
In your mercy and compassion, walk with us as we continue our journey of healing to create a future that is just and equitable.
Lord, you are our hope. **Amen.**

The Prayer appears with the painting left on a NATSIEC poster. For copies contact the NATSIEC office on 02 92992215. Journey of Healing refers to the journey that many who were separated from their families are still on to find healing for their wounds.

Overcoming Violence against women and children