

Fri 8 March 2013



At the present time, I am attending the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57) in New York. The CSW is a part of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

It has been amazing to meet so many women from around the world with stories of inspiration and courage. The goal for agreement this year is 'the elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls'. There are over 800 NGO's represented and around 2000 Ministers and government representatives 'at the table'.

In the opening address the importance of the NGO's was highlighted. Indeed, they were described as the 'voice of the people'! It is a privilege to be here as the delegate for Australian Anglican women and I am very mindful of the importance of the work that we do through Anglicare.

The issues under negotiations are many and include: the forced labour of men women and children; the trafficking of women and girls; child marriage, women's right to education and safety. This week there have been difficulties with what the differing governments are prepared to commit to. With such diverse cultures and traditions, and an undercurrent of 'conservatism' throughout, trying to negotiate on a number of issues has proven difficult. Last night we attended a reception at the Australian Consulate and met Ambassador Quinlan. In his address he spoke of how threatening this influence continues to be across the global community. However, he also spoke of the increasing significance of women as peace keepers. Quite a heartening statement!

The following links will provide an overview of the participants, activities and statement put forward by Ecumenical Women: <http://ecumenicalwomen.org/>

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm>

This week I attended a Talking Circle made up of Indigenous women representing many countries. This time of sharing was very significant and it was wonderful to connect with these sisters.

Our Pacific neighbours

Tonight I am attending the NGO Regional Caucus, which includes all of our neighbours in the Asia Pacific Region. It is interesting to note the diverging issues and those we have in common. Small nations such as PNG, Tonga and Fiji have experienced the impact of climate change and this has impacted on the violence experienced by women. Data reveals that domestic violence has increased significantly following the resettlement that follows such change. When we consider the impact of the successive flooding and burning within Australia and the effect on people's lives, it is of concern. Perhaps this is one of the reasons

why the incidence of domestic violence is occurring at a higher rate in rural as opposed to metropolitan areas. Sadly, it is `the home' that has proven to be the most `unsafe place' for women across the world.

The organized events have been very informative and solution focused. There has been some amazing work presented by NGO's and `faith based' organizations. The Anglican Communion has recently developed a wonderful resource called `Restored' and I look forward to informing the dioceses of this and other effective programs in the near future, including other means in which we can address/support this issue.

Meanwhile, please pray for the success of the negotiations; that they may take place in the light of Gods justice mercy and love. I look forward to sharing this time with you upon my return!

By **Archdeacon Karen Kime**

Comments

Just cause it's simple doesn't mean it's not super helpful.

Made by Leatrice on Sun 30 June 2013