

# „A HOUSE OF HOLY WOMEN“

Some years ago Marget Bachlechner from Kenya spoke about „How to be old in Afrika“ in a house for elderly people. For WIHW 2020 we recalled the wisdom she shared with us about „Holy women“ in her Kikuyu tradition. Only Great –Grandmothers are allowed to pray under holy trees for the family, what gives them a very high position.

In Austria old women are often not enough worshiped for their long lasting work for their family and many of them cannot stay at home when they get sick and need help. The public discussion is only about how much it costs to take care of them.

We wanted to change this view with a new important mission for them. Women in the house for elderly people were invited to pray for special needs in the region. For children, who lost a parent, for happy families, save journeys, good marriages, health of friends, but also for world peace, ending hunger and poverty and all problems, that should be solved on earth.

There is a wall near the door to a prayer room in the house where everyone, who has a wish can post it. And the women take them in their room or pray all together for this special topic some times a week. It gives them a lot of joy and new meaning in life and creates friendships.

The pictures around the wall show „holy trees“ similar to them in Kenya. But there are also large trees in a nearby park, where the women can go to and pray.

