



IAWN

International Anglican Women's Network

A network of the Anglican Consultative Council

REPORT TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE - July 2010

IAWN response to the GARDA proposal

IAWN welcomes the initiative to establish a Global Anglican Relief and Development Alliance (GARDA) and has made a submission commenting on the GARDA proposal document.

The IAWN response enthusiastically supported the proposed Alliance as being consistent with, and potentially of value to, its own resourcing and advocacy work across the Communion. It welcomed the intention to underpin these undertakings with a further developed theological understanding of development as transformation and has supported the goal of responsible accountability.

Concerns were raised regarding use of inclusive language and perspective, the Church's own integrity in matters of equality and justice, issues around determining 'shared values', participation through 'gift in kind' and the potential of organisational matters becoming a distraction. IAWN is particularly hopeful that GARDA will operate in such a way that grassroots-based stories and issues are given a valuable place and role in its activities.

Our vision is that GARDA might indeed become a vital instrument for organisations across the Communion where sharing, resourcing and cooperating bring witness to the Christian gospel in new and more effective ways.

IAWN at the 54th Session of United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, New York, USA 1 - 12 March 2010

Once again at the invitation from the Anglican Observer at the United Nations, Ms Hellen Wangusa, more than 80 women from across the Anglican Communion attended the meeting of United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). This annual gathering of Anglican women continues to be of significant encouragement and importance to the work of IAWN. The women's engagement with the task of the 15-year review of the Beijing Platform for Action – the focus of this year's UNCSW – and the mission visit training by Ms Wangusa are invaluable tools in the advocacy work of IAWN as well as the day to day work of women in their various ministries across the Communion.

The IAWN Provincial Links present, together with the Revd Canon Alice Medcof (Canada), Ms Ayra Indryas (Pakistan), and Ms Ann Skamp (Australia) from the IAWN Steering Group, and the Revd Terrie Robinson (Anglican Communion Networks Co-ordinator and Women's Desk Officer) were invited to make a presentation on the place and role of IAWN as it includes all Anglican women.

The presence of Anglican women at the UNCSW is a practical outworking of the vital partnership between the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations (ACOUN) and IAWN as well as highlighting the potential for further development of this relationship.



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IAWN at the meeting of the Anglican Peace and Justice Network (APJN) meeting in Geneva, Switzerland 13 - 20 March 2010

IAWN was represented by Ms Ann Skamp (Australia) at the triennial meeting of the APJN meeting. The meeting was facilitated by the Anglican UN office in Geneva with a programme designed to help participants learn further about effective interaction with the UN system in Geneva in their work on peace and justice issues across the Communion and the world. For IAWN this input was complementary to its long-term working relationship with the ACOUN in New York.

Learnings for IAWN included the need to break down priority issues for advocacy into more focussed areas of work, to be aware of the value and potential contribution of UN processes with respect to advocacy in their own country and region, to offer positive alternatives in advocacy work, and to be proactive in partnerships and the recurring need of having better and more extensive theological resources available for advocacy.

Newsletter

Issue 2 of the IAWN Newsletter can be found at
<http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/newsletters/index.cfm>

Meeting of the IAWN Steering Group

Although the Steering Group had planned to meet in February 2010 as guests of the Diocese of Liverpool, Church of England, lack of financial resources for travel resulted in the cancellation of this significant planning session. While this has been disappointing and frustrating it is hoped that the meeting can be rescheduled soon to enable the Steering Group to address more effectively the priority areas for advocacy as identified by the full meeting of Provincial Links and Steering Group in February 2009. In the meantime the Steering Group strives to maintain the energy and momentum gained in 2009 by working through email and using other technologies such as Skype.

Ongoing work of IAWN

Elimination of gender-based violence continues to be the overarching issue of common concern throughout the Communion and will be a major focus for IAWN especially during the 16 DAYS of Activism Against Gender Violence (25 November – 10 December 2010).

Grace and Peace be with you all.

Your sister in Christ,

Priscilla Julie

Coordinator, IAWN Steering Group

May 2010