

IAWN news

October 2016—Issue 17

Korea: Women's Mission Centre opens

After 20 years of prayer, hopes and fund-raising, a new Women's Mission Centre has been formally opened during a Ceremony of Blessing in Seoul, Korea. The Primate, Archbishop Paul Kim, officiated.



The idea for the Centre was first put forward in a resolution from the Anglican Church of Korea's Women's Forum in 1993. The project itself was launched in 1995 but it has taken until now for the centre, in the Shinyoungdong district of Seoul, to be ready.

Many congratulations to IAWN Provincial Link Ruth Choi (right in photo) and all in the Anglican Church of Korea who have worked so hard to make the Women's Mission Centre a reality.

The Centre will be a great gift to women's organizations and a place from where women can be empowered to achieve their full potential, where women's leadership can be nurtured, and where women and men can be sensitised to the many issues around gender that affect us all. It will also provide a support system for deprived women and children.

Michiko Kikawada who looks after the Women's Desk in Nippon Sei Ko Kai (the Anglican Church in Japan) was a guest at the 4 September Ceremony of Blessing. While in Korea, Michiko joined others for a Japanese/Korean meeting to discuss the running of women's desks and policies concerning women in the Church.

The first week of September is Women's Mission Week in Korea. During this special Week, the 9th Forum for Women in the Anglican Church of Korea took place. Ruth took the opportunity to talk about [Anglican Consultative Council resolutions 16.02 and 16.03](#) on Women and Gender Justice, and gender budgeting.

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Moving in the right direction in Auckland

IAWN Steering Group member Archdeacon Carole Hughes sent us the good news that the Synod of Auckland Diocese in the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia has passed resolutions on Equal Gender Representation and Inclusive Language.

The first motion asked the Diocesan Council to research ways of implementing and legislating for their goal of having equal representation of women and men in decision-making at all levels, whenever electing or appointing representatives to governing and consultative bodies. The motion also encouraged equality in visibility and involvement of women and men at all diocesan events.

The second motion recommitted the Diocese of Auckland to using inclusive language in all areas of its work and to using inclusive language in liturgy and music when referring to people and to God. The motion was introduced by Revd Diana Rattray, Vicar of All Saints Ponsonby in Auckland. If any IAWN member would like to read Diana's speech, email terrie.robinson@anglicancommunion.org.



Congratulations... مبروك

But what about the future? In August, Leila Diab, our Provincial Link for Jerusalem & the Middle East, wrote from Jordan.

A few minutes ago the hooting of cars crazily filled the city of Amman in Jordan announcing the results of the Tawjihi exams. Facebook posts started immediately: A boy who chose to study Engineering but his grades entitled him to study medicine which is the wish of the family. A girl who suffered from cancer overcame her sickness and passed with high marks. Another girl tried to commit suicide, not because she failed but because she expected higher grades. More celebrations will be taking place tonight and more tears will be shed by the unfortunate ones.

In spite of all this ecstasy and agony of 12 years of schooling, where will our graduates be going? What should they be expecting of a future and a new stage in life when surprised every day with an act of terror, war, poverty or instability? Where should they be heading in a region that is faced with economic instability, wars, and threatened by unexpected events, in and outside of our region—unexpected events that are ending the lives of many innocent people, be they children, sick or elderly?

In the past, commencement meant the beginning of a new stage in life filled with hope, love, peace and achievement. What does it mean now to the new generation? What should they study to be able to get a job and a decent living? Where should they study so they can live in peace and tranquillity? What should they dream about and how can they fulfil their dreams? All these and many more questions cross our minds daily without positive answers.

It is time we congratulate our children and their parents for their successes and yet we pray that they will have Peace, Love and Hope for a better future. Is it too much to ask for this?

Dear God, as each one of us is ready to sleep and dream, we ask you to bring peace into our hearts. Bring peace by instilling love rather than hate in the hearts of all people. Bring wisdom in the minds and hearts of all rulers of the world to exchange weapons for love, terror for serenity, and chaos for peace!

The world is moving fast towards destruction through the selfishness of people and the hunger for materialistic glory. What we really need now is humility, peace, love and care. Help all those who are suffering from wars, wherever and whoever they are. Bless the sick, the needy, the refugees and those who are poor in spirit.

We ask you for peace in our country, in our region and the whole world. Let us enjoy the beauty of our world and not watch its destruction. Amen.



IAWN at Canadian W20

IAWN Steering Group member Revd Margaret Dempster represented IAWN Canada and Anglican women generally at the Canadian W20 Roundtable in Ottawa in July.

W20 is one of the 'engagement groups' that gather under the auspices of the G20 (an international forum for the governments and central bank governors from 20 major economies). The group was initiated during the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Ankara, Turkey, in September 2015. A WTO summit followed in China, in May this year.

Discussions during the Canadian W20 Roundtable provided an opportunity to discuss the main outcomes of the Summit in China and focussed on:

- * accountability re W20/G20 outcomes
- * cross cutting W20 measures with the G20
- * linking required W20 resources with G20 Finance Ministers
- * representing special interest groups concerns, and
- * the natural growing pains involved in any newly constituted body.

Margaret noted with particular interest the W20 commitment to strengthen trans-national and cross-regional exchanges between women's organisations and women's professional associations as well as their cooperation with government institutions, workers' and employers' organisations and relevant intergovernmental organisations.

IAWN-Canada representation at the Canadian W20 Roundtable discussions will be helpful in cross-cutting or bridge-building between the W20 engagement group and our international Anglican Women's Network.

See Margaret's full report at <http://bit.ly/2d8d7Nf>.

Prayer and the Least Coin

Moumita Biswas is Executive Secretary of the All India Council of Christian Women, and a member of the IAWN Steering Committee. She says that "In India we have been busy with activities in different churches to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin Movement".



Many Anglican women in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, South America, the Middle East, USA and Pacific participate in this worldwide ecumenical movement of prayer for peace and reconciliation. Women meet and pray with each other and are reminded to live a reconciling and forgiving life with others.

Each woman sets aside one 'least coin' of her currency. The coins are sent regularly to her country's FLC collection point. It is important that only the 'least coin' of each currency be set aside so that even the poorest women of each country can be a part of this fellowship of love and care.

The [Fellowship of the Least Coin](#) was founded by Shanti Solomon of India who, in 1956, travelled through the countries of Asia with the Pacific Mission Team of seven women from different countries. She recognised that prayer transcends borders.

News from Bangladesh

Janet Sarker, President of the Women's Fellowship Committee in the Church of Bangladesh let us know about recent events for women in the Diocese of Dhaka.



The Diocese of Dhaka Women's Fellowship conference was held 25-27 August at the Savar Retreat and Conference Centre with the theme 'For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline' (2 Timothy 1.7). Seventy participants from 69 parishes in the diocese attended.

Moderator Bishop Paul S Sarker introduced the theme, saying that being a minority meant that we face some difficulties and experience nightmares at times but St Paul the Apostle focused the same event of his lifetime too with this verse of the Bible. He also advised us not to be afraid of this type of worldly situation but we should be courageous in God's power with overcoming fear and exercising self control.

The committee meeting of Dhaka Diocese Women's Fellowship was held on 25 August. Bishop Paul S Sarker encouraged the women leaders and workers of the rural parishes and told them how to improve their quality of leadership for the church. Then some decisions were made regarding the women's program and necessary trainings for parishes and deaneries of the diocese to enhance the capacity of the women workers.

The Women's Fellowship of St Andrew's Church Mirpur organised a day long retreat on 24 June at the Retreat Centre of the Catholic Church at Mothbari in Kaliganj, Dhaka.

Twenty women from St Andrew's Church participated in the retreat which had the theme 'Do not be afraid of'. The Director of the Retreat Centre Fr Srijon facilitated the day's reflections. During the meditation the women offered themselves to God and spent a very special day with the word of God.

Fr Srijon shared that worldly fear, frustration, terrorism, ferocity, jealousy in our minds lead us to be inverted and distract us from Jesus' path. But the Word of Truth and God's support can keep us alongside him, and explore justice, give us new hope and encourage us to overcome tormenting fear so that we can eulogize God's glory.

Rwanda MU Jubilee

The Mothers' Union was established in the Province of the Anglican Church of Rwanda in 1965 and now has 24,450 members across 11 dioceses.

The Mothers' Union in Rwanda focuses on promoting spiritual growth and marriage, mobilizing parents for positive parenting, addressing gender-based violence, promoting economic development and food security in families, sensitizing about hygiene and sanitation, contributing to education and helping families in adversity.

IAWN Steering Group member Revd Immaculée Nyiransengimana reports on the recent Jubilee celebrations:

The celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Mothers' Union in Rwanda took place on the last Sunday of July. It started with a Sunday service attended by more than 3,000 people, mostly Mothers Union members.

The Rwandan Archbishop together with Bishops and Priests attended the ceremony. The occasion was graced by the presence of Mothers' Union Worldwide President Mrs Lynne Tembey, and Her Excellency Jeannette Kagame the First Lady of Rwanda was the guest of honour.



Below: Mrs Rwaje Josepine and Mrs Lynne Tembey



Immaculée's report with more photos is at <http://bit.ly/2cZ96rj>

- * **Conflict and increased tensions in South Sudan and Burundi in recent months have led to an increase in sexual violence against women and girls. Please pray for our Anglican sisters and all women and girls in these two countries and in all countries affected by conflict.**
- * **To find out what commitments your country made for women and girls during the World Humanitarian Summit in May, go to <http://bit.ly/2cZbCOi> and enter key words such as 'gender' or 'women' or 'gender-based violence' in the Search box.**

Trainee midwives graduate in Raiwind, Pakistan

Alice Garrick, Executive Director of the Diocese of Raiwind's Women Development & Service Society (WDSS) and IAWN's Provincial Link for the Church of Pakistan, reported on the latest graduation of midwives in her diocese.

By the Grace of God, the midwifery training of WDSS has functioned well, with encouraging results. This is the opportunity for young women of the poor communities to enhance their capabilities for professional training and a bright future.

On 14 July, at the Rehabilitation Center, a graduation ceremony was held in the afternoon. In this batch, 23 girls were graduated and presented with certificates. They were confident and excited after the completion of their training.



Active Bystander?

Dr Ree Boddé, Program Director for Think Prevent in Melbourne, Australia posted on our [Facebook page](#) that this month Bishop Genieve Blackwell and Archdeacon Jan Crombie will be presenting a motion to the Diocese of Melbourne recommending participation by all parishes in the Active Bystander Training Program and requesting that it be made compulsory training for clergy, lay ministers and ordinands.

The Active Bystander Training Programme is part of a broader initiative in the Diocese of Melbourne to prevent domestic abuse.

The full text of the motion is here: <http://bit.ly/2dQxegA>.

Girls in Honduras

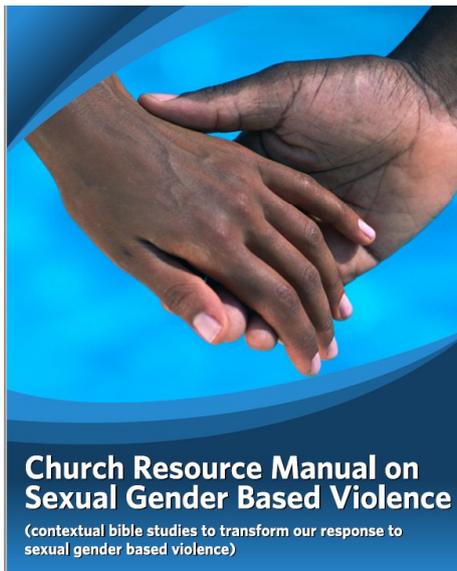
Revd Connie Sanchez in the Diocese of Honduras in The Episcopal Church has been working with the Girls Friendly Society to help girls learn and have fun as part of the 'Jesus Movement'. Let's pray with them:

Dios Amado, que tu Santo Espíritu gué nuestras niñas dandoles discernimiento; compromiso y mucha hambre de ti y tu palabra, acompáñanos para continuar con este ministerio con el gozo y el amor que tu Santo Espíritu da. Todo te lo pedimos en el bendito nombre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Amén!



Have you seen these resources?

Pumla Titus, IAWN Steering Group member and Provincial Link for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa has drawn our attention to this resource, recently used by Hope Africa with Anglican Students in South Africa: English <http://bit.ly/2dJMe3s> and Xhosa <http://bit.ly/2dztamU>.



Church Resource Manual on Sexual Gender Based Violence
(contextual bible studies to transform our response to sexual gender based violence)



WE WILL SPEAK OUT
WOMEN TOGETHER TO END VIOLENCE

The 16 Days are soon!

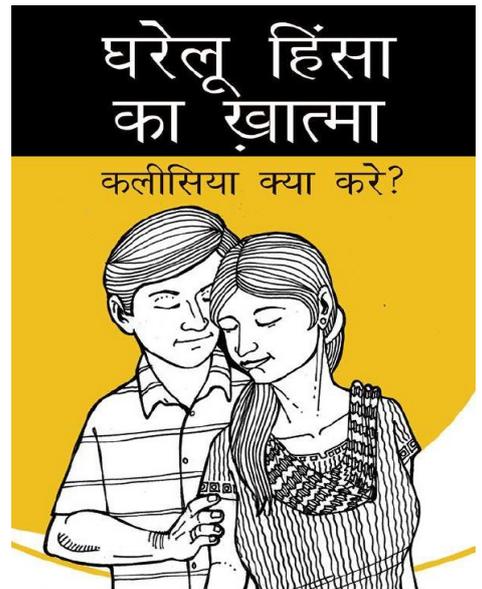
IAWN Steering Group member **Lizzi Green** is collecting stories for our next Newsletter.

A focus for the Newsletter will be this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence.

Please let Lizzi know what will be happening in your parish, diocese or Province. Email lizzigreen48@gmail.com.

Restored, the international Christian alliance working to transform relationships and end violence against women, has added Hindi to the several language versions of its Pack for Churches. See <http://bit.ly/2dxwxhW>. For Portuguese, Spanish and Russian, see <http://bit.ly/2djtzik>.

Thank you Mandy Marshall in the UK for letting us know.



Your Voice Your Network Your Communion

Find out more about the Vision and Purpose of the International Anglican Women's Network at

<http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org>

