



UNA **NORTHERN IRELAND**

30 September 2013

Dear

We in the United Nations Association Northern Ireland write to ask if you would encourage your Church in Northern Ireland to promote this year's United Nations Day by praying for the United Nations and its work.

On Thursday 24 October 2013 recognition will be given to the ratification of the UN Charter which took place on 24 October 1945. This day is marked each year around the world as United Nations Day. We would request that your Church calls to mind our unity as children of God and our individual responsibility to work together for peace and understanding among all.

The purpose of the United Nations is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well being of all people. It affords the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems.

Along with your own prayers we have included prayers which you may also wish to use in the days leading up to UN Day.

If you would like more information about the work of the UN or of UNA, then please go to the website: <http://www.una.org.uk/>

We send our thanks and best wishes from all the members of UNA Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol Conlin".

Carol Conlin
Hon. Secretary
UNA Northern Ireland

E-mail: unassocni@gmail.com

Prayers to mark United Nations Day

Prayer

God of compassion, walk alongside all of your global stewards who work to create a more just and peaceful world. Equip the United Nations community with a sense of urgency and humility that lets your will be done. Each day you give bread enough for all, grant us also the wisdom to ensure that everyone has enough. Teach the world's leaders to forgive, to extend welcome across borders. Show the world a new path beyond greed, oppression, and division. We pray for a world united. We pray for the power to save succeeding generations from war. We pray for a glory that reaffirms the dignity and worth of every person. We pray that your grace might ensure life in larger freedom forever, for all of your children. Amen.

Prayer

We give thanks for the work of the United Nations and for our sisters and brothers whom you have called to serve within that system. We are thankful that you call women and men from every land. We honour their work, their gifts, and their sacrifice. We pray for those who have given their lives in service, for their families and communities who grieve such loss.

We ask for your strength to be with each individual, who cares for brothers and sisters who are made vulnerable and are oppressed; who bears witness to evil and seeks healing in its wake; who works so that children are safe, people are fed, communities are stable and justice is known.

We pray that diplomats, peacekeepers, well diggers, health workers, researchers, lawyers, translators, secretaries, and all who work in any capacity would know your presence.

May those who work in publicised crises, those who do the mundane work of the everyday, and those who work in places forgotten by the media and in emergencies deemed less important, experience your grace.

Grant all who serve, wisdom and courage. Grant rest, instil a sense of calm. When the way is difficult, give strength. When the way is obscured, give guidance. When they go astray, offer your gracious correction. Provide all that is needed for the living of these days and the faithful fulfilment of entrusted tasks.

We pray in the name of the one who is our Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(These prayers, which draw on the Charter of the United Nations, were written by Jessica Hawkinson, a former associate for international relations and education at the UN).

Prayer

Lord, God of all peoples, we mark United Nations Day to declare not our independence, but our interdependence. We are all created by the same God and share the same eternal destiny. We are called to live together in harmony and peace, as one family in the Lord.

We ask your blessings on us, on all nations, and on the United Nations, dedicated to fostering peace throughout the world. Bless all its members, that they may persevere, faithful to your commandments and, in all decisions, follow your divine will for all of creation. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Used with permission from the Augustinian Secretariate for Justice and Peace)

Prayer

O God, Our Father, we pray for all your children on earth, of every nation and of every race, that we may be strong to do your work.

We pray for the United Nations, the World Court, and for all governments and their leaders.

Give peace in our time, O God, for worldwide agencies of caring which bind wounds and feed the hungry.

Give peace in our time, O God, for all who seek to transform systems that wound.

Give peace in our time, O God, for all who work for justice and peace.

Give peace in our time, O God. Amen.

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