

## UNCSW 59: Review of the 1995 Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action—20 years on

By Archdeacon Carole Hughes

*In March, Archdeacon Carole Hughes represented this Province as the Delegate from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia at the 59th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) in New York. The theme for this gathering was to review the objectives of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the progress made these past 20 years. Carole is also this Province's Link Representative to the International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN) and this was her first opportunity to meet with many of her fellow Link Representatives from across the Communion. The following is her report from that gathering.*



An experience of a life time! New York was fabulous – and it even snowed a couple of days!!

I have just arrived back from the UNCSW, and feel deeply challenged, truly blessed, and hugely grateful for such an awe-inspiring experience. I must admit that I feel overwhelmed with the information and stories that I hold from such an experience, and I hope that I can find space over

time and place to convey both the challenges and the hopes that lie ahead for all of us as we seek gender equality across the world. Thank you to the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia for sending me as their delegate, and for the huge amount of support I received from many women and men as I travelled and engaged in this transformative experience.

In addition to reporting back home, I have also been invited by the Anglican Office for the UN to write an 'overview' page for the

Anglican Communion delegation. I was also part of the writing of the statement to the Anglican Consultative Council. I am thus going to include these two pieces of work in this report, so you are aware of the overview and also the challenges and the actions that we are calling the Anglican Communion to work on. I will offer some quotes that inspired me, and also list the extra activities and parallel events I attended.

So, firstly, the following are some quotes that challenged and inspired me:

## Quotes on Leadership

*"No country has yet achieved gender equality"*

*"The world must change, not the women"*

*"Partnership is key"*

*"Climate Change is a women's issue – Women are the first line of defence in many disasters - Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka*

*"All women are called to leadership in some sphere of their lives"*

*"Walk into a meeting where you are not expected"*

*"Do not rely solely on official networks. Set up your own as well"*

*"Remember, power is not given up easily"*

*– Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori*

*"If there is a boulder in the way don't jump over it, but remove it so that others can walk ahead"* - Ms

*Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda: General Secretary, World YWCA*

*"Leaders have used women to advance power, but we must use power to advance women"* - Secretary General, UN

*"If women can't get a seat at the table then they need to create their own table"* – Cheryl Saban

*"The one thing that men can do to empower women is for men to get out of the way"* - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

## Quotes on Education

*"When you educate a woman you educate a whole society"*

*"Empower one woman and the ripple effect is huge"* - Faith Meitiaki, Kenya

*"There is no area of our life that education doesn't enhance"*

*"Educate people in their own context, because culture counts"* - Bishop Catherine Roskam

## Quotes on Gender Based Violence

*"Everyone's childhood must be protected because who we are as adults is a reflection of our earlier years"* – Simone Kestleman

*"The more I share my story of abuse the more I release its control"* – anonymous

*"It is time the Church becomes accountable. Clergy should lead by example"* – Bishop Ellinah

*"Gender based language has a lot to do with what value we*

*give to a person or people"*

*"Give privilege to gender neutral based language for God and humanity"* - Panel on Gender based violence

*"Domestic violence is not a private matter, but a crime"* - Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

*"I am not free until all who are oppressed by modern slavery is free"*

*"The things that horrified us about Charles Dicken's novels is back"*

*"None of us is as strong as all of us"* .

*- Archbishop David Moxon*

*"We are not to be anti-religious, but rather anti the use of religion to justify abuse"* - Sue O'Malley

*"Be confident about speaking about sex and human sexuality. The Bible is full of sex!"* - Ms Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda: General Secretary, world YWCA

*"God calls us all to full personhood"* - Bishop Catherine Roskam



*Bishop Ellinah Wamukoya, Bishop of Swaziland and the first woman to be elected as a Bishop of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa posing for a 'selfie' with friends*

## Quotes on Changing the World

*"We will have to step up our commitment to complete the unfinished business of last Century"* – Hillary Clinton

*"Gender equality is not a women's issue, but an issue for all people"* - Rae Duff, National Council of Women, NZ

*"Human rights begin at home"* -Sue O'Malley

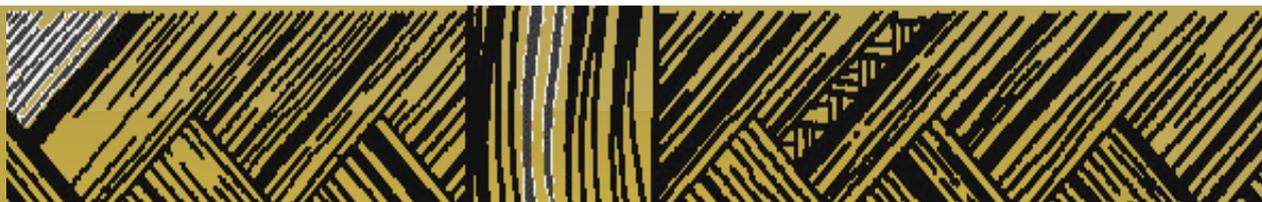
*"If we want to do something we need to start where we are"* - Mother Marie Carme Chery

*"The Anglican Communion is a wonderful network, and it is all set up – use it!"* - Bishop Catherine Roskam

*"A girl should be two things – who and what she wants"* – Coco Chanel

*"The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day. A movement is only people moving"* - Gloria Steinem

*"The kind of beauty I want most is the hard-to-get kind that*



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*comes from within – strength, courage, dignity” – Ruby Dee*

*“Expect to find God in the unexpected places”*

*– Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori*

*“Work with your hands; Walk with your feet; Use your mind; Love with your heart; Connect with your soul” “Speak out your message. Let your voice be heard. Nobody can ignore an echo. How do we create an echo for justice?” “Let us be strong, bold, transformative women of faith”*

*- Ms Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda: General Secretary, World YWCA*

*“This is not mission impossible!” - Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka*

#### **OVERVIEW**

What an awesome experience for all of us who attended the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, representing Churches from within the Anglican Com-

munion! Along with world leaders from governments and civil society organisations we gathered in New York in March 2015 to welcome the review of the Beijing Platform on the status of women. In 1995 the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, a historic roadmap signed by 189 governments 20 years ago, set the agenda for realizing women's rights. While there have been many achievements since then, many serious gaps remain. The current status of women reflects huge gaps, and inequities still exist right across the world.

Ban Ki Moon (Secretary General United Nations) asks *“When we hold back 50% of our population how can we expect 100% of human potential to be fully realised?”* This is the time to uphold women's achievements, recognize challenges and focus greater attention on women's rights and gender equality to mobilize all people to do their part.

The overall theme of this year's International Women's Day was the clarion call of UN Women's Beijing+20 campaign



Left: Bishop Ellinah speaks as part of the Panel on Global Faith Perspectives on Sexual & Gender Based Violence.

Right: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women



*"Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!". The UNCSW global charge entitled "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" asks governments and organisations worldwide to make commitments to address the challenges that are holding women and girls back from reaching their full potential within the next 15 years. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (Executive Director of UN Women) asks, "What sort of world is it that condemns half its population to second-class status at best and outright slavery at worst? How much would it really cost to unlock the potential of the world's women?"*

If 50:50 gender equality by 2030 is going to be achieved then men and women from around the world need to seriously address many major issues that work against gender equality for women. Such issues include gender based violence, climate change, human trafficking and slavery, statelessness and birth registrations, and gender equity with particular regard to education, economic participation, participation in decision making, and health and reproductive areas. I believe that the Anglican Communion can show leadership in these areas; please refer to our call to action in our statement to the Anglican Consultative Council (at the end of this report).

It was noted that no country has yet achieved gender equality. We need women and men to lead across the difference. *"If there is a boulder in the way don't jump over it, but remove it so that others can walk ahead"* says Ms Naradzayi Gumbonzvanda, (General Secretary, YWCA). She called for us to be strong, bold, transformative women of faith, and to be confident to speak out about injustices. Advice about ways forward to achieve gender equality included listening to the stories of those who have no voice, using the research, naming the injustices, addressing the abuse, challenging the stereotypes, seeking political commitments, changing institutional policies, strengthening women in leadership, and working collaboratively.

During the course of the two weeks members of our delegation

offered presentations about their local context, as well as about worldwide initiatives. Reem Fouad Najeeb El Far of Jordan offered us insights into her life and the role of women in the Diocese of Jerusalem. Constance Mogina from Papua New Guinea and Bishop Ellinah from Swaziland were on a panel of women that spoke about sexual and gender based violence. The Reverend Canon Alice Medcof shared her experiences of attending the Beijing conference in 1995. Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori spoke to the delegation on leadership and collaboration. Archbishop Sir David Moxon spent a day with us; preaching at the morning worship (which was led by the Anglican Communion delegates), presiding at the Eucharist at mid-day, and presenting sessions on what the 'Global Freedom Network' association is doing to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking by 2020.

In addition to meeting together regularly as an Anglican Communion delegation and offering written and verbal reports on our provinces, we met and worshipped every day with the ecumenical women's caucus (165 countries were represented), attended parallel events, met with country missions, attended receptions including one at the Bishop of New York's residence, and were hosted by members of the Episcopal Church in their Center. We are deeply grateful and thankful for the hospitality offered by the Episcopal Church, the Anglican Office at the United Nations, the Anglican Communion Women's Desk, and the International Anglican Women's Network.

The challenge for the Anglican Communion delegates now, and indeed for all of the Communion, is to consider what we are doing as leaders of strategic influence to contribute to achieving gender equality. There was a call for us to *'act locally and come together globally'* from UN women, and as a Communion we can do this!

*"In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now."* – Wangari Maathai



1: The Most Revd Dr Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, USA. 2: Carole with Bishop Catherine Roskam, founder of The Global Women's Fund to support the theological education of Anglican women, currently serving St James, Los Angeles as Bishop in Charge. 3: Archbishop Sir David Moxon, former tikanga Pakeha Archbishop and now Archbishop of Canterbury's Representative to the Holy See & Director of the Anglican Centre in Rome. 4: Inside Trinity Church on Wall Street, New York.



## PARALLEL EVENTS

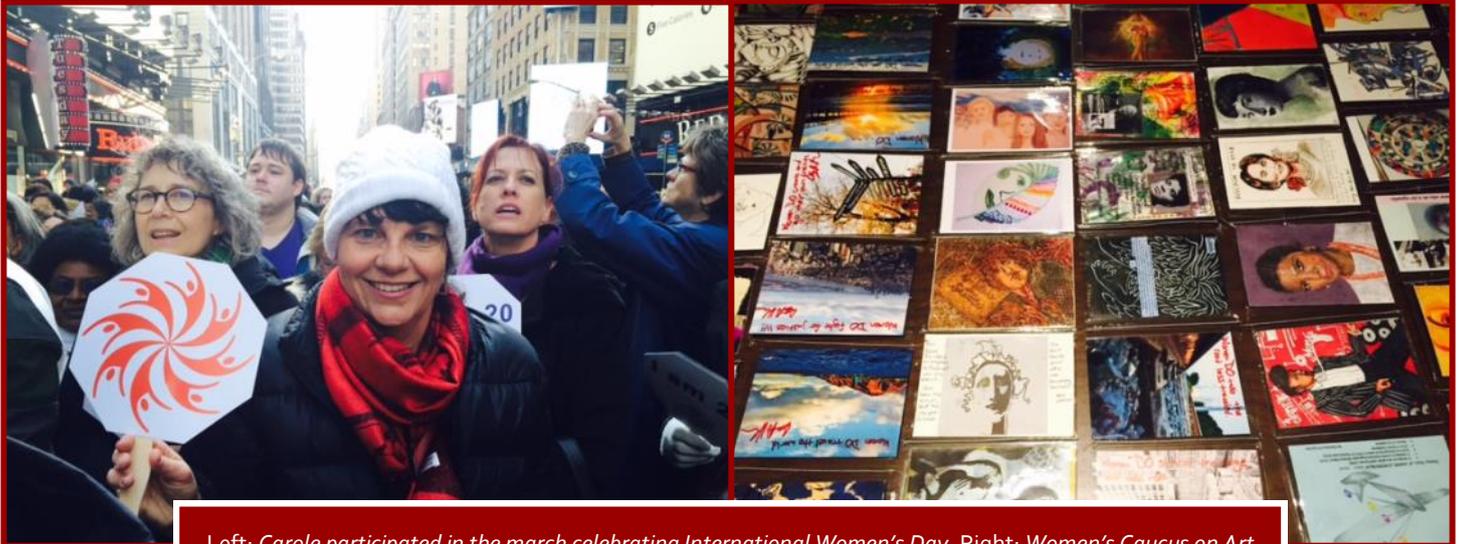
The parallel events, mentioned before, are (NGO) non-governmental organisation events whereby women (and a few men – including Archbishop Sir David Moxon) from around the world are invited to present. The parallel events that I attended included:

- ⇒ Educating Women and Girls – experiences, lessons and impact from a faith based perspective, by Global Women's Fund, Episcopal Church.
- ⇒ Women Artists Consider Our World, by Women's caucus on art
- ⇒ Preventing violence against women in the digital and technological world, by Australian Women Against Violence Alliance
- ⇒ Changing the world, one story at a time, by Gender at Work Network
- ⇒ Eradicating modern day slavery and human trafficking, by Archbishop David Moxon
- ⇒ The paths to achieving human rights, by Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda
- ⇒ Transforming gender based stereotypes in women's leadership and violence against women by YWCA, Australia, USA, Canada and New Zealand
- ⇒ Global faith perspectives on sexual and gender based violence, by Bishop Ellinah and Constance Mogina
- ⇒ Equality, development and peace: 2015 and beyond, by Centre for Women's Global Leadership – Women in the Arab World.
- ⇒ Women in leadership, by Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori
- ⇒ Defying extremism: gender responses to religious violence, by Institute for Peace and Justice
- ⇒ Empower women in power, by International Council of Women
- ⇒ Birth registration – Dominican Republic Citizenship, by Episcopal Church

## ACTIVITIES

Other activities included:

- ◆ Opening sessions by Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women



Left: Carole participated in the march celebrating International Women's Day. Right: Women's Caucus on Art

- ◆ UN Women's celebration event – speakers included:
  - ◆ Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (President of Liberia)
  - ◆ Hilliary Clinton (Former Secretary of State)
  - ◆ Melinda Gates (Global Philanthropist)
  - ◆ Bill de Blasio (Mayor of New York)
- ◆ Anglican Communion Women's caucus meetings and report writing sessions
- ◆ International Anglican Women's Network session
- ◆ Ecumenical Women's network meetings and worship
- ◆ Presented report on Anglican Women's Studies Council from Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
- ◆ Met with women from Ministry Affairs, Aotearoa New Zealand
- ◆ Breakfast with the NZ Permanent Mission in New York and Minister of Women's Affairs, Louise Upston
- ◆ Reception at Bishop Andrew ML Dietsche's residence (Bishop of New York)

- ◆ Evensong at the Cathedral of St John the Divine, New York
- ◆ Organised morning liturgy, UN Church Centre
- ◆ Breakfast with Archbishop Sir David Moxon
- ◆ International Women's Day March
- ◆ St Patrick's Day Parade
- ◆ Visit to 9/11 memorial and St Paul's and Trinity Churches

Some of the content and discussions in the above activities and sessions are reflected in the quotes at the beginning of this report, and also in our call to action in the following document to the Anglican Consultative Council, and worldwide Anglican Communion. I encourage you to share this information with your Bishops and local communities. The actions in the statement are intended for each province, ministry unit, and leadership body to engage with and adopt.

May God bless us all as we seek justice, and work collaboratively to realise our full potential as the people of God.



9/11 Memorials



Anglican  
Communion  
Delegates  
gathering for  
morning worship



## Statement to the Anglican Consultative Council from the Anglican Communion Delegation to United Nations Commission for the Status of Women 59

*"For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." Ephesians 2.10*

### Introduction

*"After Beijing we chose to prioritise work which did not lead to irreversible, deep change. The work of real change still remains to be done." - Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women.*

The focus of this year's 59th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW59) was a 20-year anniversary review of the landmark [Beijing Declaration](#) and [Platform for Action](#), unanimously adopted by 189 countries at the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women as an agenda for women's empowerment and a global policy document on gender equality. It set strategic objectives and actions for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality in 12 critical areas of concern. As a review year the aim of CSW59 was not to produce a set of Agreed Conclusions but to issue a Declaration at the start of the Commission then work towards [Agreed Working Methods](#) among the member states.

Following our two weeks of participation in CSW59, UN side events, parallel events organised by civil society, and deep conversations with other participants from diverse contexts, the 19 delegates from the Provinces of the Anglican Communion are pleased to present this statement and invitation to the Anglican Consultative Council and the wider Communion. We also give thanks to God for these two weeks lived as a microcosm of the whole Communion, sharing our experiences and working together in Christian community towards a common goal.

### Major Issues

*"No country shines when it comes to gender equality ... We still have work to do! ... Faith groups have a key role to play in changing negative social norms, stereotypes and behaviour." - Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka, Ecumenical Women Orientation Day.*

We have discerned that the major issues to emerge from this CSW are as follows:

## 1. Gender-based violence

*At last we have broken the silence on violence against women, now we must break the cycle.” - Agnes Leina, NGO CSW Consultation Day.*

One in three women worldwide is a victim of gender-based violence, according to UN Women statistics, and this includes child marriage, rape and domestic violence. Many women feel unable to speak out about their experiences, or feel unheard, because of legal and cultural constraints. We welcome men and boys who recognise the equal humanity of women and girls and encourage them to join us in eradicating gender-based violence, including changing harmful behaviours and attitudes. We acknowledge that alcohol and drug abuse may play a major role in violence, contributing to rather than causing violent behaviour.

**ACTION:** We call upon the churches of the Anglican Communion to seize the opportunity to provide leadership on this issue through education, advocacy, and through modelling healthy relationships, that mercy, peace and love be for all people, in abundance (Jude 1.2).

## 2. Climate change

*“The environment, after all, is where we all meet, where we all have mutual interest. It is one thing that all of us share.” - Dr Jane Goodall*

God gave us the earth to care for, but we are now abusing what God has entrusted to our care. We recognise each person's and each country's responsibility for taking action to protect the environment. We are also conscious that empowering women leads to greater resilience in the face of climate impacts.

**ACTION:** We call on leaders throughout the Anglican Communion, working with the Anglican Communion Environmental Network, to raise the issues of environmental degradation and climate change throughout their churches and their communities, and to lobby their governments for action. We call specifically on the churches in high-polluting countries to press their governments for limits on emissions and for the transfer of technologies that enable sustainable development. We ask for resources to be put in place to educate women and men, girls and boys so that they can play their part in environmental sustainability, and for churches to listen to women's voices as they speak out on behalf of current and future generations. We call for women to be included in all aspects of climate planning.

## 3. Human trafficking and slavery

*“The slavery industry today makes more money than the oil industry.” - Archbishop Sir David Moxon*

As a delegation, we welcomed Archbishop Sir David Moxon's presentation on trafficking and modern slavery, which covered the issues and introduced the [Global Freedom Network](#), a faith-based joint initiative of the Pope and the Archbishop of Canterbury to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking by 2020.

**ACTION:** We call on the churches of the Anglican Communion as a whole to support this initiative and to work on raising awareness of the issues, pressing businesses and governments to address questions around supply chains and legislation, funding alternatives for vulnerable communities, and forming broad partnerships to offer care and support to victims.

## 4. Statelessness and birth registration

*“Children not registered at birth are invisible. Fifty per cent of the world's children under five are unregistered.” International Anglican Family Network*

God created humanity and gave us identity and dignity, so that everyone might be respected and acknowledged. As Chris-

tians we understand the particular value of belonging to a community for our flourishing and empowerment. Conflict, wars, natural disaster, climate change displacement and discrimination result in the statelessness of millions around the globe. The lack of an official identity through statelessness or failure to register children at birth may result in denial of access to basic needs including education and health care, and many other benefits of citizenship.

**ACTION:** We call upon Anglican churches to assist families to overcome obstacles to registration and to raise awareness with the wider community of the importance of registered identity, making use of existing ministry opportunities such as baptism to inform and encourage parents and communities.

## 5. *Gender equality with particular regard to education, economic participation, participation in decision-making, and health initiatives.*

*"I am not free while any woman is unfree, even if her shackles are not my own."* - Audre Lourde.

As Christians we proclaim that God created men and women as human beings in God's image. Gender equality is a human right. It is incumbent upon governments and the Anglican Communion to legislate and implement laws, policies and programmes that enable gender equality. Special attention needs to be paid in regard to education, economic participation, participation in decision making and leadership, and women's health initiatives, it is essential to. Gender equality applies to all human beings and should be a discussion for all women and men, girls and boys.

**ACTION:** We call upon the churches of the Anglican Communion to continue to lobby governments for the implementation of gender policies, programmes and laws.

We also bring to prominence the message of our sisters from the Nippon Sei Ko Kai on the risks of nuclear power plants in the aftermath of the Fukushima disaster. Although four years have passed since the accident at the Fukushima power plants in 2011, people are still living in fear of radiation. We urge the Communion to hear the voices of these survivors on the risks of nuclear power and on the continuing crisis in Fukushima, and to keep them in our hearts and prayers.

## Our Challenge to the Communion

*"We cannot afford to take baby steps any longer. Now is the time for bold, giant steps."* - Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka

CSW59 has issued a succinct challenge to the global community: Planet 50/50 by 2030, or in other words, full gender equality by 2030. We are, at our best, capable of bold, giant steps, and women of the world are demanding that now is the time for all of us to be at our best.

The Anglican Communion has already committed to this principle in the form of the fourth Mark of Mission: "to transform



Above: *A taste of home so far away*  
Below: *Our representative in New York*



unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation." We, the Anglican Communion delegation at CSW59, invite the whole Anglican Communion to "step up" to the challenge of Planet 50/50 by 2030 and to take seriously the church's mission to stimulate and support the social change required to achieve such a goal. This will require courage, prayer and deep discernment within our churches as we work to put our own house in order as well as urging the wider community to work to enable women and men everywhere to be recognised as equal in the eyes of God, and for the structures of church and society to reflect that equality in every aspect of life.

This means the full inclusion of women at all levels of decision-making and leadership in the church, the careful stewardship of the earth's resources, and zero tolerance for violence in all its forms. Full inclusion requires that our churches continue to speak truth to power in regard to human trafficking and the economic and political policies that allow it to flourish. It means that our churches must continue to challenge discriminatory attitudes and practices that prevent women from accessing the healthcare they need. It means that churches use their connections with grassroots communities to educate local people about the importance of registering the births of all children, and advocate with governments which deny, revoke or fail to facilitate citizenship to their people.

These issues will present different challenges in different contexts, but the urgency is universal.

### Hope for the Future

*"I am about to do a new thing;  
Now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way  
in the wilderness  
And rivers in the desert."  
Isaiah 43.19*

The review of progress in gender equality over the past twenty years indicates that while there have been major gains in the area of policy



Anglican Communion Delegation to UNCSW59

change and legislation, there is still much work to be done in implementing these changes. Yet we are called to be people of hope and resurrection. We believe that it is an essential part of the Church's mission that we promote the full human flourishing of all God's children, including God's daughters. It is in this belief that we turn hopefully toward the next meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council and pray that you will seize the opportunity that is before you to help create Planet 50/50 by 2030. We are confident that God will continue to bless us richly in this endeavour.

- ◆ Carole Hughes, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia
- ◆ Gillian Moses, Anglican Church of Australia
- ◆ Tatiana Ribeiro, Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- ◆ Alice Medcof, Anglican Church of Canada
- ◆ Margaret Kalilangwe, Church of the Province of Central Africa
- ◆ Mary Nirmala Thanja Peiris, Church of Ceylon
- ◆ Maranda St John Nicolle, Church of England
- ◆ Joan Grimm Fraser, The Episcopal Church
- ◆ Sarah Chan Lau Sim, Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui
- ◆ Makiko Fukuzawa, Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Japan)
- ◆ Kei Ikezumi, Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Japan)
- ◆ Tazu Sasamori, Nippon Sei Ko Kai (Japan)
- ◆ Reem Fouad Najeeb El Far, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East
- ◆ Sar Kabaw Htoo, Church of the Province of Myanmar
- ◆ Constance Mogina, Anglican Church of Papua New Guinea
- ◆ Emily Alldritt, Scottish Episcopal Church
- ◆ Louisa Mojela, Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- ◆ Dalcy Dlamini, Anglican Church of Southern Africa
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 Discussion, Rev. Dr. E. Sanderson and Zeyneb Sayilgan, 60 min with 2 Pause points  
**Companionship: Ruth and Naomi, Elizabeth and Mary**  
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Compiled and produced by the Anglican Women at Prayer (AWaP) Task Force of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross (SCHC), 2015. www.adelynrood.org

This Easter the Anglican Women's Studies Centre received a complimentary copy of this wonderful group resource educational pack from the organisers of the Anglican Women at Prayer conference as a gesture of thanks for financial contributing towards the travel costs of Revd Dr Ellie Sanderson. Ellie was the conference's keynote speaker and the WSC Council made this contribution as part of our mentoring programme.

The conference sponsored by Virginia Theological Seminary in partnership with The Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross was very successful with 140 women participating, many from different Provinces around our Communion (featured in the May 2014 Newsletter). Phoebe Griswold wrote in her letter that Ellie "brought us new insights about prayer and cultural context. She has a fresh and invitational voice to Christian discipleship that challenged us. In fact, we wanted her voice to go beyond the conference so this packet was created for that purpose".

We strongly encourage you to order a copy of this educational resource programme for the women of your parish or ministry unit.

Order Form for **Anglican Women at Prayer: Weaving Our Bonds of Affection (Educational Resource)**

The packet contains a DVD of the sermons and plenary sessions of the Spring Conference 2014 at Virginia Theological Seminary delivered by the conference weaver, the Revd Dr Eleanor (Ellie) Sanderson from New Zealand and

the plenary session with Dr Sanderson and Zeyneb Sayilgan on Muslim and Christian women at prayer. In addition, there are discussion questions / study guides for each presentation. The cost per packet is US\$15 which includes postage and packaging. Please use the order form below.



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## The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies (WSC)

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The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the **Women's Studies Centre** was set up to serve and to advance the interests and needs of the women of this Church particularly those undertaking Theological training.

The Link Representatives from each Diocese and Hui Amorangi have been chosen for their leadership ability to identify, gather, facilitate, resource and encourage women in their educational preparation for ministry whether lay or ordained. It is hoped that the Women's Studies Centre can continue to enjoy the support of each Diocese and Hui Amorangi in this endeavour.



The issue of increasing numbers of women in representative positions across the councils and committees of the Church is seen as a high priority and the practice of intentional mentoring by those already in national and international representative roles is seen as a good way to expose women of this church to fulfill their potential as leaders.

Ensuring that women's voices and stories are heard now and in the future is also one of our continued aims whether it be by traditional methods of publication or using more contemporary technologies like website publication. We remain optimistic that through continued support, the needs of women throughout this Province will be valued and recognized.



## Women's Studies Centre Council Members — 2015

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