



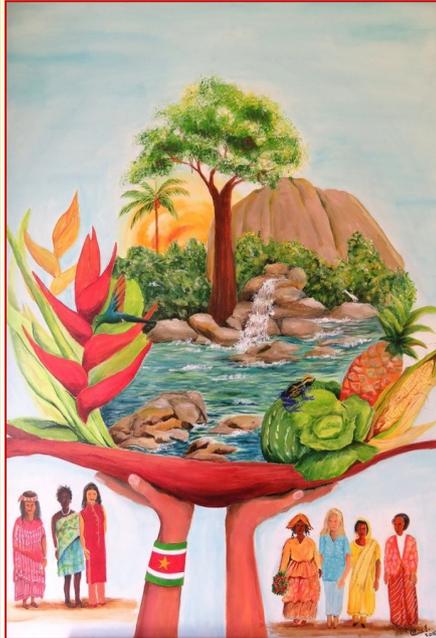
Justice and Peace Calendar - March-April 2018



**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
WORLD MOTHER EARTH DAY**

Women's World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome all to join them in prayer and action for peace and justice.

2018 Theme: All God's Creation is Very Good!



Design for the Cover of the Women's Day of Prayer Programme depicting the Divine Gift of Creation

This year the day of prayer is led by the women of Suriname . *A heri grontapu di Gado meki bun doro, doro!*- (Sranan language of Surinam "In the beginning, God created from chaos." See Gen. 1:1-31. But everything that was created found its place in creation. All were related to each other, the earth with the light, the waters with the sky, the tree seeds with the living creatures, and the humankind with God. There was goodness in that integrated system of relationships. But essential to that was the commitment to care. And we know that we are failing!

On March 2nd the Women of Suriname will remind us that we are caretakers of God's creation! They will bring to our attention the urgent need for caring at a time when more than 180 countries have signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Keeping the commitment to keep the earth cooler depends on public policies being implemented by governments It also depends on our personal lifestyles.

International Mother Earth Day– April 22nd, reminds us that the Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and sustenance. The first Earth Day took place in 1970 as a protest against the negative impacts of industrial development. It is now a global event marked by millions of people in 192 countries.

This year, in Cork (on Sat 21st April) the Three Faiths Forum will mark this occasion with an event in the city centre. Its aim is to show solidarity with the Creator, all of Creation and with each other. As Judaism, Christianity and Islam all share a common concern for creation, members of the Forum wish to highlight the need for us all to live in right relationship with the Earth and to collaborate to address the causes of climate and ecological degradation.

The theme for Earth Day 2018 is **END PLASTIC POLLUTION**. Already, in less than two decades of this century, humans have produced more plastic than in the entire 20th century!! 300 million tons of plastic are produced each year. Only 10% is recycled and half of the total produced is used only once and then thrown away. **We can all reduce our use of plastic, especially single use throw-away wrapping and bottles.**



Dates of Significance

March 2 Women's World Day of Prayer

March 21 International Day for the elimination of Racial Discrimination

21 March International Day of Forests

March 22 World Water Day

April 7 World Health Day

April 22 International Mother Earth Day



SAY NO TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21st

Every person is entitled to human rights without discrimination. Equality and non-discrimination are cornerstones of human rights law.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all are born free and equal in dignity and rights without distinction of race or any other kind.

Human dignity is at the core of Catholic Social Teaching and inherent in the Biblical call to "Love thy neighbour as thyself." Mk 12.31

Yet racism, xenophobia and discrimination are problems prevalent in all societies.

On this day States are urged to take comprehensive measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to promote tolerance, inclusion, unity and respect for diversity.

Each and every one of us can stand up against racial prejudice and intolerant attitudes.