

IAWN news



IAWN Steering Group chair Pumla Titus joins the 16 Days faith campaign 'Precious in God's eyes'.

Anglicans are joining faith partners to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence in a campaign 'Precious in God's Eyes'.

The campaign will initially use social media to send out photos of international and local faith leaders making their pledge to work against gender-based violence in all its forms.

The photos and pledges will later be put at the centre of faith partners' participation at different United Nations platforms.

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Because We are Precious in God's Eyes

All Anglicans can get involved in the social media campaign

Posting our 16 Days photos and pledges is just one way of letting the world know that we want to change the environments we live in where gender-based violence is still allowed to diminish and destroy people's lives, most often those of women and girls.

To take part, take a photo of yourself with a sign like Pumla's (include 'Precious in God's Eyes' and your pledge) and post it on Facebook and Twitter or any other social media to @AnglicansEndGBV and @SBSGender with the hashtag #16Days. Or you could send your picture to Chris Curry at chris.curry@anglicancommunion.org who can post it on social media for you.

For the campaign, Anglicans are partnering the Church of Sweden; Finn Church Aid; Islamic Relief Worldwide; Lutheran World Federation; Mission 21; Norwegian Church Aid; Side by Side; UNFPA; World Communion of Reformed Churches; World Council of Churches, and World YWCA. Keep an eye on our shared website at www.genderjustice-interfaith.net.



Archbishop Moon Hing, Primate of South East Asia and diocesan staff, West Malaysia

IAWN Steering Group meets

In October the IAWN Steering Group met to review the Network's priorities and goals and to strategise for the future. They were hosted by the Anglican Communion Office in London.

Many hundreds of women around the Communion belong to the Network. Each Province has a voluntary IAWN Provincial Link who is nominated by her Primate and serves as a channel for communication to and from women in her context. There are a number of vacancies at the moment. Read more about this and other ways you could get involved on page 3.

16 Days of Activism: News from Around the Communion

As in previous years, Anglicans are finding creative ways to use the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence to challenge and inspire local communities to pray, reflect and act to end all forms of violence, from domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking to 'honour' killings and sex selective abortions.

Here are just some examples of what is going on in our churches and communities. To see what we did last year and explore some of the resources we signposted, go to <http://bit.ly/1TkysPI> and click through to 2016.

Holding the Light

Forty-one Australian women have been murdered by their partners since the end of October 2017.

In East Melbourne, Australia, an ecumenical service will be held at St Peter's Eastern Hill, 15 Gisborne Street, on Sunday 26 November at 2.30pm local time, to remember victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Find out more about the work of Think Prevent at <https://thinkprevent.com>.



We Will Speak Out coalition webinar for the 16 Days

The We Will Speak Out faith coalition against sexual violence will be hosting a 16 days of Activism webinar on Wednesday 29 November, 12.30 - 13.30 pm UK time. Find out the time for where you are at <http://bit.ly/2B7dgda>.

The webinar will feature a panel discussion on the role of faith communities in responding to the needs and priorities of survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, and building survivor movements that can shape policy and practice. Look out for details for joining the webinar at <https://www.wewillspeakout.org>.

Police brief the Mothers' Union in Northern Ireland

Ahead of the 16 Days, Detective Chief Inspector Anne Marks from the Police Service of Northern Ireland briefed members of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Down & Dromore in Northern Ireland about the extent of sexual and domestic violence in the area.

One in every 18 calls to the Police Service of Northern Ireland relates to domestic abuse and 1,393 reports of sexual assault were reported to the police in a 12-month period—though DCI Marks said the real figure is likely to be much higher, as research suggests that as many as 75 per cent of sexual assaults are not reported. Some 834 rapes were reported and in 153 of these cases the victims were children aged under 13-years old.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2B6Yh2Y>.

Please send your news and photos to Terrie Robinson at terrie.robinson@anglicancommunion.org

White Ribbon convoy in Australia

The 25th November is also White Ribbon day in many parts of the world. White Ribbon is a movement of men and boys who pledge not to commit, and to end, violence against women and girls.



In Campbelltown, Australia, the Rector of Glenquarie Anglican Church, Revd David Ould, will join members of the local Police, Fire Service, Break the Cycle, and other organisations to go on a White Ribbon Day Convoy to raise awareness and to reinforce the message that domestic violence is never acceptable.

Mothers' Union 16 Days package of resources

The Mothers' Union has produced an inspiring bundle of resources for the 2017 16 Days—Bible study material, fact sheets, posters and more. See <http://bit.ly/2A3KZap>.



Watch their video for the 16 Days featuring IAWN Steering Group member Revd Immaculée Nyiransengimana who is Mothers' Union Provincial Coordinator for the Anglican Church of Rwanda.

"Together We Can End GBV in Education!"

This is the theme being promoted internationally by the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers University in the USA where the 16 Days of Activism began. Read or download their 'Take Action Kit' from their website at <http://16dayscwg.rutgers.edu/>.

IAWN Steering Group revisits Priorities and sets Goals



IAWN Steering Group 2016-2019, left to right, Moumita Biswas, India; Carole Hughes, New Zealand; Lizzi Green with Ariella, England; Paula Nesbitt, USA; Immaculée Nyiransengimana, Rwanda; Terrie Robinson, Anglican Communion Office; Margaret Dempster, Canada; Pumla Titus, South Africa (chair). Our member from Panama, Dilsia Mariela Miller Alleyne, was unable to attend.

The IAWN Steering Group, elected by the Network to serve 2016 to 2019, spent several days together in October to refresh priorities and plan next steps.

Revised priorities for the years ahead are now set out on IAWN's website at <http://iawn.anglicancommunion.org/about-us.aspx>.

Among them are promoting gender equality and the participation of women in all levels of decision-making throughout the Anglican Communion, supporting and accompanying Anglicans and others who are working to eradicate all forms of gender-based violence, including human trafficking, and advocating the eradication of extreme poverty, hunger, and environmental abuse.

Ambitious plans

The Steering Group hopes that next steps will serve to create a positive environment for such priorities. For example, with the

formation of our church leaders in mind, we will facilitate a group of academic theologians from around the Communion who will develop a framework curriculum and signposting resource, adaptable to local contexts, on gender justice and responding to gender-based violence.

Our aim is to take the curriculum to the next meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) in 2019 and then offer it to theological colleges, schools and training schemes around the Communion.

We will also work with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network to gather stories and theological and liturgical material concerned with aspects of climate justice where there is a disproportionate impact on women and girls, such as water justice.

The steering group also committed to promoting ACC resolution 16.02 on Women and Men in Church and Society, initially paying attention to the clauses concerning liturgy and contextual Bible study, and fostering awareness of harmful gender norms and cultural practices, and unjust power relations. For the full text of resolution 16.02, see <http://bit.ly/1Wj8VeY>.

A vital priority for the Network will be sharing women's stories from around the Communion so please keep sending us your news. Email terrie.robinson@anglicancommunion.org or post to the IAWN Facebook group.

Also, please do get in touch if you would like to know more about being an IAWN Provincial Link and strengthening our relationships around the Anglican Communion.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2jViSUy>.

16 Days activities continued...

Silence is broken in Fiji

On Sunday 19 November, the Diocese of Polynesia with the House of Sarah and the Christian Network-Talanoa prepared for the 16 Days and White Ribbon Day with Break the Silence Sunday.

They have designed a moving collection of liturgical resources in English, Vosa Vaka-Viti and Hindi which will be useful any time of the year. We will post soon to IAWN 16 Days <http://bit.ly/1TkysPl>.



Have you joined our Facebook group at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IntAngWomen/>?

London Welsh Male Voice Choir sings out

Guildford Cathedral in England will be the venue for a special concert to mark the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November.

The concert has been organised by Restored, a Christian charity working to end violence against women and promote healthy relationships, www.restoredrelationships.org.

16 Days Run in Kampala, Uganda

The Church of Uganda Planning, Development and Rehabilitation Department (COU-PDR) is taking a lead in organising activities for the 16 Days.

A major event will be a Big Run to raise awareness in Kampala where the Anglican Primate, Archbishop Stanley Ntagali, will get the Run going. The Run will happen on 2 December and will culminate with a Prayer Dialogue for Religious Leaders.

Read the story at <http://bit.ly/2jmH65Z>.



FREEDOM SUNDAY SEE IT, SPEAK OUT

Many churches around the Communion will be observing Freedom Sunday on 2 December as part of increased efforts to tackle human trafficking and modern day slavery.

The Anglican Alliance has produced a resource pack in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese to help churches plan services and other events around the day, which this year falls on the UN's International Day for the Abolition of Slavery.

The resource pack includes stories, information, prayers and a sermon outline. The different language versions can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/2BarnhP>.

Human trafficking, advocacy and Good News

A reflection by the Revd Adrian Dannhauser, Associate Rector at the Church of the Incarnation, New York City

Last year I sat in worship at the UN Church Center in New York City at the start of the 2016 session on the UN Commission on the Status of Women. I was a delegate of The Episcopal Church. We were singing, praying, and gearing up for a day of representing the Church's views on preventing violence against women and girls to members of the Commission. As the worship leader introduced our final hymn, she said, "Worship is the root of advocacy." Much like prayer is the root of transformation, or righteous anger is the root of justice, worship is the root of advocacy. So what does the rest of the tree look like? It certainly includes solidarity with those on whose behalf we advocate and supporting their interests as if they were our own. At its fullest expression, advocacy becomes proclamation of the Good News in both word and deed. It is the place where evangelism and mission come together to bear the fruit of social justice.

Church of the Incarnation in midtown Manhattan has launched an advocacy ministry built on this understanding. We are people of faith intent on both proclaiming and participating in God's call to free the captives of human trafficking. One way we do this is by approaching hotels in our neighbourhood to discuss their unique opportunity to prevent the sex trafficking of minors. Traffickers commonly use hotel rooms as a site for the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

When hotel staff are trained to spot the signs of this activity, they can alert authorities if they suspect a potential trafficking situation, often leading to the rescue of victims and arrest of perpetrators. Signs can include guests who book multiple rooms, rent rooms by the hour and pay in cash, or men who accompany young girls who appear downtrodden or do not make eye contact.

Many hotels already have access to human trafficking awareness training, either through the American Hotel & Lodging Association or the international non-profit ECPAT. Some hotels mandate this training for employees;

others don't know it exists. Our mission at Incarnation is to make sure all hotels in our community are equipped and empowered to prevent child sex trafficking on their premises. We regularly educate hotel management on the basics of human trafficking and encourage them to do the training. We provide front desk and lobby staff with "cheat sheets" that list the red flags of child sex trafficking. We are also lobbying for state legislation that would require all hotels and motels in New York to provide human trafficking awareness training to employees and post the National Human Trafficking Hotline in lobbies and public restrooms.

A police detective once told me, "A human trafficking case is like a murder case. The victim doesn't talk." This is why advocacy on behalf of trafficking victims is critical, and enlisting the help of hotels is a must. One of the great things about Incarnation's ministry is that it's entirely replicable for any parish with a hotel nearby. That's why we plan to create a hotel outreach toolkit for use throughout The Episcopal Church and broader Anglican Communion. This way, we can all "speak out for those who cannot speak." (Proverbs 31.8)

Other News

Poverty has a woman's face

Side by Side for gender justice. In Scotland, to mark the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism, the gender justice group of the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane in the Scottish Episcopal Church will host *Poverty has a Woman's Face: Side by Side for Gender Justice*, a day with Revd Kathy Galloway, former Head of Christian Aid Scotland and former Leader of the Iona Community. Women and men are welcome.

The event will take place on Saturday 25 November, 10.30am to 3.30pm, at St John's Threshold Centre, Princes Street, Perth. A panel of speakers will help participants explore how gender impacts all our lives, how it impacts poverty, and what faith communities can bring to the table.

See <http://bit.ly/2BjawKK> for more details.

Girls, Precious in God's Eyes

On 11 October, IAWN remembered the annual International Day of the Girl Child.

Globally, 750 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday; complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the second highest cause of death for 15-19 year-old girls globally.

Most women and girls alive today who have undergone female genital mutilation were cut before they were five years old. Young women in conflict zones are 90 per cent more likely to be out of secondary school than their counterparts in conflict-free countries.

We pray for girls wherever they are, that they will be welcomed, loved and empowered, and that they will have life, and have life in abundance.

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