

23. Family members to protect each other from rape and abuse. According to the U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2/3 of rapes in the U.S. are committed by someone known to the victim, many times by family members (National Crime Victimization Survey, <http://www.rainn.org/statistics>).

24. Women and girls suffering emotionally and physically with AIDS, fistulas and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) from the trauma of the violent act of rape. Pray that they will receive healing and God's peace that surpasses human understanding (Psalm 30:1-2).

25. Police officers to be more supportive of women who are raped or abused, and that they will treat the violence not as a mere dispute, but as a crime deserving punishment. Pray that judges will convict abusers and demand they seek treatment and pay restitution.

26. More shelters and low-cost housing to become available for battered women trying to start over and build a safe home for themselves and their children.

27. Protection for those who courageously speak out against rapists and husbands who abuse their wives. Many have been killed.

28. Protection for those who teach communities the importance of educating girls and encouraging them to marry after the age of 18.

29. The hundreds of thousands of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo who have been raped (400,000 females 15-49 over a 12 month period in 2006-2007 alone, and this doesn't include the many children and women over 49 who were not part of this study) [www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13367277](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-13367277). Pray that officials will courageously stand up and put a stop to this beastly treatment of females in their country.

30. Women who report their rapes to police to be safe from further abuse. In some countries, police rape women who come to them to report the crime.

31. Laws to be passed and enforced to stop the media from degrading women. As people are bombarded with raw images and demeaning words, they accept them as the norm and disrespect and abuse females without shame.

Countless innocent lives have been crushed by the grotesque custom of female genital mutilation (female circumcision/cutting) and the sadistic act of rape. In many countries, little is done to protect women and girls from these horrible acts, and there are few resources to help victims cope and rebuild their lives.

One of the most common forms of torture is inflicted by mothers on three million daughters each year in Africa alone. The cultural practice of female genital mutilation causes infections, urinary difficulties and scar tissue that makes childbirth more dangerous and increases maternal mortality (NYTimes.com).

Rape is devastating the lives of hundreds of thousands of women and girls around the world. Rape as a weapon of war, gang rapes, forced sex with child brides and sex slavery traumatize thousands of helpless females.

Cultural practices in Kenya sanction rape of a young girl who has been claimed by a man through "beading" (gift of a red-beaded necklace). If she becomes pregnant, she undergoes a crude abortion, or the baby is killed or given away after birth. Traumatized, these girls will one day marry outside their own village but only if they do not keep any babies resulting from beading relationships (CNN.com).

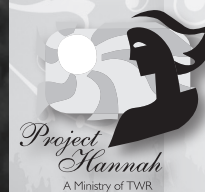
Rape has become the norm in the DR Congo. Girls as young as three and women as old as 75 suffer the excruciating physical and emotional pain after being gang raped in front of family members. Many have the baby of one of the rapists or suffer a lifetime from HIV or a fistula. There is no justice; their rapists are not arrested (cbsnews.com).

Pray with us for these women and girls and for organizations helping them to learn skills, find employment, learn of God's love for them and enjoy life again.

*Women of Hope* broadcasts in over 55 languages. PH's monthly prayer requests are used in 50 languages. ([www.projecthannah.org](http://www.projecthannah.org))



AUGUST  
2011



VICTIMS OF MUTILATION OR RAPE

*Praying for*

A MINISTRY  
OF TWR

*Please pray for ...*

1. Women who have been raped or abused to find friends who will comfort and protect them and help them strive to heal and become strong women of God. "But let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you" (Psalm 5:11).
2. Project Hannah's (PH) Brazilian friends traveling with Marli and Ruth in the four regions of Tanzania and for the launching of PH in Zanzibar. Pray also for Colleen Shoemaker and Canadian friends who are in Angola visiting PH prayer groups.
3. Mothers, fathers, teachers and religious leaders to strongly speak out against the cultural practice of female genital mutilation that is causing horrific physical and emotional pain for young girls and hindering their ability later in life to give birth because of scars and deformities.
4. People to demand that those who rape little girls receive extensive prison terms and lifelong surveillance that restricts their contact with children.
5. Women in danger from family members, who in order to protect their family "honor," will kill a woman who has been raped.
6. God's Spirit to convict rapists and leaders who refuse to punish abusers. "The Lord examines the righteous, but the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates. On the wicked he will rain fiery coals and burning sulfur; a scorching wind will be their lot" (Psalm 11:5-6).
7. Producers of PH's *Women of Hope* programs in 58 languages as they prepare programs that teach women that they are precious to God and deserve to be treated with respect and to be loved and protected by their families.
8. Parents, church and school officials to teach children that they can safely report any threats or sexual contact by teachers, religious leaders or any adult. Pray also that adults would accept the responsibility of teaching girls how to protect themselves and escape from someone who tries to harm them.

9. Men in Liberia to stand up and speak out against the degrading view of women and the horrendous acts of rape. Liberia's Minister of Justice stated that rape is the number one reported crime, and 40 percent of the reported victims are under the age of 12 (CNN.com).
10. Abusive family members to accept that the violence is their problem, not the victims'. Pray that they will seek help and be willing to do whatever it takes to stop their abusive behavior. Pray that they will be changed by God's grace.
11. Young girls in Central Asia, the Middle East, Nepal, Mozambique, Uganda, India, Ethiopia, Liberia and other countries who are forced to marry before they are 18 (many as young as 6-14), and have no understanding of sexual relationships until they are forcibly raped by their much older husband. Most receive no education, and many are servants to their in-laws who beat them, kill them or cause them to commit suicide to escape their suffering.
12. Organizations working to help communities understand the dangers of female circumcision and for leaders to encourage everyone to abandon this cultural practice so that girls will live healthy lives and families will not be ostracized socially. Pray that communities will celebrate the end of this potentially life-threatening procedure that causes unspeakable pain and suffering.
13. People to cry out and demand world leaders to vigorously prosecute producers and distributors of illegal adult and child pornography. Pornography addiction is rampant, leading to degrading attitudes and violence against women, increased sex trafficking and divorce.
14. World leaders to speak out against the rapes happening in the Middle East and North Africa uprisings, and to stop assisting groups that do not punish offenders.
15. The estimated 1.8 million children (mainly girls) who are forced into the multi-billion dollar commercial sex trade every year (UNICEF) and are repeatedly raped many times every day. Pray for those who courageously try to rescue them (<http://www.ijm.org/projectlantern>).

16. Parents and others in roles of leadership to teach girls how dangerous it is to dress provocatively and flirt. Although this doesn't give a guy the right to disrespect her, the reality is that this behavior does provoke evil responses, and girls may pay for their "right to express themselves" with their very lives.
17. Girls who are forced to marry and then suffer the horrible physical pain of repeated rapes by their husbands resulting in fistulas, continuous bleeding, pregnancies (while their bodies are too small to carry or deliver a baby) and sometimes even death.
18. Ruth Mbennah, PH Africa Regional Coordinator, as she works with PH teams throughout Africa to prayerfully and strategically reach out to women who are struggling through life's disappointments and trials and are in need of experiencing God's love.
19. Those who feel betrayed by the church and rejected by God because they were sexually abused by someone in the church. Pray that church leaders will practice safety measures to protect children who are alone with adults during church activities, and vulnerable women seeking counseling, and that they will quickly act on any accusations of abuse.
20. Young women who are misguided by society to learn that they must take steps to protect themselves. Bad choices, like getting drunk, can lead to very bad consequences. "Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak" (1 Corinthians 8:9).
21. World leaders to stop avoiding the fact that barbaric acts of rape are happening in every country and to loudly proclaim that these horrendous acts of violence are not acceptable under any circumstances.
22. Christian women to understand that many times men are tempted to sin by the things they see, and that as Christian sisters, their behavior and appearance should not encourage men to have sinful thoughts. "Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way" (Romans 14:13).