**Disability Community Day of Mourning**

**Te Rā Mau Mahara**

**Friday 1 March 2024**

**CCS Disability Action**

**Opening Karakia: Kipa Rangiheuea**

**Himene (hymn): All**

**Waiata – He Hōnore (An Honour)**

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| He hōnore, he kororoiaMaungarongo ki te whenuaWhakaaro pai e ki ngā tāngata katoaAke ake, ake ake ĀmineTe Atua, te PiringaTōku oranga | Glory and honourPeace throughout the landKind thoughts to all peopleForever and ever AmenOur Lord, our shelterFor my wellness |

**Mihi Whakatau (greeting): Kipa**

**Whakatauki (proverb): Kipa and Vicki Terrell**

**Hutia te rito o te harakeke**

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| **Kipa:**Hutia te rito o te harakekeKei hea te kōmako e kō?Ki mai koe ki auHe aha te mea nui o te āo?Maaku e kī atuHe tangata, he tangata, he tangata | **Vicki:**If you remove the centre shoot of the flaxWhere will the bellbird sing?If you were to ask meWhat is the most important thing in the world?I will replyIt is people, it is people, it is people |

**Welcome by Debbie Ward**

**Vicki:** We gather this afternoon to remember disabled people who have died at the hands of family members or care givers – victims of filicide. We also remember people who have survived an attempt on their life. As with any crime involving close relationships, it is hard for all people involved. People often who feel trapped in a situation, and can see no hope of things getting better, commit crimes.

**Reader 1:**The media portrays these deaths as justifiable and inevitable due to the “burden” of having a disabled person in the family. The victims are disregarded, blamed for their own deaths at the hands of the person they should have been able to trust the most, and ultimately forgotten.

**Reader 2:** We remember that each victim was a person, and we honour them as people. We also call for more support and change in attitude so that the lives of disabled people are valued as highly as others in our society and that people get the support needed to live fulfilling lives.

We remember those unborn babies who are aborted because of the fear of having a disabled child.

We also give thanks for people who have survived an attempt on their lives. We give thanks for those people who had the courage to intervene to stop a death from occurring.

**Vicki:** It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness, so we light candles to remember those who have been killed in New Zealand, at the hands of family members and care givers.

**Reader 3:** We read out the names and remember people in Aotearoa New Zealand who have been identified as victims of filicide on the memorial page from the disability day of mourning website.

*Read out names and dates of death.*

*Kylie will light four candles – for children, young people, adults, and elderly people – to remember these and other disabled people who have been victims of filicide.*

*After the lighting of each candle, we pause.*

**ALL: We remember, mourn, and give thanks for these lives.**

**Vicki:** We will listen to songs, then there will be an opportunity for people to speak and tell stories. It is often when we speak we begin to heal from our past.

*An opportunity for others to speak and tell stories.*

When we are told that disabled people lives are not worth living

**ALL: Our Humanity is devalued Kua iti te mana tangata**

When response to disabled people is to patronize and pity

**ALL: Our Humanity is devalued Kua iti te mana tangata**

When disabled people are seen as burdens

**ALL: Our Humanity is devalued Kua iti te mana tangata**

When killings of disabled people are seen as mercy killing

**ALL: Our Humanity is devalued Kua iti te mana tangata**

When disabled people are killed and we are told to understand

**ALL: Our Humanity is devalued Kua iti te mana tangata**

When disabled people are killed and we are told it is for best

**ALL: Our Humanity is devalued Kua iti te mana tangata**

*(Pause for others to add words)*

When we recognise all people share our humanity

**ALL: Our humanity is strengthened Kua piki te mana tangata**

When we recognise all people are of worth

**ALL: Our humanity is strengthened Kua piki te mana tangata**

When we recognise all people have human rights **Kua piki te mana tangata**

**ALL: Our humanity is strengthened Kua piki te mana tangata**

When we recognise all people need be embraced by our community

**ALL: Our humanity is strengthened Kua piki te mana tangata**

When we recognise all people need the right support to live well

**ALL: Our humanity is strengthened Kua piki te mana tangata**

When we respond to all people with openness and dignity

 **ALL: Our humanity is strengthened Kua piki te mana tangata**

*Opportunity for further conversation eg. where to from here.*

**Closing**

We have been here together tonight

Sharing deep emotion

Mourning those who have died

Lighting candles

Rather than cursing the darkness

Affirming our humanity

Strengthening each other

To live well whatever lies ahead

Go safely and in peace

**Closing Waiata**

**Te aroha**

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| Te ArohaTe Whakaponome te RangimārieTātou tātou e |  Love Faith and Peace For all of us |

**Closing Karakia**

**Kipa** to lead karakia, and everyone to say the karakia together from the second line onwards to the end (in **green**):

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| --- | --- |
| Kia tau ki a tātou katoaTe atawhai o tō tātou Ariki, a Ihu KaraitiMe te aroha o te AtuaMe te whiwhingatahitangaKi te wairua tapuAke, ake, akeAmine | May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,and the love of God,and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you allForever and everAmen |