

ANGLICAN/ EPISCOPAL PRESENCE AT UNCSW 63

“Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”

March 11th – 22nd, 2019



Fact Sheet

The 63rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) will be held from Monday, 3/11 to Friday, 3/22/2019. Since 1946, this event has convened annually to promote women’s rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields, and to make recommendations on urgent problems facing women and girls. It reached a turning point in 1995 at the [Fourth World Conference on Women](#) with the adoption of the [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#), a global policy framework for gender equality and the empowerment of women that set out 12 Critical Areas of Concern. The priority theme for this year’s session will be “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”. A major focus will continue to be implementing [Agenda 2030](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Anglicans and Episcopalians at UNCSW63

Anglican and Episcopal women have participated in UNCSW since at least 2000. In 2019, the traditionally strong Anglican and Episcopal presence continues with participants representing more than 10 countries or Anglican provinces:

- The Anglican Communion welcomes 8 accredited delegates, each representing her province: Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia; Burundi; The Episcopal Church; Japan; Melanesia; The Scottish Episcopal Church; Southern Africa and West Africa. The Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church will be represented by Ms. Jennifer Allen (Diocese of Kansas, United States).
- The Episcopal Church welcomes 9 accredited delegates, each named by Presiding Bishop Michael Bruce Curry. They hail from provinces across The Episcopal Church, specifically the Dioceses of Connecticut, New York, Delaware, Southwest Florida, South Dakota, Dallas, El Camino Real, Colombia and the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. They are guided and accompanied by members of the Presiding Bishop’s staff serving as fellow delegates. Delegates will observe the official UNCSW meetings, represent the Presiding Bishop and the Church’s written statement submitted to UNCSW, network and meet with UN officials and representatives of member states, attend side and parallel events and reflect during UNCSW on how to take their experiences back home to their communities, work to empower women and girls locally and to train up new women leaders.

The Episcopal Church Center also will welcome Episcopalians and Anglicans participating in UNCSW in groups or individually. They include participants from the Mother’s Union, United Society Partners in the Gospel, St. George’s Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, VA, churches in the Diocese of New York. Also present will be ecumenical faith partners with Ecumenical Women, a faith-based coalition of which both the Anglican Communion and The Episcopal Church are members.

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Shared program of hospitality, worship and events

The Episcopal Church Center has offered hospitality and gathering space to Anglican and Episcopal participants for decades. This year's events will take place in the Chapel of Christ the Lord:

- On 3/11, 9 – 11:45 am, a Welcome for all UNCSW 63 participants followed by a group viewing of the UNCSW opening session via live webcast in the Chapel.
- On 3/11, 12:10 – 1 pm, a UNCSW Opening Eucharist for all participants, Episcopal Church Center staff and the public. The Reverend Glenda McQueen, Presiding Bishop's Partnership Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean will celebrate.
- On 3/11, 1 – 2 pm, an Orientation for Newcomers. All are welcome, especially first timers seeking to network or connect with other participants.
- On 3/22, 12:10 – 1 pm, a UNCSW Closing Eucharist offered by UNCSW delegates.

Episcopalians and Anglicans also will participate in orientation, ecumenical worship and events hosted by Ecumenical Women, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, non-governmental organizations, UN entities and member states.

In addition, many Anglican and Episcopal groups will host parallel events at the Church Center for the United Nations and throughout the Episcopal Diocese of New York. For more information, consult the [The Episcopal Church calendar](#) and the [NGO CSW Forum schedule of parallel events](#).

Episcopal Church advocacy at UNCSW 63

Presiding Bishop & Primate Michael Bruce Curry submitted a written statement to UNCSW's 63rd session on behalf of The Episcopal Church, which is based on General Convention resolutions, and can be found here: <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2019/NGO/90>. It highlights three advocacy priorities for furthering gender equality and empowerment around the priority theme:

- Implement gender-responsive solutions to gaps in social protection systems, public services and sustainable infrastructure
- Prioritize marginalized groups of women and girls in extending social protections, public services and sustainable infrastructure
- Promote gender equality education and practices and eradicate gender-based violence

The Presiding Bishop's delegation will participate actively in advocacy at the UN based on the Presiding Bishop's statement, including training, communication with member states and organizing mission visits, and continuing advocacy back home with their local communities. The statement also serves as a foundation by which delegates may share their own stories, reflections and concerns.

The Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion also participate in advocacy with Ecumenical Women. They are signatories to the joint written statement compiled by Ecumenical Women, found here: <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2019/NGO/81>. Both delegations will join Ecumenical Women in raising awareness to end gender-based violence by wearing black on LinkUp2EndGBV Sunday on 3/10 and [Thursdays in Black](#) on 3/14. Join them virtually by posting a photo of yourself wearing black, preferably with a group in your local parish, on 3/10 with hashtag #LinkUp2EndGBV and on 3/14 with hashtag #ThursdaysinBlack.

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Episcopal Church communications at UNCSW 63

All UNCSW participants are encouraged to share their UNCSW experience with the wider community from their own unique perspectives. Feedback might include stories and information via news reports, blogs, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and posted pictures.

Participants are encouraged to share their stories using the communication tools below. Use the hashtags #CSW63, #EpiscopalUN and #EpiscopalCSW to share with the wider Church and follow others, including our Presiding Bishop's delegation.

Key resources:

UNCSW 63rd session page: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019>

Anglican Communion: <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/>

Anglican Communion at the United Nations: <https://anglicancommunion.org/mission/at-the-un.aspx>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/AnglicanUN>, @AnglicanUN

Anglican Communion Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalun/>

Anglican Communion Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/anglicancommunion/>

Anglican Communion News Service: <https://www.anglicannews.org/>

The Episcopal Church: <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/>

The Episcopal Church and the United Nations: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal-church-and-united-nations>

The Episcopal Church and the United Nations Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalun/>

Episcopal UN Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EpiscopalUN>, @EpiscopalUN

Episcopal News Service: <https://www.episcopalnewsservice.org/>

Hashtags: #EpiscopalUN, #EpiscopalCSW, #CSW63

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