

May 9, 2014

Dear Members of USCSAHT,

The April 14 abduction of over 230 Nigerian schoolgirls calls us to prayer and action on their behalf. The Steering Committee met this morning to explore ways that we might address this issue together. In solidarity with LCWR and concerned people everywhere, we urge you to pray and take the recommended actions that follow. We offer the enclosed prayer for you to use and share with others.



1. Please pray daily, beginning this Sunday, Mother's Day, and every day for the kidnapped schoolgirls until they are rescued and returned to their families:

O God of mercy and compassion, we come before you to pray for the safe return of the Nigerian schoolgirls who were kidnapped from their school, separated from their families, and may be sold into slavery and forced marriage. We pray for their safety, swift rescue and return to their homes.

We join our prayers with those of their grieving parents and families. Comfort them in their distress and hear our prayers for their beloved daughters.

We pray that the Nigerian government, with the assistance and support of the international community, will make every effort to rescue the kidnapped schoolgirls and reunite them with their families. We also pray that all nations will affirm the right of girls everywhere to pursue an education, and will protect them and their schools from violent and unwarranted attacks.

O God, look with compassion on the Nigerian schoolgirls and all victims of human trafficking and child exploitation. We pray for an end to their captivity, for the safety and well-being of children everywhere, and the success of efforts throughout the world to end the sin of human trafficking. Amen.

2. Sign the petition asking Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan to rescue the kidnapped schoolgirls from slavery and forced child marriage:

<http://www.walkfree.org/nigerian-schoolgirls/>

3. Join the social media campaign:
 - "Like" Bring Back Our Girls on Facebook
 - Tweet #BringBackOurGirls

Please share this information with your congregations, co-workers, friends and family members and invite them to pray and take action with us.

In peace,
The USCSAHT Steering Committee
Kathleen Coll SSJ, Ann Oestreich IHM, and Anne Victory HM