

## Mirabal Sisters and the Pledge

### **Background:**

November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. The day was established first in 1981 by women activists. This day is marked in memory of the Mirabal sisters, political activists, who were brutally assassinated in the Dominican Republic in 1960. The United Nations declared this day as an official day of recognition in 1993.

These three sisters spoke out against the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo. Such outspokenness, especially among women, was unheard of at that time. They paid the ultimate price for their actions and in honor of their bravery and courage, we should spread the word about violence against women on November 25.

### **In Their Words:**

Each of the Mirabal sisters was a public figure and their speeches and writing inspired many.

**Patricia Mercedes Mirabal:** *"We cannot allow our children to grow up in this corrupt and tyrannical regime, we have to fight against it, and I am willing to give up everything, including my life if necessary."*

**Minerva Argentina Mirabal:** *"...it is a source of happiness to do whatever can be done for our country that suffers so many anguishes, it is sad to stay with one's arms crossed..."*

**Maria Teresa Mirabal:** *"... perhaps what we have most near is death, but that idea does not frighten me, we shall continue to fight for that which is just."*

**The Pledge** ... In honor of the Mirabal sisters, in honor of Malala Yousafzai, and in honor of our daughters, mothers, sisters, grandmothers, aunts, and friends, please recite with others the following pledge on November 25:

***I PROMISE***

***NEVER TO COMMIT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN;***

***NEVER TO EXCUSE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN;***

***NEVER TO REMAIN SILENT ABOUT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.***

***THIS IS MY PLEDGE. THIS IS MY COMMITMENT***