

## Reflection: Being the Body of Christ

What you do to another, you do to yourself and to all of us.

In the deepest sense, we are one person, a universal body.

When we destroy another person, we also destroy something within ourselves, and as a consequence, something in humanity. But this does not mean that we are all alike. There is a great diversity among us, in the same way that diversity exists within each and every one of us.

*(from Creation Sings Your Praise)*

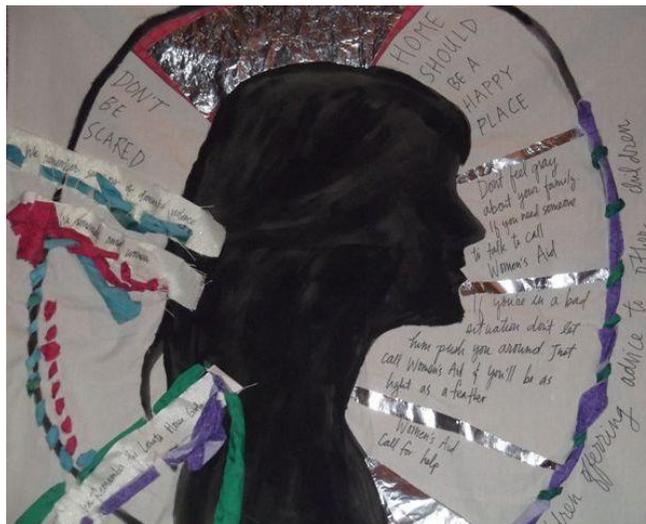
*Permission sought.*

**Keep Watch, Dear Lord,  
With those who wake, or watch or weep this  
night,  
Tend the sick,  
Give strength to the fearful,  
Sustain those who despair,  
And calm the suffering  
All for your love's sake.  
O Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

Stir up your power, O God,  
And come among us.  
Heal our wounds,  
Calm our fears  
And give us peace;  
Through Jesus our Redeemer.  
**Amen**

## General Information

Find your local Women's Aid group at  
[www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/advice-  
information](http://www.scottishwomensaid.org.uk/advice-information)



This collage was produced for the 57<sup>th</sup> United Nations Commission of the Status of Women held in New York in July 2013. Scottish Children wrote words of advice from their own experiences of Domestic Abuse.

**Material produced by:  
The Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway  
The Development Team for Prayer and  
Spirituality  
The Mother's Union**

## The Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway



**'Ending the Silence on Domestic Abuse'**

**Worship and Study Resources**

***"Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;  
Lord, hear my voice" Ps 130 vs 1***

***The three short passages, with the open questions appended, are offered to encourage group discussion and reflection on the issue of abuse.***

Please read carefully each passage and invite responses; the group continues to explore the passage guided by each open question.

Taking the three texts together it is hoped that new insights may be gained and a focussed response to the vexing issue of broken human relationships.

***In what ways might the Scottish Episcopal Church offer comfort and hope to victims of abuse both within the Church and outside it?***

**Genesis 1: 26, 27 and 31**

**Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."**

**27 So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.**

**31 God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.**

In this first story of Creation, the ancient writers describe God's good purposes for all creatures. *What do you think God intended human relationships to be like?*

**Psalm 124: 2-3; 8**

**2 If it had not been the LORD who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us,**

**3 then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us;**

**8 Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.**

The reality of many people's experience of life falls far short of God's intentions: *How might faith help those who suffer in abusive and violent relationships?*

**Luke 4: 16b – 19; 28**

**[Jesus] stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:**

**4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.**

**He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,**

**19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."**

**28 When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage.**

The Gospel tells of the Good News of Jesus Christ. *How might we, as followers of Christ, find practical ways to bring this Good News to people who suffer abuse and domestic violence?*

**Creator God** we bring before you today all who suffer abuse and violence in many forms near at home and far away; we pray for the homes of those in despair; for women, children and men trapped in dehumanising and degrading relationships; for those who feel abandoned and forgotten: We pray for all your creatures who suffer and have no voice. Lord in your mercy/**Hear our prayer**

**Redeemer Christ** we pray for all who stand alongside the hurting and abused; for those who are outraged at the hidden suffering of domestic and social abuse. Give courage and perseverance to all victims of abuse that they may know they are loved and valued as part of your human family. Lord in your mercy/**Hear our prayer**

**Life-Giving Holy Spirit** we pray for all who seek to change attitudes within society; those who work for justice through legislation to protect all vulnerable people from the perpetrators of harm. We pray that our society may so embrace decent standards as to reject all forms of violence as means of self-gratification or control. Lord in your mercy/**Hear our prayer**

**We pray for the Church; the Body of Christ:** for an active concern for all who experience abusive relationships; that those in trouble and need may find in your Church, a safe place of sanctuary and strength: Lord in your mercy/**Hear our prayer**  
**Lord Jesus you see into each person's heart and care for all creatures and know their needs; protect and help the innocent and all who turn to you; give courage to all who work to bring help and comfort to the distressed in your name. Amen**