



We Women: Our Voices

Women Concerns Ministry-NCCI

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PRAYER

1. We pray for people who are in distress that they will find hope
2. We pray for Girls and women who are forced to skip school and are forced to live away from the community due to menstruation
3. We pray for upcoming Christmas, New Year and WDP Celebration
4. We pray for the Elections in India, that the right person will be elected to serve the Nation

HOPE IN DISTRESS

The NCCI Christmas Card has a picture of a mother with a child seated in a relief boat during the August 2018 floods in Kerala. With her house being submerged, there was no room for immediate help, but the boat which would take her to the safety of one of the relief camps. Hope in distress!

A pregnant woman who was in an advanced stage of pregnancy was stranded on the roof top of her house in Aluva. – a submerged region of Kerala's Ernakulam District. Her house got isolated in the relentless rain. Her life and that of her child in the womb were in danger till help came out of the blue – almost literally. It was an Indian Navy Chopper that had been sent especially to rescue her and to end her nightmare. Hope in distress!

When lives of their fellow human beings were under threat, the fishermen of Kerala travelled hundreds of kilometres with their fishing boats on the back of trucks to flood ridden areas and rescued people. They waded through unknown waters looking for people and rescued them. Those boats are their livelihood.

They literally risked everything they had and their lives to save fellow human beings, without expecting anything in return. Selfless agents of hope in distress!

In all the above mentioned three stories, hope came in the form of persons who were committed to save people in distress.

Hope in distress! That's what even the Christmas message is all about this year.



We in India are faced with severe challenges. Our rulers are envisioning development through a strategy that is shrouded in a neoliberal, anti-poor and essentially fascist religious-political framework of the right-wing ideology. Such a strategy is fraught with problems of socio-economic political and scientific-technological injustice. A privileged few will enjoy economic development, political power, and scientific-technological comforts by manipulating and controlling the lives of the masses.

Like Ahaz we are also tempted to follow the development ideology of today's leaders. We are seeking prosperity in their scientific-technological systems and gadgets. We are seeking security in their political and hi-tech powers. However we fail to realize the dangers behind their ways: breaking down of just wholesome relationships, oppression of the poor, the weak and marginalized, and ecological destruction.

Within such a context is there any hope in distress?

Yes, the hope is in “shepherds, ordinary people who will be touched by God and become bearers of good news. Yes, the hope is in “wise men” who are genuine seekers of God’s reign on earth, with no desire for being power possessors. Yes, the hope is in the Marys and Josephs who through their God-centred lives become mediums of bearing the goodness of God to people and all creation. Indeed the hope is in God who identifies with the weak and the poor, by being incarnated in their midst.

That’s what the message of Christmas is all about: Hope in distress!

Rev. Dr. Roger Gaikwad,
General Secretary, NCCI

Temple on Way: Menstruating Girls forced to skip school

Pithoragarh: Girls from Rautgara village in Pithoragarh are forced to skip school for at least five days every month when they are menstruating as a temple dedicated to a local deity falls along the way to the institution. Locals believe that the temple would be desecrated if women on their periods were to pass the area which has led parents to confine menstruating girls to their homes. In fact, the taboo has forced a few of the girls determined to get a good education to move to nearby cities and towns where they are staying with relatives. A team of the local administration will now be sent to counsel parents. The issue was brought to fore when a team from the NGO Uttarakhand Mahila Manch visited the area. Uma Bhatt who led the team told TOI that girls from the village who attend Sail Government Intercollege have been skipping school for up to five days during their periods. A former teacher at the school requesting anonymity said, “People here are very conservative. We tried several times to create awareness among parents and persuade them to let their daughter attend school but most of them did not want to defy traditional norms.

Source– [India Today](#). In News paper

WCC News Letter highlights and continue to encourages People to observe 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign.

 [vCal](#)

 [iCal](#)

Event details

When?

25 November - 10 December 2018

Where?

Worldwide



MARY KOM

First woman boxer to win 6 World Championship Titles

MC Mary Kom scripted history after she defeated Ukraine's Hanna Okhota by a unanimous 5-0 decision in the 48kg light flyweight final to clinch an unprecedented sixth gold medal at the Women's World Championships at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi on Saturday. With this, she became the most successful boxer in the history of Women's World Boxing Championships. Mary Kom had won gold in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2010 editions of the Women's World Boxing Championship and was tied at five gold medals with Katie Taylor of Ireland. Having won a silver medal in the 2001 edition, the 35-year-old Manipuri boxer now has record seven medals to her name in the biennial amateur boxing event. Following her victory, Mary Kom said, "I would like to dedicate this win to my country."

With this gold, Mary Kom also matched Cuba's Felix Savon as the joint most successful boxer - men and women - in the World Championships history.

Felix Savon, who also won three Olympic gold medals during his illustrious career, has won six gold and one silver in heavyweight in the World Championships between 1986 and 1989.

In the semi-final on Friday, Mary Kom had defeated North Korea's Kim Hyang Mi in a unanimous 5-0 decision to enter the final of the championships. On Friday, Simranjit Kaur and Lovlina Borgohain had to settle for bronze medals after losing their respective semi-final bouts. In the 64kg semi-finals, Simranjit lost to Chinese Dan Dou, while Lovlina lost in the women's 69 kg semi-final to Chinese Taipei's Chen Nien-Chin on Thursday. India finished the Women's World Championships with one gold, one silver, and two bronze medals.

Kom was brave in the face of all adversity. Coming from a village where no one would have dream of producing a woman boxing champion, she made sure she got the right training to help her becoming a sporting champ. She even had to hide her interest in boxing since her family wouldn't approve of it. But she remained brave and valiant through and through.



Source– [India Today. in](https://www.indiatoday.in)

Isolating Menstruating Women is Now a Crime in Nepal:

Nepal's parliament on August 9, 2017 criminalized the ancient Hindu practice of banishing women from their home during menstruation and after childbirth. Nepal is against viewing women as impure since they bleed. It is willing to change customs. Sabarimala... better note.

"A woman during her menstruation or post-natal state should not be kept in chhaupadi or treated with any kind of similar discrimination or untouchable and inhuman behaviour," reads the law, passed in a unanimous vote on Wednesday. Mohna Ansari, a member of national human rights commission who was part of the push for the new law, told Al Jazeera that the development was "a big achievement". "The law gives an open space for women to come forward if they are forced to follow the practice. It is a custom that makes women feel isolated and puts psychological pressure," she said.

Supreme court ruled against chhaupadi 12 years ago, but it was not effective because it issued just guidelines. But it also directed that in case the guidelines were ineffective, there should have been a law passed against chhaupadi, so that's what happened now. But women's rights activist Pema Lhaki described the law as unenforceable because it is related to a deeply entrenched belief system that is harder to change.

It's a fallacy that it's men who make the woman do this. Yes, Nepal's patriarchal society plays a part, but it's the women who make themselves follow chhaupadi,"she told AFP news agency. They need to understand the root cause, have strategic interventions and then wait a generation.

Many communities in Nepal view menstruating women as impure, and in some remote areas, they are forced to sleep in a hut away from home called chhau goth during their periods and after childbirth. They are also barred from touching food, religious icons, cattle and men.

Last month, a teenage girl died after being bitten by a snake while sleeping in a chhau goth. Two other women died in late 2016 in separate incidents while also following the ritual - one of smoke inhalation after she lit a fire for warmth, while the other death was unexplained. Rights activists say many other deaths likely go unreported.



Source- INDIATODAY.IN

Missing Indian transgender political candidate found

Chandramukhi Muvvala, 32, a missing transgender activist campaigning for a state assembly seat in the southern Indian state of Telangana has turned up safe and well after fears she had been kidnapped. greets voters as she campaigns in the Goshamahal constituency in Hyderabad on November 26, 2018.

Police told CNN Chandramukhi Muvvala had presented herself at the police station, but had not given a statement because of an active writ of habeas corpus, filed with a court after she was reported missing by her daughter on Tuesday. "Because of the habeas corpus, we have to first produce her in court," said Banjara Hills assistant police commissioner KC Rao. "Then we will record her statement and start the investigation."

Alarm had been raised about Chandramukhi's whereabouts after she had not been seen since earlier this week, even as political campaigning for next month's state elections continues. The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, a New Delhi-based NGO, [said in an open letter](#) to Indian authorities that Chandramukhi Muvvala had been "untraceable since Tuesday morning."



Source-Swati Gupta and James Griffiths, CNN

Women Concerns Ministry-NCCI Observed Fellowship of Least Coin and 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Campaign on 16th of November 2018. Kalpana madam the women secretary of Evangelical Lutheran Church attended the service. She shared her experience and encourage the women to be brave and Raise Voice Against Violence. She made a point that raising voice against is not fighting but claiming the wrong doings of people today so that tomorrow many girls and women will be saved.



Source- Megha Naik- Intern : Women Concerns Ministry-NCCI