

## International Anglican Women's Network (IAWN): Report to ACC17

*'God's Church for God's People: walking, listening and witnessing'*

1. We have much pleasure in submitting our report outlining IAWN's activities since ACC16 held in Lusaka in 2016.
2. We have endeavoured to uphold the purpose of our Network which is to be 'a bold and prophetic voice for all women throughout the Anglican Communion, working to uphold the God-given dignity of women and girls, to eradicate gender-based inequality and violence, and to promote just relationships among all people'.
3. Our objectives and activities are aligned with ACC Resolutions 16.02 on Women and Men in Church and Society, and 16.03 on Gender Equality and Justice.
4. We have shared the work and stories of women in the Anglican Communion through our [newsletters](#), [Facebook group](#) and through our email listserv, particularly drawing attention to Anglican endeavours in:
  - eradicating all forms of gender-based violence, including human trafficking
  - advocating for access for all women and girls to education and health care, including reproductive and maternal health care and resources
  - advocating for the eradication of extreme poverty, hunger, and environmental degradation
  - promoting the physical and spiritual well-being of all women and girls, including those from migrant, rural, indigenous and other marginalised communities
  - supporting women's sustainable economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, including gender budgeting and auditing
  - promoting gender equality and the participation of women in all levels of decision-making throughout the Anglican Communion

Additional information can be found on the IAWN webpages at <https://iawn.anglicancommunion.org>.

### Our Membership

5. Every Anglican woman throughout the Communion over the age of 18 is encouraged to be involved in the activities of the Network. All communication and interaction is via the internet, which means that globally it has become increasingly accessible.

### Provincial Links

6. Each Primate is encouraged to nominate a, IAWN Provincial Link, who becomes the official link between the IAWN's steering group and women in each Province.

### Steering Group

7. The members of the steering group were elected in 2016 and will serve until ACC17. A process for seeking nominations for a new steering group which will serve until 2022 has just been completed and a team of new members is ready to take on the steering of the Network from the end of May this year. The new steering group is representative of the following regions: Asia; Central and Southern areas of Africa; Europe and the Middle East; North America, and Oceania.

8. *Once it begins its work, the new steering group will aim to co-opt members from Central & South America and the Caribbean, and the Northern parts of Africa. Expressions of interest have already been received from women in these regions.*
9. To provide continuity between the outgoing and incoming steering groups, two members from the outgoing steering group have been asked to serve a second term. They are the Venerable Carole Hughes from Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, and the Revd Moumita Biswas from the Church of North India.
10. The steering group meets virtually every month in two time-zone groups, using an on-line conferencing facility.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF IAWN'S WORK TO DATE:

11. The steering group met in London in October 2017. An 'in person meeting' during the term of each steering group is essential since it enables members to review goals and objectives and strategize ways and means of achieving IAWN's vision.
12. In response to ACC Resolution 16.02, the Network is currently working with the Director for Women in Church & Society and a working group of academic theologians to develop a biblical/theological programme of study on just relationships between women and men, girls and boys. The intended audience for this new resource is teaching staff and trainers in theological colleges and training schemes around the Communion. An eleven-member team including three steering group members from six continents have worked together via on-line conferencing and email correspondence, and finally met in person in Limuru, Kenya, in March to complete the resource, which will be presented at ACC17. This has been made possible through grants from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Anglican Communion Fund, the Diocese of New York's Global Women's Fund, and the MB Reckitt Trust.

#### Funding

13. Funding remains a challenge as the Network relies on donations from individual members and church organisations. IAWN is grateful for the financial support received from the Provinces of *Australia and New Zealand, Aotearoa & Polynesia*. This financial support enables the steering group to meet, and occasionally to be represented at specific gatherings.
14. IAWN will be represented at ACC17 by IAWN chair Pumla Titus and steering group member the Ven Carole Hughes. By sharing IAWN's goals and accomplishments, we hope to affirm and strengthen the achievements of Anglican women throughout the Communion.

#### Conclusion

15. The members of the IAWN Steering Group are grateful for the opportunity to serve and respond to the challenges in realising the Network's aims of gender equality, the elimination of gender-based violence and just relationships among all people.
16. Steering Group members 2016-2019: Ms Pumla Titus, chair, Anglican Church of Southern Africa; Revd Moumita Biswas, Church of North India; Revd Margaret Dempster, Anglican Church of Canada; Ms Lizzi Green, Church of England; Ven Carole Hughes, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia; Revd Dr Paula Nesbitt, The Episcopal Church; Mrs Disia Collins-Alleyne, Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America; Revd Immaculee Nyiransengimana, Province de L'Eglise Anglicane au Rwanda.

