International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN): Report to the Standing Committee, March 2013

Report submitted by Ann Skamp, convenor, IAWN

This year has seen several new initiatives for IAWN as we continue our priority work on the elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls based in the restoration of right relationships between women, men, girls and boys to reflect our being made in the image of God:

- IAWN Newsletters produced quarterly, edited by Elaine Cameron (Scotland).
- Financial strategy developed to simplify accounts and plan for future meetings, Margaret Dempster (Canada) as Treasurer.
- Stepping up contacts with IAWN's Provincial Links by IAWN Steering Group members.
- Review of the IAWN Provincial Link role description and status of IAWN's current list of Provincial Links with a view to ensuring representation of every Province in the Communion.
- Monthly Skype meetings of the IAWN Steering Group, with Elenor Lawrence (West Indies) as secretary.

Future work

Elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls

The attendance IAWN representatives at ACC-15 provided a wonderful opportunity for them to meet with other Network representatives and interact with members of the ACC. The passage of Resolutions 15.07 'Gender-based and domestic violence' and 15.38 'ACC Written Statement to the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57)' has greatly encouraged the Network as it looks to continue its work with churches and agencies to ensure women and girls within our communities are safe and free from all forms of violence. The Network looks forward to working with the Standing Committee as it encourages the implementation of ACC-15.07 and will continue to produce and seek out resources and strategies as it partners with all in the Communion in this ongoing Gospel work.

Future meetings

The IAWN Steering Group is planning to meet in London in November 2013. The focus of the meeting will be to strategise further for the Network's activities in support of the implementation of ACC 15.07. The meeting will also consider how to support and encourage the Network's Provincial Links since they are pivotal in bringing forth stories, matters for consideration and resources for use across the whole Communion.

We are investigating the possibility of a meeting of all Provincial Links together with the Steering Group in 2014. The last such meeting was in 2009 and was instrumental in helping the Network to discern through prayer and conversation the work priorities for IAWN.

I write this report at the conclusion of the 57th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57). The priority theme for the meeting was 'The Elimination and Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls'. We give thanks to God that CSW57 reached agreement and adopted 'Agreed Conclusions'. All parties committed to eliminating all forms

of violence against women and girls, ending impunity for perpetrators, fully engaging men and boys, and advancing women's empowerment and gender equality to prevent and end violence. The delegation of Anglican women, facilitated by the Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations, has, over the last two weeks, witnessed openly and strongly to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as they have participated and engaged with their own government delegations and other non-government organisations. Their experience and learnings will now inform their personal action plans within their own churches and communities as well as the wider Communion.