



## The International Anglican Women's Network

### Report to the Anglican Consultative Council, Jamaica, May 2009

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, from the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN).

It is with great pleasure that I present this report to the Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) on behalf of the IAWN Steering Group (SG) and the IAWN Provincial Links (PLs).

Before I report on the activities, hopes and concerns of the women of the Anglican Communion, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire SG and the PLs for their commitment to women across the Communion. Particular thanks are due to the women of Anglican Women's Empowerment (AWE) and Ms Kim Robey and the Reverend Margaret Rose, without whom the SG and PLs would not have been able to achieve half of what we report below. We pray that this report demonstrates to the ACC the work that God is able to do when Anglicans work together towards a common purpose.

There has been much activity since IAWN was reformed in 2006, as demonstrated by the reports to the ACC Joint Standing Committee in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Most recently, the 2009-2012 SG was elected in February 2009 and they have already begun working together to achieve the objectives and vision of IAWN as outlined in the IAWN Mission (attached). Copies in Spanish or French will be made available on our website [www.iawn.org](http://www.iawn.org) when translated.

To date, 34 Provinces have appointed IAWN PLs. We pray that the Primates of the remaining four (4) Provinces and six (6) extra-Provincial Dioceses will nominate an IAWN PL in 2009.

Provided below are summaries of the achievements of the 2006-2009 SG, key issues of Anglican women around the communion and future plans for the 2009-2012 SG. Annex A provides a Provincial summary of activities, issue and future plans provided by each PL Woman.

#### Activities of IAWN Steering Group 2006-2009

- *Presentation and/or attendance at meetings, conferences and other Church events:*
  - 50<sup>th</sup> - 53<sup>rd</sup> Sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) Feb/March 2006-2009.
  - IAWN Meeting, February 2009, New York (See meeting Statement at Annex B. The final report is submitted separately).
  - IAWN Stalls at Lambeth 2008 in the Keynes Residence and in the Marketplace (See Annex C)
  - IAWN Steering Group face-to-face meetings during UNCSW Feb/March 2007 and 2008.
  - TEAM Conference in South Africa, March 2007 and subsequent Follow-Up Group meetings.

- Joint meeting of Anglican Peace and Justice Network and IAWN in Kigali, Goma and Bujumbura, including a consultation meeting for the Anglican women in the Great Lakes Region to discuss war and conflict and related problems that have degraded the humanity of women as well as girls, 25 September – 3 October 2007.
- *ACC 13/31*
  - Promoted awareness of ACC 13/31 and collected data on achievements to date. A full report is submitted separately.
- *Electronic communications*
  - IAWN website <http://www.iawn.org> updated and now part of the Anglican Communion website: information from PLs and IAWN documents posted on website.
  - UNCSW e-mail distribution list more active and providing information about activities, prayer requests and issues from around the Communion.
- *Financial*
  - Established bank account for IAWN to be operated by the ACO.
  - membership with Canadian Compass Rose Society (CCRS) and ability to receive donations through CCRS in support of approved IAWN projects. Funds used to develop website and fund IAWN Lambeth attendance, stalls and event.
- *Publications and media*
  - IAWN Brochure and Mission reviewed and reproduced by 2006-2009 and 2009-2012 Steering Groups. Available at [www.iawn.org](http://www.iawn.org). Translations will be made available as soon as practicable.
  - IAWN SG and PLs had articles on IAWN, UNCSW and other issues regarding women published in Diocesan and National Church newspapers. IAWN also featured in an article in the *Journal of Anglican Studies*, June 2007, "Anglican Women: Empowering Each other to Further God's Kingdom", by Mary Sudman Donovan.
  - Articles in ACNS 4376, 4387, 4562 and 4581 and Mothers' Union *Home and Family*.
- *Partnerships*
  - Partnership with Anglican Peace and Justice Network (APJN)
  - Partnership with Anglican Family Network (AFN)
  - Partnership with Mothers' Union (MU)
  - Partnership with Theological Education in the Anglican Communion (TEAC)

### **Priorities of 2009-2012 IAWN Steering Group and Provincial Links**

At the IAWN meeting in February 2009, the 2009-2012 IAWN SG and PLs committed themselves to work with the ACC to empower women in the Communion. In doing this they will:

- Raise awareness of and promote IAWN and the IAWN Mission;
- Strengthen relationships and communication with Provinces especially the Primates and Bishops;
- Continue IAWN Representation as part of the ACC delegation to the United Nation Commission on Status of Women;

- Further develop and improve the IAWN Website;
- Partner with other ACC Networks and other organisation with similar missions; and
- Identify various sources of funds for the work of IAWN.

In all of the above, the SG and PLs will focus on promoting awareness of and activities dealing with the key issues identified at the February 2009 meeting (refer to Annex B):

- Elimination of all forms of violence against women and children, especially trafficking;
- Elimination of extreme poverty, by ensuring access to health care, safe water and employment opportunities;
- Promotion of gender equality throughout the Anglican Communion;
- Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis;
- Promotion of gender budgeting, which is a key to all of the above.

### **IAWN Provincial Link Women Report 2008**

Annex A summarises the progress IAWN PLs and women in their Provinces are making towards empowering Anglican women. They wish to bring your attention to these particular issues that women face in the Communion:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence against women and girls especially trafficking</li> <li>• reluctance of women to nominate themselves or be nominated for positions of leadership</li> <li>• living in a patriarchal society</li> <li>• rural/urban divide</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• illiteracy and lack of education</li> <li>• HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other health issues including access to safe water</li> <li>• discriminatory laws and policies including unequal distribution of funds to women's programs in budgeting processes.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• extreme poverty and financial insecurity</li> <li>• the digital/electronic divide</li> <li>• role of women in Church life</li> <li>• sexuality</li> <li>• lack of and under employment</li> <li>• environmental issues.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|---|

This list is not exhaustive and specific Provinces have their own unique issues.

### **IAWN Meeting 23 - 27 February 2009**

The IAWN SG and PL Women met at the Desmond Tutu Centre, New York City, USA, from 23-27 February 2009. Annex B is the Statement issued at the end of this meeting. A number of resolutions for ACC's consideration were formed and are provided below. The 2006-2009 SG met prior to the meeting 18-22 February to finalise plans for the meeting and lay the groundwork for the 2009-2012 SG. The full report is provided separately.

### **Lambeth**

IAWN was represented at Lambeth by an international group of women who staffed two stalls and held 8 fringe events and participated in two Spouses' self select events. A brief report on IAWN's participation at Lambeth is provided in [Annex C](#).

### **Progress on ACC 13/31**

In 2008 and early 2009, PLs provided initial data on the representation of women on Provincial decision-making bodies. The detailed report is provided separately. It is

important that the ACC note that many PLs commented on the difficulties women face in participating in these decision-making bodies even once they are elected or appointed. Institutionalised gender bias needs to be addressed at both the highest level and the smallest parish.

### **Mothers' Union Summary Report 2008**

Annex D is a summary report of Mothers' Union activities in 2008. Margaret Jones is the MU World Wide President's representative on the IAWN Steering Group. A new representative will be appointed by the World Wide President during 2009.

### **Proposed resolutions and rationale**

IAWN, noting the previous ACC and Lambeth resolutions about women and issues that affect women, propose the following resolutions for adoption by the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the ACC.

The Anglican Consultative Council:

- a. receives the IAWN report, commends IAWN for its work and commitment, and encourages it to continue to raise and promote women's concerns in church and society
- b. urges full implementation of resolution ACC 13-31 across the Communion and encourages Provinces, through the IAWN Provincial Links, to report on further progress made to ACC-15
- c. unequivocally supports the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including trafficking, and encourages all Churches to commit to participating in programmes and events that promote the rights and welfare of women, particularly as expressed in the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals
- d. recognizes the importance of appropriate allocation of financial resources to fulfil the gospel imperative in our communities and therefore recommends implementation of the principles of gender budgeting throughout the Communion, and to report on progress made to ACC-15.

### *Explanation and rationale*

Part a:

- i. Note the work of the 2006-2009 Steering Group and thank them for their efforts and commitment.
- ii. Welcome the 2009-2012 Steering Group and encourage them to continue to raise the issues facing the women of the Anglican Communion with their respective Primates and the ACC through its Joint Standing Committee and ACC 15.
- iii. Note the information provided in this report on the activities undertaken by the Steering Groups, Provincial Links, other women's organisations and women of the Communion and commend them for their dedication.
- iv. Note that some Primates have not yet nominated a Provincial Link and encourage them to appoint an appropriate Provincial Link as soon as practicable.

Part b:

Remember their commitment in ACC 13-31 and recommit to enabling the equal participation of women in all decision making bodies of the Church at all levels and to encourage the collection of sex disaggregated data to enable reporting

back on implementation of this resolution at Communion, Provincial and Diocesan levels.

Part c:

Take particular note of the similarity of issues raised by the PLs in their reports. In particular, over 80% noted societal violence in all its many forms, leading the PLs at their February 2009 meeting to unanimously select "Elimination of all forms of violence against women and children, including trafficking" as its most important issue. The other four key issues they selected all refer to the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

Part d:

Note that gender budgeting is an important way of making sure that the needs and rights of women, men and children are all treated fairly. It does not mean separate budgets for women, but that general budgets are planned, approved, executed, monitored, and audited in a gender-sensitive way. The current global crisis provides us with a window of opportunity to set up sustainable economies based on the principles of advancement and equality of women.

**Thank you**

On behalf of all Anglicans, and particularly the women and girls of your Province and around the Communion, thank you for your continued support and prayers for this important work in God's Kingdom.

Grace and Peace be with you all.

Your sister in Christ,  
Priscilla Julie  
Coordinator  
IAWN Steering Group  
March 2009







## IAWN Provincial Link Women Report for 2008

### Vignettes from the Provinces

Throughout the Communion, Anglican/Episcopal women yearn to contribute their God-given talents in all areas of the Church. The IAWN Provincial Links have reported on activities, issues and future plans for their Provinces.

#### **AOTEAROA, NEW ZEALAND AND POLYNESIA – Dr Jenny Te Paa**

##### **Achievements**

- Papers have been presented by Dr Jenny Plane Te Paa on:
  - 'Women in Leadership' at the MOWATCH Conference (for women in Ministry in Australia);
  - 'Empowering Women in Ministry' at WEAVERS Conference in Suva;
  - Future Proofing the Pacific: A Women's Contribution at University of Auckland
  - "*Blessed are the Peacemakers: So did Jesus ever say, 'except for indigenous women'?*", for Pacific Inter-religious Forum on Good Governance held in Samoa.
  - 'Women in Theological Educational Leadership' presentation to 2008 Lambeth Conference workshop.
- Reports to Standing Committee have been submitted by Dr Te Paa, Rev Jenny Dawson and Jackie Pearse for the respective years they have each attended UNCSW.
- The MDGs are taught as part of an annual course taught by Dr Te Paa at St John's College on the Spirit of Anglicanism: The Five Marks of Mission.
- General Synod Motions support the widespread promotion of the MDGs throughout the Province.
- Knowledge of ACC 13/31 is reasonably widespread but is probably not yet universally apparent. Women's Studies has used the resolution in all its correspondence and official reporting to date. It was most useful in advocating for the establishment of the Women's Studies Centre, which has been officially established since 2006 and this year has received a substantial increase on grants from General Synod to enable us to increase our research activity, networking and resources production and collection base.
- Tikanga (cultural streams) Polynesia in December resolved to honour resolution ACC 13/13; to establish a women's desk and to carry out a study to determine women's leadership roles in the Tikanga.

##### **Issues**

- *In the Church:*
  - There is a very uneven level of cross communication among and between women's groups. In the preparation of this report all major women's organisations across the Province were sent the questionnaire and invited to respond. A further difficulty identified by women is that of surmounting tikanga differences or establishing mutually agreeable communication and involvement across culturally prescribed boundaries
  - Each of the tikanga constituencies within our Province have a high level of autonomy in making decisions within their own governance structures. The extent to which cultural considerations are invoked over and above theological understandings often influences both whether or not decisions will

be taken at all or it can affect the ways in which decisions (all of which will inevitably affect women) are made.

- Also there is a need to promote ordained women's leadership at the local level so that future appointments to the Episcopate might yet be drawn from among any one of the hundreds of eligible and capable women Priests of our Province
- Although the Women's Studies Desk is now well established it is recognised that not all women's groups in the Province necessarily have access to 'top level' decisions made either at national or international levels – the Women's Studies steering committee take seriously the need to try and ensure all women have access to all critical information they both need and deserve to have.
- Culturally based patriarchy
- *In the wider community:* growing level of conservative politics and lack of women in governing party.

### **Future**

- Website development is well underway and it is hoped that networking among all IAWN links might be initiated at the 2009 gathering.
- The establishment of a website, a database and an information and educational resources 'bank' are seen as ways of enabling women in far more intentional ways than is currently the case.

## **AUSTRALIA – Ann Skamp**

### **Achievements**

- The first women bishops in the Anglican Church of Australia were ordained in May 2008: Bishop Kay Goldsworthy (Perth) and Bishop Barbara Dowling (Melbourne) and both attended the Lambeth Conference. This has led to women in the Australian church understanding themselves and their place in the church in new ways of added confidence and in being able to fulfil roles in knowledge of a new sense of equity and empowerment.
- Movement for the Ordination of Women (MOWatch) Conference, "Women of Faith in Action: Getting on With It", Perth, August 2008. Ann Skamp made a presentation on history of IAWN, experience of the ACC delegation at the UNCSW and ACC 13/31 and our role as women to progress this resolution in our own situations. Dr Jenny Te Paa (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia) and Dr Esther Mombo (Kenya) were keynote speakers.
- ACC delegation members Kay Goldsworthy, Meagan Morrison and Ann Skamp have maintained regular contact with members of the Australian Government delegation to UNCSW and continue to be involved with issues for Australian women and UNCSW. Ann Skamp has met with and is in regular email contact with the Australian Human Rights Commissioner for Sex Discrimination, Ms Elizabeth Broderick and has forwarded on other Commission matters to other sections of the church for participation in reviews.
- Women members of the General Synod Standing Committee, on behalf of the Anglican Church of Australia, made a submission to the review of the Australian Sex Discrimination Act. Dr Muriel Porter authored a joint submission on behalf of a group of community-based organisations.

- General Synod Standing Committee received a report on UNCSW 2008 and agreed that the General Synod Women's Commission be asked to investigate Gender Sensitive Budgeting for use in the Anglican Church of Australia
- General Synod 2007 received a presentation on MDGs and is urging the Australian Government to build on its actions and commitments. Anglican Church of Australia has also committed to fulfil the 1998 Lambeth Resolution 1.15 at national and diocesan level and encourage all people of the Anglican church of Australia to affirm the MDGs through their own personal stewardship. For example, the Diocese of Grafton has as dedicated MDG Task Group to raise awareness and seek out resources for parishes and other ministry groups.

### Issues

- *In the Church:* In a few Dioceses there are still restrictions on women with regard to preaching and Bible study leadership. In at least one Diocese, the conversation concerning the ordination of women as priests or bishops has been shut down.
- *In the wider community:* Empowerment of indigenous women to have resources and assistance to ensure their communities have equality with the general population especially with regard to health, education and employment opportunities. Currently the issue of paid maternity leave is in discussion as part of the ongoing issue of work-life balance. The latest figures show the number of women in senior management positions is in decline - down to 10.7% from 12% in 2006

### Future

- Gender sensitive budgeting will be an adopted principle for all church budgets
- Further implementation of ACC 13/31 throughout the Australian Church.
- An increased awareness of MDGs both in the Church and wider community, including how the Gospel of Jesus Christ informs the MDGs.
- Development of partnerships with other community groups with respect to issues affecting women.
- Investigate the possibility of an Oceania regional women's gathering.

## **BRAZIL – Inamar Correa de Souza**

### Achievements

- Presentation on UNCSW made to Episcopal Anglican Women's Union (UMEAB), April 2008, with article published in provincial newspaper, Estandarte Cristao in May 2008.
- Presentations made to Primate and Executive Committee of Province, October 2008
- Episcopal Anglican Church of Brazil website has information about women in Brazil and IAWN
- UMEAB Assembly - Episcopal Anglican Women's Union- UMEAB DATE?
- SAD - Diaconia Anglican Service group empowers women in the parishes and small communities with projects that overcome poverty and provide education.
- Dioceses were asked to develop projects in each Parish to achieve the MDG. For example, Saint Paul Cathedral in Rio de Janeiro developed a Community Garden Project that includes all MDGs. Poor people plant medicinal plants, vegetables

and greens and exchanges the goods for recycled garbage. Women and children have special education including organic cooking classes.

- Women are increasingly participating in the church: liturgy, administration, education, pastoral care and ordained ministry.

### Issues

- Gender based violence; illiteracy; living in a patriarchal society; rural/urban divide; HIV/AIDS and other health issues; financial insecurity; lack of and under employment; and environmental issues.

### Future

- The SAD website, [www.ieab.org.br](http://www.ieab.org.br) will provide a data centre of photos and biographies so women can get to know each other and their skills e.g. Diocesan Presidents, women on national committees and ordained women.
- Plans are developing for internet and informatics training for women so they could take part in a network.

## BURUNDI – Claudette Kigeme

### Achievements

- Activities around violence against women: advocated for women and human rights for the 16 day campaign from 25 November to 10 December together with the Ministry in charge of gender and UN agencies like UNIFEM and BINUB. All women organisation rallied to say 'No to Violence' on 25 November. Anglicans form the biggest delegation with 250 participants at the Women's Festival.
- Celebrated 8 years of a literacy and development programme which aims to empower women. This programme has helped women who were illiterate to increase their status in the church and also participate in decision making.
- Different projects have been undertaken with mainly women as beneficiaries. For example, the environment project aims at undertaking reforestation of land, improving the productivity of 3000 family plots, and enabling better management of water and soil. The micro credit project to people affected with HIV/AIDS where the majority are also women. 75% of participants in the literacy and development programme are women.

### Issues

*In the Church:* Gender is always taken into consideration during meetings when it comes to representation but the percentage is still low due not to the policy hindering women's ordination but to the lack of educated women which has social, cultural and economic causes. Women education should be the focus in order to increase their representation and their efficiency on boards; illiteracy, poverty, HIV/AIDS, climate change.

*In the wider community:* Lack of sufficient infrastructure in education and health. For example, lack of teachers, equipments and drugs are hindering progress; Illiteracy, poverty, HIV/AIDS, climate change and gender based violence; Because of war and diseases like HIV/AIDS and others, there are many widows(ers) and orphans and vulnerable children.

## **CANADA – Elizabeth Loweth**

### **Achievements**

- PL and Alice Medcof have been invited to address the House of Bishops, Diocesan Council, and other Church and women's groups, including speaking with the bishops in various dioceses.
- IAWN Canada group has been involved in arrangements for Lambeth 2008 and attending UNCSW 2008 and 2009
- The MDGs are part of the program for many organizations both within and outside the church. MDG #3 and ACC 13/31 have been at the centre of any talks or materials that I provide for IAWN-C. In addition there is a group working on Beijing Circles information.
- Respect is given to the work of IAWN as well as to that of other women's groups, notably the Anglican Church Women and MU.
- Gender desk at Anglican Church of Canada Church House continues to be staffed on a volunteer basis.
- IAWN Canada working with Mothers' Union with participation at Canadian Mothers' Union National Conference Biennial Meeting, "Our Gifts To Give", Mount Allison University in Sackville, NB May 21 - 25, 2008.

### **Issues**

*In the Church:* Current statistical data gathering system does not differentiate Bishops or Clergy by their gender. When a diocese submits its annual statistical report to General Synod for national consolidation, there are differentiations based upon categories such for Bishops (Diocesan, Suffragan, Retired or Inactive) and for Clergy (Stipendiary vs. Non-Stipendiary, Parish vs Diocesan Staff or Special Ministries, Retired or Inactive), but no differentiation by gender.

*In the church and wider community:* The marginalized within society suffer in many ways, including First Nations people, immigrants to this country, families headed by a single parent, poverty and a gap between the rich and the poor, care for the elderly, continuation of a strained tax based health system, affordable housing, involvement of ordinary people in the work of making democracy work with equal opportunities for all.

### **Future**

- Establishing good links with each diocese.

## **CENTRAL AFRICA – Joy Mumbi**

### **Achievements**

- Taken steps in minimising the devastating effect of HIV/AIDS in the society through workshops to help women in the prevention of mother child transmission of HIV and behaviour change.
- They have formed home based care groups to give adherent support to the chronically ill and those who take care of them. They provide material and spiritual support. They encourage TB patients to take drugs and follow instructions as prescribed by the physicians.
- They are involved in adult literacy and early childhood education.

- They are promoting advocacy in women's equality and elimination of gender violence.
- Education women on poverty reduction.

**Issues**

- The biggest challenge facing women in rural areas is poverty and illiteracy. There are many early marriages in girls as parents are unable to send them to schools. In cities, single women end up being sex workers so as to earn a living to support their families.

**Future**

- To create awareness of IAWN and ACC 13/31 at Parish, Diocesan and Provincial levels.
- To have equal representation on decision making at both diocesan and provincial standing committee.
- To create a women's desk at both diocesan and provincial levels.

**CENTRAL AMERICA – Mariela Edwards**

**ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Workshop held to enable women to rethink the sources of their faith through study of the Word of God. From the 5th to the 9th of March, 2008, 86 women from different countries met in Panama to work on the theme "Does life makes sense?"
- Women participate in community activities that open their hearts and minds afresh towards God and their relationship with their neighbours: they offer their time working, helping the sick and residents in nursing homes eg monetary aid towards the upkeep of the Girls Home in Panama and taking them to different activities and helping in school assignments; Prison Ministry; Scholarships for needy students.; Health fairs: Different topics are presented, such as: Diabetes, Osteoporosis, Alzheimer, Oral Health, Hypertension, Exercise for Elders, Erectile Dysfunction, nutrition.
- October was celebrated as the month of the Anglican Women. This month was chosen because, traditionally, during this time harvest was presented for blessing. Therefore, we found it appropriate to celebrate women ministry with full participation during the Holy Eucharist, homily, Chalice bearers, and lay readers specifically in this month. We also honour women that have excelled in Church work or have made a difference.

**Future**

- They are having a meeting and workshop from March 11-14 2009 in Nicaragua with a representative from 5 countries in our Province and our Primate visiting with them for one day. The statements, resolutions, information will be presented to this group and plans will be presented to better communicate and help empower women.

## CHURCH OF NORTH INDIA – Zanobia Mal

### Achievements

- MDG 3 being followed strongly through Gender Concerns programme. A large number of workshops and seminars held and members spoke about empowerment of women in Church in almost all its decision making bodies. The programmes done include : Training of trainers on Gender Justice, Gender Sensitization workshops in 11 dioceses, National conventions and Conferences on Women and Gender, re-reading of Bible with woman's perspective and Effective leadership by Women Leaders hosted by various dioceses.
- Anti Trafficking Programme in Diocese of Eastern Himalaya with follow ups in village level workshops, Gender Sensitive Rights based Media Partnerships. Tackling emerging vulnerabilities leading to trafficking in children and women in Bihar.
- Tsunami Reconstruction is an ongoing programme for CNI as Diocese of Andaman and Nicobar is integral part with CNI. Programmes include Counselling and Trauma Care, Integrated Child Development programme, Women's Co-operatives, Poultry in 5 villages for 80 backyard poultrys after due training and management skill.
- Awareness campaign evolved through meetings with presbyters of the diocese in four zones and Gender Sensitization workshop for Women happened earlier this year. People were ready to organize such conventions for women by themselves, inviting women from all spheres of life. Thereby two conventions took place in two zones of the diocese, another for teachers of a big institute and one more for mixed youth fellowship members.

### Issues

- Challenges to motivate several groups who make women's groups exclusively for spiritual meetings
- Challenge to motivate those women who have turned women's meetings into clubs/place of church politics.
- To impress upon concerned authorities to make provision for women's work/empowerment in their budgets as parish/Diocesan and Provincial level.
- Keep reminding them of due representation of women on all decision making bodies.
- Violence against women continues.

### Future

- Women have been encouraged to follow guidelines of Millennium Development Goals and Women's Circles. It is yet to see when the women leaders at Synod and Diocese level will start using these names freely.
- Synod has been asked:
  - to give due recognition to the presence of Provincial Link in CNI. Definitely, this would be another step towards empowerment of our women
  - that IAWN provincial link be appointed by the Synod for next triennium to work on behalf of Church of North India and help church to draw maximum benefit from its programmes and sources of knowledge for the benefit of women of CNI

- that arrangement be made soon after confirming availability and selection of the candidate and select delegates to send to UNCSW every year.
- Interventions to introduce 'working with men' to fight violence against women in the Diocese.

## **DR CONGO – Mugisa Isingoma**

### **Achievements**

- Union of Mothers and Women United for Peace and Social Development of the Boga Diocese is committed to meet the Mothers' Union 5th goal which states "to help those whose family life has suffered difficulties" and have therefore decided to train people in the following areas: Peace and reconciliation; Conflict transformation and transformation after conflict; Gender; Violence and non-violence; Education for the prevention of HIV/AIDS and voluntary screening awareness; Laundromats; Agriculture for promoting self-sufficiency of women

### **Issues**

- The climate of war and economic instability has resulted in an enormous loss of human life and destruction of social infrastructure. The general population suffers from extreme poverty especially the women and children abandoned after the hostile acts committed by the rebels and the military. The women and girls have suffered horrendous violent abuse and have contracted sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and unwanted pregnancies from having been raped. Others have been killed during massacres, leaving behind orphan children. Militias have set homes, schools, and farms on fire and poverty became extreme. The people have become more vulnerable living a miserable existence.
- Agriculture is the main activity in the Ituri region and it was difficult for the people to begin their customary life without financial aid. It is even difficult for them to school their children because parents are the ones who pay the school fees.
- Access to medical care is problematic.
- Although women's role in society was recognised and promoted and women enjoyed certain legal rights (the right to own a home and the right to participate in economic and political sectors for example), their opportunities were limited by customs and other legal constraints.
- Many families struggle to survive as they cannot provide for their families because they are used to relying on their employer: people do need to be taught how to fish rather than be given a fish. The Congolese have confused independence with freedom from work and have abandoned themselves to laziness.
- People returning from the displacement camps need to rebuild their lives from scratch. They have lost everything.
- Some young people still belong to militia groups and they use their weapons for their own survival. However, the Church continues to promote disarmament and to help them re-enter society.
- There are many widows.
- Others that were raped do not have access to appropriate medical care and are still ashamed, etc.

## Future

- Women are essential to the harmonious reconstruction of populations and of nations, especially in our case in the Congo.
- At the very beginning, we need to raise people's awareness that they are good people and that they have all the tools, intelligence, strength and energy necessary to evolve. Together we see what their needs are; we never impose ourselves on the community because we know they have gifts and skills but they simply don't know how to harness them to meet their needs. We are here only to help them discover the basis for their problems and to find solutions based on the resources they have.
- Church's responsibility to train its people on peace and reconciliation because during a war, certain families were killed by their neighbours and they still live next to each other. It is really a great challenge.

## ENGLAND – Rev Cynthia Dowdle

### Achievements

- IAWN link appointed to the Church of England Partners in World Mission Panel: enables her to work on shared issues of concern with all the members especially Sally Thompson of the International Anglican Family Network (IAFN).
- Within the diocese we worked out a structure whereby the IAWN work would be supported by the Women's Issues Forum and the Honorary Women's Issues Advisor, Helen Clarey.
- Liverpool has the only Women's Issues Forum in the Church of England that involves clergy and laity along with women from other denominations. The Women's Issues Forum was set up to look at issues around the United Nations Special Assembly on the Advancement of Women – items which have and will figure on the agenda include women in leadership, women and the penal system, women and domestic abuse, prostitution and sex trafficking.
- Link participated in the Consultation on Transforming Episcopate arranged before the Lambeth Conference at Ripon-Cuddesdon College in Oxford
- Church of England's General Synod, July 2008. A heavily debated resolution was passed to go forward with enacting legislation to allow women to be consecrated as bishops. This legislation will come before the February 2009 Synod. Synod voted to take legislation to the next stage and it is now with a revision committee. Furthermore, Link put a motion to Synod, seconded by Elizabeth Paver (our English lay representative to the Anglican Consultative Council ), to ensure that the drafting committee had substantial female representation in line with ACC Resolution 13/13
- Link attended a major Church of England consultation on domestic violence in October 2008 that builds on a major report produced by the Mission & Public Affairs Division of our General Synod. This is an area where the church must be an advocate on behalf of women who are abused. I hope to take this issue forward within IAWN and hope to share with my sisters at our February IAWN 2009 Meeting.
- All committees are abiding by ACC 13/31 and are moving towards a better gender balance. Gender balance is often lost in the election processes used to select people to serve on committees.

### Issues

- *In the Church:* Women need to allow their names to be put forward for elections; Finding part time work- job sharing, finding senior posts ie archdeacons, deans etc
- *in the wider community:* Raising awareness of issues around Domestic Violence, Sex Trafficking, Female asylum seekers

### Future

- In 2009 after the IAWN New York meeting Link will establish an email contact list in each Diocese drawing on contacts nominated from the network of Social Responsibility Officers, Deans of Women's Ministry and Mothers' Union at diocesan level plus key bodies at national level including Mothers Union, YWCA and WATCH.
- Outcome of February Synod vote on legislation to allow women to be consecrated as bishops.
- I Link will be taking her sabbatical to look at how Cathedrals and large churches can aim to be inclusive places which are houses of prayer for all people and hopes to take the opportunity of visiting some IAWN sisters.

## HONG KONG – Betty Chan

### Achievements

- Articles were written in The Diocesan bi-monthly Publication about women's role in the Church and what contribution women can have into the Church. One whole issue of the bi-monthly Publication was themed by Women's Role in the church.
- Visits to the poorest part of China "Quikuow" to see the schools on the mountain and the women there. Plans to help improve the health situation there.
- Arranged events for women to be aware of violence at home
- Translated the closing statements for UNCSW into Chinese version
- Dialogue with women regarding women rights in the church
- Empower women through education, planning events and pastoral support
- Bring out women to attend the UN's meetings
- Communicate with the Primate and report to him

### Issues

- No candidates for women's ordination yet
- Support female theological students by giving scholarships to them
- Support and encourage women to attend the IAWN and UNCSW meetings.

### Future

- Ongoing implementation of ACC 13/31, the Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- Improve relationship with people sitting in the Diocese Synod and Provincial Synod
- Improve the networking with IAWN.
- Co-operate more women to discuss, mainly on the implementation of ACC 13/31, BPfA and MDGs.

## **INDIAN OCEAN – Maud Patten**

### **Achievements**

- Women are now allowed to be ordained as deacons and priests in all dioceses of Indian Ocean Province.
- Link attended UNCSW 2008 and reported to Primate and Bishops. Presented the theme to women's organizations.
- Raising awareness of IAWN, its mission and objectives.

### **Issues**

- *In the Church:* Things are moving in the right direction but slowly.
- *In the wider community:* domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, poverty and environmental issues (cyclones).

## **IRELAND – Rev Canon Doris Clements**

### **Achievements**

- Link uses position as a member of Diocesan Synod, Diocesan Council, Diocesan Board of Education, General Synod (Provincial) and General Synod Board of Education to inform Church of Ireland people about IAWN and UNCSW by presenting reports and making presentations about IAWN. Also, as All-Ireland Coordinator of the Faith and Policy and Social Policy Units of the Mothers' Union, Link promotes women's issues throughout Ireland. MU is the only Anglican women's organisation.
- Request for more female representation on Diocesan Council and Diocesan Committees was considered by most recent Diocesan Council when members were co-opted on to it and elected to the various sub-committees.

### **Issues**

- *In the Church:* Too few women willing to serve on Church committees/councils/synods
- *In the wider community:* Domestic violence/abuse, prostitution and sex trafficking are issues that are becoming more prevalent. DV was always a problem but now there is much more publicity and awareness. I have raised this at various meetings and have, recently, on 25th October, asked that our Diocesan Mothers' Union undertake projects to ease victims' sojourns in Refuge Centres.

### **Future**

- Write an article for the national Church magazine *The Church of Ireland Gazette* about our work and this meeting in New York.
- Send a report to our Standing Committee and Primate and this will be published in the General Synod Book of Reports
- Continue to inform our women, and indeed men, about the work of IAWN, the ACC Resolution 13/31 and women's issues at home and abroad.
- Continue to enthuse women to go forward for elections to Church Committees as local, then Diocesan and, hopefully, General Synod levels.
- Initiate a regional support group for PLs.

## **JAPAN – Mary Shigeko Yamano**

### **Achievements**

- Women's Desk was given a space every other month in the newsletter of the provincial office to write articles on ACC13-31 and MDGs to raise awareness and a total of six articles written by women's desk appeared in the newsletter of the provincial office.
- organised a meeting for diocesan reps to share the situation in each diocese around the issue of harassment.
- One member of Gender Project was appointed as a diocesan desk for women
- A proposal was made by provincial office to set up a committee for preventing harassment in each diocese and two out of eleven dioceses have set up committees, and a few other dioceses are following them.
- Participants at Women's Conference in Sri Lanka shared the things they had learnt after they returned.
- A Women's Conference was organized between Jerusalem Diocese and Tokyo Diocese in Amman in August 08.
- Study meetings organized by women in Yokohama Diocese around the issue of women's ordination.
- Women's Forum annually held, voluntarily organised. Lecture meeting as a part of diocesan synod and general synod.

### **Issues**

- *In the church:* Although those who know ACC 13/31 understand that the number of women in the decision-making bodies of the church should be increased up to 30% at least by 2009, there hasn't been any clear resulting increase of women; A case of sexual abuse by a priest and a case of harassment in a theological seminary have not reached reconciliation.
- Provincial budget allotted to women's desk is quite limited. It could be doubled or tripled

### **Future**

- Ensure systems are established in each diocese to prevent harassment.

## **KENYA – Rev Joyce Kariuki**

### **Achievements**

- The church has been actively involved in community reconciliation and healing. The churches have been conducting seminars and also preaching peace. Because most of the people displaced were women and children church women have been donating food, clothing to the displaced.
- Many dioceses have started micro-enterprise projects to help women economically.
- The church has organized seminars on empowerment for women in many parts of the country and many women have been enlightened on matters pertaining to themselves. They have also been trained on how to live in domestic-violence free homes.

- Every diocese has an AIDS' desk that coordinates matters pertaining to HIV/AIDS like training, counselling, and handling stigmatization. The Mothers' Union has done a tremendous job in educating women about HIV/AIDS and also women's rights.
- Every diocese has orphans' projects and projects for widows. This helps create awareness among many people and also the issues of home based care are also discussed. There are also projects for widows to help them overcome their traumas and how to cope with lives.
- Many women have been ordained to the priesthood, but now women have been consecrated as bishops. It is also encouraging to report that there are many women who are being sponsored to attend local and international theological institutions.
- The Church in some dioceses has health clinics that are standardized. This helps to give care and attention to many who under normal circumstances would not afford medical care.
- It has also encouraged many women to take their babies to clinics for free medical check-ups. The campaign against polio in our country has seen many children living healthier lives because they are given the polio vaccines at the right age. This has reduced child - mortality rates before and by the age of five.

#### **Issues**

- *In the Church:* full implementation of ACC 13; leadership of the church is strongly dominated by men.
- *In the wider community:* empowering women on human rights; many women are still operating at the poverty level; threat from HIV/AIDS as the prevalence rates are going up and most of the people infected are women and girls; and post election violence

#### **Future**

- Continue advocating for full implementation of ACC 13.
- Start a mentoring program for the young girls in church.
- Empower women with skills in peace building and conflict resolution.

#### **KOREA – Ruth Choi**

##### **Achievements**

- Link attended UNCSW 2008 and reported to Primate, Provincial Secretary, National Synod, Diocesan Bishops, and women's organizations. Discussed many issues about women in the church including women's desk and empower women's ministry.
- Published article in Seongonghoewolbo (newspaper of Anglican Church of Korea)
- Focused communication with all levels of church specially women's group through seminars, workshops, fellowships to encouraging and empowering women.
- Held the 19th G.F.S. World Council 8-17 August 2008 successfully and it became a good opportunity for church people to change their attitude toward women's works
- MU of Seoul Diocese had concert at Lambeth

- Council of Women's Organizations was formed and accredited by National Synod in June. This has been born in accordance with ACC 13/31 and IAWN's suggestion and functioning as Women's Desk.
- Council of Women's Organizations enacted "The day of Women's Mission" to encourage and empower women and fundraising as well.
- Attended consultation and seminars of NCKK and Women's Church United (ecumenical body)
- G.F.S. World Project, U-Mul-Ga for women refugees from North Korea has been launched and started program for workers.

### **Issues**

- *In the Church:* promote women's leadership
- *In the wider community:* refugees from North Korea

### **Future**

- Council of Women's Organisations will have training and educating program
- Promoting communication with all levels of the church
- Encouraging women clergy's works
- Encourage and support the project U-Mul-Ga (well-side) that was elicited as the world project of GFS in the last World Conference 2008

## **PAKISTAN – Ayra Inderyas**

### **Achievements**

- There is compulsory representation of two women in the annual diocesan council meeting.
- One woman secretary representation in higher decision making level.
- Church with in its own limited mandate and resources has embarked on a few initiatives that contribute towards achieving MDGs in sectors such as advocacy for women's rights, women health (HIV, maternal health) through various projects and programs for grassroots sisters
- Initiated a bible study course on women and theology – 35 participants
- Ecumenical initiatives.
- Legal aid given to poor women
- Midwifery and adult literacy centre for Christian girls
- Capacity building for church women and presbyters on women's rights and gender justice.

### **Issues**

- *In the Church:* no decision made on ordination of women
- *In the wider community:* discriminatory laws allow marriage of minority girls
- Discriminatory and barbaric practices such as honour killings and disfiguring women.

## Future

- initiate an advocacy campaign for ACC 13 – 31 resolution, which so far is not known to my local women groups.

## PHILIPPINES – Francisca Bawayan

### Achievements

- ECP Executive Council (especially the Diocesan Bishops) reminded about ACC 1/31 – especially when there are new appointments to commissions or committees at the National or Diocesan level.
- The 7th National Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Triennial Convention, Manila 7 to 9 May 2008, discussed the implementation of ACC 13/31 and ECW's role in advocating as well as asserting gender sensitivity, gender equity and women empowerment in all decision-making structures of the church. Delegates were provided with copies of ACC 13/31 and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for them to be fully equipped as they go about advocating the provisions that would promote and lead to the implementation of gender equality, gender sensitivity and women's empowerment. A resolution was passed calling on every ECW member to advocate and promote the implementation of ACC Resolution 13/31 among their respective Diocesan Bishops and other clergy and lay leaders.
- During the ECP's 7th Triennial Synod 2008, an amendment was passed by the (National) Commission on Constitution and Canons that each representative from the national lay organizations of the Church was to be an official delegate to Synod, with seat, voice and vote. The Episcopal Church Women (ECW), the only women's organization, is one of the three national lay organizations of the ECP (the other two (2) are for the youth and men). As a result, a woman delegate (Ms. Mary Bacwaden) was elected by Synod; and she is the lone woman and official member of Executive Council with seat, voice and vote.
- Prior to this year's Lambeth Conference in England, five (5) of the six (6) Bishop's wives were briefed on the IAWN by Ms. Esperanza Beleo (IAWN Steering Group). Ms. Beleo also shared with these women her experiences on her participation during the UNCSW meetings in New York and gave the Bishop's wives copies of the IAWN brochures and ACC Resolution 13-31 with the invitation for them to attend activities sponsored by the IAWN at the Market Place and IAWN stalls at Lambeth.
- Ms. Esperanza Beleo is one of the newly-appointed representatives of the ECP to the Executive Committee of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (or NCCP). During the meeting of NCCP's Executive Committee, Ms. Beleo shared, as part of her report, about the IAWN and the UNCSW.
- Two quarterly publications with the ECP – from the National (The Episcopalian) and the Central Diocese (The Central Voice) – have published articles on the active participation of the IAWN in the UNCSW event especially in the formulation of resolutions approved in this UN meeting (as IAWN had done in the last two years of UNCSW). Also published was ACC Resolution 13/31.
- Our Prime Bishop, the Most Reverend Ignacio C. Soliba, has continuously reiterated in various forums, meetings, and conventions within the church that the ECP's contribution in the attainment of the MDG is through ECP's Community-Based Development Program (CBDP), which is in its 10th year of existence. Various infrastructure projects like water systems, animal dispersal, agricultural equipment, and church buildings have been provided and implemented through

this program. Included as a component of every project in this program, are requisites for women empowerment and gender sensitivity.

### Issues

- *In the Church:* The issue on gender equality and women's participation in church structures is still a long journey and the struggle to attain such goal will be continuously pursued; Gender equity especially in the naming of members to important commissions and committees is yet to be met, with a the ratio of men to women usually at 5:1. There are a very minimal number of women in the ordained ministry of the ECP.
- Discrimination of women in some congregations is still evident. Empowerment of women is a major need especially in rural and remote areas where the existing concepts are patriarchal, i.e., men are decision-makers, husband are obeyed, etc. When the men talk, the women are intimidated by their presence and shy to speak out their opinions especially in meetings. Conversations/discussions in official gatherings within the church are dominated by men, with only a few women who are brave to speak-out their opinion. Oftentimes, in the rural areas the role of women are relegated to cleaning the chapel, flower arrangements for church services, cooking for meetings, sewing church vestments, etc. Positions usually reserved for a woman is that of the Secretary and sometimes the Treasurer.
- *In the wider community:* Violence against women (VAW), especially among those in the margins. We hear about rape victims finding it difficult to obtain justice from the court. First, due to poverty, the high cost of litigation and other legal fees are beyond what most of the victim's family could afford. And second, if the case is brought before the court, the defendant's lawyer cross-examines the victim with such contempt to prove either she is a woman of ill-repute or she was so dressed to provoke or feel pressure. Furthermore, as a rape victim, she becomes the object of scorn. Incest and wife beating are other issues related to VAW that exist most of the time in marginalized/poor communities.
- Women who are forced to work overseas as contract workers usually end up as domestic helpers. Most of these women are college graduates and professionals, but the only job open to them overseas is domestic work. Conversations with them show a progressive lowering of self-esteem. Aside from these, they suffer loneliness and are driven into all sorts of relationships where they end up being unwed mothers. Some are raped by their masters and others are accused of theft, especially when they want to leave without the employer's consent.

### Future

- Develop our women to be better equipped and knowledgeable; and to build up the confidence to speak out on issues and concerns – important to women.

**SCOTLAND – Sheila Redwood till December 2008, Elaine Cameron from Jan. 2009**

### Achievements

- In 2008 Link was involved in the planning of an inter-faith conference highlighting domestic abuse and addressing the need for greater awareness of this problem. This was run by the National Commission for Pastoral and Social Care and the conference attracted an attendance of sixty women including some from the Muslim and Jewish faiths.

- The Mothers' Union has membership of the Cross-Party Group on Malawi at the Scottish Parliament, a group comprising members of the parliament and representatives from aid organisations and faith groups. The link has been able to highlight the work of the MU with our Family Life programme and Parenting programme. These address the problems of poverty and gender equality in that country in line with Millennium Development Goals 1 and 3.
- Prison work is carried out to help children of visiting families and show concern for the family group. Women prisoners are given cards and gifts at Christmas.
- The ordination of women as deacons and priests takes place each year in all the dioceses. No woman has yet been ordained bishop.
- Women are found at every level on the committees of General Synod and chair some of its sessions.
- The MU and the Church of Scotland Guild have recently issued a joint press statement strongly condemning the practice of sex trafficking. They are working together to raise awareness of the scale of this trade in Scotland, and welcome the UK Government's ratification of the Council of Europe's Convention against trafficking in January 2009.

### Issues

- *In the Church:* The Mothers' Union do not have a vote at meetings of Synod although this has been requested.
- *In the wider community:* Major issues in society concerning women in Scotland include the increase in violence and knife culture, the fear of going out at night because of street gangs; domestic abuse; sex trafficking.

### Future

- There is no Woman's Desk in the Scottish Episcopal Church although this is under consideration

## SOUTHERN AFRICA – Pumla Titus

### Achievements

- In January 2008 the first female Provincial Executive Officer was appointed. She is Revered Nangula Kathindi, previously the Dean of the Diocese of Namibia.
- Ms Delene Mark was made Provincial Lay Canon. She is the Company Executive Officer (CEO) of HOPE Africa. This is the highest awards ever given to a female in our Provincial and even more profound that she is young (less than 35 years of age).
- Our Province also has a dedicated budget to assist Theological Education for Women.
- The Provincial Standing Committee held in 2007 adopted a resolution to form a Provincial Gender Desk, which will be able to collate the activities and initiatives of the province. A resolution was taken in the Provincial Standing Committee held in September 2008, to establish this desk as soon as possible. It was further proposed that a working committee comprising of experts in the field, including a Liaison Bishop be appointed to facilitate the formation of this desk and report to the Archbishop on steps to be followed.

- HOPE Africa has been supporting the gender desk initiatives of the Dioceses (Saldanha Bay and False Bay) by sharing information on gender initiatives in the country

### Issues

- *In the Church:* Women's issues are still not taken seriously, hence the leaders of the women organizations the Mothers Union and the Anglican Women's Fellowship are members of the Provincial Synod, but they do not have voting rights;
- Although the majority of congregants in any Parish are women and they generate more funds for their Parishes, due to stereotype very few of them are in leadership positions, except for being leaders of the women organizations.
- The Gender Desk has not yet been established despite the 2007 resolution.
- Collection of information from all 26 Diocese has been very difficult and frustrating as it is not readily available and Diocesan Officials do not regard it as a priority.
- Although one can generalise on information on the South African Diocese, this is difficult for the other Diocese outside the Republic of South Africa (Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, Angola, Mozambique and Islands of St Helena) as conditions and government policies are different.
- *In the wider community:* All countries in the ACSA are greatly challenged by poverty, unemployment, HIV/Aids, Malaria and TB. These greatly affect the women as they mostly have to raise families alone, while the husbands go and find employment elsewhere.

### Future

- The working committee on the provincial gender desk report.

## **SOUTHERN CONE PROVINCE - Patricia Menendez**

### Achievements

- At Provincial Executive Council, members agreed to:
  - have Provincial representation at IAWN and UNCSW meetings
  - distribute ACC 13/31 to all Dioceses for their consideration
  - have a Provincial Women's Meeting in June 2009 (Argentina)
  - women's issues entered into Provincial Budget
- Diocese of Uruguay
  - Annual meeting in 2008 attended by approximately 70 women
  - Bi-national meeting with 3 Dioceses from Brazil
- Diocese of Peru
  - Women organises in AMA – Annual meeting and working activities in most parishes.

### Issues

- *In the Church:* The ordination of women. Regarding women's issues, each diocese should be considered individually, as they face different situations, not only social, political, economic, but also at theological grounds.
- *In the wider community:* Domestic violence; Unequal opportunities of work and salaries.

### Future

- The issue of ordained ministry has been presented in two Provincial Synods by the diocese of Uruguay and will be reconsidered at next Synod (2010). For the time being, a small group is coming deeper into the topic to present it to the Executive Provincial Council before next Synod.
- It is hoped that a Women's Desk will be established soon.

## SUDAN – Harriet Nathan Baka

### Achievements

- Link met with Bishops before Lambeth.
- At Parish level women are now involved as leaders in decision-making committees of the parish up to 30%; at Diocesan Level it is almost 50% and at Provincial Level it is almost 25%.
- To encourage women to be committed to their work at whatever levels they are in, there are leadership capacity building training workshops, and entrepreneurship to lift economic status of women within society as a cornerstone in peace building and sustainable development.

### Issues

- *In the Church:* Obstacles and difficulties for implementing ACC 13/31 are lack of education and confidence among women to be included in decision – making positions; some Dioceses have no women candidates for ordination as there are few women attending theological college.
- Sometimes it is not the lack of education and confidence but an element of structural discrimination and elimination, thus, disregard for women leadership, saying women lack commitment.
- *In the wider community:* Socio economic violence. (Women raise  $\frac{3}{4}$  of money, but they have NO ownership and control over the money). Cultural and traditional violence; Wife beating is still very common, and wife inheritance by some tribes, despite the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS; Political violence. (When a woman is given a leadership position, she is disregarded by her subordinate); Religious violence

### Future

- Province: a viable developed province, combat illiteracy by 2015
- Society: a society which is free from violence of any kind, from all levels.
- Broad Vision: Encourage women to be educated, trained as a means to change the life status of women and fight illiteracy among women.
- Specific Goals: skill training of women in different fields, open literacy circles for adult learning in various communities, equip women with good capital for

businesses, encourage women to do agriculture in a large scale for food security and have a surplus for marketing for economic viability.

- Impact of working with and for women: NB. A lot of challenges, hardship, but it is on the other hand very interesting, because you will be able to learn more of their problems and address the root causes as reality not fictions, you have the empathy.

## **TANZANIA – Grace Mokiwa**

### **Achievements**

- Mothers' Union gatherings discuss women's issues in the church and community.
- There is a budget for women's seminars especially on entrepreneurship skill. There is a money lending scheme for women who can't apply to the banks.
- Some Dioceses have budgets for women to enable them to study e.g. computer training, secondary education. Clergy and Bishop Spouses have been able to access these funds.

### **Issues**

- Ignorance, illiteracy, male domination due to strong cultural ties; women do not back up women in elections.

## **THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH – Phoebe Griswold**

### **Achievements**

- Beijing Circles gatherings
- Joan Frasier and Kim Robey represented IAWN at Lambeth
- 'Imagine' conference in 2006 for ordained women
- UNCSW – annual participation
- Episcopal Church Women Triennial gathering
- Annual meeting of the Presidents of the following groups: Episcopal Church Women, United Thank Offering, Episcopal Women's History Project. Episcopal Women's Caucus, Committee on the Status of Women, Anglican Women's Empowerment, Mothers Union US, Asian Women on the Episcopal Church, Girls Friendly, and Daughters of the King
- Women's desk is the Program Officer for Women's Ministries, Kim Robey, who is a paid staff member of our province's national office. She is focused on implementing MDG#3, empowering women and gender equity, by creating tools, resources and networks which enhance the leadership of women throughout the Episcopal Church and the world.
- General Convention passes resolution about ACC 13/31 and has asked the Committee on the Status of Women to progress the implementation. A provincial survey was carried out in 2008.

### **Issues**

- *In the Church:* Gender equity in the House of Bishops; Equal numbers of ordained women in parish ministry, especially as rectors of large parishes; Inclusive language in worship; Domestic Violence
- *In the wider community:* All forms of violence against women; Human trafficking; Poverty- wage gap; Affordable child and health care

**WALES – Rev Canon Mary Stallard****Achievements**

- A Standing Committee Working Group was formed to research the representation of women in the Church in Wales following a presentation to the Governing Body on ACC 13/31 by the Link and Rev Joanna Penberthy.
- The report outlined the current participation rate of women in church activities, legislation, international context, church policies and from a theological, social, ecumenical and educational context. They made 6 resolutions to the Governing Body which were all passed.

**Issues**

- *In the Church:* At a Provincial level, less than 1 in 5 committee places are occupied by women. This is generally reflected at a diocesan level. Parish level representation is the reverse with women holding the majority of positions. This is largely due to: Existing culture includes unacceptable discriminatory behaviour; concern about theological basis of equality; existence of institutionalised male oriented culture.
- *In the wider community:* Dr Gill Todd communicated concerns about HIV/AIDS in Wales (the 2009 UNCSW theme).
- Also in the wider community, there is concern about equal pay and the impact of gender discrimination on women who are single parents.

**Future**

- It is hoped that the culture of the Church can be positively affected by more discussion and education on gender awareness. We hope to make effective links with the leaders of other women's groups in Wales – especially those concerned with human rights issues as well as the traditional church women's groups.

**WESTERN AFRICA – Evelyn Lamptey (temporary pending appointment of PL Woman)****Achievements**

- First West African Bishops' Wives conference held from 19th-27th May 2007 in Accra. Seven main areas emerged after the conference for consideration and development. Each bishop's wife was charged with developing a leadership programme for the clergy wives and women in leadership in her diocese over the next 2-3 years (2007-2010) when next bishop's wives conference will be held. The areas include:
  - Intercession
  - Girls' Ministry
  - Alpha for basic spiritual development of the leader
  - Microfinance and personal development
  - Ruth Ministry for Widows and divorcees
  - Leadership Training of women and girls including wives of the clergy
  - Hands on Leadership roles for clergy wives

**Issues**

- *In the Church:* Women need to be empowered to participate fully in organized decision making bodies in church and in the wider community.

## Future

- West African Bishops' Wives conference 2010

## WEST INDIES – Elenor Lawrence

### Achievements

- Arising out of the resolutions of ACC 13 a general discussion was held on IAWN among the House of Bishops and Provincial Standing Committee. There was general support for the matter was subsequent referral to the Dioceses for consideration.
- The Mothers' Union and Anglican Church Women held conferences, seminars and provide programmes for women and families. Their programmes include Day Care Centres for children of low income families, a children's Home, prison ministry to rehabilitate women who were deported from the United Kingdom for drug smuggling, a feeding programme for the elderly and Senior Citizens Day Care.
- Several women have been ordained and many are pursuing theological education at the two Provincial Seminaries.
- Women are becoming more aware of their right to equality and are taking advantage of opportunities for higher education. Some have recognized their ability and are competing at the professional level or already holding high positions where they have become part of the decision making process at both community and church level.
- ACC13/31 was circulated at Provincial Synod 2007 but an official report has not yet been released.
- With respect to the Millennium Development Goals, a strong statement was issued regarding the scourge of poverty and the dehumanizing effect it is having on some Caribbean people and there are ongoing programmes to help combat HIV/AIDS and assist the victims and their care-givers.

### Issues

- *In the Church*: Greater opportunities for service
- *In the wider community*: Equal opportunity and equal pay in the job market.

## Future

- Meetings with women's groups in church and secular society

***It is unfortunate that only 26 of the 34 appointed PLs were able to submit reports. Many of the remaining 8 PLs were unable to submit reports due to limited or no access to the internet.***

***IAWN encourages the ACC delegates from these Provinces to support their PLs to access the internet to receive information about IAWN, submit reports on activities in their Provinces and communication with women in their Province and around the Communion. We pray that all appointed PLs will be able to provide reports on activities, issues and future plans within their Province by the time the ACC Joint Standing Committee meets in 2010.***

## First Meeting of IAWN Provincial Links and Steering Group

### Statement

*Happy are those who saw and were adorned with your love! For we also shall surely live.*

Ecclesiasticus 48:11

This reading at Evening Prayer appropriately set the scene for the first meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council's International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) held at the Desmond Tutu Center in New York, 22–27 February 2009. This is the first time Provincial Links and the Steering Group have been able to meet since its formation in 1996 to discuss the work of IAWN and its potential impact within the Church and beyond.

Thirty women, as either Provincial Link women or members of the Steering Group, came together to reflect on and plan the work of this significant Network which represents 40 million Anglican women across 165 countries. They also brought awareness of the challenges women face as women make up less than 6% of the membership of the Instruments of Communion of the Anglican Communion.

### IAWN – way forward (2009 – 2012)

This inaugural meeting of IAWN has identified the following issues as key action plans for the next triennium:

1. **Elimination of all forms of violence against women and children, especially trafficking.**
2. **Elimination of extreme poverty, by ensuring access to health care, safe water, and employment opportunities.**
3. **Promotion of gender equality throughout the Anglican Communion.**
4. **Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.**
5. **Promotion of gender budgeting, which is a key to all of the above.**

### Elections of new Steering Group

A new Steering Group for the next triennium was elected at the meeting: Francisca Bawayan (Philippines), Ayra Inderyas (Pakistan), Priscilla Julie (Indian Ocean), Alice Medcof (Canada), Patricia Menendez (Southern Cone), Sandra McPhee (The Episcopal Church), and Ann Skamp (Australia). The eighth member is Margaret Jones (Mothers' Union [appointed]).

### Provincial Links

The Provincial Links serve as the liaison between the Steering Group of IAWN and the Province. She maintains close contact with her Primate and builds networks with women's groups and individual women. Link women also build awareness and promote implementation of the United Nations Beijing Platform for Action, the UN Millennium Development Goals and Anglican Consultative Council resolution ACC 13-31. Their reports to the Steering Group on women's activities and issues affecting women in their province provide the basis of the IAWN report to the ACC and the IAWN website.

They identified that challenges ahead revolve around communication, especially raising the profile of IAWN within each of their provinces and across the communion. A working group has been established to launch a newsletter for IAWN. They also identified financing of their advocacy work as a significant challenge in the future.

Participants reinforced their role and responsibilities as Provincial Links and began developing individual action plans to guide their work in their respective provinces. Their role of advocacy is expected to complement the Primate's office and strengthen the ministry of the Church as well as bringing the gospel to the wider society through their work.

### **Anglican Consultative Council resolution ACC 13-31**

Promoting awareness and implementation of ACC 13-31 (2005) (*equal representation of women in decision making at all levels, establishment of a women's desk, and a study of the place and role of women in the structures of the Anglican Communion*) is an important part of the work of the Network and will continue to be so as it monitors its full implementation and reports to ACC 14 in May 2009 and subsequent meetings.

### **Partnerships**

The participants particularly recognized the valuable partnership with and support from the Office of Women's Ministries & Leadership, Episcopal Church Center, and the support over the years of Anglican Women's Empowerment. IAWN looks forward to enhancing partnerships with the Anglican Observer's Office at the United Nations, the Anglican Peace and Justice Network and other networks, as well as working with The Rev. Terrie Robinson in her new role as the Anglican Communion Networks' Coordinator, offering its congratulations and prayers to her.

### **Achievements (2006 – 2009)**

The participants expressed their appreciation for the direction and significant work of the outgoing Steering Group, especially the gracious leadership of the Coordinator, Priscilla Julie. Significant achievements of the Network since its reinvigoration in 2006 were celebrated, including.

- Formation of the Steering Group: Priscilla Julie, Coordinator (Indian Ocean), Lisbeth Barahona (Central America), Esperanza Beleo (Philippines), Joyce Kariuki (Kenya), Helena Mbele-Mbong (The Episcopal Church), Alice Medcof (Canada), Meagan Morrison, Secretary (Australia), and Margaret Jones (Mothers' Union [appointed]). Jolly Babirukamu (ACC Standing Committee Liaison) and Tai Tuatagaloa-Leota (Patron) were members *ex officio*. The Secretariat was provided by the Women's Ministries in the Episcopal Church Center: The Rev. Margaret Rose and then Kim Robey.
- Provincial Links appointed by their Primate's from 34 provinces.
- Representation at the TEAM Conference in Boksburg, South Africa, March 2007.
- Consultation meeting for the Anglican women in the Great Lakes Region in conjunction with the joint meeting of the Anglican Peace and Justice Network and IAWN in Rwanda and Burundi, 25 September – 3 October 2007.
- Representation at Lambeth 2008 and provision of Fringe Events, as well as participation in the pre-Lambeth Conference "Transforming the Episcopate" in Oxford, July 2008.
- IAWN website [www.iawn.org](http://www.iawn.org) updated and now part of the Anglican Communion website.
- Many Provincial Links and Steering Group members have also been part of the Anglican Consultative Council Delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women over this period of time.

## **Acknowledgements**

The Provincial Links gave thanks to the many people who welcomed them and contributed to their discussions. They especially expressed their great appreciation to Kim Robey (Program Officer, Women's Ministries and Leadership, Episcopal Church Center) for her support in making this meeting possible.

The IAWN is particularly grateful for the vision, generous support and encouragement of Tai Tuatagaloa-Leota (as Patron, former Anglican Observer to the UN) and Phoebe Griswold who provided the initial impetus for the reinvigoration of IAWN.

They acknowledge with much gratitude the recognition and support of their Primates in appointing them as Provincial Links to IAWN.

### **The IAWN reaffirms its commitment to unity in Christ:**

***We remain resolute in our solidarity with one another and in our commitment, above all else, to pursue and fulfil God's mission in all we say and do.***

***Given the global tensions so evident in our church today, we do not accept that there is any one issue of difference or contention which can, or indeed would, ever cause us to break the unity as represented by our common baptism. Neither would we ever consider severing the deep and abiding bonds of affection which characterize our relationships as Anglican women.***

*From the Statement made by the Anglican Women gathered at the 51<sup>st</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 3 March 2007*

New York City, 26 February 2009

### Lambeth 2008 Report from IAWN

The International Anglican Women's Network acknowledges, with gratitude, the invitation of the Lambeth Planners to reserve a stall in the lobby of the Keynes Residence and was pleased to accept. In order that printed literature be placed on the stall and to have our IAWN International Coordinator present at Lambeth, a fund raising campaign was launched in Canada. The campaign met with moderate success enabling IAWN to rent a stall in the Marketplace, this being the location most likely to be visited by spouses. To meet the Marketplace regulation that the stall be staffed at all times, women from England, the USA and Canada volunteered, totally self funded, to be there for 3 to 17 days, depending on personal availability. All stall staffers were grateful for the chance to work for IAWN and were unanimous in the conclusion that it was a life changing experience. The women included members of the IAWN Steering Group and Provincial Links:

- Priscilla Julie, Indian Ocean, Steering Group Coordinator
- Margaret Jones, Wales, Steering Group member, Mothers' Union Representative
- Lisbeth Barahona, Central America, Steering Group members
- Rev Canon Alice Medcof, Canada Steering Group member
- Dr Jenny Te Paa, Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Provincial Link
- Grace Valentine Mokiwa, Tanzania, Provincial Link
- Mugisa Isingoma, Congo, Provincial Link
- Rev Canon Cynthia Dowdle, England, Provincial Link
- Elizabeth Loweth, Canada Provincial Link.

As the members of the ACC were not invited, other leading Anglican women were not able to attend.

Building on the statements issued by the women of the Communion at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women that women were determined to remain united, the stall staffers wore "Sticking Together" buttons. Visitors to the Marketplace were drawn into conversation because of the display of group photos from past years of UN meetings and IAWN national and international meetings: most recognized one or more women pictured in the group photos. Visitors were greeted in English, French, Spanish and Swahili. Many visitors insisted on being included in email news about IAWN.

In addition to the 2 IAWN stalls, IAWN held eight Fringe Events, and Priscilla Julie and Alice Medcof were presenters at two Spouses' self-select events.

The benefits to IAWN and to the IAWN Coordinator were many and, again, IAWN wishes to express its gratitude for being included in the programming for the Lambeth Conference of Bishops.

The attendance of Priscilla Julie was made possible by the kind support of Anglican Women's Empowerment.

## MOTHERS' UNION REPORT 2008

Mothers' Union is an organisation of 3.6 million Christians in more than 78 countries worldwide, who give money, experience and prayer to support marriage and family life. Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. In reaching out to communities, we change lives and bring hope to many.

"Time for Relationships" has been the focus this year. A new global branding was launched to reflect the wider support network of MU. The General Meeting was replaced by a series of Roadshows around the United Kingdom and Ireland, in the hope that more members and friends would be able to come and find out more about the work of MU both locally and internationally. A challenging new "Home" resource pack with DVD, sessions for groups, talk notes, worship and children's resources, is available for use worldwide.

A strategic planning process "Reaching Out" has been designed to help members meet real needs within their communities. "Families First", a new magazine was launched, as we aim to encourage strong marriages, good parenting and active faith. In September, "Families Worldwide" a new members' resource magazine, was also launched. Although society and technology have changed since the organisation was founded by Mary Sumner in 1887, MU's vision and aim remains unchanged.

"Exploring the Spirituality of the MU" is another new resource launched this year. In this paper, spirituality is being considered from a Christian viewpoint and shows how MU's spirituality is a distinctive part of our identity as a charity, where our work is underpinned by prayer.

MU is pushing for change on the global stage as well as at the grassroots level. Delegates attended UN Commission on the Status of Women earlier this year, lobbying the United Nations to ensure the idealism expressed in Millennium Development Goal 3 - the promotion of gender equality and empowering women- is turned into reality. It is essential that members across the world lobby their governments on the commitments made at CSW52.

MU's Literary Project began in 2000 with pilot studies in Sudan, Burundi and Malawi. So far, 38000 people have been involved worldwide and 26000 are now considered literate. With 1200 trained facilitators, that figure will rise. The scope of the project may be large but the key to its success is that it is plugged in at ground level. The programme aims to empower women and girls because traditionally across the developing world, education has been the preserve of men.

The Men's Family Life Programme in Uganda cares and offers support to those living with HIV/Aids. Alongside millions of volunteering members across the world, MU supports 350 development workers in 33 countries. Since 1999, MU has been training facilitators to run parenting groups and five years ago, this work was extended into the Worldwide Parenting Programme, which operates in Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad.

In Tanzania, many children living on the streets are orphans or from families too poor to support them. Local MU women started an outreach programme for those vulnerable children, providing clothing, food, help in accessing schooling and love.

Through the Relief Fund, emergency support has been given to families all over the world, who have been affected by natural or man-made disaster. Supplies of food, medicine, blankets and other essential items are distributed swiftly to those most in need. Relief was sent e.g. to Myanmar as a result of the Nargis Cyclone, to Kenya for the many displaced women and children in the emergency camps set up because of

the staggering violence experienced, to Mozambique and Malawi as a response to the severe weather conditions that lead to crop failure.

Poverty, illiteracy, gender inequality, conflict, natural disaster, domestic violence, family breakdown, commercialisation of children, economic injustice, discrimination, HIV/Aids, loneliness, rejection are some of the issues threatening and challenging communities in developed or developing communities across the world and Mothers' Union is committed to healing those fragmented and wounded families.

Margaret Jones

Mothers' Union member of IAWN Steering Group [www.themothersunion.org](http://www.themothersunion.org)