



## Newsletter

# Women on the Frontline

### FOREWARD

Greetings from Women on the Frontline (WFL). In our third edition, we bring you highlights of our work before, during and after the Lambeth Conference. In the summer of 2022, the presence of WFL was noticed by the Bishops and Spouses from across the Anglican Communion. The Ministry convened two very rewarding sessions including retreats and seminars at conference. WFL hopes you would be inspired to pray, support and share the stories in this newsletter with your networks as the ministry moves forward to Engage, Enable and Equip Bishops' Spouses across the Anglican Communion and beyond.

### MENTORING SESSIONS

These sessions began before the Lambeth Conference with a representation of at least two spouses from each of the Provinces visited: Solomon Islands, Burundi, South Sudan, DRC/West Africa.

We continued to run the remaining sessions after the Conference. The aim of these sessions is to enable them, guided by the principles of WFL, to convene a team in their own Provincial contexts. The principles of WFL affirms God's love for every spouse and that God is part of this role and He is in it.

WFL had two receptions and presentations with the aim for the spouses to know each other. It was also a time of reunion especially for spouses who have had a WFL experience and visit. These meetings were attended by over 50 spouses with concerns including a need for training and capacity building for spouses. The need for support particularly for spouses in conflict areas due to influx of displaced people sheltering in churches and dioceses was another concern.



There was a lot of interest and encouragement for WFL, including possible visits to provinces such as Australia, Brazil, India, West Africa, Kenya and follow up visits to Burundi, Melanesia, South Sudan and in the refugee camps. "We sincerely want to appreciate and congratulate you all for such a wonderful conference... must tell you that I have been part of the 2008 Lambeth can attest to the differences." Spouse, Mama Estelle, Cameroon featured in the photo below in a colourful red dress and Mama Lilian from South Sudan.

The training sessions with spouses (usually a Primate's wife or a recommendation from a Primate's wife) to equip them to mentor other spouses in-country. Women on the Frontline (WFL) continues the work of engaging, enabling and equipping Bishops' spouses from across the Anglican communion as potential reconcilers. Mama Yunia, a South Sudanese refugee spouse, " Since I came back from the Lambeth, I have done one training with the South Sudanese women and mobilized six bishops' wives and women workers for a retreat.... I plan to conduct other trainings in the camps - we would like WFL to come ..."



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*Mama Yunia*



## TOOLKIT

The work of WFL continues to play a significant role during and after every visit in all the provinces and more after the Lambeth Conference. The toolkit is a resource to help provide ideas to conduct a retreat or a training in a non-prescriptive manner. The toolkit is designed to be used flexibly to support the sessions that have been chosen. The toolkit contains several sessions including a general introduction on the meaning of reconciliation, reconciliation with God, within ourselves, within our family, within our church, within our wider community and with creation. WFL encourages the spouses to choose what is relevant in their context or not at all, if nothing in the toolkit works in their situation.



### Thematic content – experiences of division and reconciliation...

| 1) With God    | 2) Within ourselves | 3) Within family | 4) Within church  | 5) Within wider community   | 6) In creation |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Bleeding Woman | Hannah              | Naomi            | Euodia & Syntyche | Samaritan woman at the well | Genesis        |

## WEBSITE & WFL PRINCIPLES

A website is also underway which includes images reflecting the five principles: Presence, Parity, Particularity, Potential and Prayer.

**Presence:** signifies solidarity and strengthening of relationships among spouses, a bond that connects WFL team with Provinces across the Anglican Communion.

**Parity:** WFL Sees every women as equal to the other regardless of the hierarchy, education, age , language, colour or position other women hold.

**Particularity:** This is a non-prescriptive training geared towards the relevant and specific contexts within the Anglican Communion. This principle focuses on personal or individual need and assures each of these women that God knows their personal needs , knows and loves them.

**Potential:** This principle affirms that each of the spouses are called by God and that God loves and had chosen them for the various roles they play in their provinces, dioceses and communities. This principle is particularly significant in the retreat as spouses listen and reflect on God's voice.

**Prayer:** Prayer is a very important highlight of Women on the Frontline. It is a component that runs all through the work and ministry, before, during and after. When WFL concludes a visit, secret prayer partners are revealed which is such a beautiful experience.

## REFLECTION ON THE LAMBETH CONFERENCE

The Lambeth conference was a very rewarding platform for the presence of WFL to be noticed. The two meetings convened including reconciliation, Gender Justice and Days for Girls seminars enabled the presence of WFL to be noticed at the conference.

The five principles and the mentoring sessions became relevant as spouses continued to interact with one another across all divides. It was wonderful to see the spouses come together around the sessions. There was a lot of wisdom shared in the group presentations coupled with significant cheer from the facilitators and a lot of encouragement. The presentations brought a sense of team work and confidence.



*The presentations brought a sense of team work and confidence.*

## GENDER JUSTICE

Women on the Frontline had some input in a seminar led by Mandy Marshall, the Director of Gender Justice in the Anglican Communion, co-Chaired by Bishop Rachel Treweek and Archbishop Carlos Simoa at the conference. The seminar helped to enable spouses consider their own leadership roles in teaching and modelling gender equitable norms and mobilizing their own communities for gender justice and harmful patriarchal cultures. The seminar highlighted that gender inaction are a form of gender injustice and gender based violence, particularly aspects that disempower women and girls. It also emphasized on the call for spouses together with bishops and church leaders including members of the Mothers Union in the different contexts across the Anglican communion to be agents of change.





## DAYS FOR GIRLS

A seminar led by Diane Graham and co – chaired by Bishop Wilson Kamani from South Sudan and Bishop Pushpalitha from South India was another very rewarding seminar for the spouses at the Lambeth Conference. Bishop Kamani is one of the Bishops and church leader motivated to become an agent of change in his Diocese. He recognizes that the stigma and taboos around menstruation ought to be broken and positive health education around menstruation promoted. Menstrual hygiene products is a sustainable income generating activity that the spouses found useful in this session. The spouses said, this would be a very useful tool to educate the young men, women, boys and girls in their respective dioceses after the conference. The program also promotes access to affordable menstrual hygiene products.



## PRAYER SUPPORT

We are so grateful for the continuous and generous support of J.C Flowers, Lambeth Partners, Anglican Communion Fund, friends and all well-wishers. The work of Women on the Frontline has only been possible because of your prayer and financial support.

In our previous newsletter we asked you to pray for the Lambeth Conference, past and planned visits in 2023. We are glad to let you know that we had a very rewarding conference and were able to make new connections at the conference.

WFL hopes with your continuous support we would be able to follow up and strengthen these relationships with Spouses, and women leaders from across the Anglican Communion. Continue to pray for:

- The mentorship program which is ongoing
- Progress of the toolkit
- Development of the website to enable the work of WFL to be sustainable.

We would like you to become a friend of Women on the Frontline and help us support the spouses, the Mothers Union and women in this Ministry, whether with prayer or by making a donation, please contact the WFL team at [wfl@lambethpalace.org.uk](mailto:wfl@lambethpalace.org.uk)

To keep up to date with future activities of WFL, Please look out for our website and next newsletter coming up soon.

**Women on the Frontline**