

Get Involved: Pray



EMBRACE Prayer Group February 2017

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI), Racial Justice Sunday will be on 12th of February and an accompanying resource has been prepared by Scott Boldt of EMBRACE. Mindful of the fact that justice is an everyday pursuit that needs prayer, here is an excerpt.

Racial justice involves the fair treatment of people. We use the adjective 'racial' to highlight that we are concerned about the injustices people suffer as a consequence of racist structures, racist systems, racial discrimination, racist attitudes, racial hatred and racial violence. Our central focus is justice.

"But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always."
Hosea 12: 6

Maintaining love and justice is a daily challenge that calls on us to return to God and to wait for God. On our own, we can often corrupt a quest for justice into a mission for revenge or overlook our own failings as we attack and dehumanise those unjust 'others'. ...

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12: 21

Justice often takes time. Those who are oppressed and treated unfairly usually have to suffer the wait for justice, which can take years, decades, centuries. William Wilberforce began to use his voice against the slave trade in 1785. In 1807, the motion to abolish the Atlantic slave trade was passed. The Slavery Abolition Act was passed in 1833, three days before Wilberforce died. Slavery continues today.

Racial Justice Sunday happens each year; racial injustices continue each year. People mistreat each other, take advantage of weakness, abuse the power they have, discriminate, debase, dehumanise and degrade, and this even happens in churches.

We are called to respond:

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31: 8-9

The Racial Justice Sunday resource includes an introduction to the issue of racism, group work, an order of service and is available online. <https://ctbi.org.uk/?s=Racial+Justice+Sunday>

We pray for

- An awareness of injustice
- The ability to see our own prejudices clearly and repent of shortcomings in how we treat each other – especially within our parishes, congregations or groups.
- Recognition of those in our churches and communities who cannot speak for themselves
- Wisdom to know how and when to speak out on their behalf
- Courage to speak and act when necessary

Contributed by Scott Boldt