



## International Anglican Family Network (IAFN)

1. IAFN continues to connect Anglicans worldwide through its newsletters and social media, and through its regional consultations on locally chosen themes. We celebrate the God-given potential of the family as a source of thriving relationships, identity, belonging, discipleship and reconciliation. We also advocate for the family in the face of behaviours which diminish this potential, through sharing stories of hope, promoting family care and lifting up the family as the cradle for human dignity.
2. In 2019, the members of the Anglican Consultative Council meeting in Hong Kong passed a resolution (A17:04) emphasising the role of families living out the mission of Christ, and encouraging the churches of the Anglican Communion to engage with, and support families in particular ways:
  - a. through raising awareness of the pressures on families and developing an inclusive approach to supporting families who may be fragile and in need
  - b. by designating persons at every level of the church who will advocate for the family as precious in itself and as a place for unfolding the Gospel
  - c. through encouraging their church to include the family as a vital part of its mission narratives and strategies, and
  - d. by valuing young people's contributions to the mission of the church, their leadership gifts, and especially their unique experience as 'digital natives' and their potential to use technology to the glory of God.
3. Since the passing of this resolution, IAFN has been able to share stories that illustrate some progress in each of these areas, often through the lens of crises that have had significant impacts on families in the last three years.

4. Our newsletters are distributed in printed and digital formats, with most new subscribers favouring the digital version. The digital version is now provided in four languages: English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, and we are exploring how to gain a wider distribution for these.
5. Co-operation with other Anglican Networks has been fruitful. For our March 2020 newsletter [Families and the Climate Emergency](#), we joined with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network and the Anglican Alliance to gather stories about families and communities caught up in the climate crisis. The stories revealed how churches and church initiatives are supporting families in surviving and coping with new challenges and finding a way through 'climate grief' towards hope for the future of our planet and all creation.
6. During the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in November 2020, we joined with the International Anglican Women's Network to publish 'A Shadow Pandemic: How Anglicans are responding to the increase in domestic abuse and gender-based violence in the time of COVID-19'. Inspirational stories from around the Communion showed different responses, each one being effective, action-orientated and appropriate in its context. Read in English [here](#). Lire la version française [ici](#). Leia [aqui](#) a tradução em português. Pakua [kwa](#) kiswahili.
7. In September 2021, IAFN joined with the Anglican Communion Youth Network and the International Anglican Women's Network to produce its newsletter 'Young People and the COVID-19 Pandemic'. The Editorial and most of the stories in the newsletter were written by young people themselves and were a testament to their resilience, creativity and faith. Read in English [here](#). Lire la version française [ici](#). Lea la versión en español [aquí](#). Leia [aqui](#) a tradução em português.
8. Other newsletters looked at [Church and Family in a time of pandemic](#) (August 2020) and the refugee crisis, ['I Will Welcome the Stranger': Showing compassion, mercy, love and hospitality among asylum-seekers, refugees and internally displaced persons](#) (March 2021). All our churches and communities have been affected by the pandemic and we have had to find new ways of 'being church'. In the nations in which Anglicans live, the coronavirus pandemic has revealed both the weaknesses and strengths of our lives and societies, from our health systems to the living conditions of our neighbours and communities. The stories in our August 2020 newsletter showed how, according to context, churches were responding creatively to these realities.
9. With 103 million people forcibly displaced in the world (UNHCR mid-2022), IAFN's newsletter 'I Will Welcome the Stranger' was timely. It served to raise awareness of refugees, internally displaced persons and separated families. But even more important, it gave accounts of what can be done. Stories described ministry among refugees but also showed how refugees bring gifts to their host communities.
10. For the Lambeth Conference 2022, IAFN showcased its activities in a special edition of its newsletter, [Families in Mission/ Familles en Mission/Familias en mission/ Famílias em missão](#), and issued an invitation to all bishops and spouses to engage with the Network by visiting IAFN representatives at the Networks' stall in the Resource Centre during the Conference; [subscribing](#) to its newsletters and forwarding them to others in their Province or diocese; looking at IAFN's resources, newsletters, and reports of the Network's regional consultations at <http://iafn.anglicancommunion.org>; sharing their own stories with the Network, and following IAFN on [social media](#). We warmly extend this invitation to the members of the Anglican Consultative Council.

11. In its most recent newsletter (November 2022), IAFN picked up on the Lambeth Conference theme 'Walking, listening and witnessing together', giving diverse examples of how families are serving as practitioners of mission as they live out their baptismal vocation in their communities and beyond. Read in English [here](#). Lire la version française [ici](#). Lea la versión en español [aquí](#). Leia [aqui](#) a tradução em português.
12. We are currently working on a newsletter on families affected by conflict – a theme identified as a priority area by many bishops and spouses during the Lambeth Conference.
13. IAFN's management committee continues to meet quarterly via Zoom and at present has representation from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Syria, Sri Lanka, Scotland, India, Philippines, Guyana and England. The committee sincerely appreciates the support of Mandy Marshall and Rachel Parry at the Anglican Communion Office.
14. During 2023 the committee will be reviewing and re-visioning the Network's communications strategy and exploring the possibility of identifying provincial and diocesan family champions who would contribute to IAFN's core work and also foster regional networking.
15. The work of IAFN is funded by the generosity of a few provinces of the Anglican Communion, namely the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia; the Scottish Episcopal Church; the Church in Wales and the Anglican Church of Australia. We are most grateful to them.

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