

**We observe**

# **THURSDAYS IN BLACK**

**Towards a world  
without rape and violence**

**8 December  
A Prayer for Thursdays in Black**

Loving God,

We pray for the global ecumenical campaign 'Thursdays in Black'. A campaign that grew out of the World Council of Churches' Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988 - 1998), in which stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many tragedies that grow outward from such violence became all the more visible.

We acknowledge that violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.

Give us strength to take the responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets - in all places in our societies.

As people of faith, we must speak out against sexual and gender-based violence.

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**