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## Responsive Readings on Reproductive Justice

### Rachel Sabbath on International Women's Day: A Responsive Reading

We honor the world's women.

**We renew our commitment to equality for women and girls.**

We suffer because too many women around the world are coerced into childbearing, early marriages, and sex trafficking.

**We bear witness to the women and girls around the world who endure illness, violence and death because of their gender and lack of opportunity.**

We call for universal access to reproductive health services so that all women can plan their families.

**We recognize that too many women die giving birth to the next generation.**

We mourn the nearly 1,000 women around the world who will die today in childbirth, or from complications of pregnancy, because they lack basic health services.

**We bless them and hold their families in love.**

We affirm that the sanctity of life is best upheld when pregnancy is freely chosen and women and children receive the health care and economic support they need.

**We stand in solidarity with women who lack access to prenatal care, family planning and other reproductive health services.**

We pray for a world where childbirth is safe, and all children are wanted and loved.

**We make a solemn commitment to help create a world where no woman will die giving birth to the next generation.**

We seek a world where all people not only survive but thrive.

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### Responsive Reading on Reproductive Justice for All

In hope for the whole world, we gather to lift up the most vulnerable among us.

**We recognize and affirm the value of every person, regardless of gender, nationality or socioeconomic status.**

We denounce the ways in which divisions arise, in which some lack access to what others take for granted.

**We envision a just and inclusive world in which all can flourish and thrive.**

We acknowledge those women—in the U.S. and abroad—who do not have full access to reproductive healthcare services.

**We call for a religious and moral commitment to reproductive health and justice.**

When women are denied comprehensive abortion care, they may forego food or shelter or pursue unsafe abortions that put their lives at risk.

**We mourn the 47,000 women who die and millions more who are injured each year because of unsafe abortions, and regret the tragic situations that lead to their deaths and injuries.**

We know that protecting women's rights requires our voice and our commitment.

**We dare to speak up for the powerless, and pledge to work until all women have the healthcare they need and deserve.**

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