



Prayer 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 your 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.**



You don't have to dig too deeply to see the very real consequences that have flowed from 216 years of injustice since white settlement in Australia. On any social measure of health and well-being, Indigenous people, my people, are hugely over-represented at the wrong end of the scale.
(Prof. Lowitja O'Donoghue,
a patron of the Decade to Overcome Violence in Australia)

Prayerline

is a resource for the *Decade to Overcome Violence*
in association with the **National Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission.**

It includes prayers and reflections to use each day of the
worldwide 'On the Wings of a Dove' campaign,
celebrating and praying in solidarity with
Indigenous projects overcoming violence against
women and children

Download the full resources at:

http://www.ncca.org.au/dov/on_the_wings_of_a_dove

For further resources and information
contact: the NCCA DOV Unit
ph: 02 9299 2215
email: dov@ncca.org.au
<http://www.ncca.org.au/dov>



Despite the suffering and trauma expressed within the stories of the Stolen Children, the responses of Aboriginal people have been extraordinarily generous. This is a time when we need that spirit of generosity. It is a time to feel the connections of a shared past. It is a time to guard against things that fragment us. And it is a time to cherish those things which bring us together – those things which have helped us to survive, - those things that will create a better future for us all. (Prof. Lowitja O'Donoghue)

Introducing **PRAYERLINE** ON THE WINGS OF A DOVE



Prayers for the 16 Days
of the Campaign on
Overcoming Violence
against Women and Children

**PRAYING IN SOLIDARITY
WITH ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS**

November 25 – December 10

PLEASE LIGHT A CANDLE

for each petition on each day.

Nov. 25: Working together to overcome violence against women.

Today is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, on which men as well as women are encouraged to wear white ribbons as sign of commitment. Please pray especially for the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission and its Women's Network, and for all Indigenous men in working with women in overcoming violence.

Nov. 26: The members of the Stolen Generation.

There can be fewer greater expressions of state-led violence than separating children from their mothers. Indigenous Australian families continue to live with the effects of such former government policy.

Nov. 27: Overcoming domestic violence.

'There is no issue currently causing more destruction to the fabric of Indigenous communities than family violence. This has been acknowledged by all levels of government in recent years.' . (HREOC Social Justice Report 2003)

Nov. 28: Overcoming sexual abuse.

'I say we cannot ignore it. I say it is our problem. The hardest thing is the right thing to do: stand up, speak out, and give our community the strength and authority to stop it' (Jackie Huggins, Reconciliation Australia). Please pray for those whose lives are blighted and those working for change.

Nov. 29: Overcoming alcohol and substance abuse.

Alcohol, petrol and drug abuse are major health issues which destroy too many Indigenous lives and undermine community cohesion.

Nov. 30: Prisoners and prison ministries.

Indigenous Australians are greatly over-represented in the criminal justice system. In recent years, the greatest relative rise in the prison population has been among Indigenous women (incarcerated at almost 20 times that of non-Indigenous women).

Dec. 1: HIV/AIDS victims.

On World Aids Day, please pray for those struggling with AIDS across the world. Whilst the incidence of HIV/AIDS is not generally greater among Indigenous than non-Indigenous Australians, Indigenous women are disproportionately affected, whilst the crisis in Papua New Guinea also makes the Torres Strait and northern Cape York areas vulnerable.

Dec. 2: Re-creating Circles of Healing.

The health of Indigenous Australians is the worst in the developed world, with life expectancies alone 20 years less than other Australians.

Dec. 3: Overcoming poverty and economic violence.

Nearly half of all Indigenous children are in families with incomes below the Henderson poverty lines, compared with around 18% of non-Indigenous Australian families. The major reason is lack of employment, with more than 50% of all Indigenous families having no employed adult.

Dec. 4: Overcoming Unfair Labour Practice.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders have a long history of having been exploited for their labour.

Dec. 5: Education leading to Empowerment.

Investment in Indigenous education is a major factor in overcoming violence and deprivation.

Dec. 6: Supporting Language.

Retaining and supporting Indigenous languages is a vital means of strengthening identity & culture.

Dec. 7: Overcoming racism and cultural violence.

'Racism and cultural violence separate us from God and from each other and are incompatible with the Christian Gospel. Together with Christians all over the world, we affirm that racism is a sin.' (NCCA statement June 2003).

Dec. 8: Overcoming the lack of self-determination.

The decision to abolish ATSIC as a national Indigenous voice further underlines the critical need for real self-determination and commitment to Reconciliation with justice.

Dec. 9: Healing the Land Our Mother.

For Indigenous peoples, the land is not just a thing but the generation point of all existence, so that Land Rights are a fundamental justice and human rights issue.

Dec. 10: Supporting Indigenous Peoples worldwide.

International Human Rights Day offers an opportunity to affirm the shared struggles for land and identity of Indigenous Peoples everywhere.