



SEE. CHANGE. WEEK OF PRAYER

Sunday 17 November - Sunday 24 November 2019

More than 16,000 Open Doors supporters have written, painted, drawn or embroidered their names in the unique handmade petition, which seeks to raise awareness and prayer for persecuted women around the world. A huge selection of petition squares will be on display in Chapter House, Westminster Abbey from 17-24 November 2019.

Open Doors is calling for a national week of prayer for the display of the handmade petition at Westminster Abbey. Please pray that the installation will have a significant impact on those who see it. Pray also that the petition will bring change for our persecuted sisters and that women who are persecuted for their faith would be officially recognised in future government policy.

HOW TO PRAY

- **Pray in your Sunday service.** On this sheet you'll find prayer points and a written prayer.
- **Pray through the week.** You will find daily prayer points covering each day of the week. Add these to your church notices, or distribute them digitally – however your church usually shares items for prayer.
- **Pray with others.** Sunday 17 November has been designated the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Praying for these women and girls would be a great way to mark this day.

SEE.CHANGE. A PRAYER FOR PERSECUTED WOMEN

This can be used as a responsive prayer – the responses are in bold.

Dear Lord,

We pray for our sisters who are persecuted for their faith; for Your daughters who are targeted for their gender.

Father to orphans, defender of widows, be with all Your daughters who have suffered loss and bereavement. May they know Your comfort and Your love.

We see their grief. Give them hope and encourage them, we pray.

Rescuer and redeemer, be with those who are trapped. Those who have been traded like cattle, and who are treated like objects. May they know that they are not forgotten.

We see their suffering. Give them strength and rescue them, we pray.

Abba, Father, comfort those who are rejected. Those who are mocked or excluded from their families or their communities because of their faith. May they know that they are loved beyond measure.

We see their rejection. Give them patience and help them to find a home, we pray.

God of peace, be with those who live in fear. Those who bear physical and mental scars. May they know that You are with them.

We see their beauty. Give them healing and make them whole, we pray.

Lord of all justice, stir up those in power. May they acknowledge the suffering and hear the cries of pain. May they be aware of their responsibility to act.

We see their power. Give them the determination to make a difference, we pray.

God who sees, help us to see these women as You see them. May we not turn away from their tears and pain. May we, who have a voice, use our freedom on behalf of our sisters around the world.

We see Your love for all of Your children. These are our sisters. These are Your daughters. Be with them all, we pray.

Amen.

SEE.CHANGE. DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday 17 November

As Christians worldwide mark the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church, remember the many women who are persecuted for both their faith and gender. Pray for the display of the handmade petition in Westminster Abbey this week. Pray that many eyes will be opened and many hearts touched by the double vulnerability of persecuted Christian women.

Monday 18 November

Pray that the presentation of the petition will help governments to recognise that sexual violence in conflict is inextricably linked with faith-based persecution.

Tuesday 19 November

Tirham*, an Open Doors partner and trauma care worker from Nigeria, is in the UK this week to speak about the violent persecution Christian women experience. Pray for wisdom and courage as she speaks and for those like Tirham who do such important work, often in very isolated and difficult contexts.

Wednesday 20 November

Thank God that He sees every woman persecuted for her faith and gender. Pray for those who are hidden - those who have been abducted or held under house arrest. Pray that they will know the God who sees

them, and pray that their communities will not shame them, but love them.

Thursday 21 November

Persecution of Christian women is complex because it exploits all the vulnerabilities specific to women. Ask God to resource Open Doors partners around the world supporting vulnerable women with relief aid, livelihood training and discipleship programmes, so that they can fulfil their God-given potential.

Friday 22 November

Persecution of Christian women is often violent. Pray for Open Doors workers providing trauma care programmes for women who have experienced sexual violence. Pray that these programmes will restore hope and dignity to many women.

Saturday 23 November

Pray for everyone who has visited the petition display in Westminster Abbey this week. Pray that they will be deeply impacted by what they've seen and will share this with others so that more prayer and support will be galvanised.

Sunday 24 November

Thank God for everyone who has spoken up for their persecuted sisters by signing the handmade petition. Ask God to open up more opportunities for Open Doors to use the petition to raise further prayer, support and awareness for our sisters who continue to need our support.

*Name has been changed for security reasons

THANK YOU FOR PRAYING

Thank you for praying for your persecuted sisters around the world. You can find out more about the petition and the global issue of the double vulnerability of women at www.opendoorsuk.org/seechange

THE HANDMADE PETITION: I SEE YOU - WESTMINSTER ABBEY 17-24 NOVEMBER

We'd love you to visit the exhibition and see the petitions together. The handmade petition will hang in Chapter House, Westminster Abbey, 17-24 November 2019. It is open to the public and free if accessed via the Cloister Entrance. So, why not come along?

Tears of Gold

A free resource based around portraits of seven courageous Nigerian women. Perfect for prayer groups, small groups or house groups.

Includes:

- Service guide to raise prayer and support for persecuted women
- Interactive small group session with leader's guide
- 14 postcards - seven portraits and seven self-portraits
- Sample pack of ten 'Portraits and Prayer' guides to help people pray

Find out more and order your free copy at www.opendoorsuk.org/seechange



Open Doors

www.opendoorsuk.org