

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group March 2011

This year is the 100 year anniversary of International Women's Day which celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. I always celebrate **International Women's Day**, which is on the 8th March every year. This is an occasion when communities on all continents, often divided by cultural, economic and political differences, come together to celebrate the vital role and contribution of women in our world. In some places like China, Russia, Vietnam and Bulgaria International Women's Day is a national holiday.

One year I had an unexpected celebration with a Polish woman who I had just got to know in Belfast. We happened to be on the same East Belfast bus on the 8th of March and we had a good chat about how International Women's Day is celebrated in Poland. I ended up back at her house eating Polish chocolate to mark the occasion!

When I think of this day I pray for all the women who have come to Northern Ireland to try to make a better life for themselves. I pray for them to have the chance to flourish and make the best use of their talents. I also give thanks for those who organise celebrations and festivals as they are so important in bringing people together.

Contributed by Maura McCallion

This month, we give thanks for...

- the contributions that women have made to society in Northern Ireland and around the world.
- women who have come to Northern Ireland to work in our hospitals and care homes.
- mothers, grandmothers and sisters who work to care for family members in need while forging their own paths in life.

Please pray for...

- comfort and peace for women who have come to Northern Ireland seeking asylum.
- women who are separated from their children and families when they come to Northern Ireland in order to work and send money back home.
- women who daily work to bring peace to their communities and home.
- all women who live in the despair of poverty, violence, trafficking, slavery and abuse.
- organisations across Northern Ireland that work with women helping to support, empower and encourage them.