



PROTECTING NATIONALITY



Haematology Department – FSE Field Hospital

1. Touch I touch the Heart of Nationality.

I hold an item of national dress or design – symbol of my tribe, people or nation. I consider how my dress, food, songs and culture are a deep part of who I am. I ponder how vulnerable my nationality is to destructive forces, and how I might keep it alive. I reflect how: *'Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of nationality nor denied the right to change nationality.'* [Uni. Dec. Human Rights: 18]

I remember a small story of national or tribal identity, either lived or in danger, and a person who protected it. If praying alone I hold that memory. If I am praying in a group, I share it with them, listening in turn to their stories, feeling touched by the Spirit of Nationality ... I see how belonging to a nation is more than a right; it is a necessity of identity and heart in the face of racism, displacement or ethnic cleansing.

2. Desire I desire the Right to my Nationality.

I slowly and prayerfully read the prayer text below:

The Lord shall judge between many peoples, and shall arbitrate between strong nations far away; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore; but they shall all sit under their own vines and fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid; for the Lord of hosts has spoken. Mic 4:2-4

I name all the things I love about my nationality ...

I ask the Spirit for the rights of my tribe, people or nation, for peace and restoration.

3. Breathe I breathe in the Spirit of Nationality.

I imagine the Spirit addressing me by name saying, 'I will bring my people home'.

I breathe in and feel the Spirit affirm my rights, strengthen my hopes, and comfort me in places of refuge. I breathe it in deeply, wait, then breathe it out into the refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people of my tribe or nation.

I repeat as desired – breathing, belonging, affirming nationality.

4. Reach Out I end in thanks, considering two questions. Firstly, if possible, how might I reconnect with the person who affirmed my nationality? Secondly, to whom and how do I pass on this exercise – who urgently needs their right to nationality now?

Note: The three dots ... indicate the places to pause.

