



STREE

March 2024

Celebrating
Womanhood



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NCCI

Women's Concern.

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Foreword

Happy to know that another issue of the *STREE* is out for circulation. That this follows close on the heels of the observance of the International Women's Day adds greater significance.

It is heartening to note that the ministries of the Commission on Women's Concerns are expanding, and that it reflects in the activities of the Churches' ministries. This Issue of The *STREE* also captures them for the information of the entire ecumenical fraternity.

We commend The *STREE* for your reading and reflection. Please uphold the work of the NCCI Commission on Women Concerns, the Chair and Commissioners as well as all staff attached to the Commission. If you have a word of encouragement, do write to them.

We wish the Commission well.

Sincerely yours

Asir Ebenezer,

General Secretary, NCCI.

Editorial Note

Dear Readers,

As we embark on another edition of our *STREE*-Women's Magazine, it brings me immense joy to introduce our theme for this issue: Celebrating Womanhood. In a world that often undervalues and overlooks the contributions of women, we believe it is essential to take a moment to honour and uplift the diverse experiences, talents, and strengths that women bring to our church community and beyond.

Throughout history, women have played pivotal roles in shaping the fabric of society, nurturing families, and leading with grace and resilience. In our churches, women serve as pillars of faith, offering prayers, guidance, and support to their fellow congregants.

In this issue, we shine a spotlight on the remarkable women within our church community whose stories, experiences, and contributions embody the spirit of inclusivity and empowerment. From the dedicated volunteers who tirelessly serve the less fortunate to the trailblazing leaders who challenge societal norms and break down barriers, each woman's journey is a testament to the resilience, strength, and beauty of womanhood.

Moreover, as we reflect on the theme of "Inspire Inclusion," we are reminded of the importance of embracing diversity in all its forms – including race, ethnicity, age, ability, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. By creating an inclusive and welcoming environment within our church community, we not only honour the dignity and worth of every individual but also enrich our collective experience of faith, fellowship, and worship.

We recognize that celebrating womanhood extends beyond acknowledging individual accomplishments. It also involves creating an inclusive and supportive environment where all women feel valued, respected, and empowered to fulfil their God-given potential. As a church community, let us commit ourselves to fostering an atmosphere of love, acceptance, and encouragement, where every woman can thrive and flourish in her faith journey.

As you peruse the pages of this E-magazine, may you be inspired by the stories of courage, resilience, and faith that embody the spirit of womanhood. Let us come together as sisters in Christ, united in our shared purpose of glorifying God and advancing His kingdom here on earth.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the women who have graciously contributed their time, talent, and insights to make this issue possible. Your voices are vital, and your stories and report of activity are a testament to the beauty and strength of womanhood in our church community.

With blessings and warm regards,

Revd Jyoti Samuel Singh,

Executive Secretary Women's Desk, NCCI.

Celebrating Womanhood

When we talk about Womanhood, it is not defined by relationships, jobs, body parts, or anything else- it is not defined by anyone or anything but Yourself. There are many ways and myriad reasons for women to honour, celebrate and embrace all that they are. And when any individual woman chooses to do so, all women collectively move closer to becoming who and what they are truly capable of being. By honouring her experience and being willing to share it with others— both male and female—she teaches as she learns. When she can trust herself and her inner voice, she teaches those around her to trust her as well. Clasp hands with family members and friends, co-workers, and strangers in a shared walk through the journey of life, she allows all to see the self-respect she possesses and accepts their respect, too, that is offered through look, word, and deed.

When a woman can look back into her past, doing so without regret and instead seeing only lessons that brought her to her current strength and wisdom, she embraces and celebrates the fullness of her experience. She helps those around her to build upon the past as she does. And when she chooses to create her desires, she places her power in the present and moves forward with life into the future.

Seeing her own divinity, a woman learns to recognize the divinity in all women. She then can see her body as a temple, appreciating its feminine form and function, regardless of what age or stage of life she finds herself. She can enjoy all that it brings to her experience and appreciate other women and their experiences as well. Rather than seeing other women as competition, she can look around her to see the cycle of life reflected in the beauty of her sisters; reminding her of her own radiance should she ever forget. She can then celebrate all the many aspects that make her a being worthy of praise, dancing to express the physical, speaking proudly to express her intellect, sharing her emotions, and leading the way with her spiritual guidance. Hence, a woman in Celebrating her womanhood, she reveals the facets that allow her to shine with the beauty and strength of a diamond to illuminate her world. In conclusion, as the International Women's Day reminds every woman that we need to celebrate the essence of womanhood, let us all move ahead taking upon ourselves the great role of nurturing and developing our society. Let us celebrate, embrace, and love ourselves as much as we love others.

Miss Alonika K. Achumi, BA. BD.

The Joy of Being a Woman: Perfect Creation of God

Women were considered ‘the other’ ever since the beginning of civilization by many. Though there are no differences other than physical, people have discriminated women telling ‘this is women’s job that is men’s job’. Thereby, many have forgotten their own role in the universe. God never advised Adam to extend his dictatorship on Eve. When God said Eve: “yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you” in Genesis: 3:16, it was a reign of love and not of tyranny for a family will negate survival if love is not reciprocated. So, both man and woman are custodians through God.

Being a woman, a person is adorned with certain qualities through which a woman can serve the society and feel delighted. In the Bible too, one can see committed wives, responsible leaders, prayerful warriors, pious prophets, and dutiful mothers. Thus, a woman is destined with roles from the kitchen to the kingdom. Though there are many accusations that the texts of scripture were written by those who supported patriarchy, there is a vivid presentation of those women who did wonders, be it in helping a home or in reshaping a society. So, one should celebrate womanhood and be joyful in being created as a woman.

Playing the role of a victim is not what God expects from a woman. But there are certain qualities through which a woman can feel blessed in spite of all the difficulties that cross the way of her life. Rather than murmuring against God’s beautiful creation, it is necessary to acknowledge that God’s purpose for a woman is far from playing a single role. Instead, a woman’s part in the world is marvellous.

1.SUBMISSION:

Hagar, unfortunately becomes her master’s wife and gives birth to Ishmail. When he grows up in the womb, there is a reversal of situation in which everything turns topsy turvy. Sarai treats her badly and Hagar runs away from ‘home.’ But there is an encounter with the Angel of God. The actual fact is that God doesn’t want anyone to die without fulfilling what is intended. She is sent back home and the Angel advises her to be patient and to submit herself. In Genesis 16: 9-11,

The angel of the LORD said to her, “Return to your mistress, and submit to her.” The angel of the LORD also said to her, “I will so greatly multiply your offspring that they cannot be counted for multitude.” And the angel of the LORD said to her, “Now you have conceived

and shall bear a son; you shall call him Ishmael, for the LORD has given heed to your affliction.”

So, God doesn't want Hagar to decide about future without actually heeding to God's own plan. Perfect submission will certainly lead to perfect eminence.

2.SALVATION:

Many a time, women warriors are used in salvific mission. From the lives of the midwives described in Exodus to Esther, the queen, many women did the role of being a saviour to many lives. Maya Angelou, an African American rape victim once told, “Be a rainbow in someone's cloud.” Esther, an orphan, brought up under the custody of her cousin has the bliss of ruling the hundred and twenty-seven nations. She is a very careful woman who doesn't want to be impudent towards the already wrathful king. This is because she is unaware of the condition in which the Jews are put in. When she is warned by Mordecai, she realizes her mistake and begs him to pray for her. It is in this situation she figures out her purpose on earth.

Esther: 4:16 says: “Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law; and if I perish, I perish.” She is ready to die in order to save the millions of the scattered population (i.e.)the chosen.

She gathers up her courage and goes to the king uninvited. Deliverance of the Jews is her only thought. When she tries to talk in favour of the minority, many truths are revealed and she wins over the villain. In Esther 9:24-25,

“Haman son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the enemy of all the Jews, had plotted against the Jews to destroy them, and had cast Purr—that is “the lot”—to crush and destroy them; but when Esther came before the king, he gave orders in writing that the wicked plot that he had devised against the Jews should come upon his own head, and that he and his sons should be hanged on the gallows.”

Esther finally rescues and redeems her people and becomes the saviour of millions of people. She wishes peace and prosperity to Jews living in all the provinces of the kingdom. The scattered tribe becomes powerful from then on just because of the salvific mission rendered by a woman.

Submission to God's will and a heart to do salvific service to the fellow beings are two of the basic qualities a woman must possess in order to be joyful. Submitting oneself to God and living a disciplined life as God expects will give individual satisfaction as well as fulfilment of God's purpose. Acting at the right time with God's power will redeem and deliver whoever is at risk. Behaving as if it is none of one's business will bring harm to the self- contented, luxuriant, inhumane and the so-called soft -spoken women.

Mrs. Jemi Alex,

Assistant Professor of English

Women's Christian College, Nagercoil.

Power of Self- Esteem and Dignity

Power is never permanent but dignity will always follow us, power will shift from one end to the other end when the shift of time comes. Alongside power and dignity, respect is an important part of understanding the power of dignity. Without respect, the power is artificial and the dignity we get is a fake. In order that one requires power, one can always go after those in power but will dignity and respect be genuine? Running after dignity with the powerful is not justice and the Bible does not approve it (Philippians 2:1-6). Jesus self-emptied (kenosis) and the power and dignity Jesus got was not through human rather it is divine. The power and dignity we strive as women should not empty the power and dignity of someone else but rather empty ourselves to empower others.

Women empowerment is a topic which every woman agrees but when it comes to power and dignity do we really get that respect? If at all we get respect, we are following the path of Jesus but if not, we are walking in the path of rivalry and conceit. But in humility we must promote each other to power and dignity with the respect we as women deserve. Power and dignity come with good opinion about each other. We must have good opinion about each other in humility and count others more significant than ourselves just as Jesus did.

Jesus was born in a humble manger and Jesus was crucified on the cross which was a dishonour of the highest degree during Jesus' time, the thieves crucified alongside Jesus had 2 opinions one was asking for dignity in heaven and the other was questioning the power of Jesus. The one who was dignified was the one who did not question the power of Jesus. Dignity and power are reciprocal if we need dignity, we must know how to utilize the power given to us. With dignity comes power and that power is to be used for respect and achieving good opinions from those who consider us as powerful and dignified individuals. Proverbs 31:25 says, strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come, A woman who is clothed with dignity will never worry about the challenges that may come, she will open her mouth with wisdom and the teaching of kindness will be on her mouth (v26). Her children rise and calls her happy, her husband also, and praises her (v28). We as women don't know that we are praised worthy but the Bible praises us in (v29) saying that many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all. That is how we must understand our self-worth. Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised (v30). This is how as a Women we should know our self-worth which will develop our self-esteem.

Grow strong with the Lord and the Lord will give us power and dignity which will strengthen our self-esteem and gain respect from the people around us. Having good opinions with each other, encouraging each other's about their self-worth in order that we will be dignified individuals which in turn will give us power to help the weak who have low self-esteem. Be at peace among yourselves, see that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. Rejoice always and pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances for this is what God desires of us.

Women are powerful and we have the dignity to be called as a co-creator, who deserves to be respected and empowered, to empower the creation of God. If we do not know our worth, capabilities, qualities and the talents God have given us, we will not be able to recognise and know our capabilities to empower ourselves and understand our self-worth. The fight for power and dignity for women is not achievable without respecting each other and having good opinions about each other and letting each other know their self-worth. It is time rather late for women to wake up and understand the power of dignity and self-esteem, the Bible has already empowered us but we are yet to empower each other.

Nukshijungla Longkumer Veino,

Asst. Professor of Christian Ministry (Christian Education)

Bishop's College, Kolkata.

Stigma of Divorce and Breakup

“Till death do us part” were the solemn covenant vows of marriage shared between spouses in times past and continuing into the present times. Increasingly prevalent in contemporary society, divorce has evolved into a seemingly normative recourse and marriages are turning into breakups. Divorce represents one of the most profound life-altering transitions individuals undergo. It signifies the termination of a marital union, a significant institution that precedes it. It is true that aspirations for matrimonial perfection persist, however, the Christian populace finds itself ensnared within a cultural milieu characterized by deteriorating marital values. The divorce rate in India, historically estimated at approximately 1%, has witnessed a notable surge in recent years. As of 2019, the divorce rate stood at 13 per 1,000 marriages, reflecting a remarkable 350% increase over the past two decades. The dissemination and adherence to biblical marital precepts appear to be waning within both societal and ecclesiastical spheres. As Stanley A. Ellisen aptly observes, for many, marriage vows have regrettably become a perfunctory recital, signifying a tacit acceptance of marital dissolution: "till divorce do us part."

Marriage, perceived as a divine institution ordained by God for the union of man and woman, epitomizes both beauty and vulnerability. Rooted in biblical narratives, the union of male and female reflects the profound imagery of God. Isaiah and Hosea's portrayal of God's redemptive relationship with humanity draws parallels to the marital bond, foreshadowing the divine connection exemplified through Christ. Throughout Christian history, narratives abound of exemplary marriages, yet they coexist alongside stories of failure and subsequent repentance, emphasizing the imperfection inherent in marital unions.

Historically, the ecclesiastical stance on divorce has undergone considerable evolution, with debates notably observed during the eras of Moses and Christ. Prior to the Reformation, the Western church upholding marriage as a sacrament, eschewed divorce except in cases of nullity. Conversely, the Reformers adopted a more nuanced approach, allowing divorce and subsequent remarriage on grounds of adultery, desertion, and cruelty. Presently, many Protestant denominations find themselves re-evaluating their doctrinal positions on divorce, compelled by the increasing rate of divorcees seeking solace within the church community.

Diverse factors contribute to the likelihood of divorce, encompassing domestic strife, infidelity, extra marital relationship, substance abuse, male dominance, financial instability, lack of adjustment, nosy mother-in-law, pornography addiction and interpersonal conflicts. Personal reflections within my own social circle underscore the prevalence of marital discord, with instances ranging from infertility-induced strains to spousal infidelity compounded by alcoholism.

Perceptions of divorce vary widely, reflecting divergent attitudes within Indian society. While some vehemently oppose divorce under any circumstances, others adopt a more open-minded approach. When analysing current divorce trends in Indian context, it becomes evident that there is a phenomenon that immensely impacts women, subjecting them to heightened levels of stigma.

Marriages tainted by malevolent traits from a male partner, mandates a recognition of warning signs and a proactive response to ensure safety and well-being. While societal norms may advocate persevering for the sake of children, the acknowledgment of irreparable harm warrants a reassessment of the viability of the marital bond. Despite advancements, women continue to grapple with societal stigmatization surrounding divorce, perpetuating a culture of shame and ostracism. The hesitance to pursue divorce, especially in situations involving abusive relationships, originates from the apprehension of facing societal condemnation and exclusion. Unfortunately, in certain instances, the stigma surrounding failed marriages emanates from close relationships, such as family, friends, and relatives.

Divorced women consistently bear the brunt of societal censure, facing harsh criticism and disapproval that underscores prevailing moral anxieties surrounding marital breakdown. Despite the decline of traditional societal expectations rooted in male-oriented structures, women continue to face stigmatization, compounded by multifaceted societal influences stemming from cultural, religious, and political contexts, perpetuating communal norms that reinforce gender-based expectations.

The trajectory of marriage, marked by its inception and dissolution through signatures, conceals deep emotional and psychological trauma linked with divorce and breakup. Post-divorce, individuals often experience an identity crisis, with women being particularly affected in terms of their self-esteem and confidence. Additionally, children

undergo psychological and emotional challenges during this period, heightening societal anxieties regarding the breakdown of marriage.

The data from 2019 indicated that 65% of divorce petitions in Delhi were initiated by women, highlighting a shift away from traditional gender norms. This trend reflects the growing empowerment, awareness, and assertion of women rights on divorce and breakup. However, it is crucial for women to exercise this newfound agency responsibly, refraining from exploiting it for personal gain.

The burgeoning movement of women asserting their voices reflects a paradigm shift, catalysing a ripple effect of empowerment and rectification of imbalanced power dynamics. Tackling this stigma necessitates collective efforts to challenge ingrained societal attitudes and promote a culture of empathy and support. This entails concerted effort toward consciousness-raising and advocacy for gender equality among both men and women.

To cultivate a resilient culture of matrimony, it is essential to confront the consequences arising from personal setbacks and unexpected disasters. Unfortunately, there are no simple or universally applicable solutions to such complex challenges. However, by exploring the purpose of godly marriage in light of existing adversities—understanding their origins, impacts, and appropriate responses—practical paths to resolution may emerge. This approach enables churches to offer support to women experiencing divorce and breakup with wisdom, humility, and compassion.

Aheina Liegise,
B.A., B.D., Th.M. Systematic Theology
(ACTS University, South Korea.)

Reports

Report on the first meeting of NCCI Commission on Women's Concern

The first meeting of Women's Commission was held on 24th Feb-2024 (viz zoom) to develop the structure and objectives. Around 21 members attended the meeting from all over India. The meeting started with a prayer by Prof Dr Bonita Aleaz.

Rev. Dr. Asir Ebenezer, the General Secretary introduced the NCCI's mandate adopted at the first General Body Meeting that there should be a Commission for Women's Concern; **its structure should be: at least 5 experts from various fields and representatives from all the member churches.**

The basic Objective was planning and designing programmes for gender equity. The Commission will be engaged with women's development as a whole in which all aspects will be explored publishing, observing specific events and modes of worship.

Each invited person gave a brief self-introduction of herself.

Vice President of NCCI, Dr Basanti Biswas, educationist represented the Methodist Church in India. She believes in the co-relationship between men and women, the latter had to be strengthened further she felt.

The Chairperson of the Commission, Mani Kumari Dasari from the Salvation Army, works in the South Eastern region of the country; she ardently believes in women's empowerment.

Bharati Hansda, represented the Santhal Group of Churches in India.

Expert adopted are: Prof Dr Bonita Aleaz, Ms Jessica Richards, Ms Ashlin Mathew, Dr Limatula Longkumar.

The commission Meeting decided that there will be women leaders who will be accompanying the Executive Secretary for a smooth running and progress of various projects and works of the Commission. It was also decided that the Commission members will meet once in 2 months for keeping the network active and prompt. The programme ended with a closing prayer by Revd Asir Ebenezer, General Secretary, NCCI.

-Team Women's Concern, NCCI.

Report on the First Ordained Women's Meeting



**Inviting all Ordained women to meet
and greet**

**Topic: Joy of being
an Ordained Women**

Time: Feb 27, 2024 11:30 AM India

Meeting ID: 830 6349 0254

Passcode: 803509



The National Council of Churches in India, Women's Desk organized the first ordained women's meeting on the topic "Joy of being an Ordain Women" on 27th Feb, 2024 at 11:30 Via Zoom.

Bishop Pushplalitha, Rev Sharmila Sore, Rev Arpna, Deaconess Arya, Lt Col Santhi, Major Caroline shared their experience as ordained women and how they feel blessed as well as some resistance from Colleagues in their ministry. At an open time, there was a unanimous voice that there should be some formal forum to talk, deliberate and discuss for a better future for women in minister, the need for safety, uniform policy and some platform where networking and sharing can be done.

The meeting concluded with a great joy and celebration for ordained women who look forward for an association. The meeting was successful as there were more than 200 ordained women joining the meeting.

- Team Women's Concern, NCCI.

Report of Webinar to Commemorate the life and death of one of the First Female Teacher in India, a Social Reformer and Poet- Smt. Savitri Bai Phule.



Invites all to commemorate the life and death of one of the First Female Teachers in India, a Social Reformer and Poet



Its time to express our thoughts in words.

**Date :March 10, 2024
Time: 04:00 PM India
ZOOM Meeting ID: 829 8340 9650
Passcode: 973811**

**For more information please contact us at
jyoti@ncci1914.com , ncci@ncci1914.com
DM@+919455059522**

A webinar was conducted on 10th –March-2024 at 4:00pm to Commemorate the life and death of one of the First Female Teacher in India, a Social Reformer and Poet- Smt.Savitri Bai Phule. Many participants from different parts of India joined the program online.

Rev. Jyoti Singh greeted all the participants and thanked them for joining the program. She set the context of the program. Then the Chairperson of Women Commission, Commissioner Mani Kumari encouraged the participants with her speech on Savitribai Phule's life as one of the first pioneer of education and social empowerment of downtrodden women in India Rev. Jyoti presented a brief report on Savitribai Phule's life and achievements.

A Dalit Woman from the Mali community, Savitribai Phule was born on January 3,1831 Maharastra's Naigaon village. She was married off at the tender age of 10 to Jyotirao Phule.

He educated her at home and later Jyotirao admitted Savitribai to a teachers' training institution in Pune. Savitribai Phule the social reformers considered to be one of India's First Modern Feminist. A revolutionary Indian woman who began the passion to educated women in India. She relentlessly fought against the dominant caste system and worked towards the improvement of marginalized.

The extraordinary couple was engaged in a in a passionate struggle to build a movement for equality between men and women and a fight against the caste system. They dedicated their life to spread education and knowledge. They started the first school in the country for girls and the 'Native Library.' In 1883 they started Home for the prevention of infanticide in their own house to ensure the safety of pregnant and exploited widows. They also established the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society for the Truth Seeking), initiating the practice of marriage without dowry or over expenses. They were against child marriage and supported widow re-marriage.

Savitribai's struggle was fraught with many difficulties and despite that she continued her work peacefully. Men would purposely wait in the streets and passed lewd remarks. They sometimes pelted stones and threw cow dung or mud. Savitribai would carry two saris when she went to school, changing out of the soiled sari once she reached school, which would again be soiled on her way back, and yet she did not give up. The guard who was appointed for her, wrote in his memories about what she would say to those men." As I do the sacred task of teaching my fellow sisters, the stones or cow dung that you throw seem like flowers to me, may God bless you. The couple also set up "Bayata Pratibandhak Gruha" a childcare centre for the protection of pregnant widows and rape victims. Urging women to break free of caste barriers, she encouraged them to sit together in her meetings.

Savitribai Phule was also a renowned poet, she published her first collection of poems, called Kavey Phule ('Poetry and Blossom'), at the age of 23 in 1854. She published Bavan, Kash, Taboard, Retina, the ocean of pure gyms in 1,890.

Not only her life but also her resilience to her at the time of death was inspiring for each one of us till today. Savitribai Phule and her adopted son Yaswant, opened a clinic to treat those affected by the Third Pandemic of the bubonic Plague, when it appeared in the area around Nalasopara in 1897. The clinic was established on the stern outskirts of Pune, in an area free of infection. Savitribai died a heroic death trying to save the son of Pandurang Babaji Gaekward. Upon learning that Babaji Gaekward's son had contracted the Plague in Mundhwa, Savitribai rushed to his side and carried him on her back to the hospital in the

process Savitribai Phule lost her life at 9pm, on 10th of March-1897. Her death also was a way in which she was serving her community and reaching to the unwanted.

Mrs. Biji Geroge, Captain Thaya Anusura, Major Carolin & Mrs. Shama Mashi shared their poems and writings to remember and honour Mrs. Savitribai Phule.


The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Rev. Jyoti, Executive Secretary, Women's Desk.

-Team Women's Concern, NCCI.


Report on World Day of Prayer

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action," and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures, and traditions in a yearly common Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. Women are believed to have a strong sense of identifying the needs of other women and children. WDP is observed to urge Christian women to engage in praying both personally as well as in their mission auxiliaries and associations. It aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world. This program calls us to bear with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression.

‘The World Day of Prayer’ has been observed enthusiastically in all the 32 member churches all over India every year, by their women committee members. The Liturgy is translated in 20 Indian languages and circulated to all the churches by National Council of Churches in India. They follow the same Order of Worship everywhere in their regional languages to make it graspable by all. All the women members of “*Stree Samaj*” (Women’s Committee) participated in this special devotion and prayer service. Their respective women leaders set the context of the day by explaining about the importance of WDP. They spent the day dedicatedly to pray for the entire humanity, especially for ‘Peace in Israel and Palestine.’ They encouraged each other to pray every day and start the day with God’s protection upon them and their families. Even they prayed for peace in our society and our country, for the marginalized and downtrodden people, for all the churches and their leaders, women leaders and believers and for doctors, scientists and researchers etc




Inviting you to observe



**World Day of Prayer 2024
1st March**

**I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love
Ephesians 4:1-3**

In India Circulated by
National Council of Churches in India



Order prepared by
WDP Palestine

For any information please contact:
ncci@ncci1914.com ; jyoti@ncci1914.com
Visit our website <https://ncci1914.com/>
for worship order in Indian languages.

All the women members were given responsibility to take part in the order of worship. Spices, flowers, fruits, cactus, and olive oil were offered in the Alter as a symbol of remembering the Palestine Women who were affected in recent war.

The following are some of the reports submitted by the various churches:

1. Jeypore Evangelical Church (ODISHA)



2. Mennonite Church of India:



3. Tamil Evangelical Lutheran Church



4. Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church



5. Church of South India



- Team Women's Concern, NCCI.

Report on International Women's Day

Every year, 8th of March is observed as IWD. It is a day taken as an opportunity to honour women, their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic, or political and to raise awareness about gender equality, education for girls and women rights. It is marked as an important occasion to make women feel special, loved, and important.

In National Council of Churches in India, for International Women's Day, every year a worship order is prepared with a theme and its circulated. Churches are encouraged to observe the liturgy in their churches. This liturgy is unique for being written with inclusive language and a theme which relevant for women in church.

 **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA**
32 Member Churches | 18 Regional Christian Councils | 18 All India Christian Organizations | 7 Related Agencies
Invites all to observe
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
MARCH 8, 2024



**Let us "Inspire Inclusion to help
forge a better, more inclusive world
for women.**

**To show solidarity click your pic & tag us @
#IWD24NCCI #InspireInclusion**

To know more please contact us on
ncci@ncci1914.com & jyoti@ncci1914.com
For order of worship please visit our website:
ncci1914.com/downloads

Note: This order of worship is a template and can be adapted according to the specific traditions, preferences, and resources of the church. Additionally, incorporating personal testimonies, liturgical dance, or other creative elements can further enhance the theme of inclusivity. It can be used in the Lord supper as well after the worship order section for prayer for preparation for Lord supper can be introduced before Offertory Prayer or Sharing of Peace.

Theme: Let's Inspire Inclusion: All are created in the image and likeness of God.

Call to Worship:

Leader: "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day." - Psalm 96:1-2 (NIV)

Opening Song:

Opening Prayer:

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Gracious and loving God, we thank you for the gift of this day and the opportunity to gather as a community of faith. Gracious God, who created us in your image and likeness, we thank you for the gift of diversity among your people. Help us to recognize the sacred worth of all individuals, especially women, and to grow in love as we journey together in faith. We gather as one body in Christ, celebrating the diversity and inclusivity of God's family. Open our hearts and minds to the beauty of diversity and the call to inclusivity. Help us to be instruments of your love and acceptance in our world. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

Reading from Proverbs 31:10-31

Reading from Galatians 3:28

Reading from Luke 10:38-42

Hymn: "For Everyone Born, A Place at the Table"

Message: "Women Inclusivity and Growth in Love"

Sermon by Pastor

Reflection on the biblical examples of women's inclusivity and growth in love, drawing lessons from Proverbs 31 and the story of Mary and Martha. Paul telling all are equal.

Special Presentation if any- Instrumental music or special performance reflecting the theme of women's inclusivity and love.

Intercessory prayer: *In the usual prayer of the church tradition please add these prayer.*

Affirmation of faith for women

Affirmation of Faith for Women in the Community:

Leader: As women of faith, let us affirm together our beliefs and commitments.

All: We believe in a God who created us in love, each of us fearfully and wonderfully made.

Leader: We believe in a God who values and cherishes us, regardless of our gender, race, or background.

All: We believe in a God who calls us to use our gifts and talents for the building up of the community and the spreading of love and justice in the world.

Leader: We believe in a God who empowers us to speak out against injustice, to stand up for what is right, and to support one another in times of need.

All: We believe in a God who walks with us through every joy and every sorrow, who comforts us in times of despair, and who rejoices with us in times of celebration.

Leader: We believe in a God who calls us to love one another and our sisters, partners to support and encourage each other, and to work together for the common good.

All: We believe in a God who sees us, hears us, and values us for who we are, and who calls us to live out our faith with courage, compassion, and grace.

Leader: Let us go forth in faith, knowing that we are beloved daughters Sons of God, called to live lives of purpose, meaning, and love. Amen.

Special Prayer for women in our society:

Leader: We gather on this Women's Sunday to lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving, celebrating the unique gifts and contributions of women in our community of faith.

"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate." - Proverbs 31:31 (NIV)

People: We honour the women among us today, recognizing their tireless dedication, unwavering faith, and transformative love that enriches our lives and strengthens our community.

Leader: "She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come." - Proverbs 31:25 (NIV)

People: With hearts full of gratitude and reverence, we lift up prayers of blessing and affirmation for the women who inspire us with their resilience, wisdom, and grace.

Leader: Let us enter this time of worship with joy and anticipation, embracing the presence of God in our midst and the sacred journey we embark on together as a diverse and inclusive community of faith. Amen.

Confession of Sin Against Women in Our Churches: *Add this Confession along with the usual confession prayer of your church.*

Leader: Let us confess our sins before God, acknowledging the ways in which we have fallen short in honouring and affirming the dignity and equality of women in our churches.

All: Gracious and loving God, we come before you with humble hearts, recognizing the ways in which we have failed to uphold the sacred worth of women in our communities of faith.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we have perpetuated harmful stereotypes, discriminated against women, or marginalized their voices in our worship, leadership, and decision-making processes.

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we have failed to listen to the experiences and perspectives of women, dismissing their concerns or minimizing their contributions to the life of our churches.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we have condoned or turned a blind eye to sexism, harassment, or abuse within our congregations, failing to create safe and inclusive spaces for all.

All: Forgive us, O Lord, for the times when we have valued tradition over justice, perpetuating systems and structures that uphold male privilege and perpetuate gender inequality in our churches.

Leader: Merciful God, we confess these sins and ask for your forgiveness and guidance. Help us to repent of our complicity in perpetuating sexism and discrimination, and empower us to work towards a more just, inclusive, and equitable community of faith. Amen.

Offering:

Offertory Hymn: "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Offering Collection (Supporting ministries focused on women's empowerment and inclusivity)

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers for the empowerment, affirmation, and inclusion of women in all aspects of church and society. Prayer for offering.

Closing Hymn: "We Are Called" or "Bind Us Together, Lord"

Benediction:

Leader: May the God of compassion and grace, who cherishes each one of us and calls us by name, inspire us to create communities of love and inclusivity. May we honour the contributions of women, embrace their leadership, and grow in love as we journey together in faith. And the Blessing of God Almighty the Triune God be with us and remain with us always. Amen.

The following are some of the churches who reported their celebration of International Women's Day with pictures.

1. **Jingiaseng Kynthei K.J P. Synod Sepngi, one Unit under PCI** celebrated the International Women's Day on the 8th March. Speaker: Mrs. Radiancy Rynga, on the IWD 2024 Theme.



2. The Salvation army-ISET International Women's Day-2024

"On March 8, 2024, International Women's Day was enthusiastically observed across all divisions, districts, and extensions. A directive was issued from the THQ Women's Ministry Department, urging the DDWM and EDWM to actively participate in the day's events. The theme chosen for this year's celebration was 'All are created in the image and likeness of God.'

International Women's Day serves as a global platform to honour and acknowledge women's remarkable achievements in various spheres such as social, economic, cultural, and political domains. It is also a vital occasion to advocate for women's rights and gender equality, fostering a deeper understanding of these critical issues.

During the festivities, ample time was allocated for women to share their personal experiences and reflections on the significance of International Women's Day. Additionally, the event included the sharing of God's word, leading to a profound spiritual experience where all participants willingly surrendered their lives to a higher purpose.

This multifaceted celebration not only highlights the importance of recognizing women's contributions but also underscores the unity and empowerment found in collective acknowledgment and shared faith."



3. TELC Samalapuram International Women's Day celebration



4. International Women's Day Celebration in G.E.L. Church, Madhya Diocese



-Team Women's Concern, NCCI.

Church Reports

Malankara Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church

St. Mary's League: Empowering Women through Faith and Service

St. Mary's Leagueⁱ is the women's spiritual organisation within the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church, which stands as a beacon of women's empowerment within the Christian faith. It was founded with the primary objective of nurturing the spiritual and social growth of its female members, drawing deep inspiration from the exemplary life and teachings of St. Mary, the revered mother of Jesus Christ.

St. Mary: A Guiding Light

Central to the ethos of the St. Mary's League is the profound influence of St. Mary. As the mother of Jesus Christ, she embodies qualities of faith, humility, and compassion that serve as a guiding light for women within the community. Her unwavering devotion to God and selfless service to others serve as a timeless example for women of all generations, inspiring them to emulate her virtues in their own lives.

Activities and Initiatives:

The St. Mary's League is actively involved in organizing a diverse array of activities and initiatives toward enriching the spiritual lives of its members while fostering a strong sense of community and solidarity among women. St. Mary's League achieves these objectives by initiating and organising the following:

Objective: To nurture a deeper faith in God

Activities: Regular prayer meetings, Bible study sessions and Spiritual retreats



*(Fellowship program with other denominations attended on the **World Prayer Day 2024** on the 2nd of March at the Marthoma Syrian Church, Bangalore, and the fellowship also expressed solidarity with the women of Palestine in their moment of strife and hardship. Around 160 women from different denominations attended the prayer service.)*

Objective: To foster stronger fellowship among its members

Activities: Participation in Inter church women fellowship meetings, Diocesan and Akhila Malankara meetings, Preparation and participation in Bible quiz and various other spiritual competitions at church, Diocesan and national level programs, Communal food preparation during the feast days.



(Diocesan level *St. Mary's League meet held on the 9th of March 2024, soon after the **International Women's Day** on the 8th of March, a debate conducted on the Topic 'To React or Reconcile', with reference to the women who stood by, during the crucifixion of Jesus and the winners of bible quiz competition.*)

Objective: Extending support in uplifting the marginalized communities

Activities: Fund raising through food sale, extending financial and non-financial help to the financially challenged members within the community and beyond, Extending aid to other churches, financial support for education, marriage, house construction, reimbursement of medical bills and so on.



(Fund raising event through food sale)

Objective: Empowering Women

Initiatives: The organization actively encourages women to take on leadership roles, organization of skill-building activities, and extend support in personal growth opportunities.

Objective: To achieve culture of compassion and service within the community

Initiatives: Regular visit to the elderly and the sick, assisting individuals in need and organising various charity initiatives.

Conclusion:

Over the years, the St. Mary's League has left a lasting impact on the lives of numerous women within the Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church. The organization has successfully uplifted and empowered women, instilling in them a sense of dignity, purpose, and belonging. The enduring impact of the St. Mary's League is evident in the transformed lives

of its members, who actively contribute to positive change within their communities and beyond. They embody the core values of faith, compassion, and service, which are central to the life example of Mother Mary and serve as guiding principles for the organization's endeavours.

Article compiled and developed by:

Rev. Fr. Paul Benny

Dr. Veenu Joy

Ms. Jenny John.

Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church

Greetings from NELC Women's Desk in Jesus name. It is a great privilege to share about women's activities run by the NELC women.

Introduction

The Northern Evangelical Lutheran Church (NELC) is a church established in 1867 by the pioneer Missionaries – Hans Peter Boerresen and Lars Olsen Skrefsrud. They started their ministry among the Santal People from Brnagaria Mission station, Jharkhand Dumka. At present the church NELC is covering three states – Jharkhand, West Bengal, Assam, and Arunachal Pradesh, and it's divided in five Dioceses according to geographical areas – Dumka Diocese, Suri Diocese, Bagsarai Diocese, Grahampur Diocese and Bongaigao Diocese.

Aim And Object – The aim and object of this church is fulfilling the great commission, “Therefore go and Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surly I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Mathew 28: 19- 20.

Vision Of the Church – There are five visions of the church- Unified Church. Growing Church, Serving Church, Witnessing Church and Self- Reliance Church.

Women Ministry – The NELC Women are playing a vital role in fulfilling the church's vision and mission. To be revived spiritually, Bible study, fasting prayer family visiting and handful of rice gathering are the main working agenda of the women committee. Time to time conference and seminar is being conducted for the women. The NELC women observe the International Women's Day, World Day of Prayer and observe NELC Women's Sunday every year.

Women's Committee – We have women committee in every level – Circle, Diocese and Central (Synod). Where the committee members are selected or elected every election year. At present Central Women Committee members are as follows – Rev. Elina B. Soren, Rev. Lucia Tudu, Mrs. Sujata Mushahary, Rev. Ashrita Mandal Mrs. Onima Das, and Mrs. Manju Tudu.

World Day of Prayer – This year NELC Women observed World Day of Prayer in many congregations on the theme – I beg you – bear with one another. Within the church we the NELC women program it in four languages – Santali Hindi, Boroni and Bengoli.



International Women’s Day – On 8th March NELC women celebrated International Women’s Day successfully. On that day we discussed on Biblical text and on the present issues of women and young girls under the theme – Inspire Inclusion.



Upcoming Program – On 22nd Mar. 2024 (Friday) there will be gathering of women in Circle level at Dumka Circle. During the lent season women have prayer fellowship, and fasting prayer gathering in different level. After the Easter one of Circle of Assam Grahampur Circle there will be a Women fellowship gathering, these are the programs to be held soon.



Respectfully submitted by,

Rev. Mrs. Elina B. Soren,

Central Women Secretary, NELC.

A BRIEF REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY PROGRAM OBSERVED BY WOMEN MAHASAMAJ SOUTH ANDHRA LUTHERAN CHURCH

Introduction to South Andhra Lutheran Church:

The South Andhra Lutheran Church (SALC) is one among the Telugu speaking Lutheran Churches in India, which is spread across the southern districts of Andhra Pradesh and in some parts of Tamil Nadu. The Central Church office is located at the West Mission Compound, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh (AP). The SALC is now headed by **Rt. Rev. Dr. E. Vijayabhaskar, Bishop/ President**. The church is in affiliation with NCCI, UELCI, APCC, ELCA, ELM and LWF. SALC is the reflection of the Hermannsburg Mission's initial years of missionary activity in India. **Fr. Rev. August Mylius** was commissioned as a missionary during the Hermannsburg mission festival in August 1864. **Fr. Rev. Mylius** established a centre for the new mission work at Nayudupet, which is then a small market town in AP.

A brief out line about the inception of Women Mahasamajin SALC:

*But those who are noble, plan noble things,
and by noble things they stand. **Isaiah 32:***

These verses are tailored to the vision and mission of Ms. Ruth Scopes, who conceived the idea of initiating Women MahaSamaj in SALC way back in the year 1939. Since the day of its inception, Women MahaSamaj made a significant contribution in the church ministry as well as women ministry of SALC in particular. SALC is always proud in sharing the news that the Women MahaSamaj recently celebrated its 81st Women Convention. During its long ministerial journey, the women mahasamaj convention is interrupted only for two reasons i.e., World War II (2 years) and Covid19 pandemic (2 years).

Office Bearers of the Women Committee and their contacts:

The Women MahaSamaj is an elected body and is a part of Board of Evangelism of SALC with active office tenure for two years. The structure of the office comprises of Four Office bearers, Three Executive members, and Two Advisory members. All the members of the MahaSamaj are representatives from the local women samaj of the concerned parishes of SALC, who are elected during the annual general body to serve the office of MahaSamaj. The following are the office bearers of the Women MahaSamaj.

Name of the Office Bearer	Designation
Smt. KRK. Kalyani	President
Smt. T. Manjula	Vice President
Smt. K. Rani	Secretary
Smt. P. Mariyamma	Treasurer

International Women’s Day celebrations:

The International Women’s Day is observed in all the parishes of SALC as per the communication received from the office of the Bishop SALC to the parishes through the office bearers of women MahaSamaj. Various activities at parish level were conducted in observing the international women’s day. The Women samaj members of all the parishes felicitated their senior women samaj members as a token of appreciation to the services rendered to the women ministry and the same is bulletined in the local newspapers. Some parishes conducted sports and cultural events to their women congregants. During the said day the entire church service is led by women congregants including scripture reading, offertory and a Women guest speaker to share the word of God.





Regular Activities of MahaSamaj:

As part of women ministry various programmes were conducted with the collaboration of WICAS desk focusing on the areas of women leadership, Gender justice, Gender Equality and other areas related to women empowerment. Sending Bible quiz through postal service to the local parishes is a monthly activity that is being coordinated by mahasamaj. Once in every three months the executive members meet to discuss and to chalk out the future programmes. Financial assistance to the poor and needy women is also a regular activity that is practiced by mahasamaj.

As the president of women mahasamaj I am always thankful to the almighty GOD for his abundant grace and for providing strength to handle various programs in catering to the needs of my fellow women belonging to local women samaj of all the parishes of SALC.



Smt. KRK. Kalyani
President, Womens' MahaSamaj
South Andhra Luthern Church

Dhanuspuja Methodist Church Pakur, Jharkahnd

Introduction

Dhanuspuja Methodist Church started in the year 1870 at Pakur district of Jharkhand. We have 12 churches in different Pakur district. It is located in small villages & tribal areas. We have many schools for tribal children in English, Hindi and Bengoli Language. Each church has their individual women's group. Many social awareness & development programs were conducted to support the members and society as a whole. We conduct their prayer service in Santahali and Hindi language. We also have a hospital to provide health care facility to community people.

Office Bearers:

1. Rev. Sharmila Soren
2. Mrs. Anju Kisku
3. Mrs. Binoti Murmu
4. Mrs. Anita Marandi
5. Mrs. Jyotika Kisku
6. Mrs. Sunita Marandi
7. Mrs. Shila Hembrom

Major Events:

1. World Prayer Day was held on 1st March 2023 at Dhanuspuja Methodist Church Pakur, Jharkhand. The Program started with Candle Procession followed by short praise and worship and a short sermon. The Women members prayed for peace and harmony of the country then a special song were presented by the WSCS member. The Bible Reading was taken from Eph 4:1-7. Altogether there were a gathering of around 300 people on this day.



2. Women's day was organized on 8th March at Dhanuspuja Methodist Church Pakur, Jharkhand. The program started with Candle Procession followed by short praise and worship and a short sermon. Songs, Dance Competition and Bible quiz were conducted by the pastor Rev. Sharmila Soren. Messages were shared from the bible.



The project I want to start in our church is by employment generation program through small scale of bakery, candle making and stitching and weaving etc. for our church members.

Monthly Awareness programs needed in education, health as we live in a remote area where illiteracy and health are the major factors of no development.

Weekly motivational and spiritual get together for youths so that they stay strong and do not go under mental depression.

Upcoming programmes: Good Friday and Easter Service in Church.

Priest-In-Charge,

Rev. Sharmila Soren, Dhanuspuja Methodist Church, Pakur, Jharkhand.

**Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church
Report on Leadership Development Programme.**

A one-day workshop on Leadership Skill Development among Women Leaders was organized in Jeypore, Odisha. This program was organised by Jeypore Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rev. Jyoti Singh, Executive Secretary, NCCI Commission on Women's Concerns was the guest speaker.



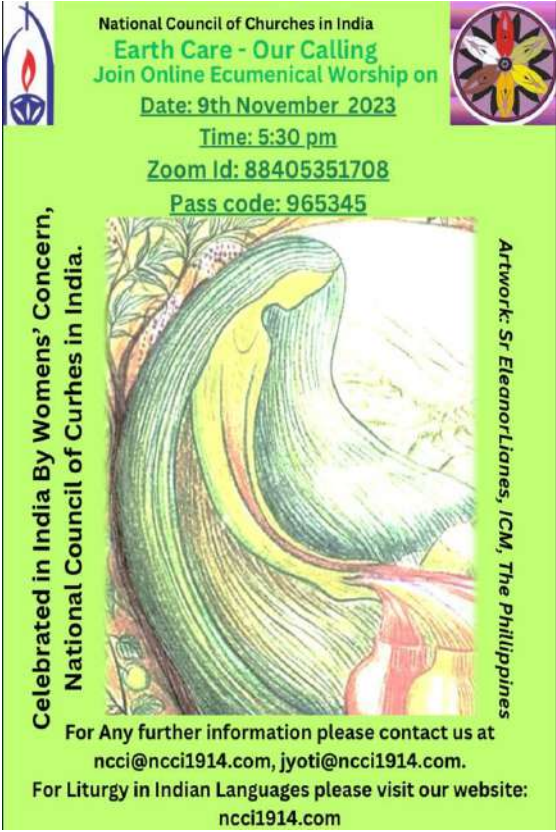
- Rev. Dr. Anupama Hial, Ecumenical Pastor, Center for Mission and Ecumenical Relations- North Church Worldwide, Germany.


Introducing New Staff in NCCI, Women's Desk.




Mrs. Sanjukta Mohanty officially joined NCCI on 1st March, 2024 as Program Executive, Women's Desk. She is basically from Odisha but is currently residing in Delhi for the last 30 years. She has done her Master's in Social Work (MSW) and Post Graduate Diploma in Human Rights (PGDHR). She has an experience of more than 21 years in social workfield in diverse areas which consists of Women's Development, Child Development, Empowerment Programs for Youth, Empowerment of Person's with disability, Gender Equality, Disaster Risk Management, Economic Empowerment, Skill Development and Child Protection programs. She is from Lutheran Church.

Engagements of Women's Concern, NCCI

<u>Movements</u>	<u>Date/Days</u> <u>of</u> <u>Observance</u>	<u>What we do</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Fellowship of the Least Coin</p> 	<p>8th November</p>	<p>Fellowship of the Least Coin is a global ecumenical prayer movement. This movement links prayer and “least coins” in a very significant way, as the least coin of each participant becomes a symbol of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Coins offered from around the world signal our oneness in our common quest for peace, justice and reconciliation. The offering of least coins is used for grants to special projects of evangelism, service, ecumenical solidarity, relief and awareness-building among women throughout the world.</p> <p>In India we take special Pride as one of the key person to start this movement was an India, Ms Shanti Soloman.</p> <p>We observe online ecumenical Worship gathering to observe the day on 8th Nov.</p> <p>All the member churches observe the day in their own special ways, to keep the spirit of prayer going.</p> <p>We support girl education through the contributions sent to us.</p> <p>The liturgy is translated into 18 languages and circulated to all the churches.</p>

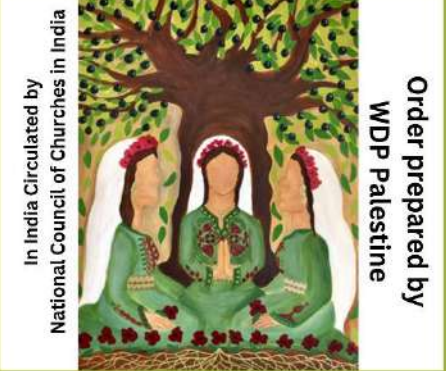
<p>16 Days of Activism to end Gender Based Violence.</p> 	<p>25th November to 10th December</p>	<p>The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day. The Campaign was started by activists at the inauguration of the Women’s Global Leadership Institute in 1991. It is used as an organizing strategy by individuals and organizations around the world to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls. In support of this civil society initiative, the United Nations Secretary-General launched in 2008 the campaign UNITE by 2030 to End Violence against Women, which runs parallel to the 16 Days of Activism. In India we Organise Rallies, Seminar, Workshops and engagement where we talk about the issue and how we can eliminate it in our own context.</p>
<p>World Day of Prayer</p>	<p>5th March</p>	<p>The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,” and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a yearly common</p>



Inviting you to observe

World Day of Prayer 2024
1st March


I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love
Ephesians 4:1-3



For any information please contact:
ncci@ncci1914.com ; jyoti@ncci1914.com
Visit our website <https://ncci1914.com/>
for worship order in Indian languages.

Day of Prayer, as well as in closer fellowship, understanding and action throughout the year. In India we observe online events and also churches observe the day. The Liturgy is translated in 20 Indian languages and circulated to all the churches.


International Women’s Day.



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN INDIA
32 Member Churches | 18 Regional Christian Councils | 18 All India Christian Organizations | 7 Related Agencies

Invites all to observe

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY
MARCH 8, 2024



Let us “Inspire Inclusion to help forge a better, more inclusive world for women.

To show solidarity click your pic & tag us @ #IWD24NCCI #InspireInclusion

To know more please contact us on
ncci@ncci1914.com & jyoti@ncci1914.com
For order of worship please visit our website:
ncci1914.com/downloads

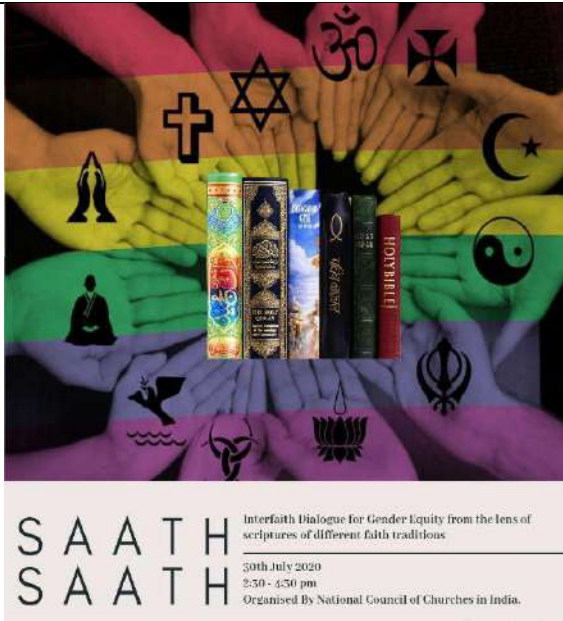
8th March

For International Women’s Day, a worship order is prepared with a theme and its circulated. Churches are encouraged to observe the liturgy in their churches. This liturgy is unique for being written with inclusive language and a theme which relevant for women in church.

Saath- Saath

Throughout the year

This is a movement initiated to bring together faith leaders to talk about gender justice. We have noted that what is preached by faith leaders inspire



us to take forward. Since majority of religion and religious language are patriarchal in nature, we also tend to think that God has no plans for women, and they are to be subdued. Which is exactly the opposite of the intend of God.

The Aim of *Saath- Saath* thus becomes crucial to bring the influencers together and have conversations and seek ways and methods to create safe and just community for women within the confines of the religious influence.

T-Twist, Theologically Trained Women in India for Social Action.

Throughout the year

This is a platform where theologically trained women come together to work for social actions.



Women's Leadership Training

Quarterly

Church women leaders come together online for conversations, discussions and there are experts who give key

		<p>information about leadership development. This year we are focusing on Online and Social Media skill for the leadership development.</p>
<p>Gender Policy & Workplace Harassment Policy</p>	<p>On Going Quest</p>	<p>Women’s concern of NCCI is seriously taking actions and having dialogues with the leadership in the church and church related organisations to adopt and have Gender Policy and policies related with women cause.</p>
<p>Thursdays in Black</p>	<p>Every Thursday</p>	<p>‘Thursdays in Black,’ a campaign by World Council of Churches initiated in 1980, is a peaceful protest against violence and rape especially taking place during wars and conflicts. Its focus is to challenge the attitude that causes rape and violence. It encourages the members to dress in Black every Thursday declaring to be part of the global movement and to mark their support for gender justice all over the world. As participants people are reminded of their responsibility to speak out against sexual and gender- based violence and to ensure that all people regardless of their gender are safe from violence in their homes, schools, workplaces and throughout our society. NCCI observes- ‘Thursdays in Black,’ every Thursday with aired posters based on different themes, reaching out to 14 million people. We invite all our sisters and brothers to join in the resilience</p>

		<p>movement of voicing against all forms of Gender Based Violence. Please take a pledge to voice out, stop, engage in eliminating and addressing the issue of Violence against women. We also invite your thought and concern if you want to design or write for the poster of TIB.</p>
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As we all know that the *Stree* Magazine is purely for women so let us make the full use of this platform to celebrate our stories that often go unnoticed. The below are the three themes which the *Stree* Magazines will be focusing on for the upcoming Magazine so if anyone is interested in contributing the articles based on the given themes please do so. Along with your articles you are most welcome if you want to share your stories of resilience, strength, or accomplishments. Last but not the least you are also welcome to share if anything special is happening in your church and you want to share it with others.

June- **Resurrection of Women Leadership**, September- **Conflict and Women**, December- **Child Jesus**.

To know us more and for any queries or engagements, please contact-

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