

Universal Prayer

National Call of Unity October 2013

I invite us to enter into a moment of silence with the kavannah, the sacred intention of honoring the holy work and stories of those joined together today, whether spoken or silent.

Holy One of life and love,

Bless us with the strength to greet each day with energy and purpose as we work to eradicate sexual and domestic violence and terror.

Grant us the wisdom to recognize stumbling blocks for what they are and the creativity to maneuver our way around them.

Open the eyes of those who see violence against women and children as inevitable outcomes of the world in which we live; let them hear the cries of those in need; widen their hearts to hold the many faces of those in this world and beyond who demand our unending support; call forth compassionate words of change from their mouths and commitment to acts of justice and transformation from their hands.

Draw us together as a community of diverse narrative, culture and history, offering support through our presence and intention.

Remind us that we are not alone; we are not alone.

Help us to engage in intentional practice of thanksgiving; let us be grateful for the accomplishments of those who came before us, the progress we have made and the prospect of a brighter tomorrow.

When we are tired and veer towards complacency, stretch out your hand and re-ignite the passionate fire for divine humanity that lives within.

You, who rolls away the darkness into the light, send us forth as messengers, truth tellers and witnesses to illuminate what is and demand with fortitude a world of safety and respect for women and children in body, mind and spirit.

Just as the dove found an olive branch in the receding flood waters, so too may we find signs of peace and the potential for hope and renewal. May that time come speedily and in our day.

And let us say,

Amen.

Authored by Rabbi Lisa Gelber on behalf of the FaithTrust Institute

Lisa Gelber is Associate Dean of the Rabbinical School and Adjunct Lecturer in the Department of Professional and Pastoral Skills at the Jewish Theological Seminary. A trained spiritual director, Rabbi Gelber incorporates mindful, compassionate listening into her work and everyday life. Editor of numerous works on domestic violence in the Jewish community, Lisa was most recently featured in "I Believe You: Faiths' Response to Intimate Partner Violence," and serves as an Associate of FaithTrust Institute. A marathon runner who utilizes running as spiritual practice and ardent supporter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Lisa lives on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with her daughter.

