

# Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations Newsletter

*Bringing the United Nations to the Anglican Communion*

## *In This Issue*

Interview with Jack Palmer-White for United Nations Day Celebration

Partnership for the 16 days of activism

Looking at what's ahead for ACOUN in 2021

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## Partnership with faith actors key to tackling gender-based violence, Anglican Communion tells United Nations



Source: pixabay.com

The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) has urged the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) to work more closely with faith actors to end gender-based violence in a written statement published ahead of the 65th Session to be held in March 2021. In the statement, the ACC highlights that faith communities are essential partners in the elimination of violence against women and girls, particularly as they are expertly placed within communities to be trusted sources of guidance and support in addressing harmful behaviours and attitudes that lead to gender discrimination. The statement also highlights efforts across the Anglican Communion to address the shadow pandemic of domestic violence, which has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read the full statement [here](#).

UNCSW65 will be held entirely online due to the continued concern regarding COVID-19. The same delegation of eight Anglican women selected from across the Anglican

Communion for the 2020 Session will continue their representative role at the 65th session in 2021 and will work to highlight important initiatives to end gender injustice from across the Communion. Leading up to the Commission, the delegates will write blogs on their experience working for gender justice. During the conference, they will host events and advocate with key decision makers at the UN and in their home countries. The Anglican Communion Office at the UN (ACOUN) plans to co-host several online events with other faith-based partners focusing on faith perspectives on violence against women and the role of faith communities in tackling gender-based violence and protecting the rights of women and girls.



Source: unsplash.com

## Voices from the frontlines crucial to solving global problems, says Anglican UN representative in UN Day video message

The Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations was established to bring Anglican voices to the global stage, and we are proud to have advocated with and on behalf of Anglicans for three decades. On United Nations Day on 24th October, we celebrated the successes of multilateralism and Anglican engagement with the United Nations in an [interview with Jack Palmer-White](#),

the Anglican Communion's Representative at the United Nations. In an interview with the Anglican Communion News Service, Jack reflected on the purpose and impact of Anglican engagement in the international arena, saying: "The United Nations really needs civil society organizations like the Anglican Communion who bring experiences from the frontlines to help solve [global] problems."

Since its inception in 1945, the UN has strived to fulfill the three pillars that it was founded on--human rights, peace and security, and development--by resolving conflicts among countries, striving to achieve Agenda 2030 and safeguarding the interests and rights of citizens everywhere. Civil society organizations have been key in supporting this goal through global, regional, and grassroots partnerships with UN entities, submission of reports, sharing stories and experiences from the ground, and unyielding advocacy for those whose voices remain silenced.

The 21st of September also marked the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. The challenges faced by the global community this year in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic reaffirmed the need for the international collaboration and coordination supported by the UN as the predominant multilateral institution. Raising up the impact and effects of COVID-19 has become a key area of work for the ACOUN as so many throughout the Communion have suffered and been impacted by the pandemic. In an effort to lift up these issues, representatives of the ACOUN closely monitored the Special Session of

the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic and submitted a [statement](#), which you can read here. The ACOUN continues to take advantage of these opportunities for civil society engagement to bring to light the experiences and challenges of people across the Communion and to lift up the important work being done, in order to advocate for a more just and equitable world.

## Major Social Media Campaign and Webinar Series launched for 16 Days of Activism



*ACOUN Twitter Campaign*

The ACOUN partnered with the ACO's Director for Gender Justice, Mandy Marshall, to run a social media campaign and host a series of interactive and educational webinars on various topics related to achieving gender justice, as part of the annual [16 days of activism campaign against gender-based violence](#). The webinars focused on topics including engaging men in actions to end gender-based violence, theology on gender justice

and ways to get involved in gender justice advocacy, as well as webinars on identifying signs of domestic abuse. The webinars were attended by hundreds of participants and included a diverse range of speakers from around the Communion. The accompanying twitter campaign called on people to take one action for each of the 16 days to counter gender-based violence.

The webinar on Advocacy for Gender Justice was chaired by Jillian Abballe, Advocacy Manager and Head of the New York ACOUN Office, and hosted speakers from Pakistan, New Zealand, and South Africa who are engaged in gender justice advocacy within the church and in their communities. Panelists spoke about the importance of understanding the strengths of each person to act individually and collectively while acknowledging the important work that has been done and building on it for greater success. There was ample discussion on encouraging the Church to find its role in advocacy and social change by leveraging its strengths, and how to identify allies and partners in gender justice work. Emphasis on the importance of listening to women at the grassroots and supporting their leadership in identifying problems and solutions was a theme across each panelist's presentation.

Powerful and personal stories marked the conversations that took place during the webinar on Engaging Men in ending Gender-Based Violence. which was moderated by Jack Palmer-White, the

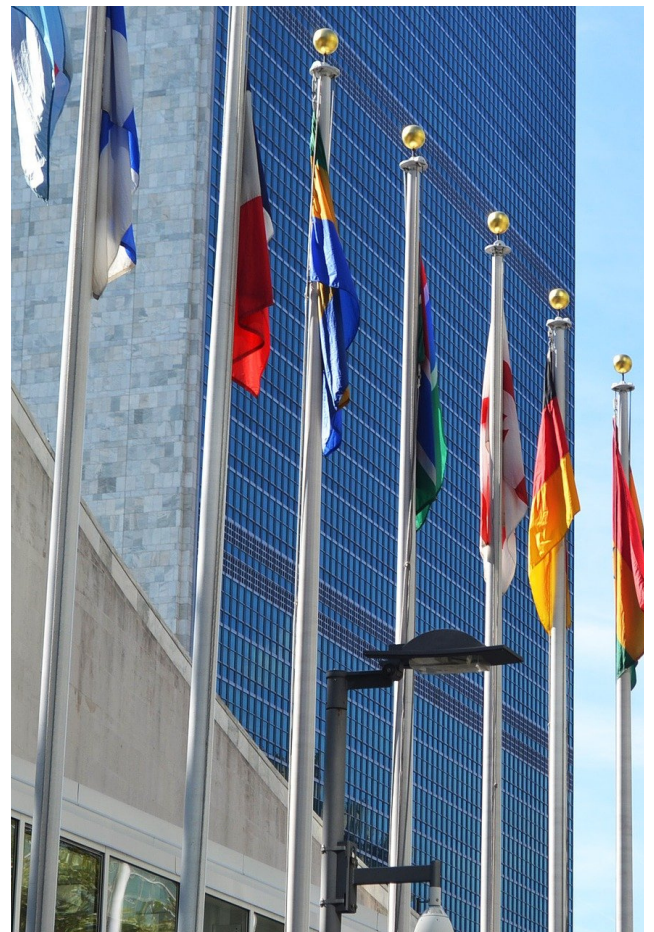


Anglican Communion Permanent Representative to the UN and a former trustee of Restored, an international Christian Alliance working to transform relationships and end violence against women. Participants heard from men actively engaged in tackling gender-based violence in Brazil and Uganda. The panelists all spoke of how personal experience drove their commitment to gender justice and how they use their leadership positions in the Anglican Communion to challenge and transform issues such as toxic masculinities, the root causes of violence and church hierarchies dominated by men. All agreed that more needs to be done to encourage wider inclusion of men in this important work.

The accompanying [twitter campaign](#) called on people to take one action a day to counter gender-based violence. We are proud to have ended the year with this collaboration that will hopefully be strengthened in the future through other joint initiatives.

## Looking back and looking forward: 2020 and 2021 for the ACOUN

Across the Anglican Communion, Anglicans are undertaking remarkable and transformative work: responding to human need, seeking to transform unjust structures of society, challenging violence, pursuing peace and reconciliation and safeguarding the integrity of creation. This year was an unconventional and challenging one, not only for our Office, but for our entire global family. In March, the ACOUN was preparing to welcome a delegation of eight women from across the Communion to the 64th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women when the conference was shortened and participation from participants outside of New York restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our office began working remotely and had to find new ways of engaging with UN and civil society partners. In this time, the pandemic has illustrated absolute importance and urgency of our Office's advocacy for a just and equitable world.



Source: pixabay.com

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated in the starkest terms the need for sustained and trusted cooperation at all levels of society, from the very local to the global. We have seen how failures to work collaboratively and transparently have exacerbated not only the global health crisis that COVID-19 has ushered in, but also associated socio-economic, global governance and protection crises for those most vulnerable to the direct and knock-on effects of the pandemic.

As such, it was critical for us to sustain our work during this time, and we continued to represent the Anglican Communion at conferences like the High-Level Political Forum in July and the General

Assembly in September, strengthening partnerships both within the Communion and at the United Nations, including with the Archbishop of Canterbury's Reconciliation Ministry, Mother's Union, the World Council of Churches, the UN Multi-Faith Advisory Council and the UN Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

The UN Office has released many noteworthy statements, reports and social media campaigns throughout the year, including a [report on homelessness from the Commission for Social Development](#), a [statement to the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), a [joint submission with the Mothers' Union to the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights on COVID-19 and violence against women](#), a [report on the Global Refugee Forum](#) and social media campaigns for the [High-Level Political Forum](#) and the [16 days of activism](#). You can also find previous editions of our newsletter [here](#).

As we reflect on 2020 and look forward to 2021, we feel inspired and encouraged to continue the important work we do to partner with Anglicans across the Communion to engage with global decision-makers on the issues that impact them and re-imagine our world.

## Looking Ahead – Events at the UN in 2021

### 15 – 26 March:

65th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

### 13- 24 April

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

### 19-23 April

54th Session of the Commission on Population and Development

### 5- 16 July

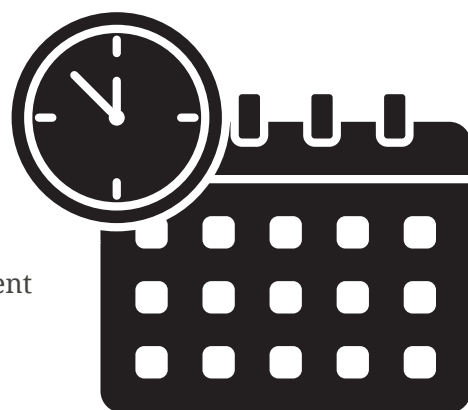
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

### 14- 30 September

76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

### 1- 12 November

UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 26)



**Check out our next newsletter for a roundup of ACOUN activity**

*Working on any of the issues listed*

*in this edition of the newsletter? Contact us to discuss how we can work together!*

Email us at [un.rep@anglicancommunion.org](mailto:un.rep@anglicancommunion.org) or go to: [bit.ly/acoun](https://bit.ly/acoun)