

**We observe**

# **THURSDAYS IN BLACK**

**Towards a world  
without rape and violence**

**2 December**

## **A Prayer for Our Language**

In the moments after another woman is violated,  
we have a fresh, yet timeless, tale to report.

Lord help us as storytellers  
to share a different story,  
of some mother's son,  
who lurked in the shadows waiting....  
who let his eyes, then his hands, wander where they were not welcome,  
who bided his time, preying on the unwary.  
Isn't this the story that needs to be told, Lord?

Pray for us all, sharing this

-on paper,  
-on screen,  
-lips to ears.

Pray for us to focus on the silent sinner  
who quietly hides behind the victim's wail.

Amen

The National Council of Churches in Australia is observing the UN 16 Days of Action against Gender Based Violence. The campaign has been run every year since 1991 from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December, Human Rights Day. Each day of the campaign, you are encouraged to pray. These daily prayers are supplied by the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. NCCA is a proud supporter of the Thursdays in Black Campaign. To learn more about the campaign visit the NCCA website to learn more: [ncca.org.au](http://ncca.org.au).



**National Council of  
Churches in Australia**