

THE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY *of* THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES *of* AMERICA *at* THE UNITED NATIONS



- The Global Relations Officer of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) serves as the main representative to the United Nations (UN) on behalf of the Presiding Bishop and The Episcopal Church, representing positions through advocacy, presence, and hospitality and fostering the building of relationships between Episcopalians and the United Nations. The Global Relations Officer also liaises and collaborates with the Anglican Communion's representatives and offices to the UN on issues of mutual concern.
- The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society has enjoyed formal association with the UN via the Department of Public Information ("DPI association") for many years and was granted accreditation of "special consultative status" in the Economic and Social Council of the UN in 2014. This allows the Society to submit statements, make oral interventions, and bring official advocacy delegations to UN meetings.
- During the 2012-2015 triennium, the Global Relations Officer, Canon to the Presiding Bishop, DFMS staff, and interested Episcopalians have visited representatives of permanent missions from numerous countries, as well as UN staff.
- Episcopalians serve at the UN in many other ways, including as UN staff and representatives of governments and other nongovernmental organizations.
- Episcopal congregations and dioceses worldwide educate, raise awareness, and develop programs on substantive issues discussed at the UN, including those featured below.
- The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society and Episcopal congregations and dioceses refer to UN observances and special days to highlight areas of ministry of the church and to focus on the spiritual and material needs of Episcopalians worldwide. Examples include World Refugee Day, World Health Day, International Women's Day, and World AIDS Day.

Environment and climate change

- In March 2015, the Presiding Bishop hosted a churchwide forum on climate change that referred to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and included 30 Days of Action with daily action suggestions for individuals to reduce their carbon footprints.
- The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society has organized the participation of Episcopalians in UN Climate Change meetings and provided churchwide education about the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Human trafficking

- Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society staff participate in UN discussions related to human trafficking and in the NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons.
- In 2013, the Society hosted a live and online churchwide educational and advocacy conversation on human trafficking during the UN Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW).

Human assistance

- Episcopal Relief & Development coordinates regularly with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs on matters of disaster response, including the Haitian earthquake, Japanese tsunami, and American Gulf Coast rebuilding.

Indigenous peoples

- Indigenous Episcopalians and DFMS staff participate annually at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In 2015, The Episcopal Church brought its first official delegation and submitted its first official statement, on youth, self-harm, and suicide. Episcopalians also participate in the annual International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.
- DFMS staff participated in the high-level plenary meeting known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in 2014.
- In 2012, the Presiding Bishop led a delegation that collaborated with other churches in written and oral statements repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery.

Interreligious and ecumenical cooperation

- DFMS staff and Episcopalians participate regularly in ecumenical advocacy and interfaith/interreligious events at the UN, including the World Interfaith Harmony Week each February.
- From 2013 to 2015, The Episcopal Church served as co-chair of the faith-based advocacy coalition Ecumenical Women at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.

Migration and refugee resettlement

- The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society partners with the U.S. State Department and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to coordinate refugee resettlement in

multiple US locations. The Society's Episcopal Migration Ministries service worked closely with UNHCR to resettle nearly 5,000 refugees in 2014.

- DFMS staff from Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Office of Government Relations annually observe World Refugee Day to highlight the church's ministries and the contributions of refugees.

Poverty eradication and sustainable development

- The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been a churchwide mission priority since 2006. The Church pledged 0.7% of its annual budget for 2010-2012 to global development priorities, and the MDGs have shaped the advocacy work of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society since their inception.
- DFMS staff closely follow the negotiations on the emerging Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda that will replace the MDGs at the end of 2015 and become the new global development framework until 2030.
- UNICEF has provided funding to Episcopal Relief and Development for the NetsforLife® malaria-prevention program's work in the Congo, Ghana, and Liberia.

Women and girls

- Since 2000, up to 100 Episcopalians have participated annually in events for the UN Commission on the Status of Women. In 2015, The Episcopal Church submitted its first written statement and brought its first official delegation to UNCSW.
- Through social media and participation in live events, Episcopalians raise awareness of girls' rights and concerns, including those identified through the UN Working Group on Girls and the International Day of the Girl Child.
- Episcopalians participate annually in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence in November-December.

Youth and young adults

- The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society offers workshops and training that connect youth and young adults with UN activities.
- Youth and young adults have participated in multiple UN events, including the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. As a result of participating at UNCSW, a young women's group from St. George's Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, VA launched a community radio show based on UNCSW themes.