

Mothers' Union at UNCSW, March 2024

11th – 21st March, 2024, a joint delegation of Mothers' Union and the Anglican Communion attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, and advocated in particular for:



- Funding of adult female literacy programmes, to enable women to lift themselves and their families out of poverty increase their self-esteem; improve the wellbeing of their communities and reduce Gender Based violence.
- Engagement with faith-based organisations to implement grassroots, transformational programmes which are sustainable, because they are anchored in their communities and act as volunteers, often in the hardest to reach, most marginalized communities
- Reform global financial injustice



During the week, Mathilde Nkwirikiye, former Provincial president of Burundi, talked at side events organized by the UKCSWA, Christians for the elimination of violence against women and girls and NAWO on the role of literacy, as evidenced by the MU experience over 20 years, in helping women to build their self-esteem and become able to support their families and strengthen their communities, also leading to a reduction in domestic violence.



The Anglican Communion and Mothers' Union organized an event, Chaired by Bishop Rachel Treweek of Gloucester, at which Mathilde spoke, looking at the practical ways in which the Church and related organisations address the issues of poverty.

Rev Sarah Pidgeon, provincial president for New Zealand and Aotearoa, spoke at a NAWO event on Social Protection, where she called for protection of the most vulnerable women and girls, especially those in care, and for support for survivors.

The delegation also held meetings with government delegations:

Mathilde Nkwirikiye and CEO Bev Jullien, together with Genny Kresic from MU Canada, met with the Ambassador to the UN and Minister for Human Rights for Burundi and the wider delegation met with Maria Wyard, UK Head of Women and Girls international engagement.



Throughout the week, Bev Jullien and other members of the Mothers' Union/Anglican Communion delegation, attended evening briefings by the UK Government Equalities Office for UK based NGOs attending the Conference, which were very constructive and informative.

Also throughout the week, the delegation started each day in worship with Ecumenical Women, and led worship on Thursday, with the

theme of Thursdays in black, calling for an end to gender based violence.



