

## Anglican Consultative Council Resolution 13/31

Excerpted from p 8 of Passed Resolutions of the ACC-13.

The ACC Provincial Delegation to the 49<sup>th</sup> UN Commission on the Status of Women

The Anglican Consultative Council Resolution 13:

1. Receives and adopts the Report of the ACC Provincial Delegation to the 49<sup>th</sup> UN Commission on the Status of Women and affirms the work of the International Anglican Women's Network in responding to the Beijing Platform for Action and the MDGs, thereby carrying forward the full flourishing of God's creation
2. Acknowledges the MDG goal for equal representation of women in decision making at all levels, and so requests:
  - a. The Standing Committee to identify ways in which this goal may appropriately be adapted for incorporation into the structures of the Instruments of Unity, and other bodies to which the Anglican Consultative Council nominates or appoints;
  - b. All member churches to work towards the realization of this goal in their own structures of governance, and in other bodies to which they nominate or appoint;and to report progress to ACC-14.
3. Recommends that a study of the place and role of women in the structures of the Anglican Communion be undertaken by the Standing Committee in line with the object of the ACC to "keep in review the needs that may arise for further study, and, where necessary, to promote inquiry and research";
4. Requests that each Province give consideration to the establishment of a women's desk for that Province;
5. Thanks those Provinces which sent participants to the 49<sup>th</sup> Session of UNCSCW, and encourages those who did not to review their decision in time for the 50<sup>th</sup> Session in 2006 in solidarity with all women of the Anglican Communion.

## The Millennium Development Goals.

During the Millennium Summit held in New York in September 2000, all 189 UN Member States adopted the Millennium Declaration which contained a group of goals and targets that have since become known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals, working together, aim to halve poverty by 2015. In summary, they are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Create a global partnership for development with a focus on debt, aid and trade.

## CEDAW - The Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 1979.

CEDAW is one of seven United Nations human rights treaties. It provides the basis for realizing equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to, and equal opportunities in, political and public life, as well as education, reproductive health, employment, family law, child care, and social security.

Countries who sign the Convention agree to take all appropriate measures, including legislation and temporary special measures, so that women can enjoy all of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and must regularly report to the United Nations on its progress in fully implementing CEDAW.

## CEDAW's Optional Protocol

1. **Communications Procedure:** Individuals and groups can submit a formal complaint to the United Nations about alleged violations of CEDAW by their country.
2. **UN Inquiry:** The UN Committee can demand information and an explanation from a country where grave or systematic violations of CEDAW may be occurring.

## Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted at its 4213th meeting, on 31 Oct 2000, in part, reads:

### *The Security Council,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 1261 (1999) of 25 August 1999, 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, as well as relevant statements of its President, and *recalling also* the statement of its President to the press on the occasion of the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace (International Women's Day) of 8 March 2000 (SC/6816),

*Recalling also* the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231) as well as those contained in the outcome document of the twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender Equality; Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century" (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), in particular those concerning women and armed conflict,

*Noting* the need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls,

1. *Urges* Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict;

2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to implement his strategic plan of action (A/49/587) calling for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes;

3. *Urges* the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf, and in this regard *calls on* Member States to provide candidates to the Secretary-General, for inclusion in a regularly updated centralized roster;

4. *Further urges* the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel;

18. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

## BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION – 1995 - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### A. Women and poverty

- A. 1. Review, adopt and maintain macroeconomic policies and development strategies that address the needs and efforts of women in poverty
- A.2. Revise laws and administrative practices to ensure women's equal rights and access to economic resources
- A.3. Provide women with access to savings and credit mechanisms and institutions
- A.4. Develop gender-based methodologies and conduct research to address the feminization of poverty

### B. Education and training of women

- B. 1. Ensure equal access to education
- B.2. Eradicate illiteracy among women
- B.3. Improve women's access to vocational training, science and technology, and continuing education
- B.4. Develop non-discriminatory education and training
- B.5. Allocate sufficient resources for and monitor the implementation of educational reforms
- B.6. Promote life- long education and training for girls and women

### C. Women and health

- C. 1. Increase women's access throughout the life cycle to appropriate, affordable and quality health care, information and related services
- C.2. Strengthen preventive programmes that promote women's health
- C.3. Undertake gender- sensitive initiatives that address sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues
- C.4. Promote research and disseminate information on women's health
- C.5. Increase resources and monitor follow-up for women's health

### D. Violence against women

- D. 1. Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women
- D.2. Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventive measures
- D.3. Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking

### E. Women and armed conflict

- E. 1. Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation
- E.2. Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments
- E.3. Promote non- violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations
- E.4. Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace
- E.5. Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women
- E.6. Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories

### F. Women and the economy

- F. 1. Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment, appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources
- F.2. Facilitate women's equal access to resources, employment, markets and trade
- F.3. Provide business services, training and access to markets, information and technology, particularly to low-income women
- F.4. Strengthen women's economic capacity and commercial networks
- F.5. Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination
- F.6. Promote harmonization of work and family responsibilities for women and men

### G. Women in power and decision-making

- G. 1. Take measures to ensure women's equal access to and *full* participation in power structures and decision-making
- G. 2. Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership

### H. Institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women

- H. 1. Create or strengthen national machineries and other governmental bodies
- H.2. Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects
- H.3. Generate and disseminate gender- disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation

### I. Human rights of women

- I. 1. Promote and protect the human rights of women, through the *full* implementation of all human rights instruments, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- I.2. Ensure equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice
- I.3. Achieve legal literacy

### J. Women and the media

- J. 1. Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the media and new technologies of communication
- J.2. Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media

### K. Women and the environment

- K.I. Involve women actively in environmental decision- making at all levels
- K.2. Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development
- K.3. Strengthen or establish mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels to assess the impact of development and environmental policies on women

### L. The girl child

- L. 1. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child
- L.2. Eliminate negative cultural attitudes and practices against girls
- L.3. Promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential
- L.4. Eliminate discrimination against girls in education, skills development and training
- L.5. Eliminate discrimination against girls in health and nutrition
- L.6. Eliminate the economic exploitation of child labour and protect young girls at work
- L.7. Eradicate violence against the girl child
- L.8. Promote the girl child's awareness of and participation in social, economic and political life
- L.9. Strengthen the role of the family in improving the status of the girl child