

This is a special invitation for churches to share in the

16 Days

## On the Wings of a Dove

linking the vision of the *DOV (Decade to Overcome Violence)* with overcoming violence against women and children during the season of Advent, when we prepare for the incarnation of God's peace in our world.

*We know now  
there is violence against women  
in our very midst  
in the churches  
in Christian homes*

*We know now  
that violence against women  
exists in the church  
is ignored by the church  
is even justified by the church*

*We know now  
that violence against women  
happens in our very midst*

Irja Askola

## On the Wings of a Dove

*On the Wings of a Dove* is a worldwide campaign initiated by the *World Council of Churches* to engage the churches in developing pastoral and practical responses and actions to overcome violence against women and children.

The churches, individual congregations, and groups are called to:

- \* provide safe spaces for the telling of stories of suffering, survival and resistance
- \* link with other groups and movements, international organizations working to overcome violence against women and children
- \* make alliances with other faith communities to address this common concern
- \* expose church practices and theologies that collude with the abuse of power and lead to violence
- \* develop practical and pastoral responses towards justice and healing for survivors of violence; and counselling for perpetrators of violence

What you can do - some suggestions:

- \* give publicity to the global campaign and ensure that churches, local congregations and others plan events leading up to the campaign period, during the campaign period and after
- \* get the information about the campaign into relevant newsletters
- \* get the campaign into church calendars
- \* get other church and secular women's organizations involved
- \* identify the forms of violence against women and children you wish to address
- \* contribute to the WCC process of gathering of stories of good practice of churches, their strategies, official church statements etc.
- \* prepare worship resources, liturgies, rituals of healing, and daily meditation books to highlight the commitment to women and children
- \* prepare Bible studies and collections of prayers, poems, etc. for your context
- \* advertise on web pages, where available, and share information for linking with the WCC web pages (<http://www.wcc-coe.org>)

Share your creative ideas and actions taken with the WCC:

*On the Wings of a Dove*  
World Council of Churches  
P.O. Box 2100, CH-1211 Geneva 2  
e-mail: [ag@wcc-coe.org](mailto:ag@wcc-coe.org)