

IAWN news



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← Ecumenical celebration of International Women's Day, Philippines. Photo: Fran Capegsan Bawayan

Creating a future of equal, respectful relationships

Ann Skamp, Coordinator, writes...

As people of Christian faith, we know in the deepest way that as women and men, girls and boys we are cherished and equal before God. Yet we also know that in our day-to-day experience our relationships with each other do not always reflect such equality and valuing of each other.

I had the privilege of attending the first International White Ribbon Conference, reported later in this Newsletter.

It was clear from the research and evidenced-based discussion that the elimination and prevention of all forms of men's violence against women and children especially involves the engagement of men and boys, for us all.

The essential part of that challenge is to build societies based on gender equality: "*Gender inequality is the problem, gender equality is the solution.*"

We read in the gospels how Jesus challenged the society of his time to include women and girls and not be preoccupied with culture or tradition.

How can we together achieve gender equality in our times to change the world and make the reign of God a reality for women, men and children?

'Gender inequality is the problem, gender equality is the solution.'

IAWN works to create a future where gender based violence is eliminated, and replaced by safe, equal and respectful relationships - between individuals, each other, in our homes, our local communities, our societies, our world.

Why don't you go to our IAWN Facebook group (see Editor's SOS!) and share your imaginings for this future?

What do you imagine a world might look like where we live equally and respectfully together? What would these relationships look like in our churches?



IAWN is on Facebook!

Editor's SOS!

We have developed a Facebook site. It is a closed group, so only group members can read it and post to it. We dream that it might be a gathering place for sharing, support, and helping us see better what it means to be a woman in different parts of our world.

To the 80 who have already joined, please post a message as often as you can, even if it's just one line or a photo.

To join, go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IntAngWomen> and click on 'join request', or email Kim Robey

krobey1@gmail.com and she will send you an email invitation.

Provincial Link Newsletter Actions

We know you all try to distribute the IAWN Newsletter as widely as possible. If you don't already, you might send or email it to your Primate and Provincial Secretary. Also, you could write a short press release about one of the stories. Email me at elaine.ging@gmail.com if you would like some help.

Many thanks! Elaine

Our Provincial Links

The IAWN Steering Group is keen to support our Provincial Links, whose primary responsibility is to liaise between the Steering Group and her Province: its Primate, women's groups, individuals, and groups and programmes that affect women. In particular, she promotes the implementation of Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) resolutions calling for equal representation of women in decision-making bodies: [ACC13.31](#) and [ACC14.33](#), and the ACC resolution on gender based and domestic violence: [ACC15.07](#).

So we hope to introduce all IAWN's Provincial Links in our next few Newsletters. Here are the first eight...



Carole Hughes

Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia

I am a Priest and full time Archdeacon for the Central Auckland Region where I support ministry development and more effective ministry and mission. I am also the Convenor of the General Synod Council for Anglican Women's

Studies set up to serve and to advance women in the Church, particularly by providing theological educational resources and mentoring. For the past five years I have been a guest lecturer in Liturgy at St John's Theological College.

I strongly believe there is a need for good role models of women in leadership positions. Attitudes towards women in leadership still require work in a church known for having the first diocesan woman bishop, and yet today having only one woman bishop two decades on.

To tell and value women's stories is vital. Women remind the wider church about mission to respond to the poor, the alienated and all those who struggle. Christ's love, compassion and restoration is what we as women can offer the world.



Evelyn Lamptey

West Africa

I am the wife of a clergyman from the diocese of Accra in the Administrative Province of Ghana and have recently been elected President of the National Anglican Spouses Association Ghana. In 2009, I was appointed by the then

Primate of the Church of the Province of West Africa as Provincial Link and acting Provincial Women's Desk Coordinator with the mandate to strengthen the leadership roles of women and girls using the 3-'E's (equipping, empowering, enabling and building self esteem) approach.

Since becoming Provincial Link, I have had the opportunity of sharing the IAWN mandate with various groups including the clergy/spouses and organized women's groups in the diocese of Accra, as well as women in the Province. To help make effective ACC Resolution 13.31, the former Archbishop encouraged women who wanted to be part of their parish decision-making process to approach him for support to take up positions as the bishop's nominee.

A Nutritionist by profession I have been engaged in development work through working on USAID supported projects to create demand and promote positive health behaviours among families in various communities.

Patricia Menendez

Southern Cone

I'm 45 and was born in Uruguay. My three children are the most beautiful blessings the Lord has given me. I have studied theology and worked with women's groups since 2006. I attended UNCSW (2008 and 2009), the IAWN Provincial Links' Meeting

(New York, 2009) and Mothers' Union Provincial Presidents' Meeting (Cambridge, 2009). I was a member of the Provincial Executive Council of Southern Cone (2010 - 2013). I'm now discerning for Holy Orders.

I am increasingly convinced of IAWN's importance, empowering women everywhere, with encouragement and healing message from our Lord Jesus Christ. Millions of women are not fully aware of the consequences of patriarchy, most urgently the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. Daily, thousands are attacked by their partners; some die, just because they are women!

It's not easy. Social problems need multiple actions. We help our sister next door, but we also need social policies to ensure our rights. We need to speak out; make sure our prophetic voice is heard.

Alice Garrick

Pakistan

I was born and brought up in Lahore, in a Christian family. In 1993 I married Aslam Garrick and we have three children, all in fulltime education.

I have degrees in education and psychology from Punjab University Lahore, and taught before I joined Women's Development & Service Society (WDSS) as assistant coordinator in 1991. I again taught from 1998, until returning in 2002 as Executive Director of WDSS, Diocese of Raiwind. Helping the women who attend projects or who work for WDSS is my responsibility.

I am a member of the Diocesan Executive, contributing to wider Church work. My family and I worship at the Cathedral of Praying Hands.

I greatly enjoy speaking in Urdu and Punjabi to empower and encourage women. I am grateful for the opportunities I have had to attend overseas conferences, especially UNCSW. These have enabled me to appreciate different ways of helping women overcome poverty and discrimination. Attending UNCSW has led to invaluable friendships with women globally. Social networks allow us to keep in contact.



Making connections locally and globally



Maud Patten

Indian Ocean

The Church of the Province of the Indian Ocean is made up of Madagascar, Seychelles and Mauritius. From 2003 to 2010 I was the Provincial President for the Mothers' Union, and in 2008 I attended the 58th Session of UNCSW in New York.

My husband passed away 10 years ago. I have two sons, the elder is a pilot; the other lives in France. My daughter is married with four daughters. I am retired from working for the Ministry of Education as Inspector of Schools.

For more than ten years, I have been a Lay Reader in my church, helping in pastoral work, visiting the sick, and giving holy communion. I am involved in a project called Outgate; I visit and counsel some women in prison regularly and visit their children.

The main issues women face are poverty, domestic violence, illiteracy and teenage pregnancy. The church addresses these issues by organizing training programs and awareness campaigns. The Mothers' Union runs literacy classes for children who do not go to school, particularly in Madagascar.



Lynnaia Main

The Episcopal Church

I am honored to serve as IAWN Provincial Link, which is facilitated by my work as Global Relations Officer in the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society. My responsibilities include representing The Episcopal

Church (TEC) at the United Nations, international women's ministries and welcoming visitors from around the worldwide Anglican Communion.

A vital opportunity for my work as Provincial Link is the annual UNCSW, when my office welcomes Anglican women from around the Anglican Communion at the Episcopal Church Center. I also develop TEC's advocacy priorities, participating in ecumenical advocacy and training women.

One of my great joys is the sisterhood I have discovered with women at UNCSW – mentors who have inspired me by their passion, action, giftedness and indefatigable dedication. It has been an incredible gift to witness and nurture that passion and growth in younger women.

Despite TEC's Office of Women's Ministries closing in 2009, the commitment and fire of Episcopal women lives on. IAWN is key to connection, prayer and fellowship with our Anglican sisters worldwide. I hope to continue linking IAWN overseas with women's ministries within TEC.

Leila Diab

Jerusalem & the Middle East

Being a pastor's wife, Director at the Young Women's Christian Association, a diocesan coordinator, on the Ahlieh School Kindergarten Board, a member on the Jordanian National Steering Committee, and a board member on the Services for Palestinian Refugees have been big challenges while living in Jordan. I am also President of the Friendship Force Club (initiated by President Carter), mother of two men, a wife and now a grandmother.

I am married to Rev Canon Victor Diab, retired, who served churches in Jordan and Lebanon for over 35 years.

The Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, one of the four dioceses that make the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, has strengthened its work on Women's issues since the days of Bishop Kafity and continued now through Bishop Suhail Dawani, whose wife Shafeeqa heads the Coordinating Committee. Vital issues such as family violence, gender and women's rights have been discussed with our women at various Conferences.

Being YWCA staff challenged me to work without any social, racial or religious discrimination. The challenge is even bigger now, with all the turmoil in the region. Peace with justice is something we pray for so that violence will stop.



Alice Medcof

Canada

I have worked for inclusion of women in all areas of church life since 1975; inclusive language in liturgy; multiculturalism in the church; inclusion of gay and lesbian Anglicans; and establishing a permanent memorial in Waterloo, Canada, for the first woman priest, Rev Dr Florence Li Tim-Oi. I carry my passion for justice for women into the secular world, attending the World Conference on Women in Beijing (1995), Beijing +5 in New York (2000), and the UNCSW regularly.

It is a privilege to be part of IAWN, that speaks with directness and courage to leaders in the Anglican Communion on behalf of women, and with hope and encouragement to Anglican women everywhere who yearn to use their God-given talents fully in service of God.

In Canada, voices are asking for new language in the liturgy that speaks more directly of inclusiveness, and broadens our vision of who God is among us. First Nations, and those who have settled here, are in deep and honest dialogue through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We yearn for a society free from gender-based violence.

I live in Toronto with husband, James, two children and three grandchildren.



Join IAWN's Facebook group

See Editor's SOS on page 1

To get in touch with the Provincial Link for your Province, email the Editor, elaine.ging@gmail.com



White Ribbon International Conference

'We are here because we want to bring this violence to an end. We are saying "yes" to good, respectful relationships. What we are doing is working together to create a better world for women, men and children.' *Dr Michael Kaufman, co-founder, White Ribbon Campaign*

Ann Skamp reports on the first ever global White Ribbon conference...

Most gender based violence is perpetrated by men against women. This Conference focused on the specific issues which need to change to create a world free of men's violence against women.

Research demonstrates that such violence results in significant health and financial costs – between 1.5 and 2 per cent of gross national product, with emerging societies bearing the most burden. The World Health Organization's **Report on Violence and Health** identified three factors which need to be addressed to reduce these costs: gender inequality; unequal power relationships; rigid gender stereotyping.

The conference recognised that *all men* have a role in perpetuating or stopping men's violence against women. It is a men's issue, requiring a whole community approach engaging men and boys.

The '**bystander approach**' challenges the attitude that says 'this is none of my business', daring groups as well as individuals to understand it as their problem.

The **role of male leadership** is vital. When male leaders stand up and demand change, then change happens. Changing systems and organisational priorities can build a culture reflecting this new future without violence.

The worldwide Anglican Communion provides opportunities and a responsibility to be in partnership to create a future free of men's violence against women. Many Anglican communities are already involved in awareness raising and providing services to eliminate such violence.

The leadership of the Communion, both through the Primates' Meeting and the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC), has endorsed this commitment. The Communion's Networks, the Anglican Alliance, and many local Anglican agencies also raise awareness of this issue. So we need to continue building momentum by:

- promoting equal and respectful relationships
- developing leadership to build an institutional culture which does not tolerate any violence against women
- advocating gender equality
- working in partnership with other societal groups to create a future free of men's violence against women.

Being co-creators of this future is God's call to us.

Ann's full report is at <http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/reports/index.cfm>.

White Ribbon International Conference presentations and papers can now be downloaded at www.whiteribbon.org.au/update/global-to-local

Prayer Quilt Please pray with us

Due to the continued violence and civil unrest in Damascus and Aleppo in Syria, our churches there have been closed down for the foreseeable future. Your prayers for the congregations and the people of Syria are sincerely requested and greatly appreciated. Please pray for peace throughout the Middle East.

Leila Diab, Episcopal Church of Jerusalem & the Middle East

The Women Fellowship for Christian Service. Church of North India, met together in June at Ahmadabad in Gujarat State, India, to pray on the issue pending since Independence - 'Status of Women' - using the beautiful Psalm 46.4-5 as inspiration. We ask you to pray that we may each be a River of Hope, for ourselves and for others, flowing freely among those who are thirsty for

Peace, Justice, Love, and dying for the lack of attention and negligence, and that all mindsets may be more positive and progressive, and boys and men will be empowered in gender sensitization programmes.

Meenakshi Das, Church of North India

Let us give thanks for the work which has led to thousands of children being born HIV-free because of improved treatment; and for their mothers' willingness to acknowledge their own HIV-positive status.

And let us pray for all children and mothers infected by HIV; for an end to the stigma which prevents people receiving correct treatment; for stability and good governance in countries where there are poor public health systems; for our world to be one where all children are born and remain HIV-free.

Elaine Cameron, Scottish Episcopal Church