

Women's bodies have become part of the battleground for those who use terror as a tactic of war — they are raped, abducted, humiliated, made to undergo forced pregnancy, sexual abuse and slavery.

**MOST OF THESE
CRIMES AGAINST
WOMEN WILL GO
UNPROSECUTED .**

day for the
elimination of
violence
against
women
25 NOVEMBER



Young women are particularly vulnerable to coerced sex and are increasingly being infected with HIV/AIDS. Over half of new HIV infections worldwide are occurring among young people, and more than 60 percent of HIV-positive youth between 15 and 24 are female.

**1 IN EVERY 3
WOMEN HAS BEEN
BEATEN, COERCED
INTO SEX, OR
OTHERWISE ABUSED
IN HER LIFETIME.**

*...The peoples of
the United Nations
have in the
Charter reaffirmed
their faith in
fundamental*

*human rights, in the dignity and worth of
the human person and in the equal rights
of men and women...*

-Universal Declaration of Human Rights

And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed...'

Luke 1:46-48

Since 1981 women's activists have marked 25 November as a day against violence, in homage to the brutal assassination of three female political activists in the Dominican Republic. On 17 December 1999 the UN General Assembly officially designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Interested in learning more or getting involved on issues of gender justice?

- **Become** involved with the PC(USA) Peacemaking Program <http://www.pcusa.org/peacemaking/>
- **Read and become familiar with** women's rights through the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (<http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/>) and CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>
- **Pray** for victims of violence against women and their perpetrators.
- **Engage** with Ecumenical Women at the United Nations through the Presbyterian UN Office, or visit their website at www.ecumenicalwomen.org
- **Contact** the Presbyterian United Nations Office about attending the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) or other opportunities for education and advocacy:

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