Fact Sheet

The 64th session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW 64) will be held from Monday, 3/9 to Friday, 3/20/2020. 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 64 is a banner year as the 25th anniversary of Beijing, and the priority theme for this year’s session will be “Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”. An additional major focus will continue to be implementing Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Anglicans and Episcopalians at UNCSW64

Anglican and Episcopal women have participated in UNCSW since at least 2000. In 2020, 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: 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 is here: https://www.anglicannews.org/news/2019/11/building-on-success-in-2019-anglican-women-prepare-for-united-nations-conference-in-2020.aspx

- The Episcopal Church also welcomes 8 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, Rhode Island, West Texas, Venezuela and Western North Carolina. 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, 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. Information about the Presiding Bishop’s delegation can be found here: https://mailchi.mp/episcopalchurch/episcopal-delegates-named-for-march-2020-united-nations-commission-on-the-status-of-womendelegadas-episcopales-nombradas-para-comisin-de-las?e=6b5dbf5166

The Episcopal Church Center also will welcome Episcopalians and Anglicans participating in UNCSW in groups or individually. They include participants from the Anglican Communion’s official delegation, International Anglican Women’s Network (IAWN), Mothers’ Union, USPG and other pan-Anglican groups, Episcopal Relief &
ANGLICAN/ EPISCOPAL PRESENCE AT UNCSW 64
“Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action”

March 9th – 20th, 2020

Fact Sheet

Development, St. George’s Episcopal Church in Fredericksburg, VA, churches in the Diocese of New York and from ecumenical faith partners with the Ecumenical Women and Faith in Beijing coalitions.

Shared program of hospitality, worship and events

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

- On 3/9, 9 – 11:45 am, a Welcome for all UNCSW 64 participants on “Celebrating the Blessing of Beijing” followed by a group viewing of the UNCSW Opening Ceremony via live webcast in the Chapel.
- On 3/9, 12:10 – 1 pm, a UNCSW Opening Eucharist for participants, Episcopal Church Center staff and the public, with the Right Reverend Mary Glasspool, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of New York, preaching.
- On 3/9, 1 – 2 pm, an Orientation for UNCSW Newcomers. All are welcome, especially first timers seeking to network or connect with other participants.
- On 3/16, 2 – 4 pm, “Realizing the Dream”, an Episcopal Church panel discussion on Beijing +25 and beyond for our world, countries and Church.
- On 3/20, 12:10 – 1 pm, a UNCSW Closing Eucharist offered by UNCSW delegates.

Two special opportunities to celebrate Beijing +25

- 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 the time zone where they are located, the Beijing Noonday Prayer that was 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’s UNCSW webpage.
- For this historic 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Presiding Bishop’s delegates and other Episcopal and Anglican participants are invited to participate in a two-part reflection on “Beijing +25: Celebrating the Blessing, Realizing the Dream”. “Celebrating the Blessing” considers the achievements of women’s and girls’ empowerment since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China in 1995; “Realizing the Dream” evaluates the remaining challenges to realizing women’s and girls’ empowerment, both within the world, our individual countries and within the Church. Episcopalians can participate by filling out the Ecumenical Women survey on The Episcopal Church’s UNCSW webpage and by following the special events planned for this two-part reflection on March 9th and 16th at the Episcopal Church Center, via hashtags #EpiscopalCSW and #EpiscopalUN.

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

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’s calendar and the NGO CSW Forum schedule of parallel events.
Episcopal Church advocacy at UNCSW 64

Presiding Bishop & Primate Michael Bruce Curry submitted a written statement to UNCSW’s 64th session on behalf of The Episcopal Church, which is based on General Convention resolutions, and can be found here: https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2020/NGO/197. It highlights five areas in need of urgent further effort to accelerate gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls around the priority theme:

- Prioritize resources and programs for marginalized women and girls.
- Address climate change and environmental concerns.
- Eradicate violence against women and girls.
- Increase access to resources, public services, social protections, and infrastructure.
- Increase access to economic and political power and decision-making.

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 serves as a foundation by which delegates may share their own stories, reflections and concerns.

Episcopal Church communications at UNCSW 64

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.

Key resources:
- UNCSW 64th session page: www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw64-2020
- UN Women: www.unwomen.org
- The Episcopal Church’s UNCSW webpage: https://episcopalchurch.org/united-nations-commission-status-women-uncsw
- The Episcopal Church: http://www.episcopalchurch.org/
- The Episcopal Church and the United Nations webpage: https://www.episcopalchurch.org/episcopal-church-and-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
- Anglican Communion UN Twitter: @AnglicanUN
- Hashtags: #CSW64, #Beijing25, #GenerationEquality, (official UN hashtags), #EpiscopalCSW and #EpiscopalUN (all things Episcopal Church and the UN), #AnglicanCSW (Anglican Communion at CSW)

For further information:
- Lynnaia Main, Episcopal Church Representative to the United Nations, lmain@episcopalchurch.org, (212) 716-6128
- Jillian Abballe, Advocacy Manager and Head of Office in New York, Anglican Communion Office at the United Nations, jillian.abballe@anglicancommunion.org, (212) 716-6262

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