

UNCSW61:

Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work

By Isadora Betham



In March, Isadora Betham from Samoa was chosen to represent this Province as the Delegate from the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia at the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW61) during the winter in New York. The priority theme was 'Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work'.

"If you are woman, you are a worker"

The ability of women to work and earn a living wage is critical to women's livelihood, independence, and ability to provide for their family. The world of work is swiftly changing, influenced by rapid innovation, increasing mobility and precarious employment. Other factors driving economic injustice to women

include socio-political contexts, situations of conflict, changing patterns of work, international globalization, economic factors, and unsustainable environmental exploitation.

Access to quality education and health services;
Accelerating women's participation in the paid

Anglican Communion Delegates:

Pumla Titus - South Africa	Mathilde Nkwirikiye - Burundi	Khushbakht Peters - Pakistan
Nomfuzo Mangisa - South Africa	Isadora Betham - Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia	Beth Adamson - United States
Harriet Nathan - South Sudan	Lesley Lewis - Australia	Laura Piotrowicz - Canada
Joy Eluzai - South Sudan	Odete Lieber - Brazil	Rachael Fraser - Scotland
Wendy Lee - Hong Kong	Mariana Lang - Argentina	Maupi Letsoalo - South Africa
Tam Ming - Hong Kong	Sar Htoo - Myanmar	Rachel Chardon - United States (Programme Co-ordinator)
Miki Hamai - Japan	Okkyung Lee - Korea	
Maya Kobayashi - Japan	Immaculee Nyiransengimana - Rwanda	
Njovu Shingaidzo - Central Africa		



workforce and recognition of the value contributed to society by unpaid work; Breaking down cultural barriers to encourage women's full participation in all tiers of society; Supporting better access to finance, trade opportunities and information and communications technology; Involving women in leadership and decision-making roles in all areas of society including at all levels of government, the private sector, and the broader community; Working with individuals and communities at the grassroots level.

As addressed by the United Nations General Secretary Mr Antonio Guterres "ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN IS A KEY PRIORITY, WOMEN ALREADY HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO SUCCEED IT IS ABOUT BREAKING BARRIERS". Men still dominate, even in progressive countries, male chauvinism is preventing women's empowerment.

The Review theme for CSW61: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls

The recently established Agenda 2030 in 2015 initiated the SDGs. This platform grew from the culmination of the work of the MDGs, whose 15-year agenda ended in 2015. As such, we

reaffirm the voices of our sisters from UNCSW60, who declared to this body:

"...the SDGs are a unique and remarkable platform for action on a vision that affirms our longing as Christians to work for the kingdom of God on earth. They reflect deep biblical themes of mutual responsibility for living well together, seeking the equality of all people created in the image of God, the responsibility to care for God's earth, and God's concern for the vulnerable and marginalized."

The Emerging issue: Empowerment of Indigenous Women

Indigenous women are more severely impacted by gender injustices than other groups. This sector of society is one which transects geopolitical borders, sits at the lowest economic strata, and experiences some of the highest incidence of violence and oppression, including: gender-related violence, human trafficking, economic disadvantage, environmental racism, and loss of culture and language.

Events Attended

- Ecumenical Women Orientation - Church Centre for UN (CCUN)
- NGO Consultation day

Ministry Memoirs

From a Life of Ministry—Remembered Moments

It's funny where pastoral ministry can take place or seeds for the work of the Spirit might be sown; like when filling up at the car for example. The local BP wasn't far from where I once lived in the Vicarage and the staff there had got to know me quite well. What with my collar and a beat up old car, I think I amused them mostly! But looking back it made for some interesting conversations. One that is particularly memorable happened in the queue when I went to pay.

It was a long line waiting and the woman behind me pointed to my collar and asked if that meant I was from the church. Yes I said. Was I a Catholic was the next inquiry? Identifying myself as an Anglican led to a conversation of her remembering as a child, of being brought up going to a local Anglican Church and fun playing with other kids afterwards. There were memories of weddings and baptisms. As we neared the counter and I fished out my card to pay after the next custom-

er, my queue acquaintance touched my arm. So you do baptisms? Yes I said. And weddings? Yes I said. And lady ministers are allowed to? Yes I said. Wow was the response. And could I come to your church? Yes I said, come anytime. I paid and went to the car. As I was about to pull out, she came over to my window, and leant in – my kids haven't been baptised would you do them? I'd love to I said.

She never did bring them, but from then on whenever she passed I'd get a cheery wave, the kind that friends give each other. But I wasn't disappointed. Research shows that if people have a positive experience of a community help agency, even for the briefest time, they are more than 90% likely to contact them when in some kind of crisis or need. I believe a seed was sown that day. Years later perhaps one of you reading this may have been part of reaping that harvest.

- Poet - Rupi Kaur
- Women's Rights and Gender Equity in the Changing World of Work
- Tackling Gender Violence at Home and in the Workplace- United Nations Singers, Messages and conversation
- Susan O'Malley, Chair (NGO Committee on the status of Women/NY, International Federation of Business and Professional Women
- Phumzile Mambo-Ngcuka, Under Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women
- Ambassador Antonio De Aguilar Patriota, Chair of the Commission of the Status of Women
- Moderated by Bandana Rana, Sathi, Nepal, Expert Member of CEDAW Committee
- Milk and Honey, Poet, issues on young girls, changing bodies and being an immigrant
- Radhika Balakrishnan, Faculty Director, Centre for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University
- Julianna Richter, Chief Operating Officer, Edelman
- Elizabeth Tang, General Secretary, International Domestic Workers Federation
- Esther Mwaura, Founder and Executive director, GROOTS/ Kenya
- Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN and Deputy Executive Director, UN Women
- Moderator: Kevin Cassidy, ILO Office for the UN
- Mabel Bianco, Foundation for Studies and Research on Women NGOCSW/Latin America & Caribbean
- Raphael Crowe, Senior Specialist, ILO Geneva
- Dilshad Dayani, World Women Global Council
- Welcome Reception-Episcopal Church Centre
- Opening Plenary
- UNCSW Opening Eucharist
- Orientation, Anglican Group Introductions
- Parallel Event – NGOCSW - South Sudan women of Faith building Peace and Economic Empowerment – Harriet Baka Nathan & Joy Kwaje Eluzai
- Fereshteh Forough - The Status of Afghan women and employment, alternative income streams, and financial independence
- Economic Empowerment of Indigenous Women
- Asia/Pacific Regional Orientation
- Violence, Women's Work and the Global Economy Recognizing Links, Demanding Change
- Women's economic empowerment across the Anglican World
- Empowering Women cross-culturally for transformation
- Making Development Effective for Women's Economic Empowerment
- Listened to Country Statement (Samoa/Tonga) - Assembly room
- Pacific Roundtable discussion
- Unpaid Care work
- Advocacy Workshop
- Labour Trafficking and Women's Human Rights
- Child Marriage in Middle East
- Pacific feminists and Activists: Recommitting to the Pacific

- Movement for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Indigenous Ceremony to lift voices of Women Worldwide
- Why Faith Leaders? - Revd Terrie Robinson, Anglican Communion Director for Women in Church and Society

UNCWS61st, a record high of 3,300 Government and Civil Societies plus 750 Youth attended the CSW61st meeting from 10th to 24th March 2017.

I arrived on the 10th March Friday night in New York, settled in at the hotel at 1.30am Saturday morning. New York as a first timer was an adventure; had a little ride on the Aerotrains back



Academics, only to find out, all the first timers felt the same. I was one of the few newbies as the majority of the Anglican Communion Delegates had attended previous years.

The experienced



Clockwise: *Brightening up the delegates New York winter with flowers from Polynesia; Isadora remained stylish despite the winter chills; Wearing headscarf's received as a gift from our Utata sister Pumla; Orientation programme.*



and forth looking for where I was supposed to catch my shuttle. I can only say, it's all part of the journey. I was glad I was well advised of the temperatures as my tropical thermometer had a momentarily shock to adjust to New York below zero Celsius degrees.

I missed the orientation dinner held on Friday evening, but made it to Saturday orientation day. The worship with the Ecumenical Women at the Church Centre was uplifting for me with inspiring sermons, spiritual songs and an integration of diverse culture and languages.

On my first day at the Orientation workshop, I felt as though I was out of my depth and out of place to be amongst these elite

delegates were familiar with the programme formats and more vocal in advocating their issues to the forefront. I was overwhelmed with the diversity of cultures of not only the Anglican Communion but those who attended the meetings.

However, as the days progressed, I felt more confident having more of an equal footing with the delegates as we were all there for the same purpose to learn from each other, to be inspired, more importantly to share our own stories and take away lessons learned to share with my Samoan Community.

Non-Governmental Organisation Role

The active participation of non-governmental organisations



Isadora with her room-mate Lesley Lewis from Australia. This altar represented all member Countries, women and girls profession, artefacts plus names of inspirational women that have made an impact in our lives either in the past or the present.

agreed outcomes to fill the gaps; this means “Women’s economic empowerment leaves no one behind”. This includes all women and girls not just the one at work but the ones with disabilities plus those providing unpaid care work in the home.

CEDAW assists to bridge the gaps in the laws of Gender Equality and Human Rights as it creates a safe space for women. CEDAW’s collaborated efforts and synergy to work smarter by utilising expert members across regions, keeps the dialogue going with member states to achieve

Gender Equality by 2030.

Parallel and side event themes gave an insight of the advocacy work carried out globally in tackling child trafficking, sexual violence and mutilation plus the economic empowerment of women. Its’ economic costs of Violence against Women and Girls, Equal Pay platform, Quality education for girls-Maths, Science, Technology, closing the widening gap in Technology jobs. It is expected that 90% of jobs in the near future will require computer literacy in the changing world of work.

Anglican Communion Delegates

It was an honour to meet the Presiding Bishop and Primate of

(NGOs) is the key contributor in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). NGOs have been influential in shaping the national, regional and at global policy framework on women’s empowerment and equality. They continue to play an important role in holding international and national leaders accountable for the commitments they made in the Platform for Action by 2030.

By understanding and appreciating the positive impact of NGOs, participants and advocacy work towards Gender Equality and eventually leads to Women’s Human Rights and Women Economic Empowerment. By rallying at the ground level and at the international level the implementation of the



From Left:
Isadora with
The Most Revd
Michael Curry,
Primate of the
Episcopal
Church, USA;
With Joy Eluzai
& Harriet
Nathan from
South Sudan;
Isabel with Revd
Terrie Robinson,
Director of
Women in
Church &
Society, ACC

the Episcopal Church in America. Michael Curry hosted our delegate to light refreshments at his Penthouse Suite.

I went into this conference as a stranger and a loner and have left with many friends of fun, loving, spiritual, feisty woman who



implementation or enforcement" what is the use? To encourage them with the challenges they face is "GIVING UP IS NOT AN OPTION". We need to keep on praying for injustices done and for our sisters in Christ who are brave to fight the fight for the marginalised groups. To own your own home or simply have a

place to call home, where some of us, see it as normal others see it as a dream, who are forced to move from one camp to another. Displacement from generation to generation can never live long enough in one place to farm a land before civil war breaks out and they are forced to move again.

As a group when the opportunity presented itself, we discussed the sessions we attended and how it applied in own respective countries. Hong Kong, one of the fastest growing cities has a very high percentage of women who are empowered through tertiary education level. As a result, the women are more independent to earn and sustain their livelihoods. Interestingly this empowerment has also lead to the rising of gender based violence towards women and girls. These highly-educated women are not reflected in the Judiciary or in Government. The shared stories and being a Christian in a Muslim

Isadora was invited to be a panellist for the Women's Economic Empowerment Across the Anglican World event which was well attended.

are professionals in their own field of choice who came together as one to listen, to learn, to share and take back new stories to share with our communities plus initiatives that work. It was an education at the top level with real people, telling real stories. In reality, violence exists in every country, but the depth and scale varied dependent on where you were from, its' social structure, government structure, religious beliefs, cultural values, customs and traditions.

Advocacy work can be dangerous work for some women. Some have lost their lives to make tomorrow a better, safer place to live for women and girls with equality and dignity. This was voiced by long time advocates, women who have attended year after year with same plea yet with very little action. They stated; "We are tired, very little has happened, we sign agreements, no

dominant country and being a girl is enough reason for some to be sexually assaulted and can even result in death. A Christian woman or girl must be accompanying either by her brother or any of her relatives for her safety at all times.

In Rwanda, approximately 60% of the Parliamentary are women. This came through after years of programmes run by the United Nations working with males in empowering girls through education, breaking barriers and supporting women in their chosen field. It's about partnership of men and women.

In Argentina, a woman is killed due to gender based violence every 30 hours. In Brazil, women are beaten up on side of the road by her partner then she is blamed for the violent act. The panel of experts were informative and inspiring; however, the true experts are those that live and rise through the daily

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turmoil in their countries. "Providing food is not enough, we need Security" As diverse as we are a "melting pot" our common struggles are all too similar. The patriarchal structural and culture barrier hinders the progress of economic empowerment of women.

Ecumenical Services set the mode for each day. It was a collaborated effort of all those present, changes were made to set services to walk its "inclusiveness" of diverse cultures and languages. Special Prayers and Poems were shared and read out in your own mother tongue. It was place of spiritual uplifting, praises and honour back to the King of Kings, the singing was deafening, the messages enlightening.



Pacific Roundtable Caucus—which included Masina Tietie, YWCA Delegate; His Excellency Feturi Elisaia, Ambassador of Samoa and his wife Maria as well as the First Secretary, Dominic Soalo

Women's Economic Empowerment Across the Anglican World

I had the opportunity to be invited and be part of the panel to report on Women across the Anglican World, two weeks prior to my departure. I gathered what information that was available on line reporting on the work of the three Tikanga women. My

presentation report was mainly on Samoa. We have our 3 women priests and 4 male priests. Our own struggles through cultural barrier to have a equal gender based representation on decision making platforms, marginalisation of women's voices in the governing villages, who have women's committees but no voice at village council meetings. All Saints Anglican Church of Samoa is a small parish with high turnover of female tertiary qualify females who are on Senior management levels in Government ministries as well as most of the women run their own small business. One of our male clergy Revd Iulai Toma is also the Ombudsman, is leading the first National Enquiry in the causes of violence in the home. Synod has made a motion of 1 female and 1 male representation. Polynesian women are achievers in modern life, where females dominate the enrolment at Secondary and Tertiary levels.

There is still a lot of work to do overall. The Dioceses needs to address issues that women face in leadership of the church. Ordained women priests appointed to smaller parishes generally receive low stipends and less benefits overall, this impacts negatively on their "living wage". Lastly, our Archbishop Dr Winston Halapua joined forces with mainstream church leaders in Fiji campaign "Violence is a Sin". The floor was opened for questions once all the panellists completed their presentation.

Samoa Mission Office: Ambassador of Samoa His Excellency Feturi Elisaia

I was fortunate to be an observer and amongst our Pacific people from Tuvalu, Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa and New Zealand. Our Small Islands Developing States, we are unique in our own culture and tradition with a lot of similarities, much can be shared with each other what initiatives work. In addition, there is a need to push for our governments to action and implement these outcomes. These country statements that are read out, it seems it's the same issues year after year, very little progress has been done.

The commission resulted in forty-five outcomes from 61st CSW 2017 legally binding conclusions that all 193 member states need to implement or continue following.

Lessons Learned

Gender injustice is pervasive and prevalent across all tiers of



society, though it may be overt, hidden, or simply invisible. The struggle for justice continues, and women and girls have more ability and strength than is recognised. The testimonies, panel discussions, side and parallel events, and the experience of witnessing a UN document through its formation, has been an inspiration to us all. The Anglican Communion is an advocate and ally for the empowerment of women across continents, cultures, and communities.

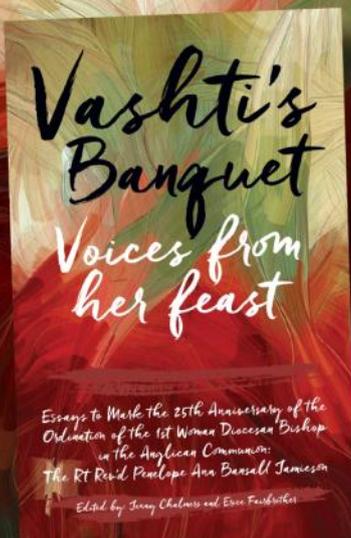
In addition, the various International organisations advocating for Human Rights for Women and Girls where they fit in. This rare opportunity, being here at this platform has exposed me to challenging issues in "economic empowerment of women in the changing way of work" at a regional and international level. No country has achieved sustainable goals in this area yet.

There is much work to do regarding:

- Equipping and encouraging our women to have a voice, despite the norms and cultural barriers.
- Advocating for opportunities like this to expose our women and young girls to be part of the conversation,

self-belief and their opinion matters. I went as an empty vessel and came back empowered with information and inspired by the work of warrior women across the globe. I take with me "collective voices", network connections and friendship with women across the world. Anglican Consultative Council has done a remarkable job.

I leave with a challenge, as our Province is on a rotatable basis to attend this meeting, it would be more effective and beneficial for our people to have a representative from the Small Island Developing States, us in the South Pacific, as our voices beats at a different drum than that of New Zealand, to be truly "inclusive and leaving no one behind". I am truly grateful to the Diocese of Polynesia for this rare opportunity and it was an honour and privilege to represent our Province, gratitude to the All Saints Anglican Church of Samoa, especially to Archdeacon Reverend Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa for her support. This experience has transformed my views on girls and women issues, at my church, my work place, my family and my community.



Vashti's Banquet
Voices from her feast

Essays to Mark the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination of the 1st Woman Diocesan Bishop in the Anglican Communion: The Rt Rev'd Penelope Ann Bansall Jamieson
Edited by Jerry Chalmer and Erica Fairbrother

Vashti's Banquet

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The Rt Rev'd Dr Penelope Ann Bansall Jamieson**

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The Centre for Anglican Women's Studies, commonly known as the **Anglican 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.

**2017 AWSC
HUI DATES
25—27 October**

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 Anglican 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.

Council for Anglican Women's Studies — 2016-2017

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EDITORIAL DISCLAIMER: The Anglican Women's Studies Centre is committed to encouraging and enabling women's voices and perspectives from across the diversity of the Church to be shared more widely. We acknowledge that women's experiences of church differ considerably and that resultant theological perspectives also differ considerably. In general the AWSC does not exercise editorial control, rather we welcome as many voices as are willing to contribute.