

Presentation Justice



PRESENTATION
Australia

A reflection for March

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights including the right to freedom from discrimination.”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Articles 1 & Article 2

International Women’s Day is celebrated on 8 March each year. This year, the UN theme, *“Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls,”* calls for action to dismantle all barriers to equal justice: discriminatory laws, weak legal protections, and harmful practices and social norms that erode the rights of women and girls.


In its submission to Australia’s Universal Periodic Review (2026), the Australian Human Rights Commission noted, “barriers to gender equality included lack of intersectional data, inadequate access to reproductive and consent education and the perpetuation of harmful gender attitudes, stereotypes and norms.” In addition, in Australia, there still persists an “undervaluing of work in feminised industries, such as care, particularly for racially marginalised women.”

In advancing its commitment to the rights of women and girls, the International Presentation Association supports calls for the Australian Government to address these concerns by:

- implementing comprehensive, evidence-based strategies focusing on structural change, education and cultural transformation;
- enacting Fair Work Act reforms, wage increases and intersectional policy approaches.

Such reforms need to be supported by significant, targeted education programs for men and boys at every level of their development: at school, within the workplace and at the highest levels of governance of corporations, organisations and agencies.

Image: Women Singing Earth © Marilyn Southard, www.ministryofthearts.org. Used with permission.



**God of the poor,
come to us as a devout woman
offering two mites.**

**God of the lost,
come to us as a prudent woman
seeking a hidden coin.**

**God of the outsider,
come to us as a foreign woman
begging for crumbs off our table.**

**God of the sick,
come to us as a bleeding woman
grasping for a healing touch.**

**God of the condemned,
come to us as a judged woman
fallen before her accusers.**

**God of the hurt,
come to us as a repentant woman
washing our feet with her hair.**

**God of the dying,
come to us as a mourning woman
grieving for her brother.**

**Compassionate God,
open our hearts to receive you
as we recommit ourselves and our church
to liberating solidarity with women.
You have visited us through the women
who have been filled with your Spirit.**

**You have blessed us all
with dreams for a hopeful future
and gifts for a common life.**

**In all things keep us faithful
to the message of your gospel,
that as women and men,
we may together bear witness
to your love in Christ Jesus.**

Amen.

*Adapted from a prayer in "I will pour out my Spirit" (1992)
by the World Council of Churches*