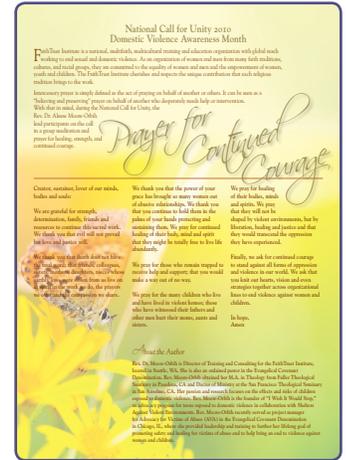


# Remember My Name

As human beings we are blessed with the ability to express ourselves through language and, by extension, the written word.

From the beginning of time, words have been used to capture the mundane details of life, identify objects, show the way to hidden places, record history, and foretell the future. There is also power in words where they allow us to share our innermost thoughts, feelings and ideas. Writing allows us to harness our energy, both positive and negative, and our words bear witness to our lives. While we all have the ability to write ourselves into diaries, essays, blogs, journals, articles and poems, there comes a time when an individual will so accurately capture the essence of a movement with their words.



Over a decade ago in 1995, Kimberly A. Collins wrote Remember My Name, a poem that has been used by Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) observances to memorialize victims that have lost their lives to the horrific epidemic of domestic violence. During the 2010 National Call for Unity, as part of the kick-off to DVAM, Ms. Collins recited this poem in the hopes that through spoken words we will never forget the names or the lives of those lost to domestic violence, that we should continue to heal through our shared connections and experiences, and that we shall remain committed in our efforts to end violence in our homes, our families, and communities.

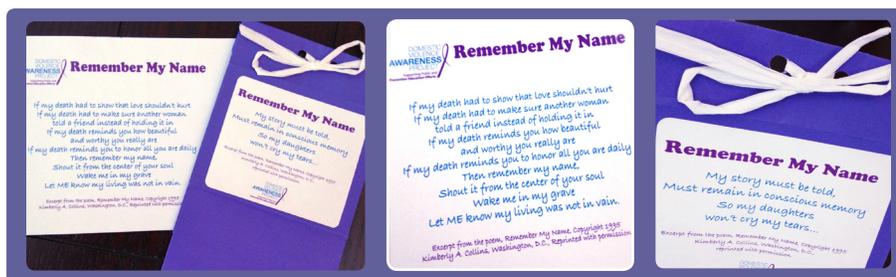
After sharing in a collective moment of silence for all the women, children, and men who have lost their lives to domestic violence, Rev. Dr. Aleese Moore-Orbih of the FaithTrust Institute prayed for all the victims, survivors, their family, friends, advocates, and allies as we continue our work to end violence in our homes, our families, and our communities.

A copy of the poem and prayer may be downloaded via the links below for use in your own DVAM events.

- "Remember My Name" by Kimberly Collins [[PDF](#)] (prints on legal sized 11"x14" paper)
- "Prayer for Continued Courage" by Rev. Dr. Aleese Moore-Orbih [[PDF](#)] (prints on standard sized 8 1/2" x 11" paper)

## Other Ways to Use Remember My Name

At other DVAM events, the theme of Remember My Name has been continued by many programs to one by one, call out the names of victims who have been killed due to domestic violence. Parts of the poem have been replicated on place cards with victims' names, on favor bags to be given away at events, and as pieces of an honorary quilt or pledge wall, among others. Framed copies of the poem and prayer have also been given as gifts for those working to end violence against women and girls everywhere.



## Related Projects

In October 1994 the [National Coalition Against Domestic Violence \(NCADV\)](#), in conjunction with [Ms. Magazine](#), created the **"Remember My Name Project"**, a national registry to increase public awareness of domestic violence related deaths. Since then, NCADV has been collecting information on women who have been killed by an intimate partner and produces a poster each October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, listing the names of those documented in that year.

abuse	community	peace	education	prayer	help	children
spirit	clergy	ethics	justice	faith	women	we
help	multicultural	trust	her	compassion	faith	trust
shalom	working	hope	wholeness	in	healing	hope
faith	together	hope	end	domestic	healthy	congregations
end	violence	us	multifaith	violence	prevention	religious

Each year the [FaithTrust Institute](#) makes a request for advocates, supporters and faith leaders to sign on to the [National Declaration by Religious and Spiritual Leaders to Address Violence Against Women](#).

The declaration states:

*We proclaim with one voice as national spiritual and religious leaders that violence against women exists in all communities, including our own, and is morally, spiritually and universally intolerable.*

*We acknowledge that our sacred texts, traditions and values have too often been misused to perpetuate and condone abuse.*

*We commit ourselves to working toward the day when all women will be safe and abuse will be no more.*

*We draw upon our healing texts and practices to help make our families and societies whole.*

*Our religious and spiritual traditions compel us to work for justice and the eradication of violence against women.*

*We call upon people of all religious and spiritual traditions to join us.*