

# International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women November 25

The United Nations observes November 25<sup>th</sup> as the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women** in order to raise awareness of the enduring epidemic of gender-based violence. Violence against women – domestic violence, female genital mutilation, rape, sexual harassment – remains the most prevalent human rights violation. It is estimated that one in three women throughout the world will experience physical or sexual abuse in her lifetime. November 25<sup>th</sup> was chosen for this commemoration in honor of the Mirabel sisters who were murdered on this date. These women were outspoken political activists against the Trujillo dictatorship in the Dominican Republic. They continue to live on as a global symbol of courage and resistance in the face of gender-based violence.



## Prayer

God, Comforter of the Oppressed, as we go about living our daily lives, fulfilling our duties may we never forget that every minute of each day girls and women are being stripped of their dignity. We stand in desperate need of your mercy and confess to our deep shame of silence. With Pope Francis, we choose "not to look the other way" and we recognize that "many of us have blood on our hands as a result of our silent complicity." May your love be the mold that shapes our apathy into concern and our inaction into action. We recommit to ending the epidemic of violence against women and girls and bringing justice and healing to survivors. Amen.

Source: Education for Justice