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Scottish Churches Racial Justice Officer

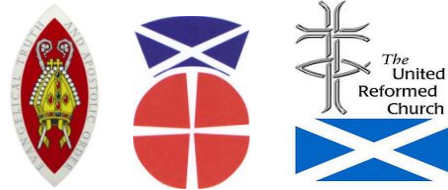
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*Produced by the Church in Society Committee
of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church in
Scotland and the Church & Society Committee of the United
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Monthly leaflets downloadable from
www.scotland.anglican.org/index.php/church_in_society_committee/

Scottish Charity No SC015962

FAITH in ACTION

September



The celebration of the diversity of humanity lies at the heart of the Christian response to other cultures and races across the world. We are fortunate to have people from a diversity of backgrounds and ethnic groups who all contribute to the richness and texture of life in One Scotland. We have a duty to ensure that the dignity of all is respected at all times. We must not stand quietly aside and allow prejudice of any sort to diminish a person's full humanity. We must affirm our faith in God as our creator whose work reflects the diversity that we celebrate.

You may wish to try the following:

- pray for those involved in racial justice
- promote observance of Racial Justice Sunday every September in your church
- pray for victims of racist attacks and those who work with them
- help promote Racial Justice issues in your local church network
- discourage racist comments even in casual comments
- promote diversity as a fundamental divine principle
- organise ethnic food festivals
- encourage use of music and liturgy which expresses diversity in the Anglican Communion

PRAYERS

Prayer for racial justice

Our heavenly Father,
You made us in your own image and likeness.
Help us to treat everyone with dignity and respect.
You sent your only Son to show us how to live.
Teach us to live like him, loving and caring for everyone.
Help us to remember that we are all members of the same human family, your family.
Help us to remember that we all experience grief, hunger, pain, joy and happiness in the same way whatever our creed, the colour of our skins or our status in life.
Help us not to judge and be prejudiced but to be compassionate and kind.
Loving Father, in your mercy, hear our prayer.
AMEN

A Child's Prayer

Dear God,
Everyone wants to belong, whether it's to a group, family or community.
Sometimes we exclude people from the groups we belong to, just because we don't see people for who they really are, just what's on the outside.
Please help us to be more welcoming to others, making them feel they belong.
AMEN

Catholic Association for Racial Justice Prayer

Heavenly God, we praise your name and thank you for your glorious goodness and mercy.
Lord Jesus, we pray a blessing for all those actively engaged in the struggle for racial justice.
Holy Spirit, we beseech you to enter into the minds and hearts of all those in authority in the Church.
Grant that they may hear the voices crying out for justice, engage in developing a better understanding, act to bring about change, lead and inspire others by their good example.
We ask this through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
The love of God is greater than all evil.
We pray for racial justice: in our own lives; in our parishes; in our dioceses; in our land.
AMEN

Prayer for peace

Lord God, Father of all humankind, we, your children, are all members of the same human family, your family.
We implore you to help us to accept your peace, to be at peace with ourselves and to live in peace with others.
Help us to seek wisdom and justice in all we do.
Help us to be more understanding and compassionate when dealing with others, to be ready to forgive when wronged, to be ready to love when hurt and to strive for harmony and peace when threatened.
Eternal father, in your mercy, hear our prayer, and grant us your everlasting peace.
AMEN