**Introduction and closing to three minute silence for Global Day of Action**

**12:55 Introduction**

The United Nations’ 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and abuse is an annual international campaign. It is a rallying call to members of the Anglican Communion to take action against Gender-Based Violence.

We are meeting today as part of Mothers’ Union’s response to this call. In venues up and down the country, members are coming together in fellowship to raise awareness of the need to end Gender-Based Violence in all forms and in all societies. We are calling for a stop to this scourge.

We focus particularly on the shocking statistic that 1 in 3 women will experience gender-based violence in their life time. This is the reason we are holding a three minute silence.

**1:03 Three Minute Silence**

**1:06 Closing Prayer**

Lord of justice and mercy,

who has called us to be the body of Christ,

use us as his hands and feet in the world;

to raise awareness of what must be challenged,

and to address the plight of the vulnerable.

We unite together across the world

to champion the cause of  justice

and to offer up our prayers for all who

are affected by gender-based violence.

Amen