The International Anglican Women's Network newsletter

IAWN news

January 2013 Issue 7

Photo: At Vaughan Park Retreat Centre, New Zealand; (from left) Brenda Sio, Ann Skamp, Amy Chambers, Alice Medcof, Margaret Dempster, Carole Hughes; (standing) Erice Fairweather, Claudette Kigeme, Elaine Cameron, (back) Mere Wallace, Catherine Graham

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A "Network of Networks"

Our new Steering Group Co-ordinator, Ann Skamp, writes:

In Archbishop Rowan Williams' Advent letter to the Anglican Primates he writes of the Anglican Communion becoming a "network of networks":

> "...what has brought this alive for me is the experience at two successive Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) meetings ... In our recent meeting in New Zealand, I was deeply struck by how important the networks had become, and how they were increasingly shaping the possibilities and hopes of our provinces. In the work done around evangelism, healthcare, the environment, the rights and dignities of women and children and of indigenous peoples and many more areas, what drew people together was this halfway formal model of a global community of prayer and concern maintained by deep friendship and common work. This is where you are probably most likely to see the beauty of the face of Christ in the meetings of the Communion; this is where the joyful hope of Christian believers is most strongly kindled. And this also reminds us most forcefully of the fact that what we aspire to as Anglicans is ... a true family and fellowship in which we share our hopes and know that we are responsible for each other's well-being and integrity before God." (See www.aco.org/acns/news.cfm/2012/12/2/ACNS5264.)

At ACC-15, Archbishop Rowan and Secretary General Canon Kenneth Kearon highlighted the substantive contribution of IAWN to the mission of the church. This was reflected in the passing of Resolution ACC 15.07, co-sponsored by IAWN and the Francophone Network (Réseau francophone de la Communion anglicane), which welcomes the Primates' January 2011 Letter to the Churches regarding gender based violence; recommends that theological colleges include curricula on gendered violence; endorses Anglican engagement with the *We Will Speak Out* coalition; commends commitment to the White Ribbon campaign and the 16 Days of Activism for the Elimination of Violence against Women. (See www.anglicancommunion.org/communion/acc/meetings/acc15/resolutions.cfm#s7.)

These words bring new challenges and new questions of ourselves and of our Women's Network: What is IAWN? What is God calling us to become? What is God calling us to do? How do we better share our prayers, our friendships and our common work?

I invite you to share your thoughts on the IAWN email: **iawnlinks@epicom.org** or email me at **annskamp@aapt.net.au**.

As IAWN looks forward to God's leading in 2013, we do so with enormous gratitude for Archbishop Rowan's leadership in our Communion and especially for his support and encouragement of our Network. Our prayers go with him and Jane as they move into new roles among us.

We also come with heartfelt thanks for the leadership of Priscilla Julie as our Coordinator (2006-2012), the Steering Group of 2009-2012, and especially recognise the generous gift of time and energy of Alice Medcof as our IAWN treasurer (2006-2012).

May God's grace and peace lift us up and enlighten our paths. *Ann Skamp*

Auckland Steering Group Meeting

IAWN Steering Group members Elaine Cameron, Claudette Kigeme, Margaret Dempster and Ann Skamp met together, 22-25 October, joined by Alice Medcof (former Steering Group member) and Catherine Graham, the new coordinator of the Refugee & Migrant Network. We met in the lovely Vaughan Park Anglican Retreat Centre and for one evening were joined by women from the Women's Studies Centre of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia to launch their book *Our Place, Our Voice*. While it was wonderful to be together we were very aware of the absence of half of our Steering Group: Pumla Titus, Meenakshi Das, Kim Robey and Elenor Lawrence.

This page is a précis of our decisions and questions.

IAWN Provincial Links

Each Province of the Anglican Communion nominates a formal link person to IAWN. Provincial Links keep in touch with IAWN's Steering Group and with women in her Province so that they are in a good position to communicate, share information and resources, and encourage Anglican women to think globally and act locally. Let us know if you are not yet in touch with the Link for your Province, but would like to be.

We recognised the need for more intentional work with our Links, and finding better ways of enabling the Links to take our Network's mission forward. So we decided that Steering Group members would be responsible for contacting and encouraging Links in their region, and allocated the following:

Pumla:	Central Africa, Nigeria, Southern Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, West Africa
Meenakshi:	Bangladesh, Indian Ocean, North India, Pakistan, South India
Margaret:	Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Myanmar (Burma)
Kim:	Mexico, Philippines, TEC
Elenor:	Brazil, Central America, Southern Cone, West Indies
Elaine:	England, Ireland, Jerusalem & The Middle East, Scotland, Wales
Claudette	Burundi, Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan
Ann	Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia, Australia, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea, South East Asia

We wish to continue monitoring whether women are participating equally with men on decision-making bodies in churches in all Anglican Provinces (ACC resolutions 13.31 and 14.33).

IAWN Steering Group

The Steering Group plans to meet by skype monthly; once face-to-face in 2013; and with Provincial Links prior to UNCSW 2014.

Some questions for you!

Answers please to Ann Skamp at annskamp@aapt.net.au or to any member of the Steering Group!

1. *Gender Based and Domestic Violence*: How do we best keep track of *how the ACC Standing Committee takes up the implementation* of Resolution 15.07: Gender Based and Domestic Violence?
2. *IAWN Visibility:* How can we make IAWN better known so that women in all congregations around the Communion are caught in its excitement?
3. How do we *educate and inform* better? Can we develop tools for local action – like the Beijing Circles?
4. Should we consider *local/regional IAWN gatherings?*
5. **What do you think we need to do next to encourage and support the IAWN Provincial Links?**

IAWN Finances

2012-2015

As the newly elected IAWN Treasurer, I have challenged the Steering Group to develop a realistic financial strategy for the next three-year term.

To ensure a significant difference in the lives of women world-wide, IAWN Provincial Links need to meet as a group to share, debate, discern, plan, and adopt a strategy to effect positive change. Our most important financial challenge is to have all the Provincial Links and members of the Steering Group meet in 2014.

Funding derives from a number of sources e.g. self-funding, corporate subsidies, and ecclesiastical contributions. In the past, we have been fortunate to receive donations from a couple of Anglican Provinces. However, because of the global financial situation being so depressed and all nations being affected, it is becoming a challenge to raise funds. ***IAWN asks that all Provinces attempt to make a contribution to the Network's costs even if the amount is minimal.***

If you have questions concerning IAWN finances and budgeting, please contact me, **the Reverend Margaret Dempster at 19mmd49@gmail.com**.

Editor's Note

The Steering Group has decided to have four IAWN Newsletters yearly, each with four pages. We hope this will keep up-to-date communications flowing among us. We're aiming for January, April, July, October issues.

Our April Newsletter will focus on UNCSW57, and I am asking Anglicans who attend to share reflections with us. **5 April 2013 is the deadline** for articles, photos, quotations, etc.

Some of you share my anxieties about the IAWN website at http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org – please be patient. Work is in hand to update the Anglican Communion website, including the Networks' web pages.

Lastly, I believe the IAWN Newsletters should reflect the concerns and work of all the Links and their Provinces. So please email me when you have something to say! **Elaine Cameron at elaine.ging@gmail.com**.

IAWN Steering Group 2012 – 2015

Ann Skamp, Coordinator

I live in Lismore, in north-eastern New South Wales on the east coast of Australia and am a member of the General Synod Standing Committee and the General Synod Women's Network in the Anglican Church of Australia.

I see Anglican women, through living and working out their faith in Jesus Christ, as being instrumental in bringing in God's reign into our world.

Elenor Lawrence, Secretary

I am the first full-time and female Provincial Secretary of the Church in the Province of the West Indies. Highly motivated and results oriented, I formulate reports and participate in most provincial meetings. With strong communication skills, I have developed successful working relationships, both individual and corporate. I have three daughters and four grandchildren, and enjoy cooking, baking and reading.

The Revd Margaret M Dempster, Treasurer

I am rector of two churches in the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior in the Province of British Columbia. My churches are a shared ministry; Anglican and United Church of Canada, giving an ecumenical perspective on challenges faced by Canadian women. As Treasurer of IAWN's Steering Group, I look forward to advancing the Beijing Platform and the Millennium Development Goals.

Meenakshi Das

I live in the city of Taj Mahal and am President for the Women's Fellowship of the Church of North India.

I am very pleased to be on the Steering Group, because IAWN takes forward the vision of a big global community where Peace, Justice, Love and Gender Equality persist!

Claudette Kigeme

Married, with five children, I am MU Provincial Coordinator in Burundi, involved in community development and promotion of vulnerable women and children. Skilled in women's empowerment and organisational management, I am a Board member of CMS Africa and a member of the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA) Women Core Group. Counting my blessings, my desire is to be a blessing to other women.

Kim Robey

As former Program Officer for Women's Leadership at the Episcopal Church Center, New York, I am committed to connecting grassroots women to the Beijing Platform. I was a founding member of the Women's Commission in the Diocese of Long Island. I spent 25 years in Human Resources and am now Executive Assistant to the Dean and President of the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church.

Pumla Titus

I was born, bred and still reside in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, Republic of South Africa. I am a self-employed Community Development Consultant. Besides being the Anglican Church of Southern Africa (ACSA) Provincial Link to IAWN since 2008, I was elected Provincial President of the Anglican Women's Fellowship in 2010. I am also chairperson on the Board of HOPE Africa, the social development organization of ACSA.

Elaine Cameron, Communications

Born in Northern Ireland, but Scotland is home to me! I have been the Scottish Episcopal Church IAWN Link since 2009, and coordinated the church's Gender Audit in 2010. Attending UNCSW56 in March 2012 was both humbling and deeply troubling – the global lens reminds us that gender equality begins in small places, locally, wherever is our home, and has no meaning anywhere if not there.

For our prayers

Attorney at Law Vijula Arulanantham, who will participate in UNCSW 57 as the delegate for the Church of Ceylon, has let us know that in the aftermath of the protracted and bloody civil war in Sri Lanka, militarisation has gravely affected the security and well being of women and girls in the war affected areas. Most men in these areas have been killed or are missing or in detention, resulting in women headed households. Human rights violations continue, and following the recent unconstitutional impeachment of Sri Lanka's Chief Justice, the Anglican Bishop of Colombo has written a pastoral letter calling the Church to rise up against the injustice in the country. Vijula has asked for our prayers as the Church seeks to stand true to God's calling.

Further similar requests have come this week from other parts of the Communion. So we pray:

Loving God, we ask that you be with all people who face violence, or oppression, or persecution - especially in Sri Lanka, in Kenya, in Northern Ireland, in Myanmar, in Syria – give them a sense of your presence, and yield them mercy and compassion. Strengthen and protect your Church wherever it strives to stand true to your calling to secure peace through justice. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

UN Commission on the Status of Women 57 (UNCSW 57)

Twenty-five Anglican women will gather as the Anglican Communion delegation at this year's United Nations Commission on the Status of Women from 4 to 15 March.

The Priority theme is: ***The elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls***.

The Review theme is: ***The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS***, and the nominated Emerging theme is: ***Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework.***

For the first time the Anglican Consultative Council has submitted a written statement to UNCSW on behalf of the Anglican Communion - hopefully raising the level of awareness of Anglican women's presence at UNCSW and encouraging ownership of our work there. This is Resolution 15.38: ACC Written Statement to CSW57, see:

www.anglicancommunion.org/communion/acc/meetings/acc15/resolutions.cfm#s38

This Resolution and Statement reflect the deep commitment across the Anglican Communion to work towards the elimination of gender based violence as part of our witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Following advocacy by IAWN, the Primates' Letter to the Churches concerning gender based violence, and initiatives already taken, ACC-15 also agreed by *Resolution 15.07* to endorse and promote a broad range of commitments throughout the Communion to effect an eradication of all forms of violence perpetrated against women and girls, including trafficking for sexual purposes.

AWE pilots first Indaba for women

In partnership with the Anglican Communion's *Continuing Indaba*, Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE) will pilot the first women's Indaba process. *Indaba* is a Zulu word for a purposeful discussion around matters that concern the whole community. *Indaba* creates sacred space where all voices are heard equally. Relationships are vital. With everyone contributing, the group can come to a much deeper understanding of the issues at stake and so find transformation; transformation of themselves, their work, their cultures.

It is our mutual hope that an all women's group might allow for deeper discussion of issues not possible in a mixed gender setting.

This pilot Women's Indaba Program provides AWE with an opportunity to deepen connections that already exist. Training and the resulting facilitator/ leadership roles will allow us to take our work with women around the Communion to a higher, more effective level.

The Indaba program will take place in a limited setting at the Episcopal Church Center the first weekend in March 2013, immediately preceding UNCSW57. We hope that it will open the door for Anglican women to find the great gift of deeper relationships with each other, and that in Christ we will find the transformation so needed by our world. More information at: http://continuingindaba.com/ and http://episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/ens/2012/07/30/continuing-indaba-enables-gospel-shaped-conversation/.

Kim Robey, Episcopal Church

We Will Speak Out Coalition

We Will Speak Out is an international coalition of churches, Christian agencies and individuals who have committed themselves to working together in order to end sexual violence in communities all over the world.

It started in 2010 after research done in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia and Rwanda revealed that the church had failed to speak out against sexual violence, during and after the war, when it could have. A commitment to break the silence was launched at Lambeth in 2011 with the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Primates of Burundi, Congo and Rwanda. They, together with UNAIDS and Tear Fund, have organised in-country meetings to sensitise other church leaders, and international agencies to speak out against sexual violence, provide care to survivors, and end the related stigma.

When I shared about the coalition at ACC-15, many delegates confessed that the church has 'sinned by omission' by not speaking out against sexual violence. Thirty-two delegates signed a pledge to take action. Passing the resolution on gender based violence at ACC15 is evidence that the church is now committed to speak out against such violence. IAWN should be active in its implementation with the whole Communion.
See: www.wewillspeakout.org.

Claudette Kigeme, Burundi

ANGLICAN COMMUNION
IN OVER 165 COUNTRIES