



Women of Hope and Healing



Violence against women and girls remains one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations in the world. Globally, an estimated 736 million women — almost one in three — have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both, at least once in their life ([UN Women](#)). In Peru 35.6% of women between the ages of 15 to 40 were victims of domestic violence in 2022 ([ENDES, 2022](#)).

The Sisters of Bon Secours in Peru are responding with hope and love to this epidemic of violence against women in Peru. At the beginning of 2024 they re-established a safe house in a municipality of Peru with extremely high rates of domestic violence. The Sisters lovingly refurbished the residence and made it a welcoming and warm place to stay. The walls are bright, and the rooms filled with light. There are spaces for the children to play and a garden outside.

It is quite the international community with women coming from Peru, Venezuela, Argentina and even Russia. The house is a temporary haven for women escaping violence. They typically stay in the home for 1-3 months and then are placed in a more permanent home by Peru's Ministry of Women and Vulnerable populations.

The Sisters work together with the local government to provide social workers and counselors to the women. The home is not just a place to sleep and eat; there are daily activities to support the mental health and wellbeing of the residents. Children are taught by a teacher in a multi-age classroom and mothers participate in baking, sewing and making handcrafts to provide financial support as they prepare to live on their own and support their children. Each evening a resident oversees planning and preparing a dinner typical of her home country. It is a chance for women to share their traditions with the other members of the household and an opportunity to build and grow community. The ministry is a vivid example of healing, compassion and liberation in action; the charism at work in our world.

JPIC Days of Remembrance

November 3

St Martin de Porres, Patron Saint of Race Relations

November 13

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Patron of Migrants

November 17

World Day of the Poor

November 25

International Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women

December 1

World AIDS Day

December 18

International Migrants' Day



St. Frances Xavier Cabrini



For Reflection

- Watch the 1-minute video, [Every Woman Deserves to Live Without Violence](#)
- What can we learn from women who have moved from being victims to being survivors?
- What steps can be taken in our community to enable victims of intimate-partner abuse to be loved and find healing?

Hearts Aflame: JPIC in Paris!



Several members of the JPIC International Committee met during Chapter in Paris to reflect on our shared hope for all of creation. We shared our hopes for creation and placed them around our JPIC butterfly symbol. Members wrote poems, drew pictures and wrote about their dreams for creation. It was a lovely time of faith and fellowship and maybe a few chocolate croissants! We missed a couple of our members and hope we can all be together next time.



Psalm 56: 1,3,8

"Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me; all day long foes oppress me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many fight against me.

O Most High, when I am afraid, I put my trust in you... You have kept count of my fears; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record?"

Lord, give us eyes to see and ears to hear the many ways in which domestic and family violence is carried out against all sorts of people, in all sorts of ways, in our communities. Thank you that you see and hear everything that happens in this world.

Give us understanding and keep us vigilant to recognize those who need assistance, knowing that violence does not always involve physical scarring and bruising. Give counsellors and pastoral care workers understanding and wisdom as they offer support in these painful circumstances.

Amen.

https://www.commongrace.org.au/domestic_violence_pray

Sustainable Gifts Webinar!



Gifts made by residents of Casa Belen, Peru

In October people from across the Bon Secours family joined together for the first in a series of justice & peace focused webinars sponsored by the JPIC International Committee. It was a great time to learn from each other and share holiday gift ideas that benefit workers and the environment. Beatrice Lesourd, Sr. Maria Pintado, Sr. Chris Webb and Simone Blanchard shared tips and demos. The best part was the virtual gift exchange where we exchanged ideas on how to make our gift giving more meaningful and impactful. **Stay tuned** for our next JPIC webinar in 2025. It will be focused on our new Chapter call to be peacemakers.



JPIC Committee Members

Beatrice Lesourd (France)

Sr. Chris Webb (USA)

Sr. Gumercinda Cordova Cordova (Peru)

Sr. Margaret Mary Hanafin (Ireland/Great Britain)

Sr. Maria Pintado Peña (Peru) Co-chair

Sr. Nathalie Lundolo Ninga (France)

Nick Stein (USA)

Rachel Moccia (USA)

Sr. Rosa Elena Lozada Escobar (Peru)

Simone Blanchard (USA) Chair