

Welcome to IAWN News!

This is the first of what we hope will be regular IAWN newsletters, telling your stories and sharing your experiences, hopes and prayers for the future. In this edition we hope you will find lots to interest and inspire you, and to encourage you to get in touch and tell us what is going on in the lives and ministries of women in your part of the Anglican Communion. This is a newsletter for women and men, so please pass it on to whoever you think will be interested. May God bless you and all that you do in Jesus' name. *Priscilla Julie, Co-ordinator, IAWN.*

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IAWN's mission

Early in 2009, IAWN committed itself to networking around a number of areas highlighted by women from around the Communion. These areas are:

- Elimination of all forms of violence against women and children, especially trafficking.
- Elimination of extreme poverty, by ensuring access to health care, safe water, and employment opportunities.
- Promotion of gender equality throughout the Anglican Communion.
- Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.
- Promotion of gender budgeting, which is a key to all of the above.

These goals have since been reflected in news and correspondence shared among IAWN members living in very different contexts and we are delighted to capture some of this in the present edition of IAWN News.

16 Days against Gender Violence

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign running from 25 November, the International Day against Violence against Women, and 10 December, which is International Human Rights Day. Several IAWN women have let us know their plans for marking this campaign.

Betty Sospeter in the Anglican Church of Tanzania wrote to say that in Kigoma on the shores of Lake Tangayika, different groups of women and young people were getting together to pray for the end of gender violence. *...continued on page 2*

For more news, reports and resources, visit our website at
<http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/index.cfm>

Thank you Kim! It is our great pleasure to pay special tribute to Kim Robey who, since IAWN's reorganisation in 2006, has served as the Network's secretariat. Kim's commitment and devotion to promoting IAWN's mission and objectives have been instrumental to IAWN's flourishing.

At all times, whether joyous, sad or challenging, we have benefited from her wise counsel. Kim's role as Program Officer for Women's Ministries and Leadership Development in The Episcopal Church is just about to draw to a close. So Kim we thank you sincerely for your ministry to us these past years, and pray that God will guide you in all your future undertakings. With love from your IAWN Sisters.



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There were also hopes for a women and youth seminar on the issue from 6 to 10 December. Betty writes, "We hope God will act upon violence. Let us join hands and ask God to stop it everywhere in this world".

In the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia, Taimalelagi Matalavea took the opportunity to promote the 16 Days of Activism during a luncheon of the Association of Anglican Women (AAW). As guest speaker, Tai focussed on IAWN, its achievements and agenda for the future, and highlighted these as areas that could be promoted nationally and also locally in the parishes.

In the Anglican Church of Canada, IAWN Provincial Link Elizabeth Loweth contacted dioceses, theological colleges, participants of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) and Anglican women's organisations, asking them to use the 16 Days to focus on issues relevant to their geographic area, such as domestic abuse, teen suicides, so-called 'adult entertainment', exposure of young children to violent television programmes, and trafficking in human persons, particularly as it has affected aboriginal women.

The observance of 6 December, twenty years after the killing of women engineering students in Montreal was being covered by the Women's Inter Church Council. IAWN-Canada would hold a Service at the national church office on 10 December, with Alice Medcof presiding and Elizabeth preaching. At the close of the Service, those attending would watch the film 'Pray The Devil Back To Hell' which chronicles the remarkable story of the courageous Liberian women who came together to end a bloody civil war and bring peace to their shattered country.

Elizabeth reflected, 'As we try to move forward with ACC resolution 13.31* and with Millennium Development Goal 3 on the empowerment of women, it is essential to recognise that all forms of violence against women disempower them'.

*** For ACC resolutions 13.31 and 14.33 see <http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/resources/documents.cfm>**

Francisca Bawayan of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines described how the International Day against Violence against Women was marked by women's groups condemning the reported rape and killing of at least 20 women which had taken place two days earlier on 23 November in Maguindanao Province in the south of the country. The women were among 57 people massacred on their way to file documents for a political leader's candidacy for an election in May next year.

The day that was supposed to be marked with milestones in efforts to eliminate violence against women therefore became a day of indignation and grief. The demand for accountability and concrete steps to end impunity for such atrocities was clearly voiced.



White Ribbon Day

25 November is also marked in some countries as White Ribbon Day. The White Ribbon campaign particularly encourages men and boys to commit themselves to the eradication of violence against women in its many forms. The Anglican Church of Australia's General Synod Women's Commission sent out to all dioceses and Anglican schools a comprehensive list of ideas and resources for marking White Ribbon Day. IAWN Steering Group member Ann Skamp shared this list with us which included statistics for violence against women, worship ideas, preaching notes and a guide to on-line resources. And this prayer by the Revd Dr Elizabeth Smith:

A Prayer for use on White Ribbon Day

O God, we pray to you for women and children
who are afraid,
whose bodies are bruised and battered,
whose hearts are scarred,
who live in daily danger of bullying,
threats and shame.

Open our arms to shelter and protect them,
and our ears to listen to their stories of suffering
and survival.

Give us voices to speak for them,
courage to defend them,
and the will to work together to bring
an end to violence.

Show us the way to shape our society so that no-
one will use power to dominate or harm,
and everyone can live in safety, dignity and peace,
in Jesus' name. Amen.

See the Resources section of IAWN's website for information about the White Ribbon campaign and other resources for the Eradication of Gender Violence:

<http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/resources/documents.cfm>

The World Council of Churches has developed study resources for Lent 2010 under the banner 'Cries of Anguish, Stories of Hope'. These are for congregations and individuals who want to share in the work of ending violence against women. A sample of the material is already available at: <http://women.overcomingviolence.org>.

News from the Democratic Republic of Congo

In November, Mugisa Isingoma, IAWN Provincial Link for the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane du Congo, let us know about events and challenges in her Province. She writes:

In Kinshasa, in August this year, Bishop Henri Isingoma of the Diocese of Boga became the fourth Archbishop of Congo. The Province of Congo received many guests from around the Anglican Communion including representatives of the

Archbishop of Canterbury, the Anglican Consultative Council, The Episcopal Church, the Provinces of Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, and Southern Africa, as well as our partners from overseas and other Churches. We thank our Lord because even if there are difficulties as a consequence of war in the life of people, the Church is growing and the faith is there in all dioceses in the Province.

Earlier in the year, in May I accompanied Bishop Isingoma to Confirmations in the Isura and Boga Archdeaconries in the Diocese of Boga. 584 persons were confirmed. It was a joyous time. Also, 275 women joined the Mothers' Union after receiving training for six months in leadership, Bible study, and the five Mothers' Union Objectives.



In the Province of DR Congo, the Mothers' Union is strong, doing different activities to help women in their faith, and also their families. How the father and mother raise their children in faith is vitally important, because, always we say, everything starts in the family: the family is the base of the Church and society.

The second women's organisation is the Union des Femmes pour la Paix et la promotion Sociale (UFPPS), which is working in Boga and Katanga dioceses. We are working in co-operation with different Churches, and non-governmental organisations. Through UFPPS, women receive training in Peace and Reconciliation, Gender, women's empowerment in agriculture, microfinance loans, literacy programmes, and HIV/AIDS awareness, with campaigns for free testing, etc.

We discovered that working with women at grassroots helps us very much to know exactly how women are facing different forms of violence, physically, emotionally, intellectually, psychologically. To know very well the situation for women, good or bad, we need to start at grassroots and then go up. The difficulties that women are facing today are culturally based. Even if modernism comes, the people in the villages are still under their tribal cultural norms and practices that make women to be as slaves.

Being at grassroots does not mean that women do not have anything to contribute to the development of society. We are working with them and use their knowledge to empower them from their local resources that God has given them. The big problem they have is the consequence of war, because they

have lost everything, and life is at the beginning. Also the majority of them do not know how to read and to write. In spite of these drawbacks, they are facing the problems in their lives, and are able to assume responsibilities in their families and society, as well as doing good work to help one another by giving loans, and contributing to their Church.

Women, girls and health

In November, the World Health Organization released a new report 'Women and health: today's evidence, tomorrow's agenda' The report shows how, despite considerable progress in recent decades, societies continue to fail to meet the health care needs of women at key moments of their lives, particularly in their adolescent years and in older age. The report, which calls for urgent action both within the health sector and beyond to improve the health of girls and women around the world, can be accessed on-line at

www.who.int/gender/documents/9789241563857/en/index.html

In many Provinces, Anglican health facilities and projects contribute significantly to health and well-being in local communities. If you know about, or participate in, projects concerned with HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis (including maternal care in these areas), let us know about your activities. We would value hearing from you about what works well and where challenges need to be overcome. You may like to find out more about the Anglican Health Network which facilitates communication and co-operation between Anglicans who are providing health services, large- or small-scale, around the world.

See <http://ahn.anglicancommunion.org/index.cfm> or contact Paul Holly, the Health Network Co-ordinator, at paul.holley@anglicanhealth.org.

Praying together

Through the year, IAWN's email networking has meant that we have been able to pray for one another through times of conflict, earthquake, flood and other difficulties.



Early in September we heard about flooding in West Bengal where thousands of homes were affected and paddy fields destroyed.

Later that month, Patricia Dalmas of the Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) reported on the devastation that Typhoon Ondoy had inflicted on lives, property, businesses, and the environment. Our prayers were with ECP women who quickly became involved in relief operations and medical outreach.

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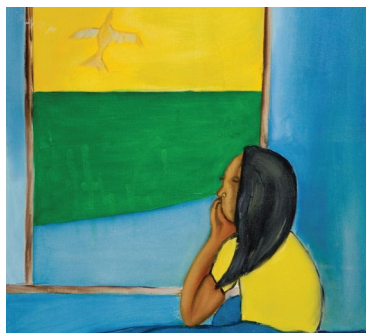
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Also in September we heard from Jenny Te Paa and others about the tsunami generated by a severe earthquake close to Samoa. The tsunami totally devastated many villages throughout Samoa with considerable loss of life, particularly among children and the elderly who were unable to move quickly to higher ground. Rosa Cortes, writing from the Diocese of Chile in the Iglesia Anglicana del Cono Sur de America, echoed all our thoughts: "The disaster area is in a very distant land to me, but I feel the closeness of the pain ... I pray for you, that the Lord will give you strength..."

Benita Rumlshah, IAWN Provincial Link for the Church of Pakistan, whose home is in the Diocese of Peshawar, asked for our prayers during a time of escalating attacks by extremists which have killed many civilian people going about their daily lives. Our prayers continue.

'Lifting Women's Voices - Prayers to Change the World'

This is the title of an inspiring collection of prayers from women and girls throughout the Anglican Communion published earlier this year. The prayers are organised according to themes of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, and make



direct connections between women's personal lives and the global concerns of women everywhere.

They are representative of women from all parts of the Anglican world and show the inter-

relatedness, for example, between a woman's prayer for her infant in America and the plight of child labourers in developing countries. The editorial board for the project included Jane Williams and women from the USA, Asia, South America, New Zealand and the Middle East.

Margaret Rose, Jeanne Person, Abigail Nelson, and Jenny Te Paa, editors

Morehouse Publishing, May 2009
ISBN-13: 978-0-8192-2323-4 / 922323

Gender desks

In October, Pumla Titus-Madiba, IAWN Provincial Link for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, let us know that the Province's new Gender Desk Committee would be meeting for the first time in early November.

We look forward to hearing news as the project unfolds, and to receiving news from Gender Desks in other parts of the Anglican Communion, whether just starting out or well established.

Weaving Wisdom, Confronting Crisis, Forging the Future

The Asia Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing +15

Even though the Philippines was still reeling from the devastating impact of the two recent typhoons and facing the threat of another one hovering over the country, the Asia Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing +15 took place in October at the Miriam College in Quezon City. Esperanza Beleo, IAWN Provincial Link for the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, sent this account:



The Forum gathered together about 640 delegates from all over the Asia Pacific region with guests from Africa and Latin America. Participants included a large number of young women from the region's various colleges and universities and indigenous women who actively engaged with delegations and panellists in parallel workshop sessions. From the Episcopal Church in the Philippines, 15 of us participated, mostly members of Episcopal Church Women and one man from the Church of the Holy Trinity, a local chapter of my diocese (Central Philippines). Also with the group were Francisca Bawayan, IAWN Steering Group Secretary and Patricia Dalmas, National ECW President and delegate to the 53rd UNCSW. We would have been a bigger group but our ECW friends in the north were much involved in rehabilitation work among those affected by the landslides and flooding caused by Typhoons Pepeng and Parma.

The objective of the Forum was to gather women from the Asia Pacific region to discuss the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) on women's equality adopted 15 years ago at the 4th UN World Conference on Women in Beijing. The Forum's theme, 'Weaving Wisdom, Confronting Crisis, Forging the Future', sought to assess the 12 critical areas of the BPfA: what has been achieved, and what still needs to be done.

Plenary Sessions looked at: Feminism through Generations; An Agency for Women in the UN, at Last!; Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction; Gender and Human Security in Situations of Conflict and Post-Conflict; Forging Ahead with Development.



ECP women at the Forum.

Photo provided by Francisca Bawayan

The President of Miriam College Patricia Licuanan urged participants not only to build, strengthen and nurture partnerships with men, other women, social movements, etc, but

also to review our partnership with the UN and stake our claim in its reforms - to get involved in the UN process and continue pushing for the appropriate gender architecture in the UN. The keynote speaker, Noeleen Heyzer, Under-Secretary-General of the UN and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, highlighted the gains of the Asia Pacific women since Beijing. Women had not stood still after the conference but had worked hard augmenting the women's movement. She spoke of the multiple challenges facing women, especially with the present financial crisis and fundamentalisms, and admitted that much still remains to be accomplished. Targets associated with women such as maternal mortality and health are lagging far behind. Touching on the timely topic of climate change, Ms Heyzer said that "women and children are fourteen times more likely to be victims of natural disasters than men in societies where gender inequality exists". Ms Heyzer then invited the delegates to produce a visionary outcome document which she would present to the Beijing +15 Ministerial Review to be held in Bangkok in November.

Other speakers included Charlotte Bunch from the Center for Women's Global Leadership, USA. During the plenary session 'An Agency for Women in the UN, At Last!', Ms Bunch described the development of global women's movements, the offices and work on women's issues within the UN, and the tireless efforts of the Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) campaign to secure an agency for women in the UN. In September, the UN had approved the development of a single architecture that would combine the women-related agencies and other functions within the UN, these were "small, weak, fragmented and operate at a low level that many found frustrating [especially as] the UN has become a fiercely contested space". This architecture will be discussed further in the next few months but many are already doubting that there is adequate funding from the UN for this emerging single body.

There were so many parallel sessions after each plenary session that we had difficulty choosing which ones to attend. They included workshops and panel discussions on topics such as violence against women, feminist approaches to crisis interventions, peace and security issues, climate change issues and policies, migration dilemmas and challenges, women in the grassroots, voices of elderly women, gender justice, young women's activism, and more. In some sessions, we noted the inclusion of faith-based groupings during the discussion process and this is where many of our indigenous and other sisters joined where they were given enough space to freely relay their stories.

Between sessions we were able to engage with other women in the corridors and lounge areas. We met with past participants of UNCSWs and with IAWN Steering Group member Ayra Inderyas from Pakistan. We made time to visit the Women's

Bazaar and an exhibition of Asia Pacific Films on Women.

The final declaration of the Forum was released on 16 November and is available on the Asia Pacific Women's Watch website, <http://apww.isiswomen.org>.

The Forum was the first time for all of us to join our sisters from the Asia Pacific region and for those of us who had experienced UNCSW sessions in New York, this was a great opportunity to get to know our regional sisters better where we had more time to share our concerns and stories, learn applicable best practices, build, develop and strengthen our relationships - something which we have not been able to do or maintain in the New York UNCSW gatherings. The commitment to do one's share in furthering women and gender issues in one's locality has been echoed many times during the Forum and this development has touched the young women delegates to work and collaborate with other women's groups.

Trafficking consultation

From 3 to 6 November a ground-breaking Anglican Consultation on Human Trafficking with a focus on Children in Asia took place in Hong Kong sponsored by the Office of the Anglican Observer to the UN and generously hosted by Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (the Province of Hong Kong) and its Primate, the Most Revd Paul Kwong.

Nearly 40 participants included Anglicans from 12 provinces – Korea, Japan, Philippines, England, Canada, USA, Mexico, Kenya, North India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Hong Kong.



Photo of participants provided by Ayra Inderyas

IAWN Steering Group member and Provincial Link for Pakistan, Ayra Inderyas, participated in the Consultation. She writes:

"Issues, interests and concerns towards exploitation lurking in the racket of human trafficking were shared through theological reflections and discussion on regional situations by each delegate in her country report. Resource persons brought into

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the discussion a few imminent issues such as global response, legislation and policy issues, best practices in churches, testimonies and success stories. Ms Hellen Wangusa, Anglican Observer at the United Nations concluded the consultation with an advocacy strategy, which also provided an opportunity to all participants for role playing in addressing issues around human trafficking in their own contexts."

Documents from the consultation, including country reports, theological reflections, examples of churches' best practice, and presentations by experts from the United Nations and ECPAT (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and the Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes) are on-line at:

www.episcopalchurch.org/41685_116371_ENG_HTML.htm.

IAWN member Betty Chan of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (the Anglican Province of Hong Kong) was one of the team who supported Archbishop Paul Kwong in welcoming participants. Her account of the consultation, in Cantonese, is in the News section of IAWN's website at

<http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/news/index.cfm>.

News from Scotland

Elaine Cameron, IAWN Provincial Link for the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC), reports that energy is currently focussed into two areas concerning women:

Our energies are currently focussed on two areas:

First, in pursuit of the full implementation of ACC Resolutions 13.31 and 4.33 to provide equal representation of women on all decision-making bodies, we are currently conducting a gender audit. This audit is reviewing the representation of women in the work and structures of the SEC by consideration of gender balance at diocesan and provincial levels.

We anticipate that the first stage of this process – data collection - will be complete by Christmas. We will use the first months of 2010 to analyse this data and draft a report for the SEC's General Synod in June 2010. This will include an overview of learning from the data collection and recommendations on any ways in which the SEC can address equality issues and so work towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal 3 'Promote gender equality and empower women'.

Second, we are attempting to pull together the Scottish Episcopal Church's involvement with other ecumenical and secular organisations on the issue of domestic violence. The Mothers' Union has produced good material about this, and we have been heartened by the fact that our Parliament received an ecumenical delegation last week to hear of their concerns and work in this area. We have

also identified an inter faith group for abused women – mainly Christian, but with some Jewish and Muslim women.

News from Canada

Elizabeth Loweth, Provincial Link for the Anglican Church of Canada and Co-ordinator of IAWN-Canada, has been on the road, spreading the word about IAWN and discovering more about the experience of women in different parts of Canada. She describes a trip she made to northern Ontario:

Margaret Dempster and I arrived in Moosonee at James Bay to meet there with around thirty women over two days of discussion about IAWN, the UNCSW, the structures of the Anglican Communion and some of the difficulties now being faced. In addition, there was a presentation by two women who work at the penitentiary serving that rural area, and Margaret presented a wonderful, quiet prayer meditation she has designed on a DVD.

I met with the Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada to think about how IAWN-Canada might serve the aboriginal women and others living in this rather isolated area.

On my own, I took a small boat to the island of Moose Factory where a good friend was gathering with four aboriginal women elders, one of whom spoke only her Cree language. It was a time for me to listen, not to talk, as together, we grieved for a teenage girl who had committed suicide. This was the eighth suicide in the area this year. In the face of this stark tragedy, these women and others, keep a strong faith in a better world. They, like all of us, need to be remembered in prayers, in service, and in a changed future.

UNCSW in March 2010

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women. The 54th session of the Commission will take place in New York from 1 to 12 March 2010 and will undertake a fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Emphasis will be placed on the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals.

The Anglican United Nations Observer, Hellen Wangusa, is gathering together a team of women nominated by their Provinces who will travel to New York and form the core of Anglican representation. In addition, teams from The Episcopal Church (TEC) and the Anglican Church of Canada will attend. Together, these women will bring a breadth of contextual experience and insight to the event.

Many of the TEC women from the New York City area have been attending sessions at the UN for the past year, representing the church, in preparation for the 2010 meeting. Many other women from other parts of TEC who have attended past sessions will come prepared with the knowledge and experience to represent their area and the church in general.

Under the auspices of the Anglican Consultative Council, the Canadian team of 16 women will host a Parallel Event: 'Violence and Indigenous Women'. One of the panellists will speak from personal experience about the disappearance of hundreds of indigenous women. The panel will discuss not only challenges but also hopes and dreams for the future.

We look forward to hearing the outcomes of the 2010 UNCSW session and pray that it will be a valuable and fruitful experience and enable participants to work for advancement of women in their own nations and societies.

Durgapur Women Council meets

'Women Empowerment and Road to Equality' was the theme for the three-day September meeting of the Women Council of Durgapur Diocesan Women Fellowship for Christian Service, which gathered together women from pastorates in the Diocese of Durgapur, Church of North India.



Once the Bishop of the Diocese, the Rt Revd Dr Probal Kanto Dutta had lighted a pradip and declared the Council open, president of the Fellowship, Rita Dutta, spoke of the obstacles experienced in recent years, but also of the joy over what had been achieved. The programme started with a dance show of slum students organised by the four study centres of the Diocese run by Durgapur Diocesan Women fellowship for Christian Service.

During the meeting, Dr Dora Mondal, former Principal of Calcutta Women's College discussed the present condition of women in society, the status of women in Christian and Muslim communities, and also women's empowerment and female education in India. Mrs Papiya Durairaua, lecturer of New Testament in Bishop's College Calcutta focused on the hidden truth of the unnamed but important

women in the Bible such as the Samaritan women and others. She also touched on women neglected and hated in history. Discussion groups followed the speakers, and a business session concluded the meeting.

Connecting Anglican Women

Phoebe's blog

When Phoebe Griswold of The Episcopal Church had an opportunity to travel to East Asia during October and November this year, she invited others to join her for her journey, on-line.

Phoebe wrote, "I have had the privilege of travelling to Asia before and had wanted to share with others the experience of the extraordinary work that women do. Now, I have a way to do that with my internet blog/log called 'Connecting Anglican Women' (CAW). My hope is to engage you so that you feel you are exploring and discovering new friends with me. I will focus on women's prayer, their good works and their lives." Phoebe's blog/log can be viewed at <http://web.me.com/pwgriswold> where she describes her fascinating encounters with Anglican women in Japan, Korea and Hong Kong.

Keeping in touch

IAWN currently has three email listserves (mailing lists) which enable those who subscribe to them to keep in touch without having to send multiple mailings or emails to multiple addresses.

- One listserve is for a broad network of people interested in IAWN generally.
- The second is specifically for IAWN Provincial Links.
- The third is for members of IAWN's steering group.

In recent years The Episcopal Church has been looking after these but now that Kim Robey is moving on, the three mailing lists will be transferred to a different facility managed from the Anglican Communion Office in London. This means that the address for each one will change in near future.

If you are already on one or more of the listserves, there is no need for you to do anything at this stage. You can continue to use the current listserve addresses. As soon as the new arrangements are in place Terrie Robinson will email you with the new listserve addresses and ask you to delete the old addresses from your records.

Please remember that you can only receive and send emails to the listserve addresses if your own email address is included in the mailing list.

If you have any queries about this or would like to have your own email address added to the appropriate listserve as a new subscriber, please get in touch with Terrie at terrie.robinson@anglicancommunion.org.

Visit the IAWN website:

<http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/index.cfm>

IAWN Report to the Anglican Communion Standing Committee meeting at St Andrew's House, London, 15 to 18 December

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN).

It is with great pleasure that I present this report to the Standing Committee on behalf of the IAWN Steering Group (SG) and IAWN Provincial Links (PLs).

ACC 14

I thank the Standing Committee for inviting IAWN to ACC 14 in Kingston, Jamaica. The engagement with members of the ACC enabled them to become better informed about the role of IAWN in the life, mission and ministry of our Communion. IAWN was much encouraged by the acceptance of all sections of our proposed resolution, ACC 14.33. We hope that the Standing Committee, during its meeting, will give particular consideration to:

- section 2 of the resolution, which urges full implementation of ACC Resolution 13.31 (b.ii) across the Communion and encourages Provinces, through the IAWN Provincial links, to report on further progress made to ACC-15 (an interim report dated April 2009 is available and has been included in the documentation for your meeting);
- section 3 which requests that appointments to all Inter-Anglican Standing Commissions, and all other inter-Anglican Committees, design groups, or appointed bodies follow resolution ACC 13.31 (b.i) to provide equal representation of women on each body; and
- section 5 which recognises the importance of appropriate allocation of financial resources, recommends implementation of the principles of gender budgeting throughout the Communion, and requests Provinces to report on progress made to Anglican Consultative Council-15. Some resources relating to gender budgeting are included as an appendix to this report..

Expression of Appreciation

IAWN owes a debt of gratitude to The Episcopal Church for its generous funding of women's activities over many years. IAWN has flourished as a result. Kim Robey, in her role as Program Officer for Women's Ministries and Leadership Development, has served as the Secretariat for the IAWN since 2006 when IAWN was reorganized. IAWN has deeply appreciated her commitment and wise counsel.

Ongoing work of IAWN

Since May 2009 IAWN has sought to improve communication and strengthen its advocacy role across the Network through the following:

- The IAWN website has been updated. The IAWN website is a resource site and a place where women's stories from across the Communion are posted.
- IAWN has an on-line Newsletter. See the December issue of 'IAWN News' at www.iawn.org .
- IAWN has highlighted and provided resources to Provinces through IAWN Links for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December 2009) as part of its work on Millennium Development Goal 3.
- IAWN Links have been encouraged to participate in national and regional activities being held across the world prior to the 2010 meeting of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women which focuses on the 15 year Review of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Challenges for IAWN

- Funding for the work of IAWN at the international and Provincial levels. This includes expenses involved with sharing of information in and across Provinces and having the ability for Links to meet together.
- Lack of electronic capabilities at the grassroots level.

IAWN, through its electronic networking and face to face meetings, bonds women across the Anglican Communion, creates an awareness of challenges women face in different contexts, builds commitment to our vision of women's empowerment, and strengthens the Communion as a whole. We hope that the Provinces will continue actively to support the work of their Provincial Links and value the Network as a whole.

Grace and Peace be with you all.

Your sister in Christ, Priscilla Julie, Co-ordinator, IAWN Steering Group. December 2009.