

Showing up and speaking up

Anglican Women at the UN Commission on the Status of Women



Our prayers are with the Anglican and Episcopal women who are on their way to New York for the 61st session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61).

It's exciting to think that every Anglican woman and girl participating in CSW61 in New York will be changed by their experience. They will be changed by each other as they get to know one another and their different cultures and contexts. And they will network and learn new things as they take part in the intense timetable of UN side events and NGO parallel events.

Also, we pray and trust that the diverse, determined and faithful voices they bring from their home contexts will add insight and energy to governmental deliberations at the UN – this year on the theme of the economic empowerment of women and girls in the changing world of work. There will be opportunities for our delegates to meet with permanent country missions at the UN and join NGO regional caucuses that have a voice into CSW proceedings.

If we want to see our nation states pursuing a transformational agenda for women and girls, then we have to 'show up and speak up' - locally, nationally and internationally. Our Gospel values and our lived experience in cities and villages, townships and isolated rural areas have so much to contribute. Such values and insights can quickly become marginalised by political expediency and regressive concepts of the role and status of women – so we have to keep at it and make sure we are listened to and heard.

As well as the Anglican Communion delegation, the Episcopal Church delegation, Mothers' Union representatives, and women from the Diocese of New York and elsewhere, the Dioceses of Westminster and Niagara in the Anglican Church of Canada have been fundraising so that a dozen young people can travel to CSW61. So we will have a strong presence there! May they be richly blessed and return home #BoldForChange with new ideas and fresh determination to engender change in their own communities.

Anglicans and the 16 Days of Activism 2016

What we did!

We asked you to let us know what was happening where you are during the 16 Days' of Activism against Gender-based Violence. The diversity of the stories you sent in was wonderful and encouraging. This newsletter offers some snapshots

of your replies. A full report is on IAWN's website at <http://bit.ly/2mAHlnX>.

If your church marked the 16 Days but you haven't yet let us know, it's not too late! Send us your story and a photo and we will add them to the report.



Left: Women in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa



Contents inside

Marking the 16 Days of Activism around the Communion	2-3
News clips from around the Communion	4
Side by Side Faith Movement for Gender Justice, an update	4

Marking the 16 Days of Activism around the Communion

Read the full report with more photos at <http://bit.ly/2mAHLnX>. And there is lots more in the IAWN web pages devoted to the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence for 2016 (25 November to 10 December), you can find it here: <http://bit.ly/2mlg8yp>.

Anglican Church of Southern Africa: Provincial Mothers' Union

Following its 2012 resolution to focus on gender-based violence, and its 2016 adoption of the Thursdays in Black Campaign the Mothers' Union in Southern Africa participated extensively in the 16 Days of Activism.

Nearly all Dioceses took part in the Mothers' Union Global Moment with the message 'IT IS NOT OK'.



Empowering Girls and Self Defence and Gender Justice in the Church of North India

To end rape culture we have to work with men and boys. But at the same time we can empower girls to be more confident and assertive.

The Church of North India Social Service Institute in partnership with the All India Council of Christian Women conducted seminars on self defence techniques for girls. Sessions were organised in Dorli School, Dorli Viliage, and New Kurvez's High School in Nagpur. Girls were given information and training on self defence techniques in order to empower them to take responsibility for their own safety and wellness.



Read more about the All India Council of Christian Women programme for the 16 Days at <http://bit.ly/2mY4VFD>.



Also in the Church of North India, the Revd Papiya Durairaj, Lecturer at Bishop College in the Diocese of Kolkata, organised Bible studies for Pastors which involved re-reading the Bible from a gender justice perspective and deconstructing patriarchal theology.

Church of South India: Great is the Company of Women...

Revd Priscilla Reuben, President of the Women's Fellowship of Karimnagar Diocese in the Church of South India, organised a meeting for female church leaders in Kazipet, Andhra Pradesh, with the theme of 'Great is the company of Women who Bear the Tidings' based on Psalm 68.11.



During their meeting, the women discussed the crucial role that Christian women can play in empowering communities and churches to end gender-based violence in the home, church and society.

Loving One Another – toolkit on gender based violence from the Scottish Episcopal Church

The Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) used the 16 Days to launch a new toolkit for biblical discussion on gender-based violence. The toolkit has been adapted for use in Scotland from a course developed by the Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil. The new resource called 'Loving one Another' exposes the spectrum of violence faced by women and girls and seeks transformation that goes to the heart of our faith. It is on-line here: <http://bit.ly/2mmwoPW>.



More Voices from Scotland

Elaine Cameron of the Scottish Episcopal Church shared her reflections and experiences of supporting Thursdays in Black in solidarity with many others who wear black once a week to draw attention to the need to end rape and other forms of violence against women. And SEC member Ann Glenesk shared a short sermon on the ending of gender based violence, drawing on the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Read more about these and other stories featured in this newsletter in the on-line report at <http://bit.ly/2mAHLnX>.

A Safe House in Burundi

In the Anglican Church of Burundi a safe house was opened. The house will provide services to victims and survivors of violence.

Also, the Mothers' Union organised a campaign day with a well attended march and a speech from the Archbishop of Burundi reaffirming the Church's commitment to stand for equal rights and dignity for all human beings.



'From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All'

Each day during the 16 Days, the national board of Episcopal Church Women offered a prayer, meditation, poem or piece of prose about psychological and physical violence.



The resources, based on this year's theme, are still on-line. Simply go to <https://www.ecwnational.org/16-days-activism-2016> and start clicking.

16 Days Workshop in Jordan

Around 40 young women and men aged 18 to 30 years took part in a 16 Days workshop arranged by the Episcopal Women's Committee (based in Jordan) in the Diocese of Jerusalem.



The workshop took place on 25 November, the first day of the 16 Days, at the Church of the Redeemer in Amman. The young people came from different parishes in Jordan, along with six teachers from Ahllyieh and Bishop Schools in Amman.

Fiji: 'With One Voice'

The Fiji Council of churches decided unanimously to support the 16 Day of Activism and produced a cinema advert and documentary film, 'With One Voice: Churches against Violence against Women and Children'. The film features senior leaders from different church traditions (including the Anglican Archbishop of Polynesia, Winston Halapua) who condemn violence against women.

In the film, Gender Specialist Ms Tupou Vere describes the genesis of the House of Sarah in Suva which has been set up as a centre where women seeking urgent assistance or advice can go. The House of Sarah has also been instrumental in setting up the Christian Network Talanoa, a Fiji-based ecumenical network of organised women's units working on removing the culture of silence and shame around violence against women.

The advert and film are on-line at <http://bit.ly/2nih9F6> and <http://bit.ly/2m6519W> respectively.

Praying to end violence against women and girls: See the liturgical resource at <http://bit.ly/1MBvMKT>.

News clips from around the Communion

International Women's Day

IAWN members from around the world exchanged greetings and beautiful photos from the World Day of Prayer on 3 March and the International Women's Day on 8 March.



Left: Women coordinators of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East



Right: World Day of Prayer in Nagpur Diocese, Church of North India



Melanesia: Training for responding to domestic violence

In February, in the Anglican Church of Melanesia, the Religious orders (Melanesian Brotherhood, Sisters of the Church, Franciscan Brothers) and head office staff in the diocese of Malaita underwent training for preventing violence against women and responding to survivors.



UK: Faith-led event at the House of Lords

The Church of England Bishop of Gloucester, Rachel Treweek, marked International Women's Day with an event at Britain's Upper Chamber of parliament, the House of Lords, in order to promote gender equality.

Bishop Rachel said 'For me as a follower of Jesus Christ, my motivation to do this is to see every woman flourish and become the person that God has created them to be.'

During the event Muzoon Almellehan, an 18-year-old Syrian refugee spoke for the Malala Fund about the importance of prioritising girls' education. She said: 'While I was in the refugee camp in Syria, I went from tent to tent to tell parents that [their young daughters] needed teachers, not husbands.'

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2mp40wv>.

The Women of South Sudan in our Prayers

Tension and conflict have continued in South Sudan. Bishop Paul Yugusuk of the Diocese of Lomega in the Episcopal Church of South Sudan reported the rape of women by troops of South Sudan's army in Kubi village in the state of Eastern Equatoria. He said 'We do not know the exact number of women who were raped but we have five women and girls here in Juba Teaching Hospital'. It is reported that the village was looted and the population has fled. We continue our prayers for peace in South Sudan and for all victims and survivors of violence.

Nkhotakota, Malawi: Anglican women bring gifts to prisoners

Anglican women's leader Manesi Kalonga expressed concern over congestion which has led to prisons in Malawi struggling to get basic needs. She said, 'Time has come for all citizens in the country to work with government in finding solutions for problems faced by prisons in the country.' The women brought plates, cups, clothes, rice and bread, reaching 522 prisoners, among whom three are women.

Share your news! Email lizzigreen48@gmail.com

Who makes the news?

'End News Media Sexism for Gender-Just News' is a campaign being run by the World Association of Christian Communication. The aim of the campaign is to remind news media of their responsibility to uphold professional ethics on fair coverage, balance, accuracy and non-discrimination.

Resources available in English | Quelques ressources disponibles en Français | Algunos recursos disponibles en Español. Download at <http://bit.ly/2n2H6wn>.

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>



Side faith movement for gender justice

Anglican women and men have been getting involved with the growing Side by Side movement for gender justice.

The movement unites faith leaders, faith-based organizations and individuals of faith who are committed to removing barriers to gender justice. National chapters of the Side by Side movement have already emerged in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Scotland and Brazil, and more are planned.

Find out more about Side by Side at www.sidebysidegender.org

