

World Day of Prayer 2016 • Supplemental Materials

Action Guide

The World Day of Prayer Committee of Cuba shares a number of social justice issues and concerns that are significant in their community. This guide highlights some of those issues and suggests resources and next steps for taking action. As we join in prayer with the women of the world, let us also take action and work together towards equality and justice!

Emigration

Emigration is an issue that the women of Cuba share a heart and concern for. While there are opportunities for education and employment in Cuba, wages and salaries are not sufficient to meet basic needs. As a result, many Cubans move abroad to find work. Emigration has vastly reduced the population of younger Cuban nationals. However, there is promise for a brighter future in Cuba! With the recent decision to reopen the American embassy in Havana and reestablish diplomatic relations, there is hope for a strengthened economy. We continue to pray and work to end the Cuban embargo and sanctions blocking trade, travel, economic and cultural exchanges.

IFCO/Pastors for Peace

Join the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO)/Pastors for Peace in their Cuba Friendship Caravan Campaign and work toward the reversal of U.S. blockade policy. The caravans deliver humanitarian aid to Latin America and the Caribbean. They serve as an alternative people-to-people foreign policy aimed at supporting self-determination and sustainable development.

The goal is for the caravans to serve as encouragement for governments to abandon policies that discourage or actively suppress grassroots movements for progressive social change. The campaign demonstrates that Cuba has many allies in

the United States—and abroad—that want to see normalized relations with Cuban neighbors.

Let us continue to deepen our faith and learn how to receive others toward renewal and reconciliation. Get involved today! For additional information, see www.cubacaravan2015.org and <http://ifconews.org>.

Economic Empowerment

There are many organizations that advance the work of women-led cooperatives and advocate for the rights of women and girls in the workplace. Here are some resources to learn more and take action to support economic sustainability and equality for women and girls in the workplace.

Global Fund for Women is an organization whose main objective is to ensure “all women are economically secure and independent and are supported by policies ensuring women’s and girls’ equal rights to resources, livelihoods and political voice.” See www.globalfundforwomen.org.

The MDG Achievement Fund is “committed to eradicating poverty and inequality and changing people’s lives around the world. In 2007, the government of Spain and the United Nations worked together with and in support of citizens and their organizations as well as governments to implement programs that helped advance the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) worldwide” (www.mdgfund.org).

To support and learn more about new decentralization initiatives, investing in women farmers in Cuba and “boosting women’s independence by imparting technical knowledge and giving women a forum to exchange experiences, strengthening their economic and physical independence,” see www.mdgfund.org/story/empowering-women-farmers-cuba.

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Intel Programs for Girls and Women Around the Globe is a campaign and initiative to empower girls and women through education and technology. There are a range of programs that focus on gender equality to inspire young girls to be leaders in the enterprise of the growing world of technology. For additional information, see www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/technology-in-education/programs-for-women-and-girls.html?wapkw=women%20and%20girls.

Violence Against Women

Let us rise up and work to end daily violence against women, children and the elderly in the workplace, school, home and even church. Let us join forces and take action with these movements to protect women and girls all around the world:

MADRE, an international women's human rights organization that partners with community-based women's groups worldwide, building lasting solutions to the crises women face. Let us join Madre in advancing the human rights of women and making international law accountable to women worldwide. For more information, go to www.madre.org.

UNiTE to end Violence Against Women is a global campaign sponsored by the UN that calls for global action and urges the adoption of laws that prevent

and punish violence against women and girls. UN Secretary Ban Ki-Moon has declared the 25th of every month "Orange Day," when everyone is encouraged to wear orange to raise awareness about ending violence against women. To read stories from women all around the world and to find resources for action, see www.endviolence.un.org.

Child Rights

The church is a community that witnesses the signs of God's realm. Children are welcomed. As we take part in educating, caring and loving children as Jesus did, we create community that resembles the face of God's realm. Let us join in efforts to follow Jesus' teachings, and not merely correct ideas about children and people who have no power in society, but also correct the behavior of adults toward these marginalized groups. For resources, programs and initiatives that advocate, protect and support the rights of children, visit these organizations on line:

Church World Service (CWS)

www.cwsglobal.org/our-work/global-development/women-and-children.html

US Fund for UNICEF

Putting Children First, www.unicefusa.org

Child Rights International Network (CRIN)

www.crin.org

