



Conference of European Churches • Conférence des Églises Européennes • Konferenz Europäischer Kirchen • Конференция Европейских Церквей

**Church & Society Commission**

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To CEC Member Churches and  
Associated Organisations

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Dear Friends,

The Conference of European Churches (CEC) has a long-standing record in being involved in promoting human rights. As Christians, we believe that God's creation of human beings in His own image and likeness constitutes the dignity of each individual. This year, on 10th December, we celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted in 1948. On this occasion, the Church and Society Commission of CEC offers you the human rights postcard and human rights bookmark.

We kindly invite you to observe this anniversary by using these cards and distributing them in your church, celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration by reaffirming our ongoing commitment to human rights. We also invite you to pray for those who need human rights' protection. You may use the following prayer in your worship:

**Lord God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; you call us to love you and our neighbour with every part of our lives. And so we pray:**

*For people held in slavery and exploited  
by trafficking in human beings,  
that they find liberation and justice*

**God of love and mercy, hear our prayer.**

*For those who are subjected to torture or to cruel,  
inhuman or degrading treatment, that they are  
released and restored in their dignity.*

**God of love and mercy, hear our prayer.**

*For refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing  
violence and persecution, that they are  
welcomed and feel safe.*

**God of love and mercy, hear our prayer.**

*For political prisoners and all who  
are unjustly detained, that they  
find freedom in justice and peace.*

**God of love and mercy, hear our prayer.**

*For people who are persecuted or discriminated  
against for their faith or beliefs, that their  
human dignity is respected.*

**God of love and mercy, hear our prayer.**

*For people who lack the basic needs of life  
such as food, water, shelter and healthcare,  
that they may the fullness of life.*

**God of love and mercy, hear our prayer.**

*For all those who cannot speak openly  
and those who are not allowed to gather  
freely, that their rights are restored  
and their voice is heard.*

**God of love and mercy, hear our prayer.**

*For all people whose lives have been damaged  
and disfigured by the prejudice, cruelty and indifference  
of others, that they are healed and find peace.*

**God of love and mercy, hear our prayer.**

*Father of all whose creation suffers at cruel  
and indifferent hands give us grace neither  
to act cruelly nor to stand indifferently  
by but to defend the weak from the tyranny  
of the strong. In the name of Jesus Christ  
who died for us but is alive and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit  
one God now and for ever. Amen*

If you would like to translate the prayer into your own language, we would greatly appreciate it if you could send us the copy.

For more information about our human rights work, please visit [http://www.cec-kek.org/content/human\\_rights.shtml](http://www.cec-kek.org/content/human_rights.shtml).

Yours Sincerely,

Elizabeta Kitanovic

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