

The AWE Journal

Widening the Circle for Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment

~ Advocating for Women's Rights ~ Igniting the Passion for Gender Justice

~ Building Coalition for Change in the Church ~ Connecting Women to the Global Women's Movement

Issue #4, January 2012

UNCSW 56th Session

February 27 to March 9, 2012

Themes focus on empowerment of rural women & their role in reduction of poverty, and financing gender equality

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Gather the Women

Meet some of the African and US women AWE is sponsoring to attend 56th session of UNCSW

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UNCSW Schedule for AWE Participants

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UNCSW 56th Session addresses rural women and their role in poverty eradication

The fifty-sixth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from Monday, 27 February to Friday, 9 March 2012.

The themes include:

1.) Priority theme:

The empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges

2.) Review theme:

Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women ([agreed conclusions](#) from the fifty-second session)

3.) Emerging issue:

Engaging young women and men, girls and boys, to advance gender equality

AWE has endeavored to build an integrated program around the 56th session of UNCSW for our "first-timers" as well as returning attendees. This issue of the Journal focuses on the schedule of the events planned, including side-events being co-sponsored by AWE, and the new attendees

coming from numerous African countries as well as the United States.

The AWE Program at UNCSW will begin Friday, February 24 and continue through midday on Saturday, March 4. This time period allows for orientation on the first weekend and a vital wrap-up period the following Saturday for new, sponsored attendees. Our program (see page 6) will be hosted by the Episcopal Church Center and will include workshops, discussion and worship which will add to the rich, varied activities put on by the NGO CSW committee here in New York <http://www.ngocsw.org/>

Let Us Gather the Women

With the 56th Session of UNCSW beginning at the end of February, we will soon be gathering together our sisters from around the globe. AWE is uniquely positioned this year to connect and build relationships with grassroots women around the critical issues that impact all of us - especially one of the most basic of human needs - food.

This year, AWE is sponsoring women to attend UNCSW from the United States as well as countries in Africa. As of this publication date, women are coming from Burundi, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, S. Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. You will meet many of them in this issue.



RWANDA - Pastor Kelly Bean

Kelly Bean is a writer and pastor from the United States who has established a small mission program in Rwanda, East Africa. An informal connection between her community of US women leaders with a cooperative in a Rwanda led to the development of a 501c-3 organization called African Road www.africanroad.org to partner with African leaders who are working for transformation in their own communities. "We recognize empowering women is the best way

forward." In Rwanda, African Road is partnering with a women's cooperative in the rural area called Kabuga and with a collective community of 80 orphans in child-headed households. Kelly received a grant enabling the orphans to buy land, built a relationship with a Rwandan Rotary club which is now funding a business start up venture with the youth, and forged a partnership with a Rwandan doctor providing health education to the communities.

Kelly is mentoring two young women from the United States who will attend UNCSW this year with her: Avery Loveridge and Sam Elie, both 16 years old.

Sam Elie has already been to Rwanda and worked alongside Kelly with the communities of women and children in the African Road program. She has seen firsthand the limited options for women who are "running a community but still have no rights or respect by people outside their situation." Sam comes to UNCSW in order to increase her connection to the global family she perceives and to increase her understanding of the issues and challenges women face. In her own words, "Knowledge is the only way that things are going to change in the world, I figure the more people informed the better."

GHANA - Gertrude Ankrah

Gertrude Ankrah has served as on-the-ground Program Development Director for WomensTrust www.womenstrust.org in Pokuase, Ghana since 2005. Her responsibilities include maintenance of relationships for program growth and sustainability, including

coordination of integrated programs and special projects. Born and raised in Pokuase, she graduated from a local private high school, the Confidence School (COINS) with top academic, sports, and speaking awards.

Unlike many women in her village, Gertrude holds several post senior secondary educational certificates. In 1993, she graduated from the Mars Business Secondary School in Accra, Ghana, in business administration. From 1993 to 1995, she worked as a customer service representative and account clerk at the Ga Rural Bank in Amasaman, the regional capital of her district. She then enrolled at the Sydalk Computer College, and in 1999 took ownership of a general store in Pokuase.



That same year Gertrude began an involvement with politics that has moved her from the local to national level. She currently holds four political offices. In June 2006 and 2007, Gertrude furthered her education relative to her role at WomensTrust by attending the Microenterprise and Development Institute (MDI) at Southern New Hampshire University, her first trip out of her country.

MALAWI - The Rev. Kate Malin (U.S.) & Ms. Yasinta Mtambo (Malawi)

Kate Malin is an Episcopal priest who was similarly drawn into relationship with African women but in the country of Malawi. At first, she joined field trip with her

home parish to build homes for priests in the Southern Diocese of Malawi. Then, others with connections in Malawi kept showing up in her life.



Kate followed her heart to the tiny county of Malawi where she started a program called Love's Harvest www.lovesharvest.org with 2 others to promote sustainable agriculture in rural communities. The goal of Love's Harvest is to use small amounts of money and through education about a practice called Permaculture, establish a natural, sustainable method of food production empowering the rural poor to grow their own food and possibly develop income-generating programs to care for their families. Permaculture methods reduce dependence on expensive imported fertilizer and mono-cropping and create a more sustainable, natural and nutritious method of raising crops of perennials, fruit trees and vegetables together with animals in kitchen and community gardens. Malawi is a nation of subsistence farmers, with agricultural industries centered on corn, tea and tobacco and for them, the concept of individual kitchen gardens was a surprisingly new idea.

Yasinta Mtambo has coordinated the Love's Harvest programs there for 4 years. Additionally, she is the Community Development Coordinator of the Anglican Diocesan Headquarters of Southern Malawi. She has worked for nine

years coordinating the work of the Mother's Union in numerous communities throughout the large diocese. This included establishing Permaculture kitchen gardens and animal projects as well as ongoing extensive training to sustain the work. She has also trained many women in microenterprise by setting up savings and credit groups of women and providing revolving microloans among the women in the diocese. Currently, Yasinta is studying for her Advanced Diploma



in Community Development at Polytechnic under University of Malawi. This will be her first trip to the United States and she comes eager to learn all there is to absorb at this year's UNCSW.

S. SUDAN - Ms. Debra Morris Smith (U.S.) & Ms. Lillian Giniwa Clement
Debra Morris Smith is coordinator of the Diocese of Missouri's companion relationship with the Lui Diocese in the Episcopal Church of Sudan. She became interested in Africa and particularly Sudan when she began teaching English as a Second Language as a volunteer to refugee women in Des Moines, Iowa.

The goals of the relationship with between the Diocese of Missouri and the Diocese of Lui are: to get to know another part of the Body of Christ, to share faith experiences, and to help each other in whatever ways we are able. Debra has traveled to Sudan

six times and has observed that "virtually everyone in the Diocese of Lui is 'rural.' Even those who live in villages are subsistence farmers. The culture is relatively progressive with respect to women; female clergy and Mothers' Union leaders do have a voice, and educating women who missed opportunities for schooling because of the long civil war or family circumstances is important to the community. Women were key to keeping the church and the community alive throughout the



displacement to the bush during the war, but now that things are normalizing, they seem to have lost some of their power. "

ZAMBIA - Danielle Tirello (U.S.) & Grace Phiri Mazala (Zambia)
Danielle became involved with women's and broader gender issues while volunteering in Romania with the Peace Corps. Now, she is a Program

Officer in the International Programs Department of Episcopal Relief & Development www.er-d.org where, along with program management of programs in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America, she reviews the gender equality

work for the organization. Danielle's goal is to ensure that all ERD's programs reflect gender equality to ensure that all people's needs are being met equally for men, women, girls and boys.



Danielle states, "Our partners do tremendous work with rural women in various types of programming. These programs include a focus on *empowering women to improve their lives from income generation projects to health education initiatives. As a Program Officer I am able to visit and speak directly with these women when I am in the field. This enables me to understand the challenges and successes our partners have and how we can best support them in partnership." She feels the greatest issue for rural women is access to and control over resources, including the associated benefits from access to those resources of land, money, credit, training, markets, etc.

Grace Phiri Mazala is the National Program Director of the Zambia Anglican Council, the development arm of the Anglican Church in Zambia. She is responsible for integrating the mission work of the Anglican Church with the Zambian government's social sector in areas such as gender, health, education, agriculture, literacy, water and sanitation. Grace also ensures gender is considered in all Anglican Council programs.

When Grace was District Director of Health in a rural district called Lufwanyama, she saw that national and local governmental decisions were being made with little or no involvement of women. "Land acquisition was a nightmare for women. The structural biases in traditional and cultural institutions mostly favored men. Even at the household level women failed even to make a decision to take a sick child to the clinic until the husband made a decision. Lack of information was another constraint." So she became involved as Chair of the District Planning Committee and was able to advocate effectively for gender in projects and mobilize the women. Now, with the Zambia Anglican Council's work in rural and peri-urban areas, Grace partners primarily with women who both implement the programs and benefit from them. "They are involved in planning, implementation and monitoring of the projects. Some are members of project committees. Ours is a close relationship."

UNITED STATES/Appalachia - *The Rev Theresa Brion*



Theresa Brion is an Episcopal priest who is a native of Appalachia. She now serves as a "ministry developer" for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland in the the two western counties of Maryland, the Appalachian mountain region. With the eight churches in the region,

Theresa facilitates the development of ministry teams and leaders.

"Women are the source of much of the activity in church and community service in the mountains of Virginia (where I was raised) and Maryland (where I now reside). For some time I have been involved in various outreach endeavors either borne of women and/or impacting them. I also have a special interest in ministries involving issues particularly impacting women, such as domestic and sexual abuse, even though my career paths have been traditionally male ones.... The women are the heart of the church in all meanings of the word—they are the source from which much of the church's outreach, social, pastoral, and even worship energy generates. They are the energy source pumping life into the community in service to each other and in the local and global community."

Theresa comes to UNCSW in order to serve God and be energized to further empower the people and communities she serves.

UNITED STATES/Michigan - *Jeanne Martens*



Jeanne Martens is a business professional who has increasingly become involved in volunteering as her children have grown, especially in the area of Healing Racism. She

has served as member of the board for a charter school whose mission is to facilitate the healing of Michigan's victimized girls and women as well as other vulnerable children and families in southeast Michigan. She seeks to improve the lives of women and girls so they may prosper and grow.

UNITED STATES/Houston - Nancy Hannon

Nancy Hannon is a retired physician whose entire career was focused on delivering primary health care in community clinics. Her present avocations include environmental and women's empowerment issues. She understands the intrinsic connections between our physical environment and our health. Working primarily with inner-city, minority women, Nancy saw the impact of little education and opportunity on these women, many of whom suffer domestic violence at home (often culturally sanctioned.) With respect for their cultural norms and belief systems, Nancy integrated these beliefs into her treatment plans in an effort to partner with them medically and enhance the long-term benefits. Nancy has also volunteered in Latin America as a physician where she witnessed the gender discrimination particularly against the girl-child which is so rampant there.

Others who will be attending UNCSW this year include: Irene Radcliff, Jennie Ashlock, Martha Frances, Clare Barry, Kathryn Horvat, Terri Pilarski, Nancy Fritch Eagan, Diane Jordan Grizzard, Jane Appleyard Roel, Beth Adamson, Maylin Biggadike, Inez Saley, Jackie Plumez, Rosemary Williams, Christina Hing, Kim Polhemus, Kitt Abad, Patti Ackerman, Diane Eynon.



"Voices of Valor" by Cheri Brackett
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MAP SHOWING AFRICAN COUNTRIES FROM WHICH ANGLICAN WOMEN ARE COMING TO UNCSW

Schedule for AWE participants in UNCSW 2012

(All events at *Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Ave., NYC* unless otherwise noted)

***IMPORTANT NOTE** - *Only those who have registered in advance will be permitted into the building, with the exception of Holy Eucharist services in chapel. Register at awetoday@gmail.com .*

- Friday, Feb. 24 Participants begin arriving
- Sunday, Feb. 26 9:00 am - 5:00 pm NGO Consultation Day Salvation Army, 120 West 14th St
Draft program includes welcome address by Michele Bachelet Executive Director of UN Women (invited), a keynote address by the NGO/CSW/NY Woman of Distinction awardee,, as well as advocacy training and orientation for new participants to the CSW. More information at <https://www.ngocsw.org/>
- Monday, Feb 27 10:00 am Opening Session on big screen TV in Mezzanine
12:10 pm Holy Eucharist in Chapel
- (Look for the parallel events every day to be posted on this link soon:
<http://www.ngocsw.org/ngo-csw-forum/ngo-parallel-events> - open to public, easy to find and choose; no pre-registration necessary)
- 6:15 - 7:45 pm **World Cafe: Taking Action on Food & Economic Resources for Rural Women and Girls**, sponsored by International Psychoanalytical Association, Anglican Consultative Council, and Anglican Women’s Empowerment
- Tuesday, Feb. 28 2:30 to 4:00 pm **Success Stories from African Rural Women in the Field**
Salvation Army Auditorium, 221 E. 52nd St.
sponsored by Salvation Army and Anglican Women’s Empowerment
Nonprofit partnerships with African rural women, telling of best practices and challenges from Burundi, Malawi, Sudan, and Zambia
- Wednesday, Feb. 29 4:00 pm Book Signing with author Elizabeth Geitz in Bookstore
7:00-9:00 pm **Women’s Sacred Circle** in Chapel
Sponsored by Circle Connections, Women of Spirit and Faith, Anglican Women’s Empowerment, WWSF, Millionth Circle, Gather The Women, IPPI
- Thursday, Mar. 1 2:30 pm **Empowered: Rural Women ‘Shout Out’**
Salvation Army Auditorium, 221 E. 52nd St.
Sponsored by ICJW—International Council of Jewish Women and Anglican Women’s Empowerment
Facilitated by Vital Voices, a conversation with 3 rural women representing Ghana, Philippines and US indigenous women.
- Ecumenical Women Dinner - register in advance at
<http://ecumenicalwomen.wordpress.com/csw-56/>
- Friday, Mar. 2 12:10 pm Closing Holy Eucharist, Chapel
2:30 - 4:00 pm Rural Women and Domestic Violence: Organizing for Prevention by Patti Ackerman; Hardin Room, U.N. Church Center
6:00 - 8:00 pm AWE Dinner in Mezzanine—by reservation only



*Events listed above in bold typeface are AWE co-sponsored events

Confronting Modern Slavery: Prosecuting Sex Traffickers

April 24, 2012 at Marymount Manhattan College

5:30 – 8:30 PM

SAVE THE DATE for upcoming AWE-sponsored event!

The numbers of human beings, women, children and men commercially trafficked in today's world exceed the numbers of the African slave trade during the genocidal Middle Passage. This trafficking is an egregious crime against those enslaved by modern traffickers and an assault upon all the fundamental standards - legal, religious and philosophic - of the human dignity of all members of global society. It is of growing concern to civil society from the local to the global level. Citizens becoming aware of these crimes are seeking ways to overcome human trafficking and abolish modern slavery.

Chattel slavery was abolished by national laws and the slave trade of earlier centuries was legally outlawed by an international convention. The application of these and more recent legal standards offers possibilities to restore the rights of the victims and hold the perpetrators of sexual enslavement legally accountable in state, national and international courts.

This program will offer presentations and participatory discussions on how the legal standards are currently being applied and what concerned members of civil society can do to expand and strengthen such efforts to prosecute,

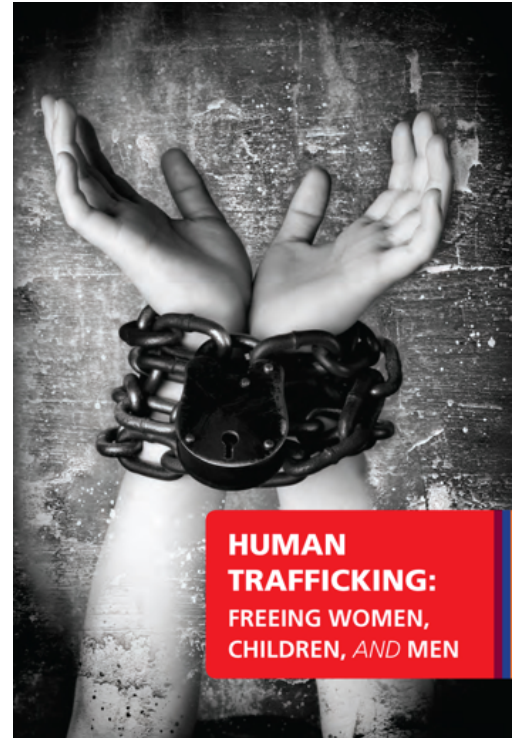
convict and impose appropriate sentences on sex traffickers.

Participants will be provided with resources about the legal standards and organizations taking the kinds of actions in which they themselves may participate as supporters or activists in this new abolition movement.

Organized and presented by Anglican Women's Empowerment and the Network for Peace through Dialogue in partnership with the following (list in formation):

The Global Campaign for Peace Education; the International Institute on Peace Education; the Interfaith Center of New York; the National Peace Academy*

*This program is one component of a professional development certificate course offered by NPA on "Teaching about Gender Crimes: Sexual Slavery." For further information on the course please contact the National Peace Academy. <http://www.nationalpeaceacademy.us/>



Thank you to:

Diane Eynon, ED.D who presented at the December AWE meeting in New York. In preparation for UNCSW's primary theme, Diane spoke about "Women, Food and Security." A New AWE Board Member, Diane is Director of Partnerships for Social Impact at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and is Founder at [WEE \(Women-Equality-Equity\) Matter](#)

Report on Episcopal Women's History Project Conference in Seneca Falls, NY October 24-26, 2011**from Susie Guise**

The setting could not have been better with historical churches in Seneca Falls and nearby Waterloo hosting the meeting. The hospitality was unbelievable. Staying at the renovated Clarence Hotel, which was the conference headquarters, was a treat in itself.

Two Bishops dropped in and the panel of women who received early ordination was video taped for distribution plus a beautiful evening banquet featured a beautiful tribute to Mary Donovan and the work she has done as founder of the project. Barbara Schlachter gave a wonderful reenactment of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and visits to the Women's History Center created the perfect ambiance to celebrate the lives of Church Women from the Civil War period up to the present time. The link back in time as well as the geographical connection with work of missionaries from this country and the seeds planted by those early chaplaincies devoted to indigenous work in the native languages emphasized the global reach and responsibility of the Church we all serve. This became evident in the business meeting when Board member Rev. Dr. Matilda Dunn proposed a definite link with AWE Anglican Women's Empowerment and asked me to carry that message of liaison hopes for the future. We also hoped to strengthen the message of both groups with the Episcopal Seminaries where so many women are testing their vocations.

Anglican Women's Empowerment - AWE

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It is never to late to donate!

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