

Organising communal singing - checklist

Singing “The Prayer of the Mothers”

Dear women, how beautiful, you have decided to organise communal singing for Peace.

Initiate performing this powerful song wherever you wish:

At your Peace building organisation and also in your home, your club, choir, village or city. Every performance is an invitation to everyone (who has a mother:) to sing along to this simple chorus.

If you want to organise a communal singing get together as a flash mob in your own city or village, you are more than welcome to do so. Here below is our checklist with tips on how to organise such an event.

PREPARATION

- Read the source document of the initiative: Sing for Peace; “Sing the Prayer of the Mothers” and feel if you can really connect with it.
- Ask at least one other woman to help you. Together is really more fun!
- Choose a place and date, or, better yet, a few dates. In Utrecht, The Netherlands, we worked with Wednesdays at 12.30 at the Central Station. And in Zoetermeer with Fridays at 20:00 at the Peace Pin Monument.
- Create an invitation.
- Share the invitation and ask others to share it too.
- Report it to your municipality -- read the text of the Utrecht group here (in Dutch)>>
- Make readable signs/banners or flyers with the text of the chorus
- Ask a couple of women to be contact persons on the day of the event! Together you can invite passers-by.
- During the Gathering itself
 - o [time/place], possibly with a representative from the municipality
 - o Welcome & guide women in setting up an open circle or ‘U’ set up
 - o Wear safety vests (not yellow:) if necessary for recognisability as the group grows
 - o Ensure that contact people have access to the WhatsApp group, so that wo-men who are interested in participating can be added on the spot.

AT THE GATHERING ITSELF

- Gather at least fifteen minutes in advance with the team to receive women
- Set up a circle in the open air, at such a distance that you can see and hear each other clearly and that the audience feels welcomed to watch and connect with the energy of the gathering.
- Start on time.
- Basic welcome text: Welcome to singing the Prayer of the Mothers in [place name]. Singing the Prayer of the Mothers calls on women to stand up for peace by initiating communal singing with the chorus of the song: ‘Prayer for the Mothers’ by Yael Deckelbaum.
- 4000 Palestinian and Israeli women sang this song for the first time during a [women's march for peace in the Middle East, on the 19th of October, 2016](#). The song is still sung all over the world.

- Initiate community singing wherever you want: in your home, your club, choir, village or city. Every community gathering is an invitation to everyone to sing along with this simple [chorus](#).

Chorus:

“From the north to the south
 From the west tot the east
 Hear the prayer of the mothers
 Bring them peace
 Bring them peace”

- Repeat the chorus for about 10-15 minutes. Vary often with rhythm and volume; consider alternating with humming or other sounds.
- Allow space for people with instruments and/or movements! This makes the performance more powerful. You may also consider adding a second voice.
- Closing basics: Thank all the participants for their beautiful presence.

AFTERCARE

- Enjoy and share your story
- Evaluate together how the event went – are certain aspects to be improved?
- Share photos and videos on social media, using the hashtag [#zinghetgebedvandemoeders](#) [#singtheprayerofthemothers](#)
- If possible issue a press release and/or report to local newspapers