

ANGLICAN/ EPISCOPAL PRESENCE AT UNCSW 65
“Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life,
as well as the elimination of violence,
for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”

March 15th – 26th, 2021



Fact Sheet

The [65th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women \(UNCSW 65\)](#) will be held from Monday, 3/15 to Friday, 3/26/2021. Since 1946, UNCSW 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. UNCSW 65’s priority theme will be “Women’s full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. An additional focus will be the review theme, “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development”, and the continued implementation of [Agenda 2030](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#).

Anglicans and Episcopalians at UNCSW65

Anglican and Episcopal women have participated in UNCSW since at least 2000. In 2021, the traditionally strong Anglican and Episcopal presence continues with participants representing multiple regions and countries across the Anglican Communion:

- The Anglican Communion welcomes 8 accredited delegates, each representing her province: Australia; Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia; Brazil; Burundi; The Episcopal Church; Church of England; Pakistan; Jerusalem and the Middle East. The Episcopal Church will be represented by Ms. Clare Hendricks (Diocese of Montana, United States). Information about the Anglican delegation can be found here: <https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2019/11/building-on-success-in-2019-anglican-women-prepare-for-united-nations-conference-in-2020.aspx> and <https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2020/11/acoun-says-churches-are-%E2%80%9Cimportant-partners-of-governments%E2%80%9D-to-achieve-gender-justice.aspx>. Delegates will host their own events, write blogs, and engage with people in their own regions.
- The Episcopal Church welcomes 6 accredited delegates, each named by Presiding Bishop Michael Bruce Curry. They hail from provinces across The Episcopal Church, and the Dioceses of Chicago, New York, Olympia, Pittsburgh, West Texas and Venezuela. They are guided and accompanied by members of the Presiding Bishop’s staff and other leadership volunteers 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, advocate alongside ecumenical and interfaith partners, attend side and parallel events and reflect during UNCSW on how to take their experiences back home to their communities and train up new women leaders. Biographies for the Presiding Bishop’s delegation can be found [here](#).

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- The Episcopal Church also has provided accredited passes for an Episcopal Relief & Development delegation headed by Dr. Chiseche Mibenge, Director of Gender Initiatives. They include International Program staff Kaylie Cordingley, Vesta Oduro-Kwarteng and Ernest Cajuste with [program partner](#) Albert Atama of the Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo (PEAC).

Besides the accredited delegations, many other Episcopalians and Anglicans will participate in UNCSW in groups or individually. They include participants from the International Anglican Women’s Network (IAWN) and other pan-Anglican groups, St. George’s Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, VA and from ecumenical faith partners.

Shared program of worship and events

While the Episcopal Church Center remains closed to the public due to the pandemic, the ongoing program of hospitality and fellowship that has gathered Anglicans and Episcopalians for decades will continue. All welcome, all times posted in Eastern time:

- 3/11, 5 – 6:30 pm, “Welcome to UNCSW 65: Meet the Presiding Bishop’s Delegation”
- 3/15, 12:10 – 1 pm, UNCSW65 Opening Worship
- 3/18, 11:30 – 1 pm, “What’s Faith Got to Do With It?” Parallel event offered by the Anglican Communion through the NGO CSW platform.
- 3/19, 5 – 6:30 pm, “Harnessing the power of the Church to end domestic abuse.” Parallel event offered by the World Evangelical Alliance in collaboration with the Anglican Communion through the NGO CSW platform.
- 3/24, 12:00 - 1 pm, “Presentation on how engaging faith and traditional actors lead to transformative change in communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo” by Episcopal Relief & Development and program partner, the Province of the Anglican Church of the Congo (PEAC)
- 3/25, 5 – 6:30 pm, “Taking It Back Home: Report Back from the Presiding Bishop’s Delegation”
- 3/26, 12:10 – 1 pm, UNCSW 65 Closing Worship

For more information and registration, see the [Episcopal Church UNCSW webpage](#), the [Episcopal News Service Events page](#) and the [NGO CSW Forum schedule of parallel events](#).

Episcopalians also are invited to join the Presiding Bishop’s delegation, other Episcopalians and Anglicans and the wider interfaith community in praying, at noon in their time zone, the Beijing Noonday Prayer co-written by Episcopalians and other people of faith and prayed at noon every day in Beijing in 1995. The prayer can be found on the [Episcopal Church UNCSW webpage](#).

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Episcopalians and Anglicans also will participate in orientation, ecumenical worship and events hosted by Ecumenical Women, the Faith in Beijing collective, the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, and by civil society, UN entities and member states.

In addition, many Anglican and Episcopal groups will host virtual parallel events. For more information, see the [NGO CSW Forum schedule of parallel events](#), the [Episcopal Church UNCSW webpage](#) and the [Episcopal News Service Events page](#).

Anglican Communion and Episcopal Church advocacy at UNCSW 65

The Anglican Communion submitted this CSW65 statement on behalf of the Anglican Consultative Council: <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/NGO/4> and also signed on to joint statements by the Faith in Beijing coalition, one focused on COVID recovery and faith involvement: <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/NGO/117> and the other focused on the priority theme: <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/NGO/147>.

The Anglican Communion’s Office at the United Nations will host Twitter campaigns focusing on introducing their delegation and advocacy priorities for CSW65 at both [@AnglicanUN](#) and [@AnglicansEndGBV](#).

Presiding Bishop & Primate Michael Bruce Curry submitted a written statement to UNCSW’s 65th session on behalf of The Episcopal Church, which is based on General Convention resolutions, and can be found here: <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2021/NGO/69>. It highlights three priorities to accelerate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls around the priority theme:

- Prioritize marginalized women and girls in planning, resource allocation and programs
- Increase women’s access to power and decision-making positions
- Promote gender equality education and eradicate violence against women and girls

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

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Communications at UNCSW 65

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, social media and posted pictures. Participants are encouraged to share their stories using the communication tools below.

Key resources

UNCSW 65th session page: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw65-2021

UN Women: www.unwomen.org

The Episcopal Church UNCSW webpage: <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/global-partnerships/episcopal-church-united-nations/uncsw/>

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

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

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

The Episcopal Church and the United Nations Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EpiscopalUN>

Episcopal Relief & Development: <https://www.episcopalrelief.org/> #EpiscopalReliefCSW, #EpiscopalRelief

Anglican Communion Representation at the United Nations: <http://www.aco.org/mission/at-the-un.aspx>

Anglican Communion UN Twitter: @AnglicanUN and @AnglicansEndGBV

Hashtags: #CSW65, #Beijing25, #GenerationEquality (official UN hashtags), #EpiscopalCSW and #EpiscopalUN (all things Episcopal Church and the UN), #AnglicanCSW (Anglican Communion at CSW)

For further information:

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Dr. Chiseche Mibenge, Director of Gender Initiatives, Episcopal Relief & Development, cmibenge@episcopalrelief.org

March 1st, 2021