

IAWN news

Christ is risen! Alleluia!



A warm welcome to our Easter edition of IAWN news. Thank you to Grace Luwewa, Administrator for the Anglican Diocese of Lusaka, Zambia, for sending in this photo of an ecumenical procession through the streets for Palm Sunday.

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Diocese of Jerusalem: Safe migration workshop

Over 40 women from the Diocese of Jerusalem travelled to Amman, Jordan in February to take part in a workshop on Safe Migration and Human Trafficking. The gathering was convened jointly by the Women's Ministry of the Diocese of Jerusalem and the Anglican Alliance.

The purpose of the workshop was to raise awareness of an issue which, whilst prevalent, is not often discussed in the Middle East. It provided a space for learning both from invited speakers and between the participants, as they

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Introducing the new IAWN Steering Group for 2019 to 2022

We are delighted to introduce the new IAWN Steering Group that will serve the worldwide International Anglican Women's Network for three years from the end of May this year. They are: Alice Garrick, Church of Pakistan; Dalcly Dlamini, Swaziland, Anglican Church of Southern Africa; Helen Van Koevinger, The Episcopal Church; Lizzi Green, Church of England; Mary Stallard, Church in Wales; Mavis Russell, Church of North India; Susan Rantisi Barhoum, The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East; Tagolyn Kabekabe, Anglican Church of Melanesia and Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea; Carole Hughes, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia, and Moumita Biswas, Church of North India.

The new Steering Group is short of representation from the South America & Caribbean region and also from parts of Africa other than Southern Africa, so it will need to co-opt additional members in due course. We have already received expressions of interest from women in these regions, so all will be well.

The new Steering Group, will also co-opt Paula Nesbitt as a liaison person for the new study materials 'God's Justice: Just Relationships between Women and Men, Girls and Boys' (See page 4). Paula is one of the theologians who has worked on this project.

And farewell to the outgoing IAWN Steering Group 2016 to 2019

Our sincere and grateful thanks go to those members of the IAWN Steering Group who are now stepping down: Pumla Titus, Southern Africa, who has faithfully served for six years, including as chair for the last three years (photo right); Immaculee Nyiransengimana, Rwanda, Margaret Dempster, Canada, and Dilsia Mariela Miller Alleyne, Central America.

Our love and best wishes go with them as their diverse ministries continue.



Tackling Human Trafficking

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shared their experiences, questions and concerns. Participants returned to their communities empowered to be advocates for the issue and to teach others to spot the risks and signs of trafficking and modern day slavery.



Read more about the workshop at <http://bit.ly/2Vd8Yif>.

Tackling human trafficking: Count us in

In February, the Anglican Communion's Permanent Representative to the UN, Jack Palmer-White, had an opportunity to address a CEDAW Working Group on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration. The Working Group is responsible for developing a General Recommendation on the theme which will advise member states of the UN as they take steps to implement the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Jack described to the Working Group some of the work being undertaken by Anglican churches to tackle human trafficking, for example in Ghana, Hong Kong, the USA and the UK. In Ghana, the Diocese of Accra has partnered with the US Embassy to raise awareness and set up a community shelter 'Hope Village' which facilitates the rehabilitation of rescued children.

In Hong Kong, an outreach programme from St John's Cathedral provides free advice and assistance to foreign domestic workers so that they can gain access to justice and receive fair and equal treatment before the law. So far, the programme has responded to over 52,000 requests for request from domestic workers, many of whom have been trafficked into Hong Kong and become trapped in forced labour. The Bethune House Migrant Women's Refuge has been providing shelter, counselling and emergency assistance to migrant women in distress since its establishment in 1986.

In Atlanta, Georgia, in the USA Episcopalians feared there would be an increase in trafficking for sexual exploitation around the time of the city's Super Bowl event. They provided hotels with bars of soap containing telephone numbers for anti-trafficking hotlines. In the UK, the Church of England's Clewer Initiative works to enable churches to detect modern slavery in their communities and provide victims with support and care.

Jack urged the CEDAW working group to ensure that the General Recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration recognises the role that churches and other faith groups can, and do, play in tackling the issue. 'Our cry for gender justice is rooted in our faith', he said. 'It is our conviction that a world which does not allow for the full flourishing and potential of all human beings does not meet the vision of our Creator.'

'Human trafficking deprives individuals of their rights and freedoms, robs them of autonomy, and leaves them at risk of further violence and exploitation. Each member of the human family is made in the divine image and should be treated with the utmost dignity and respect; never to be trafficked or exploited.'

According to UNODC, women and girls make up 71 per cent of the world's human trafficking victims.

Sex trafficking: Stations of the Cross

During Holy Week, the Task Force Against Human Trafficking in the Episcopal Diocese of New York held a very different Stations of the Cross for victims of human trafficking.



The pilgrimage, led by the Revd Adrian Dannhauser (pictured), took in the bus station, the airport (the gateway into the USA for so many women trafficked from abroad), a notorious motel where men pimp the women they control, and a human trafficking intervention court. Listen to the BBC World Service report at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3csz4f7>.

Responding to FGM

The Maasai community in Narok County in Kenya are known for their strong beliefs and cultural heritage. On the negative side, these include the practice of female genital mutilation (at a rate of 78%) and child marriage. The number of teenage pregnancies in the County is high. Anglican initiatives have been addressing this situation since 2000, bringing the rate of FGM down from 98% through sensitization on the dangers to health and, since the Prohibition of FGM Act in 2011, on the legal situation. More recent initiatives have focussed on sexual and reproductive health, and addressing power imbalances in the community that drive harmful cultural practices.



Photo credit: Anglican Development Services, Kenya. Girls making a presentation during a church function in the Diocese of Baringo

Prayer and Advocacy

Women's World Day of Prayer

'Come—everything is ready'

Early in March, churches around the Anglican Communion marked the annual Women's World Day of Prayer, known simply as World Day of Prayer (WDP) in some countries.

WDP is a global ecumenical movement. It unites, and is led by, Christian women all over the world in prayer and action for peace and justice.



This year, the women of Slovenia prepared liturgical and other material for the theme 'Come - Everything is Ready!', based on Luke 14.15-24.

Photo below: A WDP service in India



#BalanceforBetter

'Let's build a gender-balanced world'

WDP was closely followed by International Women's Day on 8 March. IAWN's Steering Group issued a statement welcoming this year's theme: gender balance:

'Gender balance is essential for all communities to thrive. The Anglican Communion is no exception. The #BalanceforBetter campaign around the globe promotes gender balance across all of life: in the boardroom, government, media, employment, wealth distribution, sports coverage, etc.

This includes promoting gender justice and equality, and the participation of women in building communities of justice and peace throughout the Anglican Communion. These are among the priorities of the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN). Collectively we can all play a part in bringing gender balance into our church communities.

International Women's Day (8 March) is a global day when the call for action is raised across all nations. It is a reminder and an invitation for all of us within the Anglican Communion to acknowledge and celebrate women's contributions, advocate strongly for gender balance in places of leadership in our churches—at the altar and in all other aspects of worship, praying, interpreting Scripture, and within all levels of decision-making.

The theme for the meeting of the international Anglican Consultative Council in May this year (ACC17) is 'God's

Church for God's People: walking, listening and witnessing' Let's make that theme come alive as we strive to work together for a better balance to benefit all God's people.

Better the balance, better the world!'



Also in March this year, the 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63) took place in New York with the theme 'Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls'. This means feeling safe walking to the market, to school, or through parks; having access to clean water, public health centres and affordable childcare; a pension in old age and public housing for survivors of domestic abuse, and so on.

When infrastructure, public services and social protections are lacking, women and girls are often the ones most impacted. Government policies should therefore take their needs into account. Women's voices must shape the decisions that affect their lives.

Eight women were selected from provincial nominations to join the Anglican Communion delegation. Sadly, the delegate from the Anglican Church of Burundi, Anatolie Dusabe, was unable to attend as her application for a US entry visa was refused.

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The Anglican Communion delegates to CSW63 with staff in support visit the Solomon Islands' permanent mission at the UN: From left-to-right: Nontlantla Mashiyane, Southern Africa; Ruihana Paenga, Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia; Rachael Fraser, Administration & Research Assistant, Anglican Communion Office; Anika Kingmele, Solomon Islands, Melanesia; Grace Ofori-Abebrese, West Africa; Representative of the Solomon Island's permanent mission at the UN; Ley-Anne Forsyth, Scottish Episcopal Church; Jillian Abballe, Advocacy Officer, Anglican Communion Office at the UN, New York; Tomie Kaneko, Japan; Terrie Robinson, Director for Women in Church & Society, Anglican Communion Office; Jennifer Allen, The Episcopal Church.

A New Resource for Ministerial Formation



**God's Justice:
Just Relationships between
Women and Men, Girls and Boys**

**Study Materials for use by Theological
Colleges, Seminaries and Training Schemes in
the Anglican Communion**



Church leaders, preachers and other ministers can promote Jesus-shaped life, expounding biblical texts that are redemptive for women and men, and Christian values and beliefs that promote safety, autonomy and respect. The training, formation and equipping of church leaders and ministers in this area are therefore essential as they prepare to show and tell the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Sacrament and Word and in the lives they live.

IAWN's steering group with Terrie Robinson, Director for Women in Church & Society at the Anglican Communion Office, convened an exceptional group of Anglican theologians from New Zealand, Philippines, USA, India, Kenya, UK, Brazil and South Africa who have developed study materials for a course on 'God's Justice: Just Relationships between Women and Men, Girls and Boys'. The working group met at the St Julian's Centre in Limuru, Kenya, to complete the work which had been started via on-line conferencing and email correspondence.

The study materials will be available in May and promoted among our theological colleges, seminaries and training schemes. They will be posted on-line at <http://bit.ly/2GtoDjX>. Watch this space!

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The US-based Episcopal Church also had an official delegation at the event and other Anglicans were in New York as contributors to side events.

Delegates took part in a very full programme of side and parallel events and visits to permanent missions to the UN and governmental representatives from their countries. Each delegate now has a plan for taking her new learning and honed advocacy skills forward. Read more about the Anglican Communion delegation to CSW63 at <http://bit.ly/2EZky7J>. The Agreed Conclusions from CSW63 can be downloaded in several languages at <http://bit.ly/2IPYpLm>.

IAWN at ACC17

The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) is the international body which "facilitates the co-operative work of the churches of the Anglican Communion, exchanges information between the provinces and churches, and helps to co-ordinate common action. It advises on the organisation and structures of the Communion, and seeks to develop common policies with respect to the world mission of the Church, including ecumenical matters." The ACC meets

every three to four years.

The ACC will next meet in Hong Kong, 28 April to 7 May this year. During this meeting, the Net-



works of the Anglican Communion will have an opportunity to run workshops and interact with ACC members. We are very grateful to IAWN chair Pumla Titus from Southern Africa and Carole Hughes from Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia, who will represent the Women's Network.

Let's hold in our prayers Pumla and Carole and all the women mentioned in our newsletter, and thank God for opportunities to promote the God-given human dignity of women and girls in our churches and in our diverse societies, and to challenge gender injustice in all its many forms.

Farewell to Terrie

At the end of May we will be saying goodbye to Canon Terrie Robinson who, for the past five years, has served the Anglican Communion as Director for Women in Church & Society. In this role she has worked with women and men in the Communion to promote the full inclusion of women's gifts, voices and concerns in the structures and decision-



making processes of the Anglican Communion, encouraged awareness, theological reflection, and responses to issues of gender justice within and beyond the Communion, and taken part in ecumenical initiatives concerning women's rights and well-being. She has been a great friend to IAWN.

We wish Terrie well as she moves on, and pray for God's blessing on her continuing ministry.

Send your news and photos to our Newsletter editor
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INTERNATIONAL
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WOMEN'S
NETWORK



**Your Voice
Your Network
Your Communion**