



# ANGELICAN ALLIANCE

Development · Relief · Advocacy

## NEWS FOR PARTNERS

JULY 2014

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>Climate change advocacy across the Anglican Communion</i>	2
<i>Join Oceans of Justice and call on the G20 for climate justice</i>	3
<i>Anglican engagement in post-2015 development agenda</i>	4
<i>Innovative resources for refugees with disabilities</i>	5
<i>Church-community process in Bangladesh</i>	5
<i>Next steps after Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict</i>	6
<i>South Sudan update</i>	7
<i>Archbishop of Canterbury in Anti-Slavery initiative</i>	7

## Global webinar builds capacity for advocacy

A webinar hosted by the Anglican Alliance on 24th June 2014 brought in participants from every region of the Anglican Communion and encouraged them to call on world leaders and decision-makers to hear the voices of the most vulnerable.

Tagolyn Kabekabe, the Anglican Alliance's Pacific Facilitator, summarised the webinar when she said, "The global community need to have a listening ear - to listen to the most vulnerable rather than telling them what to do. Then we can begin to work together on these issues."

Tagolyn spoke alongside Brad Chapman, from Anglican Board of Mission, David Cook from Anglican Overseas Aid, and Ben Thurley from Micah Challenge. They had previously collaborated on climate change advocacy at the C20 Summit in Australia.

Presentations all encouraged the local church to take part in campaigns and initiate advocacy

on a local and global level.

Questions from participants in Australia, Bangladesh, the Caribbean, Kenya, the UK, and Vanuatu all highlighted the need for the church to be involved in external campaigns, engage with policy in a local and a global context, and initiate advocacy to speak out with the most vulnerable.

The theological underpinnings of advocacy were highlighted when Brad Chapman drew on the Five Marks of Mission to explain our call to advocate for the most vulnerable, and said, "We need to be the ones who speak truth to power."

David Cook highlighted the importance of building strong relationships with both the community as well as leaders and decision-makers in order to make advocacy effective.

And Ben Thurley gave two examples of grassroots faith-based engagement with

advocacy initiatives to address social issues from a local perspective.

The panel was chaired by Anglican Alliance Co-Director Revd Andy Bowerman who called in from Brazil. A group of participants in Nairobi, Kenya, included ten Provincial Mothers' Union Coordinators.

They wrote in to give an example of how their church is advocating with government representatives to enhance their efforts

"In Africa we have been discussing how the church can form partnerships with government, UN Bodies and Civil Society Organisations as a way of influencing policy and raising the church voices.

"We are seeing that our advocacy is enhanced by partnerships with government and others, where we can educate the community on the existing laws and what needs to change."

## Dear friends,

Welcome to the Anglican Alliance July 2014 News for Partners. There's much to report from the activities of churches and agencies around the Communion coming together through the Alliance. Together we are sharing learning and skills in development, speaking as a united voice in advocacy and collectively supporting church responses to disasters.

Inspired by the voices from the Pacific Islands, highlighting the devastating impact of rising sea levels, the Alliance has got behind the **Oceans of Justice** campaign led by the Pacific and Australian churches and agencies. Read about their inputs to the C20/G20 in Australia and please add your support to their advocacy petition. The Alliance also hosted a global webinar to share learning on effective advocacy in June 2014.

Anglicans played a significant role at the recent **Global Summit to End**

**Sexual Violence in Conflict.** The Archbishops of Burundi, Rwanda and Congo spoke at the London Summit alongside the Archbishop of Canterbury. Read on for more.

In **South Sudan**, the Episcopal Church continues to provide vital food and medical support to displaced people. The situation there is ever more critical; the UN reporting that four million people are in need of assistance. Anglican agencies and churches around the Communion have come together through the Anglican Alliance platform to support the work of the Episcopal Church. We talk here about our collective response in prayer and action.

Please read on for this and other news from Latin America, Asia, Africa and the Pacific. Please also go to the website to read more—see the box above for details.

And please contact us to tell us your news, by sending an email to [anglicanalliance@aco.org](mailto:anglicanalliance@aco.org), so that we can share your news with others.



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The Anglican Alliance is all about sharing the good news of the churches and agencies around the Anglican Communion on relief, development and advocacy. Together we can build our skills and collaborate to respond to God's call to be good news for the poor.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter! Do share it with your friends and colleagues, and join our Facebook and Twitter pages, which are linked above, to continue the conversation.

*Andy, Rachel and the Anglican Alliance team*

## Tagolyn Kabekabe takes Anglican voices from the Pacific to C20

In a presentation to the Civil Society (C20) Summit in Melbourne, Australia, in June 2014, Tagolyn Kabekabe brought the voices from Anglican churches and agencies across the Pacific and called for urgent action on climate change.

Following the Summit, the C20 released a Communique, which highlighted climate change as a top priority and said, "There can be no sustained economic growth without governments attending to the urgent ramifications of climate change [...] climate change must be a stand-alone issue on the G20 agenda."

The statement continued, "We expect G20 leaders to provide momentum to delivering an ambitious global climate agreement at the 2015 UNFCCC Climate Summit in Paris, by including a climate finance roadmap by April 2015

to help developing countries reduce emissions and manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change, and to implement mitigation strategies which will ensure that sustainable economic growth is not affected by rapid changes in the world's climate."

Tagolyn is continuing to work with churches and agencies across the Pacific—the *Oceans of Justice* campaign has just been launched by the Anglican Alliance, in coalition with Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Overseas Aid and churches across the region. This is calling Anglicans worldwide to join the call for climate change to be put as a stand-alone item on the G20 agenda.

Tagolyn Kabekabe was a key speaker at Voices for Justice this year, which is an event run by Micah Challenge Australia in Canberra each year. She



**Above: Tagolyn called for action on climate change at the Civil Society (C20) Summit in Melbourne this year.**

spoke there about the impacts of climate change in the Pacific and the current slow pace of action to reduce emissions and commit resources to climate change adaptation.

In a blog post following the event, Benton Wecker at Micah Challenge wrote, "The impacts

of climate change are more clearly understood in the Pacific Islands context than in Australia and it was wonderful to hear Tagolyn's perspective."

Tagolyn continues to push for the voices of Pacific islanders to be heard and for action to be taken on climate change.

## Alliance webinar prompts action on climate change advocacy

A group of priests, development practitioners and church leaders from Bangladesh took part in the Anglican Alliance's advocacy webinar in June 2014.

They were so excited by the discussion that they then met to take forward the insights that were shared.

With the Church of Bangladesh's critical action on climate change, the group discussed a number of areas where advocacy would help take action on climate change.

Key areas highlighted for

advocacy included:

- ◆ Fulfillment of financial commitments by developed countries
- ◆ Stronger monitoring systems for the effective use of climate adaptation and mitigation funds
- ◆ Significance given to community based adaptation
- ◆ Funding allocations to be the same for adaptation and mitigation
- ◆ A focus on issues related to climate change, such as

food security.

- ◆ Women, children and the most vulnerable should be considered as a priority in climate justice.
- ◆ Anglican eco-bishops\* should have strategic lead roles in climate change advocacy.

The participants proposed that the Church of Bangladesh should take more action on climate change and related issues.

A climate prone area in the

country would be chosen to initiate a pilot programme, which will seek more effective interventions to address the effects of climate change.

A community based adaptation approach (CBA) would be taken, and learning from the pilot would be shared, firstly to other areas of Bangladesh and then through the Anglican Alliance family of churches across the Anglican Communion.

\*The Eco-Bishops' Initiative is a project of the Anglican Communion Environmental Network.

## Comments on climate action from the WCC, written by Tagolyn Kabekabe

Climate change featured prominently at the most recent Central Committee meeting of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Geneva, which I and other Anglican representatives recently attended.

Displacement and relocation has been described by the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands as the "undeniable threat knocking at our door—a threat that the

international community is presently unprepared to address".

Small islands states produce the least cumulative greenhouse gas and yet suffer the consequences of the overall huge amounts produced globally per annum.

The questions we ask is, "Where is climate justice in all of this? Who is going to stand with Pacific islanders who are among the most affected?"

Across the Pacific, people are faced with climate-related issues every day: scarce resources, extreme weather, displacement, human rights violations, water scarcity, adaptation and island resettlement to name a few.

As part of the WCC, we have been tasked to carry out the 'Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace', integrating these things into our daily work.

As the Anglican Alliance

across the worldwide Anglican Communion, how can we carry forward this pilgrimage in our daily work? How can we take forward peace and justice in the face of severe and increasing climate change?

Join *Oceans of Justice* (see page 3) and stand with others around the world to address the causes and impacts of climate change and speak up with the most vulnerable.

## Oceans of Justice calls G20 to put climate change on their agenda

The Anglican Alliance has launched a global campaign, initiated by Pacific Islanders, to ask the Australian Government to make sure climate change is on the agenda when the G20 meet in Brisbane in November this year.

*Oceans of Justice* is online at <http://anglicanalliance.org/Advocacy/oceans-of-justice>

It can also be accessed offline through a paper sign-up system, so that those without the internet can sign the petition.

Voices from across the Anglican Communion are being asked to [sign the petition](#) and echo the prophetic call of Amos:

"Do you know what we want? We want justice—oceans of it. We want fairness—rivers of it. That's what we want. That's *all* we want." Amos 5:24 (The Message Bible).

*Oceans of Justice* has been launched by the Anglican Alliance, getting behind Anglican churches and agencies across the Pacific, who are facing first-hand the devastating effects of climate change.

Climate change is not an event that will happen somewhere in the distant future. It's happening right now, with devastating consequences for some of the world's most

vulnerable people.

In the Pacific, Australia's neighbourhood, rising oceans are poisoning agricultural land, washing away homes, and forcing people to abandon islands their people have lived on for thousands of years.

Despite this, the Australian Government has refused to add climate change as an urgent agenda item for the G20 meeting in Brisbane later this year.

People on the ground are already doing what they can to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change. Those living on the Pacific Islands say, "We are not drowning—we are fighting".

*Oceans of Justice* is asking the G20 to take urgent action and to tackle climate change:

- ◆ We need governments to bring urgent commitment to delivering an effective and ambitious global climate change agreement at the 2015 Climate Summit in Paris. This includes financing to enable countries to reduce emissions, implement mitigation strategies and respond to the impact, including help for climate refugees.
- ◆ We need governments to

recognise the challenge of food security, particularly in developing nations, and to ensure investment to support sustainable small-scale farming to support employment and food for the poorest communities.

- ◆ We are calling the G20 to recognise and tackle climate change and see policies put in place for mitigation and adaptation, for the future of our world and for the flourishing of all.

Climate change is affecting the most vulnerable, impacting communities in different ways. As the Anglican Alliance we

stand with local churches across the globe – churches and communities who want their voices to be heard by world leaders so that governments make decisions to stop climate change and respond to the impact.

It is one of the most pressing issues of our time. The future of our world depends on this.

The Anglican Alliance will build on the momentum of this campaign to contribute Anglican voices to the United Nations Climate Summit in September 2014, the shaping of the post-2015 sustainable development goals, and the lead up to the Paris 2015 UN



**Above: Oceans of Justice is uniting Anglicans across the world to bring the voices of Pacific Islanders to the G20 in Australia 2014.**

## How potato farming in Zimbabwe is helping to achieve the MDGs

Rev Fr Ishanesu Sextus Gusha, from the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe, has outlined how new techniques in potato farming are working towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Here is a summary of his writing:



People across Zimbabwe have swapped their potato fields for potato sacks, planting vertical gardens that increase harvests and improve income. Some of the eight MDGs are

being worked towards through this new approach:

1. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger: the new method of farming increases harvest significantly. A single plant in the sack can produce as many as eighty tubers, therefore food security is assured and income is also improved.
2. Achieve universal primary education: farmers are earning a much higher income and are able to send their children to school.
3. Promote gender equality and empower women: women and youth from Harare south have embraced this method of potato farming and are experiencing higher yields.
4. Reduce mortality: High mortality rate is caused mainly by a lack of nutritious food for infants. Diseases such as

kwashiorkor are caused by severe malnutrition of young children. Potatoes are nutritionally rich, especially in starch, vitamins, and fibre, and with rich soups and vegetables they can go a long way in reducing mortality rates.

5. Ensure environmental sustainability: this type of agriculture does not degrade the soil and therefore the environment is conserved.

Planting potatoes in sacks/vertical gardens has been viewed by many as a key tool in working towards eradicating extreme poverty.

Rev Fr Ishanesu Gusha has published his full article at <https://www.linkedin.com/today/post/article/20140630201656-112907333-from-potato-fields-to-potato-sacks-a-pastoral-response?trk=prof-post>

**Above: progress in potato farming with the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe**

## Post-2015 Summit engages faith leaders in Africa, written by June Nderitu

Faith leaders from across Africa met at the Commonwealth Resort in Munyonyo, Kampala, Uganda for the African Faith Leaders' Summit on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014.

The summit, which was hosted by the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda with support from the Government of Uganda, ran under the theme: *Enhancing Faith Communities Engagement on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*.

It was attended by the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa, who with a host of religious, inter-religious and ecumenical regional bodies from the continent aimed to scale up the engagement of faith communities and faith leaders in shaping the post 2015 development agenda.

A pre-summit conference for women, youth, children, persons with disabilities, and persons living with HIV/AIDS was held on the day preceding the Summit.

This pre-conference was organised to provide a platform for these constituencies to reflect upon and articulate their unique needs and concerns with regards to sustainable development and the post 2015 framework.

Dr. Elly Macha from the Ecumenical Disability Advocacy Network expressed the status of persons with disabilities over the years. She said that disability had always been perceived as an issue that needed pity and had perhaps led to its exclusion from the MDGs:

"Disability creates poverty and poverty leads to disability, we want to make sure our voice is not left out in the post 2015 agenda," she added.

The youth expressed their desire for the post 2015 agenda to offer more opportunities for economic empowerment,

while women representatives sent a strong message to African faith leaders to ensure that they were included, and had a sense of belonging.

Ugandan President, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni opened the official Summit. In his opening remarks, President Museveni affirmed the responsibility people have over creation according to the biblical account in the book of Genesis.

He strongly urged religious tolerance among the different faiths and a dedication to service, based on the story of the Good Samaritan, as a way of attaining sustainable development.

At the conclusion of the Summit, the faith leaders released a position paper—African Faith Communities' Position Paper on the Post-2015 Development Framework—and a press release. The position paper was inspired by the Common Africa Position that outlines the Africa Union Position, among other frameworks.

The follow-up programme of action will present African faith leaders with the opportunity to engage African governments and regional integration bodies both on the Summit resolutions and the broader global debates.

Faith Leaders were in agreement on the need to integrate the monitoring of national planning, implementation and accountability in the post 2015 agenda to ensure that the aspirations expressed in the position paper are realised.

At the close of the Summit, participants listened to the President of Liberia, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who is co-chair of the UN High Level Panel for the post-2015 agenda. She spoke in a message of solidarity and goodwill via a video link.

### Excerpts from **Statement by the African Faith Leaders' Summit on Post-2015 Development Agenda**

See our website for the full statement <http://www.anglicanalliance.org/pages/10163>

We have met to deliberate on the ongoing process of the post 2015 Development Agenda.

We have reflected on the development challenges of our time, all of which deny a life of dignity to God's people.

We affirm that the struggle for justice within and amongst countries is part and parcel of our religious mission;

Our experience of the achievements under the MDGs has demonstrated the potential that exists when communities and leaders at all levels and sectors align their efforts towards a common purpose.

As we seek to shape the new agenda for sustainable development, we are confronted with fresh challenges that demand a rethinking of approaches that informed the design and implementation of the MDGs.

The new development agenda must pay particular attention to the following realities:

- ◆ Development should be people-centred, inclusive, just and holistic
- ◆ Young people and children represent the greatest human resource ever bestowed on humanity
- ◆ Lack of integrity and accountability has compromised sustainability
- ◆ We derive strength in the wellbeing of each other

## Women's consultation brings together MU leaders across Africa

The Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA) hosted 10 Provincial Mothers' Union workers at a consultation in Nairobi, Kenya from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Representing the Provinces of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Central Africa, Kenya, West Africa, Indian Ocean, South Sudan & Sudan, and Congo, the MU coordinators brought a firm understanding of Anglican women's ministry across Africa.

The consultation was organised as a follow-up to the Primates' Wives meeting held in February 2014 in Lagos, Nigeria. At the end of

this meeting, the Primates' Wives released a Communiqué that was shared with the MU leaders.

Main objectives for the consultation were to share experiences and best practices on women's ministry, and to discuss the post 2015 development agenda. The gathering also saw the beginning of a network to bring together those in women's ministry in Africa.

Some of the highlights from the meeting came as the leaders shared their own experiences, such as running the MU literacy programme in Burundi or South Sudan & Sudan, and training

traditional birth attendants in the Province of Central Africa.

A discussion around the post-2015 agenda included the questions: "What achievements has your country made towards the Millennium Development Goals?" and "What gaps exist in the goals as they are now?"

Participants brainstormed together and in regional groups to decide the areas they thought Africa should prioritise in the post 2015 agenda. This was inputted into the Africa Faith Leaders' Summit, which was later held in Uganda.

Of utmost importance was the need for the church to engage

governments in keeping them accountable in achieving development targets.

The consultation ended with the participants adopting a message of solidarity with the women and girls of the Province of Nigeria, following the kidnapping of girls from a school by terror groups.



**Above: the leaders visited 'Farming God's way'**

## Research and resources developed for refugees with disabilities

Research carried out by Anglican teams in Burundi and Zambia highlighted the challenges faced by refugees with disabilities. The research has supported the development of a toolkit that can be used by faith groups and communities as they support refugees affected by disabilities.

Joined by faith leaders, community carers and people with disabilities, the teams learnt more about the lives of refugees with disabilities and their challenges and capabilities. The initiative is supported by DFID's Humanitarian Innovation Fund.

Kinama refugee camp in Burundi and Mahebe refugee settlement in Zambia were visited. Workshops and community engagement activities were carried out, and further teaching and

discussion about disability.

The Zambian Anglican Council development team, led by Grace Phiri Mazala, co-facilitated the workshops in Mahebe settlement.

In Burundi, the Bethesda project of Muyinga Diocese gave teaching and workshops about disability, which were led by Evariste Hatungimana.

Drama and role plays were particularly effective as they showed the different quality of life that people with disabilities can have when their families and the community treat them with respect and dignity.

1 Corinthians 12:26 says, "If one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices." Workshop participants were encouraged to reflect deeply on this Bible passage. They shared moving stories from their experience

of attitudes to disability and the need to build mutual respect and care, and to challenge discrimination. In both settings people with disabilities and their carers often felt isolated and alone.

One young mother

in Kinama camp has a ten-year-old son who is severely disabled by cerebral malaria. She explained how isolated she feels as the neighbours leave her alone and she has to leave him by himself to get water and other essentials.

In Mahebe settlement, Anita, a young woman from the Democratic Republic of Congo, has severe mobility problems as a result of childhood polio. She would love to continue her education, if she could only get to the local school. She believes in developing her capacities, "because the person is vulnerable but viable."

Faith leaders and community leaders listened carefully to the discussions and reflected on the capabilities and difficulties of people with disabilities.

Participating fully in simple tasks was often made more difficult for people with disabilities simply because of the attitudes that their family, the community and the authorities had towards them.

The leaders that were present were determined to do something about it.

Janice Proud, Relief Manager at the Anglican Alliance said, "It was really encouraging to see the commitment from faith and community leaders to respond to the challenges that they had heard from the team and the



responses from the people with disabilities. They were starting to plan how they could continue to profile people with disabilities, which will help enable them and their carers to participate fully in daily life."

As a result of this visit and the insights that community and faith leaders have had, the teams have developed a resource that will help faith leaders and community carers to better support people with disabilities in refugee and IDP (internally displaced peoples) camps. The teams have since returned to the camps to test this resource and develop it further.



**Above: refugees with disabilities took part in workshops and discussions.**

## Church-community mobilisation success, written by Michael Roy

An Umoja/CCM programme called 'Swarupantor', which means 'self-transformation' in Bangla, has been successfully introduced by the Church of Bangladesh, to build unity between the church and community and work together for their development.

Remarkable change has already been seen in the community and among church leaders; the church and community have been brought closer together and ownership has been given to the community for their own development.

Across Dhaka and Kushtia Diocese 13 groups have been formed with around 400 members who are facilitated by parish priests.

An advisory committee, which includes church bishops and the Anglican Alliance Asia Facilitator Michael Roy, is guiding the programme. The process is supported by

Tearfund and Us (formerly USPG).

The church has noted more effective communication and an increase in the understanding of mutual needs. Goals and planning for development are made together.

A number of initiatives have already seen success: including giving access to toilet facilities and planting trees to restore the environment. Family visits to the sick and elderly are also in place, and groups regularly take part in Bible studies and theological discussions to bring social and spiritual change.

Swarupantor has built the capacity of the church to build relationships with their communities more purposefully and see their objectives and mandate realised.

The community have described the



**Above: Swarupantor participants share insights**

process as realistic, achievable and holistic.

Inside the church people are equipped to address their issues in a biblically informed and participatory way.

An evaluation will take place once the pilots are complete, and a second phase will be rolled out to all parishes.

## Next steps for faith communities in work to end sexual violence

Anglicans took part in a range of platforms at the Global Summit, which took place from 10-13 June 2014, speaking out to highlight the role that faith groups have in preventing sexual violence in conflict. The Anglican Alliance, as part of the *We Will Speak Out Coalition* ([www.wewillspokeout.org](http://www.wewillspokeout.org)), was involved in delivering three events.

The Anglican Archbishops of Congo, Burundi and Rwanda and the Archbishop of Canterbury spoke at panel discussions. A team of Anglicans from different parts of the Anglican Communion, including South Asia, West Africa, Europe and from Episcopal Relief & Development in the USA, also participated in the summit activities alongside colleagues from the Anglican Communion Office. In other parts of the world Anglicans contributed to events in their own countries.

The Global Summit brought together government ministers from over 140 countries and representatives from faith groups, civil society, grassroots organisations, the judiciary, militaries and international organisations, to agree practical actions to help put an end to the use of sexual violence in conflict.

The positive contribution of faith communities on preventing and responding to sexual violence was marked by the Co-Chairs of the Global Summit, UK Foreign Secretary William Hague and UN Special Envoy Angelina Jolie. In his closing speech, William Hague said:

"We noted that good laws and

international agreements in themselves are not enough if attitudes don't change. In this respect, faith groups have a key role to play, including in their role providing care, treatment and support for survivors. Through their networks, they often have access and influence with local communities that no other actor has. As such, they are uniquely placed to change hearts and minds, and challenge cultural and social norms, including notions of masculine identity as it affects sexual violence. The Summit recognised the need to engage faith-based organisations as active partners in the fight against sexual violence, both in helping to formulate strategy and in providing front-line support to survivors".

Building on this affirmation of the role of faith communities in ending sexual violence, the *We Will Speak Out* coalition has called on governments to do the following:

- ◆ Commit to meaningful partnership with faith groups on the issue of sexual violence;
- ◆ Recognise the distinctive value and key potential role of faith groups in prevention and response to sexual violence, particularly in conflict;
- ◆ Implement the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict – specifically the need for governments to invest in realistic practical actions, including in active conflict where state and judiciary structures may not function, that build



**Above: the Archbishops at Lambeth Palace**

on the role of faith leaders in challenging cultural impunity, accessing legal literacy and helping to connect survivors to essential legal services.

- ◆ Sign and promote the 'We Will Speak Out' Pledge as demonstration of an explicit commitment to ending sexual violence ([www.wewillspokeout.org/pledge](http://www.wewillspokeout.org/pledge))

The *We Will Speak Out* coalition will be continuing to connect local faith communities to training, resources and advocacy opportunities to enable faith communities to work together to end sexual violence. The Anglican Alliance, Episcopal Relief & Development and the Director for Women in Church and Society at the Anglican Communion Office are core members of this coalition.

For more information on faith engagement at the End Sexual Violence in Conflict Global Summit see <http://www.anglicanalliance.org/pages/11041>



Archbishop Rwaje Onesphore from Rwanda spoke in a multi-faith panel discussion on 'The role of faith leaders in preventing and responding to sexual violence'. You can see more on this event and video message at: <http://www.anglicanalliance.org/news/19375/>

In the picture above, UK Foreign Secretary William Hague meets Archbishop Rwaje Onesphore and Revd Nicolas Guerekoyame-Gbangou, president of the Evangelical Alliance in Central African Republic.



Archbishop Henri Iningoma, pictured above, from the Democratic Republic of Congo, spoke in a panel discussion on 'The holistic role of faith communities working to end sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo'.

Archbishop Henri joined the ecumenical panel and outlined the work of the church across the region and how the next steps for faith communities. See more at <http://www.anglicanalliance.org/news/19377>



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, pictured above, and Archbishop Bernard Ntahoturi, from Burundi spoke on the priorities for action in a ministerial dialogue at the Summit. You can see more at <http://www.anglicanalliance.org/news/19503>

The dialogue was chaired by Baroness Warsi and provided an opportunity to speak to ministers, senior policy makers from governments, the United Nations and the European Union.



**These pictures have been sent to the Anglican Alliance by the Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan.**

**Above left: children line up for feeding in Awerial**

**Above right: a displaced family arrive at Lologo 2 camp in Juba**

## Churches together in anti-slavery initiative

The Archbishop of Canterbury continues to give inspiring leadership to the movement within and beyond the Church to end slavery in modern times. It is truly shocking that two hundred years after the end of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade, human beings are once again trafficked and kept in slavery - an estimated 29 million people worldwide.

In his recent visit to Rome, Archbishop Justin Welby met with the Council of the Global Freedom Network, established in March this year. You can see more about this visit at <http://www.anglicanalliance.org/news/19123>

Rachel Carnegie, Co-Director of the Anglican Alliance, was present as a member of the Council. Addressing the Council, Archbishop Justin expressed his hope that "the Global Freedom Network will be able to bring all those working on these issues into unity."

He said, "In social teaching we have a belief in human dignity - for human beings to be loved, sheltered and protected. No human can

be a tool of economic demand."

Later Archbishop Justin and Rachel met with James Kofi Annan, a campaigner to end slavery and also a survivor of child slavery himself. He gave a tragically powerful account of being sold as a six-year old child into slavery in the fishing industry in Ghana. Seven years later, after terrible suffering, he finally managed to escape and now runs an NGO which has already rescued 1000 children from slavery.

James said, "I am particularly happy that churches have come together. Both abusers and the abused may come from the Christian community." Talking about his own work in Ghana, James said: "The ILO estimates that 20,000 children are enslaved on Lake Volta. The figures of slavery are enormous but not insurmountable."

The next day, in his meeting with Pope Francis, Archbishop Justin spoke of the anti-slavery initiative. He said, "I am grateful for

the progress that has been made through the generous support of many, to draw the attention of the world to the evils of Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The Global Freedom Network can achieve much practically to dismantle what you have so often rightly said is a grave crime against humanity. It is a crime that we all need to overcome as a matter of urgency, as a matter of human dignity, freedom and wholeness of life. May God give us the resolve and cooperation we need together."

During this year, the Anglican Alliance is drawing together all those around the Anglican Communion who are working on issues of modern slavery/ human trafficking to share our insights and to learn from each other and from other faith-based and secular entities working to end this terrible trade in human misery.

Please contact the Anglican Alliance to share links and contacts on this issue.

## South Sudan update

The Episcopal Church of South Sudan and Sudan (ECSSS) has continued its inspirational humanitarian response to assist communities affected by the conflict in South Sudan.

When the fighting began in December 2013, people turned to the churches seeking help and protection. For example, when one community fleeing from Bor found temporary shelter on the banks of the Nile outside Juba, the local Anglican priest helped them. As one woman said: "We have fled from the fighting, all of us together, the people of God together. The Church accompanies us. It brings what food it can."

Guided by the provincial Emergency Crisis Committee, SUDRA (the Church's development and relief office) has worked with colleagues from across the ECSSS to reach a target of 77,000 people, those most in need, with food rations and 5,000 people with medical support. It has been a remarkable response, seeing churches and agencies from across the Anglican Communion standing together in support of ECSSS. The Anglican Alliance has provided a platform to coordinate this support so that ECSSS can work to a single reporting framework. Episcopal Relief & Development and Christian Aid have given technical support to SUDRA in developing and delivering their work.

Seven months after the conflict began and despite peace negotiations, over a million are displaced and in need of assistance. The insecurity meant that many communities were not able to plant their crops in June and the threat of famine looms. According to the UN OCHA report around four million people face alarming food insecurity, of whom only half are currently being reached with assistance. The Church has suffered too, with members killed and thousands of members, along with their clergy and bishops, displaced by the fighting and church buildings and other property destroyed.

ECSSS will shortly begin Phase 2 of its response, prioritising four areas: continued relief distribution to the northern states, peace building/reconciliation activities at local and national levels, psychosocial support to traumatised children and adults and income generating activities through the Mothers' Union to help families recover.

Details of the Phase 2 appeal will soon be posted on the Anglican Alliance and partner agencies' websites. The Anglican Alliance will also be working with churches and agencies around the Communion to support a prayer and awareness campaign, to accompany the Church in South Sudan and keep the situation in the consciousness of the world.

For more information see <http://anglicanalliance.org/news/18982/>



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## Bible study workshops for development, by Paulo Ueti

A course and workshop on contextual Bible study and how the Bible can be used to transform people and communities was run in Guatemala City from 16th-27th July. It was coordinated by Rev. Neli Miranda, an Anglican priest from the Diocese of Guatemala, chaplain of the English speaking parish of St. James and coordinator of the Theological Education and Biblical Program of the educational centre CEDEPCA.

Reading the Bible with the communities, and working in communities with the Bible in one hand and newspapers in the other were the main focus of discussions.

Gathering more than 50 people, including Anglicans, the course aimed to train people to practice contextual Bible Study in their communities, and use the Bible as a "light to our path" (Psalm 119:105).

Janet Sarker is the Education Coordinator for the Church of Bangladesh. She took part in the Anglican Alliance's Commonwealth Professional Fellowship Scheme for women leader's in education in 2014. Here Janet shares how she is taking her new learning to the schools of Bangladesh.

"I have been introducing the upgrading of school management for the Church of Bangladesh. This has taken place through sharing our strategic planning and vision for the future. Our plans include:

- ◆ Visiting the schools and sharing the activity plan to

Participants were encouraged to get to know the Bible and its contexts, and so listen to God today in our own context, just like at Pentecost.

The workshop was run with interlinked objectives, which become cyclical:

- ◆ *Getting to know the Bible* leads to people to live together in the community
- ◆ *Living together in community* leads to serving the people
- ◆ *Serving the people* soon leads to desiring a deeper knowledge of the original context of the Bible.

People were encouraged to become more committed to their struggles and overcome obstacles to work together for development.

They were eager to get back to their own communities to take forward what they had learned.

A group of indigenous

people—the Kekchi people from the countryside of Guatemala—said that the time was very enlightening and helped them to understand the voice of God to them, supporting them in their struggle against the land owners who are evicting them from their land.

A group of women also commented on how important it was to get more in touch with the stories of Ruth and Naomi in their struggle for life, land, bread and heritage.

The workshop inspired Christian people to keep up the struggle and change the world, by using the Bible as their inspiration and not conforming to the current times.

Paulo Ueti is also working on a theology course with Foundation Cristosal, who work with local leaders in El Salvador to strengthen development.

## Sharing learning with leaders of Bangladesh schools

upgrade the management of the school;

- ◆ Arranging training for teachers and the head teachers for better schooling and effective administration; and
- ◆ Planning a follow-up to evaluate the results achieved and initiate further need-based training.

A training plan to achieve this includes skills development, introducing the student-centred learning process, increasing the student's role in school leadership, and improving classroom management.

The whole process has been

taken up by the teachers very enthusiastically. They said the plan was "the need of the time".

The Church of Bangladesh has 57 schools of different levels, from multi-lingual pre-primary to high schools, with 11,175 students and 265 teachers. Most of our schools are located in the remote areas of the country, which are inhabited by poor people and public schools facilities are rarely available.

Improvement in the school management is now a prime concern in the process of making the institutions effective and sustainable."

## Church responds to flash-flooding in Honiara

The Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) Provincial Disaster Committee has highlighted the response of the church to communities affected by flash-floods in the Solomon Islands, which occurred in April 2014.

Almost 40,000 people were affected, with 22 confirmed dead and over 10,000 displaced.

ACOM's Disaster Committee,

proposed a two-phase response, which ensured support for the most affected families and included trauma healing and counselling support for those still living in evacuation centres.

Funds from Episcopal Relief & Development, Anglican Board of Mission, and Melanesian Mission have enabled the church to continue their effective

outreach.

There are still concerns about access to clean drinking water and increased cases of illnesses such as diarrhoea and malaria.

ACOM said, "We would like to convey our sincere appreciation all our overseas mission partners in the immediate positive response to our request for emergency relief"