



IAWN

International Anglican Women's Network

Report to the Joint Standing Committee of the Anglican Consultative Council February 2008

It is with great pleasure that I present this report on behalf of the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN).

The Steering Group and all IAWN Link women would like to acknowledge the extraordinary work and fundraising of Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE), in conjunction with The Episcopal Church. This support has made it possible for Anglican women to gather together around the sessions of the UNCSW, to get to know one another, share concerns, and coordinate for the future. We pray that this report demonstrates to the Joint Standing Committee the work that God is doing through that support.

Elected in March 2006, the Steering Group have been working towards achieving the objectives and vision of IAWN as outlined in our brochure (attached). Copies in Spanish or French are available by writing to info@iawn.org.

To date, 29 Provinces have appointed IAWN Link Women. We pray that the Primates of the remaining 9 Provinces will nominate an IAWN Link woman in 2008.

2007 Activities of IAWN Steering Group

- ♦ *Presentation and/or attendance at meetings, conferences and other Church events:*
 - 51st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) Feb/March 2007;
 - IAWN Steering Group face-to-face meetings during UNCSW Feb/March 2007;
 - TEAM Conference in South Africa, March 2007 and subsequent Follow-Up Group meetings;
 - Compass Rose USA meeting 27 March 2007;
 - Visit by Archbishop of Canterbury to IAWN Canada desk at the Anglican Church of Canada Offices 16 April 2007;
 - Celebrations of 100th Anniversary of the birth of the Rev Dr Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first woman priest in the Anglican Communion, held in Canada, USA and England on 5 May 2007;
 - Episcopal Church Women Conventions, Central Philippines;
 - Joint meeting of Anglican Peace and Justice Network and IAWN in Kigali, Goma and Bujumbura, including a consultation meeting for the Anglican women in the Great Lakes Region to discuss war and conflict and related problems that have degraded the humanity of women as well as girls, 25 September – 3 October 2007;
 - White Ribbon Day services, 25 November 2007; and
 - Diocesan and General Synods and Conventions in Canada and Australia.
- ♦ *Meetings with Diocesan Bishops and Primates:* discussed various issues about women in the church including violence against women and girls, implementing ACC 13/31, and developing women in ministry;
- ♦ *IAWN website* <http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/index.cfm>: updated and now being managed by the Anglican Communion Office. IAWN Link women have been invited to submit information on their Province. IAWN documents will be posted here;
- ♦ *Funding:* various sources are being researched and a fundraising information kit is available on request from Alice Medcof at info@iawn.org. A bank account has been established with the Anglican Communion Office; and
- ♦ *Media:* IAWN Steering Group members had articles on IAWN, UNCSW and other issues regarding women published in Diocesan and National Church newspapers. IAWN also featured in an article in the Journal of Anglican Studies, June 2007, *Anglican Women: Empowering Each other to Further God's Kingdom*, by Mary Sudman Donovan.

Planned activities of IAWN Steering Group

- ♦ *52nd Session of the UNCSW, February/March 2008: some IAWN Link Women and Steering Group members will be in attendance;*
- ♦ *IAWN Booths at Lambeth 2008: a free stall in the Keynes Residences with static display and a rented stall in the Marketplace with static and animated presentations with information from all the Provinces;*
- ♦ *Fundraising: Distribute Fundraising information kit to potential donors. Identify potential IAWN Finance Officers in each Province; and*
- ♦ *IAWN Link Women: Develop clarity on the roles of Link Women and how they can communicate with their Province.*

IAWN Provincial Link Women Report 2007

Annex A summarises the progress IAWN Link Women are making towards empowering Anglican women. They wish to bring your attention to these particular issues that women face in the Communion:

- ♦ gender based violence;
- ♦ illiteracy;
- ♦ reluctance of women to nominate for positions of leadership;
- ♦ living in a patriarchal society;
- ♦ rural/urban divide;
- ♦ HIV/AIDS and other health issues;
- ♦ discriminatory laws and policies;
- ♦ financial insecurity;
- ♦ the digital/electronic divide;
- ♦ role of women in Church life;
- ♦ sexuality;
- ♦ lack of and under employment; and
- ♦ environmental issues.

This list is not exhaustive and specific areas have their own unique issues.

Mothers' Union Summary Report 2007

Annex B is a summary report of Mothers' Union activities in 2007. Margaret Jones is the appointed MU member on the IAWN Steering Group.

Thank you

On behalf of all Anglicans, thank you for your continued support and prayers for this important work in God's Kingdom.

Grace and Peace be with you all.

Your Sister in Christ,

Priscilla Julie
Coordinator
IAWN Steering Group

IAWN Provincial Link women Report 2007

Vignettes from the Provinces

Throughout the Communion, Anglican/Episcopal women yearn to contribute their God-given talents in all arenas of Church ministry and governance. ACC Resolution 13/31 has been greeted with joy and has given impetus to their work. Some brief vignettes of what the Link women are doing and what is happening in the Provinces follow.

Sudan – Harriet Nathan

- ♦ Link attended UNCSW 2007 and reported to Primate and Bishops; Senior Church leaders aware of ACC 13/31 but dissemination to Parishes is poor; Link in communication with all levels of the Church, including Mothers' Union (MU), Government Bodies and various faith-based (FBOs) and non-government organisations (NGOs); Women's Desk is running spiritual and development programmes; Women have recently been included in Provincial and Diocesan Commissions.

North and South Ireland – Rev Canon Doris Clements

- ♦ Link attended UNCSW 2007; MU produced leaflets, presentation and workshop on UNCSW themes; presentation on ACC 13/31 at General Synod with reports in Book of Reports, result unclear; women in minority in both houses of Synod; Link in communication with all levels of the Church including MU; MU takes role of Gender Desk; Link has raised issue of domestic violence in church and has attended training in all aspects of domestic violence and will use knowledge in Ministry and when speaking with MU groups; Link passes on information received from other Link women re disasters and hardships suffered by women in the Communion.

North India – Zanolbia Mal

- ♦ Attended UNCSW 2007; published report in North India Church Review; in communication with all levels of the Church and with various secular organisations and with Government; greater awareness of empowering women in Church; motion before Synod to include two Women's Fellowship for Christian Service Office Bearers in Synod Executive Committee; Information about ACC 13/31 slowly disseminating; Gender Desk developing material for Gender Sensitisation training; participated in Women's Conference; working to establish Beijing Circles.

Australia – Ann Skamp

- ♦ Attended UNCSW 2007; reported to Primate and National Executive; published article in *Journal of Anglican Studies*; passed motions on ACC 13/31 and violence against women and children at local, regional and General Synod including endorsement of educational material for the church re domestic violence; awareness of ACC 13/31 increasing; work of the Women's Commission (women's desk) continuing; women now able to be consecrated as Bishops; in communication with all levels of the Church and with various secular organisations, including White Ribbon Foundation and with Government.

Church of Melanesia (Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia) – Sister Phyllis Sau (CSC)

- ♦ In communication with all levels of the Church and community; in communication with Government, FBOs and NGOs via the Women's Desk Officer; various events have promoted women including Women's Consultation, Leadership Training and Consultation on Violence against Women; inclusive liturgy is being written; women's groups in COM working towards Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); very little awareness of ACC 13/31; first women appointed Parish Chair and tutor at Bishop Patteson Theological College (BPTC); cultural conservatism hindering women's ordination.

Canada - Elizabeth Loweth

- ♦ Attended UNCSW 2007 with closing statements sent out by Primate to all Bishops; in communication with all levels of the Church, including MU and other FBOs and NGOs; spoke at UN Association event and Theological College of University of Toronto; helping with organising stalls for Lambeth; awareness of ACC 13/31 growing slowly; gender desk staffed by volunteers.

Pakistan - Ayra Inderyas

- ♦ In communication with UNCSW attendants and Women's Desk which works with other FBOs and NGOs; written articles on CEDAW and discriminatory laws against women; as Lahore Diocese Women's Desk Secretary conducted seminars and meetings on women's rights, etc; started Women's Health Concern project in slum districts; very low awareness of ACC 13/31; Women's desk very active in Church and member of secular women's movement.

Papua New Guinea - Ida Baure-Ovoi

- ♦ In communication within Diocese including MU and UNCSW Representative; participated in Pacific Women's Day of Prayer; Clergy aware of ACC 13/31 but awareness low among laity; MU Council represents women on Provincial council but not all women represented by MU; liaises with other Church groups including HIV/AIDS and literacy; working on raising awareness of IAWN and ACC 13/31.

Brazil - Rev Inamar de Souza

- ♦ In communication with all levels of the Church, the Brazilian UNCSW representatives, and NGOs; attended Women's meeting with the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; celebrated 20 years of women's ordination;

women have 30% representation at Provincial level and are on every committee; ACC 13/31 is on the agenda for some women's organisations and Bishops; Episcopal Anglican Women's Union (Women's desk) works to represent women at national level and links with Diocesan desks.

The Episcopal Church - Phoebe Griswold

- ♦ In communication with all levels of the church including 11 official women's organisations; wrote article for Episcopal Life on MDG3, AWE and UNCSW; Office of Women's Ministries sponsored women to attend IAWN meetings; many women's organisations promote women's issues and encourage women to get involved in the church, including young women; ACC 13/31 adopted at General Convention 2006; Committee on the Status of Women is developing instrument to measure women's progress in the Church; MDGs set as priority work for whole church; Beijing Circles (BPfA) growing in activity; working to keep women's issues at every decision-making table.

Philippines - Francisca Bawayan

- ♦ In communication with Bishops, UNCSW representatives, Episcopal Church Women, and growing links with clergy and lay members; articles in Diocesan publication *The Central Voice* and Provincial journal *The Episcopalian*; presented with UNCSW representative at ECP Executive Council; ACC 13/31 being implemented slowly, women being appointed to committees and as representatives of their Dioceses, amendment to constitution to be discussed 2008; gender sensitivity included in development work; Link attended TEAM Conference, Boxburg, South Africa; women involved in Diocesan Vision and Strategic Planning; works alongside FBOs and NGOs for BPfA and MDGs.

Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia - Rev Dr Jenny Plane Te Paa

- ♦ Developing communication strategy and plan of action with Centre for Women's Studies to communication with women in the Province; Link and other UNCSW representatives have reported back to General Synod, Standing Committees etc; Link attended TEAM Conference, Boxburg, South Africa and Great Lakes Region of Africa meeting in Kigali, Rwanda; General Synod ratified ACC 13/3; implementation progressing – women recently appointed as General Secretary, Executive Officer for theological educational institutions and Dean of Napier Cathedral; varied quality of experience from ordained woman; various women's organisations working towards achieving BpFA and MDGs; other UNCSW reps have spoken about IAWN to the National Council of Women and other NGOs and FBOs; many women involved in volunteer roles at all levels of the church.

Kenya - Rev Joyce Kariuki

- ♦ In communication with women through seminars, workshops, fellowships, etc; working closely with MU in empowering women; ordination of women continues to increase with many women in Theological Colleges and many women priests, archdeacons and a few canons; many women are now involved in micro development enterprises as a way of eradicating poverty and the Church has signed a memorandum of understanding with a local bank to enable it's members to secure loans; the Church has openly accepted to fight stigma due to HIV/AIDS enabling women to come out and speak about their status and receive help; a continental workshop for women leaders in the Anglican Church in Africa is being organised.

Indian Ocean – Maud Patten

- ♦ Link is Provincial MU president; in communication with Primate and Bishops, UNCSW representatives, MU Diocesan Presidents and Anglican women via letters, e-mails, reports and visits; only one women priest, but all Dioceses now have women as lay readers, women now sit on Church Council and Provincial Synod and a Diocesan Registrar and the Provincial Chancellor are women; Governments in the Province starting to work under MDGs to combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, Eradication of Poverty, Primary Education and empowering women; No women's desk but Link takes issues raised by women to Provincial Synod.

RD Congo - Mugisa Isingoma

- ♦ Link is MU President of the Diocese of Boga and also the Moderator of United Women for Peace and Social Promotion (UFPPS in French); through UFPPS there is training on peace and reconciliation, conflict resolution, and eliminating violence against women and women are trained in handicrafts, agriculture, and small business to empower them to be self-sufficient.

Great Lakes Region of Africa

- ♦ IAWN members from Great Lakes Region of Africa met under the theme “**Violence against Women and Peace Building from the Grassroots**” in Kigali, Rwanda in September 2007 and released the following statement.
We, members of the International Anglican Women's Network from the Great Lakes Region of Africa, meeting in consultation at Bloom Hotel, Kigali, Rwanda, from the 23^d to the 26th of September 2007, recognize that while gender-based violence is most rampant during armed conflicts, it also occurs during peacetime. Therefore we:
 - *Affirm our commitment to build capacity to pronounce ourselves on the issue of gender-based violence and conflict resolution;*
 - *Resolve to study, document and disseminate information and experiences on gender-based violence and the impact of conflict on women and children in the Great Lakes Region; and*
 - *Recommend that the Church acknowledge and support the women's efforts in addressing gender-based violence and in peace building.*

Mothers' Union Summary Report 2007

Mothers' Union is a Christian organisation with a growing membership of 3.6 million women and men living in 78 countries around the world - all united in their commitment to support marriage and family life. Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

The world is full of injustices: poverty, lack of education, lack of health care, unfair trade, family breakdown and gender inequality. Mothers' Union works to right some of these injustices by assisting people as they face the many challenges in their lives and by empowering them to help themselves through programmes, conferences and trainings.

PERU - has seen a growth in parish groups and at diocesan level. In Lima, members volunteer in outreach projects in shanty town areas whilst in Arequipa, ladies help with two children's homes.

IRAQ - The fellowship and commitment of members in Baghdad shines as a beacon of light in their war ravaged community. Canon Andrew White of St. George's writes, "The Church here is reaching out to others and helping other churches. People do not realise how significant Mothers' Union is – members are doing outstanding work with help and encouragement from Mary Sumner House and give of themselves tirelessly".

SUB SAHARAN AFRICA - Over 30,000 people in Burundi, Malawi and Sudan have benefited through MU Literacy and Development programmes. Skills in numeracy, literacy and discussions about relationships and values, have meant families are overcoming poverty and marital breakdown.

PRISON WORK - In the United Kingdom, over 1000 volunteers are working in 90 prisons to strengthen faith and family life for prisoners and their families. This work is mirrored in Ireland, Nigeria, Uganda, West Africa and the Solomon Islands.

THE FAMILY LIFE PROGRAMME - In Uganda, participatory learning and action techniques are helping community groups find solutions to their problems of health, hygiene and growing food. The programme also brings spiritual and social benefits.

PARENTING PROGRAMME - In Guyana, this is a tool in contributing to the stability of family life. To date, 492 parents and carers have been targeted, 67 being men, reaching people of all faiths and none, rich and poor. There is also a group for the disabled, led by a blind facilitator; the manual was recorded on a cassette. Work began in the coastlands but has now progressed to the hinterland, where there are indigenous Amerindian tribes.

The website has been updated and a new contemporary logo has been designed, including a globe to show the international nature of Mothers' union.

Mothers' Union is involved in community projects in 405 dioceses around the world and we will continue to look at ways of supporting membership growth and expanding to new provinces and dioceses.

Margaret Jones
Mothers' Union member of IAWN Steering Group.