

# Injustice is loud, Jesus' love is louder

**'I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.'**

John 10:10

## Why we need to pray into extreme poverty

After decades of decline, the rates of extreme poverty are on the rise – with more than 800 million people still living in extreme poverty worldwide. Conflict, natural disasters and injustice are the main drivers of this, devastating communities around the world. More than 9 million people die from hunger and hunger-related illnesses every year. Three million of those are children under five years old. All are God's children and image-bearers. We know that justice, mercy and peace in the world are possible by praying in the authority of Jesus' name.

## Using this resource: how you can pray over conflict, the climate and gender inequality

God calls us to speak up and defend the rights of people living in poverty. One way we can do this is through intercessory prayer. Jesus' love leads us to speak up for others in prayer.

When praying over such big and complex issues, it can be hard to know where to start. We find it helpful to pray over three main causes of extreme poverty. In this resource, you'll find information and prayer points to help guide your prayers. Together, we'll be praying over conflict, the climate and gender inequality.

We've also included ways that you can pray more creatively. You can do this on your own or with others at a prayer station.

## Thank you


Thank you for praying. We know that as we pray together, our loving God will hear and respond. Your prayers will make a difference across the world. Injustice is loud, but our prayers are louder.

**tearfund**  
FAMILY

### About the Tearfund Family

Tearfund is a global family of nine Christian charities working in over 60 countries where people wake up to the harsh reality of extreme poverty. Our 350 local partners are supporting more than 76,000 churches to bring relief, hope and empowerment to 5 million people. We believe Jesus' love leads us to help people overcome exploitation, violence, hunger and life-threatening illness. Our shared vision is the local and global church transforming lives, communities and society. And everything we do is underpinned by prayer. It's one of the most powerful tools we have in advancing God's kingdom of justice and peace in the world.

## Pray over conflict – for just and lasting peace

 ‘Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and for ever.’

Isaiah 9:7

### The impact of conflict on extreme poverty

- In 2024, 97 countries saw a decline in peace and stability, the largest drop in almost two decades. Around one in ten people now live in a country affected by war.
- Conflict remains the primary driver of acute food insecurity and malnutrition around the world. Last year, 266 million people in 47 countries and territories experienced high levels of acute food insecurity.
- Ten countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria and Yemen – accounted for two-thirds of all people facing high levels of acute hunger. The Tearfund Family works in all these countries, providing life-saving support, emergency assistance and peacebuilding initiatives through our partners and local churches.

### How to pray over conflict, in Jesus’ name

- **Pray for just and lasting peace:** Pray that world leaders and policy makers have compassion, wisdom, courage and God’s guidance to take action for just and lasting peace for conflict around the world.
- **Pray for provision:** Ask God to sustain families left without an income or the means to find food and shelter – those who have been displaced from their homes and those who are grieving. Pray that aid reaches all those who need it.
- **Pray for the local church, local peacebuilders and other humanitarian responders:** Thank God for all those reaching across divides to build just and lasting peace, showing God’s love by responding to great need. Pray for protection, strength and resilience as they continue to serve in incredibly challenging circumstances.
- **Pray for your role:** Ask God to show you what you can do to be a peacemaker in a time of global conflict; speaking and acting for justice, peace and protection for the most vulnerable.

### Creative prayer: pray over the news

Find the global news section of your preferred newspaper, website or social media. Read the stories about current conflicts. Use the prayer points above to help guide your prayers and cry out to God for just and lasting peace.

# Pray over the climate – for resilience and restoration

‘The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.’

Psalm 24:1

## The impact of climate change on extreme poverty

- Climate change is causing intensifying storms, unpredictable rain, severe droughts and rising temperatures. Creation is being knocked off balance and people are being pushed further into poverty as a result.
- Climate change threatens to undermine decades of progress on poverty alleviation, with the UN claiming: ‘It could push more than 120 million more people into poverty by 2030.’
- Each year, around 124 million people need emergency help after a disaster. Tearfund responds with life-saving assistance to provide urgent food, clean water, medicines and shelter in disaster-affected areas around the world. We also provide the tools and support for long-term recovery and resilience to future disasters.


## How to pray over the climate, in Jesus’ name

- **Pray for our collective response:** Pray that we would continue supporting communities experiencing the worst effects of the climate crisis – that we would show Jesus’ love to our global neighbours by caring for our environment, minimising our own climate impact and helping them cope with the impacts they face.
- **Pray for world leaders:** Pray that leaders would act on climate change together and work urgently to put in place the solutions that already exist. Ask for wisdom for countries most impacted by climate change to know how to adapt to a changing world, and pray that their leaders would hear the cries of the people. Pray for countries with the highest emissions to be ambitious in their commitments and actions to address this crisis.
- **Pray for sustainable solutions:** Give thanks for the work being carried out by researchers, innovators, responsible companies, governments and local churches. Pray solutions reach the communities that need them most. In vulnerable places, pray that local churches would continue to develop sustainable, innovative ways to help families create more reliable livelihoods and increase their resilience to disasters.
- **Pray for your role:** Ask God to show you what you can do in your own life to reduce your climate impact and help those most vulnerable to climate change.

## Creative prayer: pray over our global neighbours

Get an old magazine, newspaper or scrap paper, pen and scissors. Draw and cut out a chain of people, all connected together. As you draw and cut, think about all the people you’re connected to, all over the world. Use the prayer points above to pray for them and all your global neighbours.

# Pray over gender inequality – for an end to sexual and gender-based violence

 ‘For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself.”’

Galatians 5:14

## The impact of sexual and gender-based violence on extreme poverty

- Around 840 million women and girls have experienced physical or sexual violence. That’s one in three women worldwide. In times of humanitarian crisis, this violence is even more likely.
- More than 370 million girls have been raped or sexually assaulted before the age of 18. The effects don’t end with the attack. Violence fractures physical and mental health, financial security and trust – often for life.
- The consequences of sexual and gender-based violence are far-reaching and long-lasting. With the support of faith leaders, Tearfund works to help connect women and girls who have experienced sexual and gender-based violence with medical, psychological, legal and livelihood support.

## How to pray over sexual and gender-based violence, in Jesus’ name

- **Pray for churches around the world:** Thank God for churches leading the way in speaking out against violence, supporting survivors with advocacy and healing. Ask God to help churches listen to survivors and speak up when it’s needed most. Pray for provision to equip churches to run programmes offering hope, healing and transformation to survivors – teaching the God-given value of men and women.
- **Pray for survivors:** Pray that God will bind up the wounds of survivors – that he will give them the strength and courage to speak out against sexual and gender-based violence and heal after such tragic and traumatic events.
- **Pray for women and girls:** Ask God to help women and girls access opportunities and have the freedom, in every context, to thrive and to fulfil their God-given potential.
- **Pray for your role:** Ask God to show you what you can do in your own life to counter harmful attitudes and actions towards women and girls.

## Creative prayer: pray over survivors

Place a hand on your heart and ask God to heal the emotional wounds of survivors and soften the hearts of those who do not see women as equal. Place a hand on your head and ask God to heal the psychological wounds of survivors and renew the minds of those who do not see women as equal. Place a hand over your eyes and ask God to heal the physical wounds of survivors and open the eyes of all of us to see every person as God sees them: a masterpiece of creation (Ephesians 2:10). Place your hands together and pray through the prayer points above.

### Next Steps

If you’d like to learn more about how you can pray and act to end extreme poverty, please visit [tearfund.org/globalweekofprayer](https://tearfund.org/globalweekofprayer). We’d be delighted for you to join us in following Jesus to love our global neighbours, restore broken relationships and pursue biblical justice.