

Prayer for Everyone Faith in Action to Share the Global Goals

September 24-October 1, 2015

Guidance for Faith Leaders & Faith Communities to participate in a worldwide week of prayer and action for the Global Goals

What is Prayer for Everyone?

Prayer for Everyone aims to engage faith communities in a worldwide week of prayer and action, from 24th September to 1st October 2015, to share the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development and explore the Goals through the teachings of your faith.

These Global Goals will set the development agenda until 2030 and are the world's plan to eliminate extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and tackle climate change.

But to achieve these Goals, everyone needs to know about them, champion them and hold their leaders to account for delivering them.

What are the Global Goals for Sustainable Development?

The Global Goals for Sustainable Development are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that will guide country agendas and political priorities over the next 15 years. The Global Goals will be formally announced in September 2015, just in time for the expiration of the Millennium Development Goals, which were agreed by governments in 2000. The goals are intended to tackle the most urgent issues of our time—poverty, inequality and injustice, and climate change.

Through the Prayer for Everyone initiative, we—members of faith communities—will be called to prayer and action during Global Goals week in September. Global Goals week is a broad effort to [Tell Everyone](#) around the world about the Goals.

How will we do that?

Reflect—Study—Witness—Communicate—Act

Religion, Faith and Sustainable Development

We have not only a moral and spiritual responsibility to work towards a better future for this earth and all forms of its life, but also enormous and transformative power to put towards the achievement of these Global Goals. Our faith communities have long been at the forefront of dynamic and significant change, and change is needed now more than ever.

The issues addressed by the Global Goals are central to all religious and spiritual traditions, which are the shared expressions of our humanity.

- The right to live a life of dignity, free from hunger and disease
- The right of all people to live to their fullest human potential, in safety and well-being
- Protection of the integrity of creation and our resources for current and future generations
- The shared responsibility to work together so that our expressions of faith contribute to more sustainable development for the whole planet

Faith leaders are uniquely positioned to raise awareness and mobilise their communities to take action and reach wider audiences.

What can we do as faith communities and leaders?

Each community will know how to promote the Global Goals in their own way and by their own means most effectively. Here are some ideas to get you started, but you may have your own.

Reflect

- Create space for reflection or meditation on the Global Goals, the issues they address and what it will take for them to be achieved.
- Worship leaders can include the relevant issues in worship and special services to explore their significance in the faith (e.g. water, food, poverty, peace and justice, etc.), and encourage reflection or meditation.

Study

- Theologians and religious educators can use their texts and teachings to explore the subjects of the Global Goals to promote deeper understanding of how faith calls individuals to work towards a better world.
- Faith communities can devote special attention to the issues in regular study groups, or create a special study group for the week. These should be organised for all ages and members of faith communities.

Witness

- How do the issues addressed in the Global Goals affect the members of your own faith community, and the surrounding communities? Make time during Global Goals week to seek out and bear witness to the impacts of poverty, inequality, injustice, poor health, harm to the environment, etc. For example:
- Create opportunities to respectfully engage with those most impacted in your community, listen to their voices and share them.
- Document environmental degradation or pollution and give it a voice.

Communicate

- Religious media in all its forms has enormous coverage and deep penetration making it an excellent vehicle to promote the Global Goals and engage people in virtual global dialogue.
 - Dedicate programming on religious radio, television and social media for Goals Week to the issues and actions around the Global Goals.
 - Provide print media with content to publish during the week.
- Radio and television have enormous potential in most of the world to convey information and engage communities in dialogue. For example:
 - Adapt and use radio content that is being developed and made freely available by Radio Everyone. A range of content is being produced which is designed to draw attention to the themes of the goals and help make them famous
 - Encourage local media to highlight the significance the Global Goals have on local communities; and how they can take action to work towards their achievement.
- Social media is particularly powerful in reaching and connecting youth around the world. See the social media toolkit we've created to help you do this.
 - Use Twitter to start chain actions, such as a global inter-faith 'Tweet-a-prayer'
 - Create chat spaces, Facebook pages or other opportunities for discussing issues, and sharing of ideas and actions for Global Goals week using the hashtags #PrayerforEveryone and #globalgoals

Act

- People of faith, faith leaders, and faith-based organisations can organise or support local worship services to draw attention to the goals and engage others within their community about the importance of the goals.
- Campaign materials can be used to develop special worship services that bring to life the Global Goals in engaging and thoughtful ways, such as through music, theater, art, and other relevant forms of creative and spiritual expression.
- Youth groups can organise social media campaigns, rallies, flash mobs or music festivals to share how their faith informs their commitment to achieving the Global Goals.
- As the Global Goals are an expression of common, shared ground between faith communities, the launch week affords a great opportunity to mobilise inter-faith/religious actions and events to forge alliances that can work towards the achievement of the goals through 2030.

Global Goals icons are freely available for download from: <http://www.globalgoals.org/resource-centre/> for use in your materials as needed.



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- 1. NO POVERTY:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2. ZERO HUNGER:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- 3. GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- 4. QUALITY EDUCATION:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 5. GENDER EQUALITY:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 6. CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- 7. AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- 8. DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:** Promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- 9. INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- 10. REDUCED INEQUALITIES:** Reduce inequalities within and among countries
- 11. SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- 12. RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- 13. CLIMATE ACTION:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- 14. LIFE BELOW WATER:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- 15. LIFE ON LAND:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- 16. PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- 17. PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development