



### Prayer with our partners in the DRC

- The Women and Families Department of Église du Christ au Congo (DFF/ECC) in North Kivu Province has ministered to survivors of gender-based violence and orphans for over 20 years.
- The local initiatives are coordinated by the provincial DFF/ECC Leadership in Goma, which is partially funded by the support of The United Church of Canada and Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ. Programs include
  - local women volunteering to support and accompany survivors, war orphans, and women's groups
  - foster families in the community who take in war orphans
  - covering the cost of sending war orphans to school

**Action:** Learn more about how you and your faith community can support the work of Mission and Service partner Église du Christ au Congo in the DRC.

**Prayer:** For acts of resistance, solidarity, and hope in times of violence and war, we give thanks, God.

**Learn more:** search “Congo” at [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)

The content of these resources addresses violence, including sexual violence. Discretion is advised.



### Église du Christ au Congo Appeals for Prayers and Solidarity

#### Pray for an end to the war on women in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

- A prolonged civil war, which began in 1996, has led to extreme violence and human rights abuses. Women and girls are bearing the brunt of the atrocities of this war, suffering widespread sexual violence.
- The DRC is rich in minerals, including tantalum (also known as coltan), a necessary component in the manufacturing of electronics, especially cell phones. Canadian-based mining companies are involved in the region. The high demand for these resources is one of the many factors fuelling the current violence in the country.

**Action:** Learn how you use coltan and similar minerals in your daily life ([enoughproject.org](http://enoughproject.org); [sourcingnetwork.org](http://sourcingnetwork.org)).

**Prayer:** For all of the ways that we have benefited from the rich resources in the DRC without acknowledging their cost, we beg forgiveness, God.





### Pray for an end to rape as a tactic of war

- The KAIROS Women of Courage Tour in July 2013 heard from many communities and survivors that rape is being used as a weapon of war. Millions of lives have been destroyed.
- Testimonies of survivors and perpetrators have been documented by IRIN, the humanitarian news and analysis service of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

**Action:** Watch the IRIN video *War on Women* to learn more about the escalating sexual violence in the DRC (discretion is advised; this video may not be appropriate for all ages).

**Prayer:** For oppressive systems and ideologies that perpetuate violence and steal dignity, we ask for transformation, God.

**Learn more:** search “Congo” at [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)

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### Pray with the children and mothers...

- abandoned children and war orphans
- women and children who have been raped as a tactic of war
- young girls and children who are being impregnated
- child soldiers

“This cry of alarm invites us into national solidarity and compassion in order to assist these innocent victims to recover their dignity as children, but also to offer them hope as future professional women and honourable mothers.”  
 — *The Rev. Nzeba Kalombo Berthe, General Secretary, Department for Women and Family, Église du Christ au Congo*



**Action:** Read the testimonies of survivors, such as Sifora and Dusabe (discretion is advised).

**Prayer:** For the women and children of DRC who seek security, dignity, and healing, we ask for your loving kindness.