

## Office of the Anglican Observer at the United Nations

The Anglican Communion is a family of over 80 million Christians in 164 countries. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the unique focus of Anglican Unity.

The United Nations is a global forum of sovereign states & accredited civil society organizations whose aim is to maintain peace & security, solve economic, social & political problems & promote respect for human rights through international cooperation.

### The Anglican Observer at the United Nations

The Anglican Observer at the UN is also the Representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Observer office is the Anglican voice & presence at the UN & it contributes to the work of the UN in these areas:

#### 1.0 Socio-Economic Development & MDGs

The office makes its positions on global economic governance, peace & security as well as financing development known, using statements, news releases, by speaking at UN plenary & side events as well as holding strategic discussions with UN Missions. The MDGs are an added tool for advocating for human dignity & security, gender equity, justice as well as sustainable livelihoods of indigenous peoples. Guided by the ACC resolution, we work towards:

- Increasing our own delivery capacity & impact
- Broadening MDGs to include peace & justice while holding countries to their promise to meet MDG targets
- Effectively participating in defining ways to mobilize resources & eliminate feminized poverty
- Advocating for responsible lending & external debt cancellation based on jubilee principles
- Achieving just & equitable trade.

We practice the principle of 0.7 % for Official Development Assistance & promote its complete adherence by UN member states. We continue to advocate for peace in the Middle East, parts of Africa & other regions. We continue to maintain good practices in education, health, water, energy,

emergency response, peace & conflict management. We are present & operate at all levels.

#### 2.0 Environment & Sustainable Development

Leading up to the 1992 Rio Conference on Environment & Development & since, the Office has consistently advocated for environmental issues through the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). Following the Earth Summit, the Office participated in a collaborative team at the United Nations to prepare the policymaking document, *Cultural & Spiritual Values of Biodiversity*. In 2002, the Anglican Observer convened a first of its kind event "The Global Anglican Congress on the Stewardship of Creation," which met in South Africa to educate & organize representatives of the Anglican Communion about the urgency of the environmental crisis. *Healing God's Creation* was subsequently published as the proceedings of the 2002 event. Current objectives:

- To advocate for environmental issues at the United Nations & to raise awareness of those issues within the Anglican Communion
- To focus on urgent problems relating to water, food & climate change
- To promote a better understanding of environmental stewardship & sustainable community development
- To marshal support for corporate responsibility as it relates to human rights, the environment, & sustainable development

**3.0 HIV & AIDS** We are creating awareness, providing as well as advocating for healthcare support & elimination of stigma. We work towards reduction of prevalence & promote levels of decline in infections. We intend to form networks of health providers for better service delivery & coordination.

- To advocate for a holistic approach, this includes safer sex practices, empowerment of women & youth.
- To step up activities around effective care for local communities & voluntary counseling
- To advocate for access to drugs & comprehensive treatment
- To address the issue of brain drain that undermines patient/doctor ratios

We have documented the Anglican response to HIV/AIDS in Africa.

We have networks of clergy, laity, women & youth living with HIV/AIDS. We work in partnership to support AIDS orphans & child headed homes.

**4.0. Women's Rights & Empowerment** The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is one of the events & mobilizing points for Anglican women. There have been vital additions such as trainings in economic literacy & advocacy, & gender budgeting analysis of Aid Effectiveness. Women have had direct engagement with UN Missions & this has deepened the women's skills & delivery capacity. The women are equipped to

- Start advocacy at country level, & to participate annually in CSW.
- Return to their provinces with a commitment & plan for implementation of (a) the Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action; (b) the MDGs; (c) Security Council Resolution 1325 on women in conflict & violent situations; (d) CEDAW & the agreed conclusions of the CSW.
- Deepen other women's advocacy & economic literacy skills.
- Benchmark & measure impact of gender programs.

Each year 100 Anglican women attend the CSW. We have strong Anglican networks of women working around UNCSW issues; a website, blog & a tool kit for gender budgeting. We advocate & support women's ability to access funding for cottage industries & personal empowerment.

#### 5.0. Children with emphasis on the Girl Child

The UN declared 2001 to 2010 *the "Decade for a culture of peace & non-violence for the children of the world"*. The office coordinated the delegation of children sent to the 2002 Special General Assembly for children's issues where they publicly stated their need to develop "a World Fit for Children." A plan of action was adopted by the Anglican Consultative Council at its 2002 meeting in Hong Kong (ACC-XII). This includes financial & other support directed to children as the most vulnerable in society & disproportionately impacted by all development issues. The focus is:

- Children under special circumstances especially in conflict & war including child soldiers
- To support orphans especially those in child headed households

- To advocate against child labor
- To promote the dignity & life of girls impacted by tourism & fashion/vogue industries
- To monitor progress on Child related MDG Goals
- Eliminating early marriages/pregnancy & bad cultural practices

To address MDG 1, 2 & 4, the Office is using the Sunday school concept to develop partnerships for holistic Early Childhood Development (ECD) to include nutrition, healthcare, parenting, psycho-social support & safe play.

### 6.0 Human Rights

Building on the strong international track record of Anglicans in refugee & migration ministries, The Anglican Observer advocates for people who find themselves displaced by war, natural disasters, & political or ethnic persecution. The office value-base evolves around issues of human dignity, equity, security & justice.

The Anglican Observer lobbies members of the Security Council on human rights issues of international concern that contribute to threats of global security & peace.

***We run the danger of promoting the “privatization of morality” so the church must remain engaged at all levels.<sup>1</sup>***

<sup>1</sup> Ambassador Kaire Mbwende: Malawi Mission Visit; CSW Report 2008.

### WHY DOES THE OFFICE EXIST?

The office of the Anglican Observer at the United Nations exists for the following:

- VISION: to Fulfill our Christian Witness
- VALUES: to Promote Peace, Dialogue & Reconciliation
- MISSION: to Represent the Anglican Churches at the United Nations



### WHY SHOULD I CONTACT THE OBSERVER?

For interventions at the United Nations on Economics, the MDGs, Human, Women & Children’s Rights; Sustainable Development & Global Security Issues.

### TO WHOM IS THE OBSERVER ACCOUNTABLE?

To the Anglican Consultative Council through its President, the Archbishop of Canterbury & the Council’s Secretary General.

### Contact Information

Ms. Hellen Grace Akwii-Wangusa,  
Personal Representative of the Archbishop of  
Canterbury; Office of the Anglican Observer  
at the United Nations  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017

Phone 212-716-6263  
Fax 212-687-1336  
Email [unoffice@anglicancommunion.org](mailto:unoffice@anglicancommunion.org)  
Web Site <http://www.anglicancommunion.org/un>

The Revd Canon Dr. Jeffrey Golliher  
Ms. Martha Shaughnessey Gardner



The emblem of the Anglican Communion is the Compass Rose. The Symbol, set in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral, was dedicated at the Lambeth Conference in 1988. The Greek inscription, “The Truth Shall Make You Free” (John 8:32) surrounds the Cross of Saint George and the compass recalls the spread of Anglican Christianity throughout the world. The mitre at the top emphasizes that we are an episcopally run church. The Compass Rose is the official logo of the Inter-Anglican Secretariat and is used as the Communion’s identifying symbol.

# *Office of the Anglican Observer at the United Nations*

*“I have come that they may have life & have it to the fullest”  
John 10: 10b*

Justice for the poor is central issue in Scripture & to  
*Know God is also to “... judge the cause of the poor &  
needy” Jeremiah 22:13 & 16*