

International Women's Day



We know that women participate in disproportionate amounts of paid and unpaid care tasks and domestic labourⁱ. We know that girls and women experience violence and abuse, sexual, physical and emotional, disproportionately to men, and overwhelmingly at the hands of menⁱⁱ. We know God has a different vision for our world – one of safety, loving community and mutual service and kindness toward each other.

The world marks International Women's Day, March 8, to promote the full inclusion, safety and prosperity of women. When the standard of living for women is increased, through labour force participation with fair pay, education and improved health, entire communities benefit and reap the rewards. Children, families and entire communities live healthier, happier lives when women live in safety and peace with empowered participation.

In his book, *The Hole in Our Gospel*, World Vision US President Emeritus Rich Stearns writes, 'In my opinion, the single most significant thing that can be done to cure extreme poverty is this: Protect, educate, and nurture girls and women and provide them with equal rights and opportunities — educationally, economically, and socially.'ⁱⁱⁱ

The Christian Care Sunday project provides resources for congregations to acknowledge the vulnerable people in our communities, and the many organisations who work with them. This International Women's Day you are invited to consider a prayer for girls and women worldwide, for an end to domestic and family violence, and for the mutual flourishing of all people as we live in community with each other.

ⁱ Workplace Gender Equality Agency | Unpaid care work and the labour market

<https://www.wgea.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/australian-unpaid-care-work-and-the-labour-market.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.dvconnect.org/domestic-violence-statistics/>

ⁱⁱⁱ Taken from <https://www.worldvision.org/gender-equality-news-stories/matthew-25-pray-for-women-and-girls>

Social media suggestions:

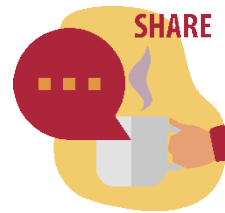
If you have social media platforms for your church or organisation, consider sharing content for International Women's Day on March 8.

- Share a story of an inspirational girl or woman in your organisation.
- Share a story about how you are working to #breakthebias or take photos of community members and staff posing in the Break the Bias pose. See <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>
- Share the details of local or national domestic violence services, or the LCA NZ [Hidden Hurts, Healing Hearts](#) website.

Share links to videos such as:

ALWS 'End of Road to New Beginnings':

Hear a story about how your support of ALWS makes a difference for women and girls living in Cambodia: <https://vimeo.com/286126507>



White Ribbon NZ: Including NZ statistics and a call to action to take the pledge, this video highlights the ongoing significant issue domestic and family violence is in NZ. <https://vimeo.com/299522473>

International Women's Day 2011: A vision for a better future for Girls, and the world.

Although a decade old, this short film packs a big punch to think about the impact on life outcomes for 12-year-old girls living in poverty, and what we can do to change the outcomes, generation to generation.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oz6IHxq2BiQ&t=21s>

Messages of Hope:

Consider sharing this short video 'Smashing plates' – Trigger warning: this film references child abuse and may be disturbing for some viewers.

https://youtu.be/D9Uxf9q8UQ8?list=PL9HiAgLBoDmieo_xpQZwka6c4C7ISc1l

Alternately, share this 'Messages of Hope' episode on Family Violence:

<https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/family-violence/>