30 September 2013

Dear

We in the United Nations Association Northern Ireland write to ask if you would encourage your Church in Northern Ireland to promote this year’s United Nations Day by praying for the United Nations and its work.

On Thursday 24 October 2013 recognition will be given to the ratification of the UN Charter which took place on 24 October 1945. This day is marked each year around the world as United Nations Day. We would request that your Church calls to mind our unity as children of God and our individual responsibility to work together for peace and understanding among all.

The purpose of the United Nations is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well being of all people. It affords the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests when addressing international problems.

Along with your own prayers we have included prayers which you may also wish to use in the days leading up to UN Day.

If you would like more information about the work of the UN or of UNA, then please go to the website: http://www.una.org.uk/

We send our thanks and best wishes from all the members of UNA Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely

Carol Conlin
Hon. Secretary
UNA Northern Ireland

E-mail: unassocni@gmail.com
Prayers to mark United Nations Day

Prayer

God of compassion, walk alongside all of your global stewards who work to create a more just and peaceful world. Equip the United Nations community with a sense of urgency and humility that lets your will be done. Each day you give bread enough for all, grant us also the wisdom to ensure that everyone has enough. Teach the world's leaders to forgive, to extend welcome across borders. Show the world a new path beyond greed, oppression, and division. We pray for a world united, a world where children are safe, people are fed, communities are stable and justice is known.

We pray for the work of the United Nations and for our sisters and brothers whom you have called to serve within that system. We are thankful that you call women and men from every land. We honour their work, their gifts, and their sacrifice. We pray for those who have given their lives in service, for their families and communities. We ask for your strength to be with each individual who cares for brothers and sisters who are made vulnerable and are oppressed; who bears witness to evil and seeks healing in its wake; who works so that children are safe, people are fed, communities are stable and justice is known.

We pray that diplomats, peacekeepers, well diggers, health workers, researchers, lawyers, translators, educators, and all who work in publicized crises, those who do the mundane work of the day, and the faithful fulfilment of entrusted tasks.

Grant all who serve, wisdom and courage. Grant rest, instil a sense of calm. When the days and the faithful fulfilment of entrusted tasks are over, when your gracious correction has been given, may those who work in publicized crises, those who do the mundane work of the day, and the faithful fulfilment of entrusted tasks experience your grace.

We pray in the name of the one who is our Peace, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Hope tonso, a former associate for international relations and education at the UN, wrote these prayers, which draw on the Charter of the United Nations.)

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(Toronto, a former associate for international relations and education at the UN, wrote these prayers, which draw on the Charter of the United Nations.)

Prayer

Lord, God of all peoples, we mark United Nations Day to declare not our independence, but our interdependence. We are all created by the same God and share the same eternal destiny. We are all called to live together in harmony and peace, as one family in the Lord.

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We ask your blessings on us, on all nations, and on the United Nations, dedicated to fostering peace throughout the world. Bless all its members, that they may persevere, faithful to your commandments and, in all decisions, follow your divine will for all of creation. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.
(Used with permission from the Augustinian Secretariat for Justice and Peace)

**Prayer**
O God, Our Father, we pray for all your children on earth, of every nation and of every race, that we may be strong to do your work.

We pray for the United Nations, the World Court, and for all governments and their leaders.
Give peace in our time, O God, for worldwide agencies of caring which bind wounds and feed the hungry.
Give peace in our time, O God, for all who seek to transform systems that wound.
Give peace in our time, O God, for all who work for justice and peace.
Give peace in our time, O God. Amen.
(Used with permission from the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations)