
VOICE Of A GLOBAL COMMUNITY



*The Staff of the Office of the
Anglican Observer at the United Nations*

➤ *WHY DOES THE OFFICE EXIST?*

The office of the Anglican Observer at the United Nations exists for the following:

- VISION: to Fulfill our Christian Witness
- VALUES: to Promote Peace, Dialogue and Reconciliation
- MISSION: to Represent the Anglican Churches at the United Nations



➤ *HOW CAN I CONTACT THE OBSERVER?*

Please contact the office of the Anglican Observer at the United Nations by:

Telephone: 1-212-716-6263
Facsimile: 1-212-687-1336
Email: unoffice@episcopalchurch.org
By post: 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017

➤ *WHY SHOULD I CONTACT THE OBSERVER?*

You may contact the Anglican Observer at the United Nations for interventions at the United Nations on issues concerning Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Economic & Global Security Issues.

➤ *CAN I RECEIVE FUNDING THROUGH THIS OFFICE?*

The Office of the Anglican Observer is dependent entirely upon donations from Anglicans around world for its work. Whilst it cannot provide funding for any requests it may direct inquiries to appropriate funding sources, especially United Nations programme resources.

➤ *TO WHOM IS THE OBSERVER ACCOUNTABLE?*

The Anglican Observer is accountable to the Anglican Consultative Council through its president, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Council's Secretary General.

➤ *MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT:*

<http://www.anglicancommunion.org.un/>



The emblem of the Anglican Communion is the Compass Rose. The Symbol set in the nave of Canterbury Cathedral was dedicated at the Lambeth Conference in 1988. The Greek inscription, "The Truth Shall Make You Free" (John 8:32) surrounds the Cross of Saint George and the compass recalls the spread of Anglican Christianity throughout the world. The mitre at the top emphasizes that we are an episcopally run church. The Compass Rose is the official logo of the Inter-Anglican Secretariat and is used as the Communion's identifying symbol.



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Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

The Anglican Communion is a worldwide family of Churches with 75 million members in 164 countries. The cultural diversity of the Anglican Communion mirrors the complexity and richness of the world we live in.

The United Nations is a forum of the same world, where governments and civil society seek universal human rights, which include: women's rights; children's rights; the rights of indigenous peoples; environmental protection and sustainable development; and international cooperative responses to issues of global and economic security.

The Anglican Communion opened its Observer's Office in 1991. The first Anglican Observer was the Most Revd Sir Paul Reeves, former Archbishop and Primate of Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia. He was also the former Governor General of New Zealand. He was succeeded by the Rt Revd James Ottley, former Bishop of Panama, until early 1999. Both men were active in promoting human rights, including the special needs of indigenous peoples and in interventions for cancellation of third-world debt. The Rt Revd Paul Moore, retired Bishop of New York, continued the Observer's Office from 1999 through 2000 and was followed by the interim Anglican Observer, the Rt Revd Herbert Donovan, retired Bishop of Arkansas.

The present Anglican Observer at the United Nations is Archdeacon Taimalelagi Fagamalama Tuatagaloa-Matalavea from Samoa, the first lay archdeacon in her church. She had twenty-five years of experience working for the UN Development Programme in the South Pacific and was a member of the Anglican Consultative Council for 6 years.

The Most Revd and Rt. Hon. Rowan D. Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, said, "*The Church is in the world to issue a wake-up call.*" Through the Office of the Anglican Observer, the voice of our global Communion is being heard at the United Nations. The Anglican Communion now contributes to the work of the United Nations in these key areas:

I. Women's Rights

The empowerment of women is a critical issue facing the world in the 21st century. Since the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing, this has been a focal point for the ministry of the Anglican Observer. In March of 2004, the Anglican Communion, working through the Office of the Anglican Observer, fielded a delegation of 55 Anglican women and men to the 48th Session of the Commission on

the Status of Women. Apart from their interventions during the meetings, Anglican women have returned to their parishes committed to the implementation of (a) the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; (b) the Millennium Development goals; and, (c) the Security Council Resolution 1325.

II. Environment and Sustainable Development

The planetary environmental crisis affects every human being, every nation, every creature, and generations yet to come. In August 2002, the Anglican Observer convened a first of its kind event "*The Global Anglican Congress on the Stewardship of Creation*" which met in South Africa to educate and organize representatives of the Anglican Communion about the urgency of this crisis. Since 1992, the Office has consistently advocated for environmental issues at the United Nations.

III. Children's Rights

The United Nations has declared 2001 to 2010 the "*Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World.*" The Office of the Anglican Observer coordinated the delegation of children sent to the 2002 Special General Assembly for Children's Issues where they publicly stated their need to develop "*a World Fit for Children.*" The Observer's office developed a plan of action that was adopted by the Anglican Consultative Council at its 2002 meeting in Hong Kong (ACC-XII). The provinces are to report on their programs to ACC-XIII.

IV. Indigenous Peoples

The office of the Anglican Observer has been deeply involved with the ongoing struggle of indigenous peoples since the beginning of the ministry in the early 1990's. Among other activities, the Observer actively participates in the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples, which is their primary vehicle for NGO representation at the UN. The current Anglican Observer, Archdeacon Taimalelagi Matalavea, an indigenous person herself, continues to make the issues of indigenous peoples one of her priorities.

V. Human Rights

Universal human rights are a constant concern of the Office of the Anglican Observer. Building on the strong international track record of Anglicans in refugee and migration ministries, The Anglican Observer advocates for people who find themselves displaced by war, natural disasters, and political or ethnic persecution.

VI. Economic and Global Security

On behalf of the Anglican Communion, the Office of the Anglican Observer has advocated for peace in numerous areas around the world: in the Middle East; Africa; and in the Pacific. Under the aegis of the Anglican Observer's ministry, roundtable discussions in several regions of the United States and England are being established with lay Muslims to explore the problems of civil society in addressing the growth of democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. The Observer accomplishes this work through strategic discussions with personnel from the UN Department of Political Affairs, members of the Security Council, ambassadors and permanent mission staff, through news releases and news conference statements, and panel discussions involving government, UN and NGO personnel.

When the Anglican Communion addresses issues of global importance or discovers a critical unmet humanitarian need in one of its Provinces, the Office of the Anglican Observer at the United Nations is uniquely positioned to inform, to advocate, to motivate, and to make the vital connections needed to relieve suffering and save lives anywhere on the planet.

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