

IAWN news



Some of the Anglican Communion delegation at CSW59 Photo: Maranda St John Nicolle

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Anglican Women at CSW59

"For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." *Ephesians 2.10*

By Archdeacon Carole Hughes, UNCSW59 Delegate and IAWN Provincial Link for the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

This biblical text provided inspiration to members of the Anglican Communion delegation as we gathered for the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW59) in New York City in March this year. The CSW theme was a 20-year review of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and to encourage further action to achieve the advancement of women and gender equality across the nations.

God was with us as we walked the streets of New York City in warm coats with a coffee in hand, constantly reminding us of the complex world we live in. Christ was amongst us as we shared our stories and were challenged to act justly. The Holy Spirit gently encouraged us to return courageously home to minister to the suffering, and create positive changes to eliminate violence and discrimination against women and girls.

During the two weeks members of our delegation offered presentations on their local context and on worldwide initiatives. Through such story telling and resource sharing, we became aware of the breadth and depth of the body of Christ across the nations.

Reem Fouad Najeeb El Far of Jordan gave us insights into her life and the role of women in the Diocese of Jerusalem. Constance Mogina from Papua New Guinea and Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya from Swaziland were on a panel of women who spoke about sexual and gender based violence. Canon Alice Medcof from Canada shared her experiences of attending the international women's conference in Beijing in 1995. Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, spoke to the delegation on leadership and collaboration. Archbishop Sir David Moxon, Archbishop of Canterbury's representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome, spent a day with us. He preached at morning worship at the UN Church Center (led by Anglican Communion delegates), presided at the midday Eucharist at the Episcopal Church

Center, and explained what the inter faith 'Global Freedom Network' is doing to end human trafficking and modern slavery by 2020.

In addition to gathering regularly as an Anglican Communion delegation and reporting on our Provinces, we worshipped daily with the Ecumenical Women's caucus (165 countries were represented), attended side events, met with country missions, went to receptions including one at the Bishop of New York's residence, and were hosted by members of the Episcopal Church in their Center.

"Work with your hands; walk with your feet; use your mind; love with your heart; connect with your soul. Let us be strong, bold, transformative women of faith."

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, General Secretary of the World YWCA

Collectively we worked on a statement to the Anglican Consultative Council (see pages 7 & 8) asking for action on gender-based violence, climate change, human trafficking and slavery, statelessness and birth registration, and gender equity in education, health, economic participation, and decision-making.

I feel deeply challenged, truly blessed and hugely grateful for such an awe-inspiring experience. May God be with us as together we move forward proclaiming the Gospel of love for all people, and doing God's work in our world.

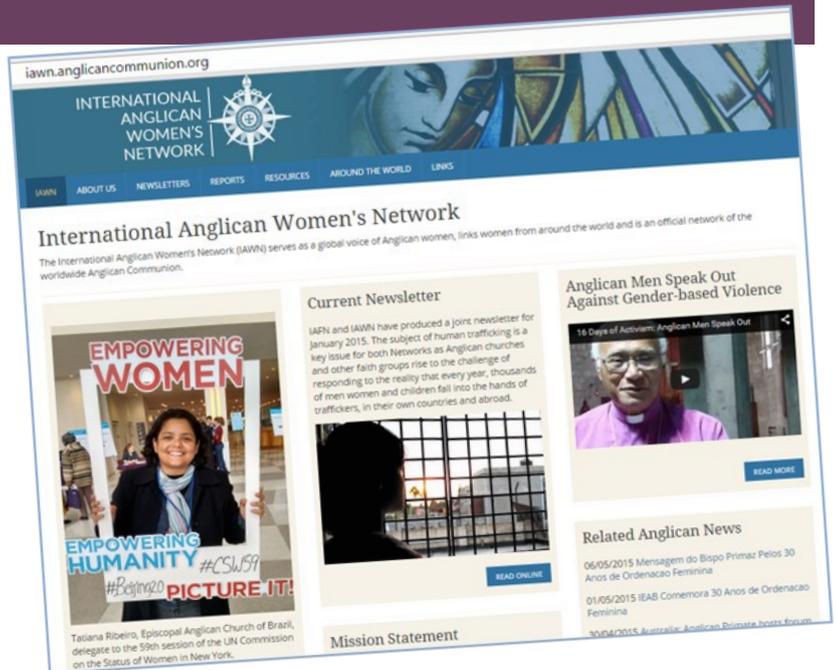
Editor's note

The Newsletter which follows the annual session of UNCSW is always stimulating to edit: the Anglican delegates have a wealth of heart-warming stories to tell and are filled with new confidence about challenging gender inequality. They return home with a deep aware-ness of how important it is for women of faith to be involved in the promotion of a more just and peaceful society. Enjoy reading how their passion and commitment is leading them to champion the status of women back home!

Some of you may remember Esperanza Beleo, a former member of the IAWN Steering Group who attended UNCSW in 2007 and 2008, and who shared the role of IAWN Provincial Link role in the Philippines with Francisca Bawayan. Sadly, Esperanza died last November; read Fran's moving tribute to her in this Newsletter.

The Steering Group is planning an IAWN Conference for the South Asia region in October 2015. It will provide an inter-provincial environment where women of faith working in areas of need can share challenges, discover how to support each other, and unite in feeding back to their Church leaderships.

The conference will involve 20 key workers in women's ministries in the Churches of North India, South India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, including IAWN's designated Provincial Links for each Province. Please remember this meeting in your prayers.



Our IAWN website at iawn.anglicancommunion.org is changing! It will be much more user-friendly, with resources and up-to-date articles. Do visit – enjoy the new *Home* page and the *Around the World* section! But note, it is a work in progress: there is still much to be improved. Please let us know what you think...

My warmest thanks for all your stories. Abundant blessings to you all,

Elaine

Elaine Cameron, Editor IAWN News, elaine.ging@gmail.com

Remembering Esperanza Beleo 1957-2014, Friend and Sister in Christ to Many

By Francisca Capegsan-Bawayan, Episcopal Church in the Philippines

The lives of those who have gone before us are best remembered for God's goodness manifested in them; we can say that of Esperanza Beleo.



IAWN friends will remember Esperanza as a delegate to UNCSW in 2007 and 2008. During that time, she was also a member of IAWN's Steering Committee. In March 2007, she represented IAWN during the TEAM (Towards Effective Anglican Mission) Conference held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Aside from the wider global arena, she represented not only her church in the Philippines but also other Episcopal/Anglican churches in Asia, in other meetings about women's issues.

At home, Esperanza was a quintessential member of Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in the Philippines. At 18 years old, she became an active member of our local ECW; later she participated in diocesan and national church events not only as an ECW but as a member of the wider Episcopal Church in the Philippines. She was too generous about sharing her wit and skills with church organizations. Whenever or wherever she was called to serve, she did so with passion and dedication. The same commitment was also manifest in the ecumenical scene where she had an active role in the women's committee and other lay groups, members of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines. Her friends here best remember her infectious laughter and her lively countenance especially those who loved her, and miss her. She was everybody's friend.

Esperanza was born on September 16, 1957 with a congenital heart ailment. At the age of nine, she underwent major heart surgery to install a mechanical heart valve; later the valve was replaced with a new one. Yet having this heart condition did not bother Esperanza. She truly enjoyed life – laughing all the way. She was conscious of it, but refused to allow it to control her life. On November 26, 2014, she was discharged from the hospital where she had been for two months, her health deteriorating. Two days later, she expired peacefully, surrounded by her family and friends at her home in Quezon City.

Let me quote part of the priest's eulogy during the Solemn Requiem Mass for Esperanza: "To us all, scarred as we are by this separation, we are hanging on to the certain promise of the Greatest Lover of them all, 'Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Jesus Christ'. Amen."

A School Chaplain goes to the UN

By the Revd Gillian Moses, Chaplain, St Aidan's Anglican Girls School, Brisbane, Australia

I am a chaplain at a private Anglican girls' school in Brisbane, Australia. Most of our girls have something of a privileged background, compared to their peers in other parts of the world. They have homes, plenty to eat and access to a world class education from kindergarten through to the end of year 12. So what does the Commission for the Status of Women have to do with us?

Nothing is ever as simple as it looks. As I learned about the Beijing Platform for Action and the 'critical areas of concern' for gender equality, it became clear that gender equality is as serious an issue for my students as for girls anywhere. Gender-based violence is a reality in Australia too. Some of our girls will have experienced or witnessed violence at home, and too many of them will have to navigate unhealthy and abusive relationships as they grow up. CSW has motivated us to get serious about educating our girls about intimate partner violence sooner rather than later.

Our students will also deal with a gender pay gap, gender stereotyping in the media, and the glass ceiling between them and many decision-making positions in their future careers and service areas. They will encounter everyday sexism and micro-aggression. Many of them will be expected to work the second shift even as they pursue the careers we have trained them to expect. Most of them will have been conditioned to see these things as normal—the way life is.

As educators, it is not our task to create guilt or shame about our students' privileged lives, but to equip them with the capacity and will to use their privilege to benefit others who are not so fortunate. I want to help my students become more aware of the girls in other places who do not have the advantages and comparative power that we have, and of what we can do to help them change their own communities.

I also see my job as giving my students tools to engage critically with the world around them. Our Christian tradition, scripture and theology are essential items in the toolkit, particularly as we talk about human rights, gender stereotyping and violence. Too often in the first world religion, (much like feminism) is seen as no longer relevant or too fundamentalist to be of any use. I hope to show my students that the global community, through gatherings such as CSW, affirms the importance of faith-based communities and traditions as part of a healthy and effective civil society.

Most of all I hope to let them know that, while we still have a long way to go in terms of gender equality, CSW has given us a clear goal to work to, and some ideas of how to get there.

Notice for Canadian IAWN News readers

You are invited to the IAWN Canada 'Staying Safe Conference' at Whitehorse-Yukon on 26 September 2015. Keynote Speaker Joan Jack, Aboriginal Lawyer and Activist on 'The Need for a commission on Missing Aboriginal Women'. Other speakers: Bishop Barbara Andrews on 'Staying Safe in Communities'; Sister Nancy Brown on 'Staying Safe in the Home'; Royal Canadian Mounted Police Corporal Jassy Bindra on 'Staying Safe on the Streets.

To register, call Westmark Whitehorse Hotel and Conference Center, (867) 668-2789.

A Middle Eastern perspective

By Reem el Far, Jordan, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & The Middle East

Attending UNCSW59 was a wonderful experience and a great opportunity. I met many dear sisters and leaders who shared new visions and new outlooks with me – I learned a lot. I am from Jordan and the Middle East, and I participated in a Panel, transmitting information about our culture.



Gillian Moses, Reem el Far and Dalcy Dlamini, CSW59

In Jordan, there are many challenges for women: in 2013 only 12.2% women in the lower house and 11.7% in the upper house of our parliament. Harassment in the street, domestic violence and honor crimes are problems in the whole Middle East region. Jordan is a patriarchal community, practised at home and in work places where women are underpaid and given lower positions even if they are qualified. Jordanian women cannot give their children their passport and citizenship - another sign of discrimination.

In the Middle East, particularly Syria and Iraq, rape is a tool used as a weapon of war. 3000 ISIS raped women; sadly sometimes a woman is raped 10 times a day. Women activists are not allowed to support or shelter the violated women. Some areas are evacuated, while women are enslaved, and boys are sent to become fighters. Some families send their kids to join ISIS to get \$200 due to the very bad economic situation. 6.4 million Syrians have been stranded and emigrated to countries such as Jordan and Lebanon while facing all kinds of misfortunes in health, food, clothing, water, education, and shelter needs.

In Iraq, parents do not ask about a child's gender at birth - they are more concerned if it is normal, due to the nuclear pollution they live with.

But with all these problems, we still need to take the parable in Luke 8:1-8 which shows that we as women need to keep on trying, not give up, but should work hard together to make a difference. If we find obstacles facing us, we need to find out ways and means to overcome them and help the new generation face a better future.

We have to look at ourselves as Children of God; created in God's image, as men and women.

Seeking a World without Nuclear Power Plants

Kei Ikezumi, Makiko Fukuzawa and Tazu Sasamori from Nippon Sei Ko Kai (the Anglican Church in Japan) used the opportunity of CSW59 to draw attention to the impact on women of the Fukushima nuclear disaster and to advocate for an end to nuclear power.



Tomioka - abandoned

By Kei Ikezumi, Director, NSKK No-Nuke Project

Although four years have passed since the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami that caused the triple meltdown at the nuclear power plants of Tokyo Electric Power Corporation (TEPCO) in Fukushima in 2011, there are still many areas where high radiation level is measured. 92,000 evacuees are still living in the temporary housings and numerous people are living in the fear of radiation that causes cancer and genetic mutations. Actually malformed plants and insects are found in many areas.

Due to the radioactive contamination, there are time restrictions for children on outdoor activities and they are prohibited from touching soil, grass, nuts, etc.

TEPCO continues facing difficulties particularly dealing with the 400 tons of groundwater entering the reactor buildings each day and becoming contaminated with radiation. The number of tanks for the contaminated water storage is increasing day by day. What is worse, the nuclear reactors release radioactivity to the air and the water on an ongoing basis and such release contributes to radiation exposure in communities both near and far from the site.

“In solidarity with other denominations and faiths, we call for an immediate abolition of nuclear power plants and conversion of Japan’s energy policy toward the development of the alternative sources of energy. We are determined to change our own lifestyle from the old one in which we have pursued only convenience and comfort.”

Resolution of the 59th General Synod of NSKK, May 23, 2012

No nuclear power plants have been operating in Japan since the accident. There are other ways to generate electricity that do not pollute, do not cause cancer and genetic mutations, and they are available today.



Increasing numbers of storage tanks for contaminated water

Nuclear power threatens the life created by God, destroys the nature created by God, and deprives people’s peaceful life given by God.

I call on each of you throughout the Anglican Communion to hear the voices of the people in Fukushima and seek a world without nuclear power plants.

Gender in Myanmar

By Sar Htoo, Anglican Church of Myanmar

In our society, women tend to have dual or triple responsibilities because of the gender division of labor. Economically active women are also family care givers.

My mother was the first person whom I noticed had fewer rights. Growing up in a rural area, we struggled to make a living. Both my mother and father worked hard on the farm, but after a busy day, my father lay down and listened to the radio; my mother did housework until everyone went to bed. Often her husband was drunk and hit her. She only prayed for her husband, never against him.

In January this year, two Kachin Christian missionary teachers were raped and killed at their village house. The case is still under investigation but the process is not developing. There are too many cases, too many untold stories in Myanmar about violence against women which is painful and not public. There is no legal right or justice at all.

At CSW59, I learned from our sisters around the Anglican Communion that violence against women is almost the same everywhere: women face discrimination, pain and suffering.

The life experiences shared at the *We will speak Out* session touched me deeply. In our community, we have not had people who had the confidence to speak out, so people think that this is not an issue. I now realize that we need people to speak out and stand for justice. Although it is challenging, we must speak out for our generation, and be agents of change.

Gaining gender equality is our mission. Mission means God sends us into this world to be light & salt (Matthew 5.13-16) to those who suffer injustice. My experience and learning at CSW59 makes a platform in my heart to work for justice. Gender equality is a Human Rights issue; we have to hold hands and work together for it.

As Emma Watson says, “If not me, who; and if not now, when?”

CSW59: Bringing it home



Photo:
We Will Speak Out.US

Centre: Constance Mogina from Papua New Guinea and Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya from Swaziland with We Will Speak Out.US representatives

Constance Mogina, Diocese of Dogura, Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea:

Being a panelist at CSW59 [in the We Will Speak Out coalition's event on 'Global Faith Perspectives on Sexual and Gender Based Violence'] has made me a very different person. I gained real confidence to speak out for victims and survivors of sexual and gender based violence in my country, especially in the Anglican diocese where I work. Learning from others at the UN has encouraged me to take up two things immediately.

The first is to strengthen my involvement with gender programmes. I have just been in a consultative workshop and I am now in the secretariat fighting for gender equality.

Secondly I want to promote birth registration in my diocese. I briefed all five Bishops, including the Primate, on my return, and they are all supportive.

Revd Dalcy Dlamini, Diocese of Swaziland, Anglican Church of Southern Africa:

As an African woman serving in church, it was interesting to learn that the church is considered [by the UN] as an NGO. For me it sent a message that as a church we can still do more on social responsibility than we were doing before. As a school chaplain I also learnt that more could be done to empower the lives of girl children in schools.

I was also encouraged by the work done by the Global Women's Fund of the Diocese of New York, which empowers women to continue with their studies. What is encouraging is that African women are encouraged to take the initiative to enroll before they are assisted. For me that's empowerment on its own.

Sarah Chan Lau Sim, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui:

CSW59 was a great and precious experience for me, not only having the privilege to meet delegates from different Provinces face to face, but also to deepen our fellowship through sharing with each other, discussing in groups, attending events, worshipping with other ecumenical women ... I wish networking in our Anglican Communion may be connected further in the future.

The important challenge is to choose which of the many remarkable speeches during the Conference to bring home. Some that challenged me are:

Dr Gertrude Mongella, former UN Under-Secretary General: 'Violence and Discrimination against Women; Poverty, Inequalities and Climate Change; Education and Training of Women and Girls; Women and Health urgently need to be raised and changed.'

Mother Marie Carmel Chery, Episcopal Diocese of Haiti: "If we want to do something we need to start where we are."

Faith Meitiaki, Kenya: "When you educate a woman, you educate a whole society."

Bishop Catherine Roskam: "Educate people in their own context, because culture counts."

The above concerns are like joined interdependent rings. To differing extents, these problems exist in our local city, too. Maybe it is time to invite previous CSW delegates of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui to get together and make

relevant suggestions or advise our Women's League when we decide our annual plan and three-year plan later this year. We may firstly focus on finding resources to provide different trainings for women and girls in order to help them have a well-balanced and healthy life in physical, psychological and spiritual growth. Hopefully, some dedicated leaders in each parish of our Province will be cultivated in a few years' time.

Revd Tatiana Ribeiro, Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil:

I think the CSW was an important time for Anglican women, because we see that we not alone in the work in defence of women, gender equality and against domestic violence. There are women all around the world fighting for the same causes.

I felt part of a much larger project that has a voice. We can each do our part in our community, in our country, so that many things change, and improve the lives of women and girls.

In the Episcopal Church of Brazil, we are fighting against domestic violence. We want men and women to take up this cause. We also take care of young people and children, and work so that young women may have a better future. We're holding a national Youth Conference in September, where we can show these young people that the Church is committed to the defence of a dignified life for them; they also have to fight for their dignity and respect. And in October we will have a meeting of women.



Tatiana Ribeiro, Brazil; Evelyn Lamptey, Ghana, West Africa

Modern Day Slavery and the Global Freedom Network

By the Revd Joan Grimm Fraser

During UNCSW59, our Anglican Communion Delegation spent most of one day with Archbishop Sir David Moxon, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See and Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. In morning worship at the UN Church Centre Chapel, led by the Anglicans, his preaching focused on trafficking and modern slavery; about seeking justice within the context of our call to be children of God.

Archbishop Moxon described how the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope share a deep commitment to address the global issue of slavery. From this the Global Freedom Network, a large inter faith initiative, (Catholic, Anglican, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, and Orthodox) began. Its goal is to eradicate human trafficking and modern slavery by 2020.

Modern slavery now tops the list in illegal financial enterprises, going beyond even illegal drugs and illegal arms sales. It is estimated that globally over 35 million children, women and men are forced into slavery in prostitution, factories, farms, or as domestic workers. Too often, it is the victims who are criminalized, not those who enslave them. Victims need legislation and support services when freed.

It is everywhere. As Archbishop Moxon explained, we may find that we are unwittingly supporters of this slavery, by the clothing and shoes that we wear, the foods we eat, and the electronic devices we use daily. So the Global Freedom Network seeks to track supply chains in manufactured goods and in agriculture.

In our statement to the Anglican Consultative Council, our delegation called all Provinces' attention to this. May we all work together on this important issue.

READ MORE about the Global Freedom Network and Church responses to human trafficking in the January 2015 newsletter produced jointly by IAWN and the International Anglican Family Network: at bit.ly/1F1wKd6



Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori with members of the Anglican Communion and Episcopal Church delegations to CSW59

Many Anglican and Episcopalian women were in New York for CSW59 and its rich programme of side events.

Among them were the members of the Anglican Communion delegation facilitated and supported by the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations:

- Carole Hughes, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia
- Gillian Moses, Anglican Church of Australia
- Tatiana Ribeiro, Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- Alice Medcof, Anglican Church of Canada
- Margaret Kalilangwe, Anglican Church of the Province of Central Africa
- Mary Nirmala Thanja Peiris, Church of Ceylon
- Maranda St John Nicolle, Church of England
- Joan Grimm Fraser, The Episcopal Church
- Sarah Chan Lau Sim, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
- Makiko Fukuzawa, Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Japan)
- Kei Ikezumi, Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Japan)
- Tazu Sasamori, Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Japan)
- Reem Fouad Najeeb El Far, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East
- Sar Kabaw Htoo, Church of the Province of Myanmar
- Constance Mogina, Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
- Emily Alldritt, Scottish Episcopal Church
- Louisa Mojela, Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- Dalcy Dlamini, Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- Evelyn Lamptey, Church of the Province of West Africa

Delegation urges bold steps to gender equality

The CSW59 Anglican Communion delegation's Statement to the Anglican Consultative Council follows, and is on line here: <http://bit.ly/1c9lQuO>.

Catch up on CSW59 blog posts from Maranda St John Nicolle at <https://cofeuncsw.wordpress.com> and Emily Alldritt at <http://bit.ly/1R9Ttwi>

Statement to the Anglican Consultative Council from the Anglican Communion Delegation to CSW59

"For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." Ephesians 2.10

Introduction

"After Beijing we chose to prioritise work which did not lead to irreversible, deep change. The work of real change still remains to be done." Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women

The focus of this year's 59th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) was a 20-year anniversary review of the landmark [Beijing Declaration](#) and [Platform for Action](#), unanimously adopted by 189 countries at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women as an agenda for women's empowerment and a global policy document on gender equality. It set strategic objectives and actions for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality in 12 critical areas of concern. As a review year the aim of CSW59 was not to produce a set of Agreed Conclusions but to issue a Declaration at the start of the Commission then work towards [Agreed Working Methods](#) among the member states.

Following our two weeks of participation in CSW59, UN side events, parallel events organised by civil society, and deep conversations with other participants from diverse contexts, the 19 delegates from the Provinces of the Anglican Communion are pleased to present this statement and invitation to the Anglican Consultative Council and the wider Communion. We also give thanks to God for these two weeks lived as a microcosm of the whole Communion, sharing our experiences and working together in Christian community towards a common goal.

Major Issues

"No country shines when it comes to gender equality ... We still have work to do! ... Faith groups have a key role to play in changing negative social norms, stereotypes and behaviour." Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, Ecumenical Women Orientation Day

We have discerned that the major issues to emerge from this CSW are as follows:

1. Gender-based violence

"At last we have broken the silence on violence against women, now we must break the cycle." Agnes Leina, NGOCSW Consultation Day

One in three women worldwide is a victim of gender-based violence, according to UN Women statistics, and this includes child marriage, rape and domestic violence. Many women feel unable to speak out about their experiences, or feel unheard, because of legal and cultural constraints. We welcome men and boys who recognise the equal humanity of women and girls and encourage them to join us in eradicating gender-based violence, including changing harmful behaviours and attitudes. We acknowledge that alcohol and drug abuse may play a major role in violence, contributing to rather than causing violent behaviour.

Action: We call upon the Churches of the Anglican Communion to seize the opportunity to provide leadership

on this issue through education, advocacy, and through modelling healthy relationships, that mercy, peace and love be for all people, in abundance (Jude 1.2).

2. Climate change

"The environment, after all, is where we all meet, where we all have mutual interest. It is one thing that all of us share." Dr Jane Goodall

God gave us the earth to care for, but we are now abusing what God has entrusted to our care. We recognise each person's and each country's responsibility for taking action to protect the environment. We are also conscious that empowering women leads to greater resilience in the face of climate impacts.

Action: We call on leaders throughout the Anglican Communion, working with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, to raise the issues of environmental degradation and climate change throughout their churches and their communities, and to lobby their governments for action. We call specifically on the churches in high-polluting countries to press their governments for limits on emissions and for the transfer of technologies that enable sustainable development. We ask for resources to be put in place to educate women and men, girls and boys so that they can play their part in environmental sustainability, and for churches to listen to women's voices as they speak out on behalf of current and future generations. We call for women to be included in all aspects of climate planning.

3. Human trafficking and slavery

"The slavery industry today makes more money than the oil industry." Archbishop Sir David Moxon

As a delegation, we welcomed Archbishop Sir David Moxon's presentation on trafficking and modern slavery, which covered the issues and introduced the [Global Freedom Network](#), a faith-based joint initiative of the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking by 2020.

Action: We call on the Churches of the Anglican Communion as a whole to support this initiative and to work on raising awareness of the issues, pressing businesses and governments to address questions around supply chains and legislation, funding alternatives for vulnerable communities, and forming broad partnerships to offer care and support to victims.

4. Statelessness and birth registration

"Children not registered at birth are invisible. Fifty per cent of the world's children under five are unregistered." International Anglican Family Network

God created humanity and gave us identity and dignity, so that everyone might be respected and acknowledged. As Christians we understand the particular value of belonging to a community for our flourishing and empowerment. Conflict, wars, natural disaster, climate change displacement and discrimination result in the statelessness of millions around the globe. The lack of an official identity through statelessness or failure to register children at birth

may result in denial of access to basic needs including education and health care, and many other benefits of citizenship.

Action: We call upon Anglican churches to assist families to overcome obstacles to registration and to raise awareness with the wider community of the importance of registered identity, making use of existing ministry opportunities such as baptism to inform and encourage parents and communities.

5. Gender equality with particular regard to education, economic participation, participation in decision-making, and health initiatives

"I am not free while any woman is unfree, even if her shackles are not my own." Audre Lourde

As Christians we proclaim that God created men and women as human beings in God's image. Gender equality is a human right. It is incumbent upon governments and the Anglican Communion to legislate and implement laws, policies and programmes that enable gender equality. Special attention needs to be paid in regard to education, economic participation, participation in decision making and leadership, and women's health initiatives, it is essential to. Gender equality applies to all human beings and should be a discussion for all women and men, girls and boys.

Action: We call upon the Churches of the Anglican Communion to continue to lobby governments for the implementation of gender policies, programmes and laws.

We also bring to prominence the message of our sisters from the Nippon Sei Ko Kai on the risks of nuclear power plants in the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster. Although four years have passed since the accident at the Fukushima power plants in 2011, people are still living in fear of radiation. We urge the Communion to hear the voices of these survivors on the risks of nuclear power and on the continuing crisis in Fukushima, and to keep them in our hearts and prayers.

Our Challenge to the Communion

"We cannot afford to take baby steps any longer. Now is the time for bold, giant steps." Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka

CSW59 has issued a succinct challenge to the global community: Planet 50/50 by 2030, or in other words, full gender equality by 2030. We are, at our best, capable of bold, giant steps, and women of the world are demanding that now is the time for all of us to be at our best.

The Anglican Communion has already committed to this principle in the form of the fourth Mark of Mission: "to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation." We, the Anglican Communion delegation at CSW59, invite the whole Anglican Communion to 'step up'

to the challenge of Planet 50/50 by 2030 and to take seriously the Church's mission to stimulate and support the social change required to achieve such a goal. This will require courage, prayer and deep discernment within our churches as we work to put our own house in order as well as urging the wider community to work to enable women and men everywhere to be recognised as equal in the eyes of God, and for the structures of church and society to reflect that equality in every aspect of life.

This means the full inclusion of women at all levels of decision-making and leadership in the Church, the careful stewardship of the earth's resources, and zero tolerance for violence in all its forms. Full inclusion requires that our churches continue to speak truth to power in regard to human trafficking and the economic and political policies that allow it to flourish. It means that our churches must continue to challenge discriminatory attitudes and practices that prevent women from accessing the healthcare they need. It means that churches use their connections with grassroots communities to educate local people about the importance of registering the births of all children, and advocate with governments which deny, revoke or fail to facilitate citizenship to their people.

These issues will present different challenges in different contexts, but the urgency is universal.

Hope for the Future

*"I am about to do a new thing;
Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
And rivers in the desert."* Isaiah 43.19

The review of progress in gender equality over the past 20 years indicates that while there have been major gains in the area of policy change and legislation, there is still much work to be done in implementing these changes. Yet we are called to be people of hope and resurrection.

We believe that it is an essential part of the Church's mission that we promote the full human flourishing of all God's children, including God's daughters. It is in this belief that we turn hopefully toward the next meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council and pray that you will seize the opportunity that is before you to help create Planet 50/50 by 2030. We are confident that God will continue to bless us richly in this endeavour.



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