Welcome to the

Mothers' UNION

Worldwide Gathering 2026

2 October 2026

Durban

Schedule

Day 3

2 October

Session	Time
Pre-Service Music & Preparation	8:30am – 8:45am
Worship Service – Go into all the World	9am – 10am
Tea and refreshments	10am – 10:30am
Keynotes & Panels	
The Church as an Agent of Justice	10:30am – 11:30am
Family Panel 3 – The Crisis in our Homes	11:30am – 12:30pm
Lunch	12:30pm – 2pm
She Stood Up: Women Who Changed the World Through Faith	2pm – 3pm
Afternoon Tea and Refreshments	3pm – 3:30pm
Family Panel 4 – Families Under Pressure	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Commitment Cards	4:30pm – 4:45pm

Schedule

Day 3

2 October

Session	Time
Cultural Evening	
Welcome to the Cultural Evening	5:15pm – 5:20pm
Opening Performance – Africa Leads the Way South African welcome of traditional music, Zulu/Xhosa/Sotho dance, and song	5:20pm – 5:45pm
Choirs	5:45pm – 6:50pm
Closing Blessing of the Cultural Evening	6:50pm – 7pm

Being Present Together

To help us make the most of our time together, we kindly ask that you keep your phones away during the event and put them on silent. Wherever possible, please refrain from taking or making phone calls during the event. Please take the opportunity during the breaks to catch up on messages and correspondence.

Live streaming, FaceTime and personal recording are not permitted throughout the event. We have a professional photography and recording team with us who will be capturing the occasion, and recordings and photographs will be shared with members afterwards.










Support
Unite
Rise Up against domestic abuse
Inform
Rise Up against domestic abuse
Pray
Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
RISE UP
against domestic abuse
Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



Prayer Room

A quiet space is available throughout the Gathering for prayer, reflection and quiet time by the toilets on the right-hand side of the stage.

Whether you want to spend a few moments in stillness, pray for our Mothers' Union family around the world, or simply take some time for yourself, you are warmly invited to use the prayer room.

You are welcome to come and pray at any time.




BFCS
Welcome
May all who enter as guests,
Leave as Friends




FILTON
PARISH CHURCH
SHIREHAMPTON


150
150
150
150
150
Life
Life



Health and Safety

Please familiarise yourself with the exit routes and assembly points indicated by the signage throughout the venue.

A dedicated first aid station is located at the main medical desk. For health and safety reasons, staff members are not permitted to distribute personal medications or painkillers.

Certified Intermediate Life Support (ILS) and Basic Life Support (BLS) are present throughout the event. If you feel unwell or require medical attention, please notify any staff member immediately.






Celebrating 150 years of
Mothers' Union
150




Mary Sumner
150
YEARS



Safety and Security

If you notice any safety hazards or experience an incident, please report it immediately to a member of the safety team from Cumme Safe or venue staff.

Be aware of your surroundings, take care when moving through high-traffic corridors, and report any potential hazards to staff immediately.

Please take all badges, lanyards and name tags off before leaving the ICC Exhibition Centre.


ST. CYPRIAN'S
(ANG.) CHURCH
PORT HARCOURT


150
YEARS









Please note

All table and venue decorations are to be left where they are and not moved or taken away.

There are additional worship songs across the Gathering that are not printed in the worship booklet. Please refer to the screens for the lyrics.

Please always mind your belongings. For lost and found items please report to safety desk.




MOTHERS UNION
150TH
ANNIVERSARY
MARY SUMNER




AFIA


DONATED BY
MELCOM


Mothers UNION
Christian care for families
Who we are
Join Us, Join In!



Pre-Service Music & Preparation

Please take your seat by 9am

Mothers' UNION



Go into All the World

Worship service

Mothers' UNION

Welcome

Today we gather as Mothers' Union from across the world, from different countries, cultures, languages and circumstances, yet united in Christ. Sisters and Brothers in Christ.

We come not simply to hear what God has done in the past. We come to listen for what God is doing now.

We come to hear the Word of God, to sing, to listen to the experience of our sisters and brothers around the world, and to allow the Holy Spirit to challenge and encourage us.

For wherever Christ is at work, there is a call to respond. Where there is poverty, we are called to stand alongside people who are vulnerable. Where there is violence, we are called to work for safety and peace.

Where there is injustice, we are called to speak and to act. Where there is despair, we are called to bring hope. And wherever Christ sends us, we are called to go. So today we gather with open hearts. We gather ready to listen. We gather ready to respond. And we gather ready to be sent.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

We have come from many places, but we come as one family in Christ. The Spirit of God is among us.
Let us worship God together.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us. **We come to worship the living God.**
Christ calls us to bring good news to the poor.
Give us hearts that are ready to serve.
Christ calls us to proclaim freedom and hope.
Give us courage to speak and to act.

Christ sends us to be his witnesses throughout the world.
Send us, Lord.
From nation to nation, from generation to generation, God calls his people.
Here we are, Lord.
Come, let us worship God.
Come, let us praise his name.

Opening Hymn

Open the eyes of my heart
Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy holy holy

Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
Holy holy holy
I want to see You

CCLI Song # 2298355
Paul Baloche

First Reading - Isaiah 61:1–4

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion— to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendour.
They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness.

Hallelujah! We sing your praises; all our hearts are filled with gladness
Christ the Lord to us said:
I am wine, I am bread; I am wine, I am bread.

Give to all who thirst and hunger, Now he sends us all out,
strong in faith, amid doubt,
strong in faith, amid doubt.
Tell to all the joyful gospel.

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona,
di thabile kaofela.
Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona,
di thabile kaofela.

Testimonies

The Gospel calls us not simply to listen, but to live. Across the world, Mothers' Union members respond to the needs of their communities through prayer, practical action, advocacy and service.

The circumstances may be different from one place to another, but the call of Christ is the same.
We now hear testimonies from our members, sharing something of their experiences and work of Mothers' Union.

Second Reading - Luke 4:16-21

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them,
“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord
All: Praise to you, O Christ

Hymn

Great is thy faithfulness,
O God, my Father;
There is no shadow of
turning with thee.
Thou changest not, thy
compassions, they fail not;
As thou hast been, thou
forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new
mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand
hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.

Summer and winter and
springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in
their courses above
Join with all nature in
manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness,
mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new
mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand
hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.

Pardon for sin and a peace
that endureth,
Thine own dear presence
to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and
bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine and ten
thousand beside.

Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new
mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand
hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.

Thomas O. Chisholm (1923)

Let us be still before God.
Let us listen for the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Let us ask not only, “What have we heard?” but also, “What are we being called to do?”

The Word of God has been proclaimed.
We have heard the witness of our sisters and brothers.
We have been reminded that the Spirit equips and sends God’s people. So let us make our response.

Where there is
need, send us.
Here we are, Lord.
Where there is poverty,
send us.
Here we are, Lord.
Where there is violence,
send us.
Here we are, Lord.

Where there is injustice,
send us.
Here we are, Lord.
Where there are families
who need support and hope,
send us.
Here we are, Lord.
Where Christ calls us to
serve, send us.
Here we are, Lord.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray for the world in which God has placed us.

For the Church throughout the world; for bishops, clergy, lay leaders and all God's people; for those who proclaim the Gospel in words and actions; and for all who seek to make Christ known.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For families in every nation;
for marriages and relationships under strain;
for parents and children;
for people who are separated from those they love; and
for all who need support, encouragement and hope:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For people living in poverty; for people without food, safe shelter, education or opportunity; for families and individuals affected by inequality and discrimination and for all who work to challenge the causes of poverty and injustice: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For all who experience violence, abuse or exploitation; for survivors and their families; for people and organisations who offer refuge, support and practical help; and for everyone working to build safer homes and communities: **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

For Mothers' Union in every province, diocese and community; for every member, trustee, chaplain, volunteer and leader; For all who pray; for all who serve; and for all who speak up for families and vulnerable people:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the Mothers' Union work that lies ahead; for wisdom to recognise where God is calling us; for courage to respond; for creativity to meet new challenges; and for faith to trust the Holy Spirit:

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Prayer of Commitment

God of mission, you have not called us simply to gather. You have called us to go. Renew us by your Holy Spirit. Give us courage to speak where there is injustice. Give us compassion where there is suffering. Give us strength where there is violence. Give us perseverance where poverty seems overwhelming. Give us wisdom to strengthen families. Give us humility to listen. And give us faith to follow wherever you lead. Make us willing instruments of your peace, your justice, your compassion and your love. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us. Christ sends us into the world to bring good news, to serve, to stand for justice and peace, and to strengthen families and communities.
As we leave this gathering, let us go where Christ calls us, trusting in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Go in the power of the Spirit.
We go in the name of Christ.
Leader: Go in faith, go in love, and go ready to serve.
Send us, Lord.
Leader: Let us go together. **All: Amen**

Closing Hymn

Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’,	We are marching in the light of God,
Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’,	We are marching in the light of God,
Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’,	We are marching in the light of God,
Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos,	We are marching in the light of God
Siyahamba, hamba,	We are marching, marching,
Siyahamba, ooh, ooh!	We are marching, ooh, ooh!

Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos,
Siyahamba, hamba,
Siyahamba, ooh, ooh!
Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’.

We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, ooh, ooh!
We are marching in the light of God.

We are singing in the light of God,
We are singing in the light of God,
We are singing in the light of God,
We are singing in the light of God

We are singing, singing,
We are singing, ooh, ooh!
We are singing in the light of God.
We are singing, singing,
We are singing, ooh, ooh!
We are singing in the light of God.

We are dancing in the light of God,
We are dancing in the light of God,
We are dancing in the light of God,
We are dancing in the light of God

We are dancing, dancing,
We are dancing, ooh, ooh!
We are dancing in the light of God.
We are dancing, dancing,
We are dancing, ooh, ooh!
We are dancing in the light of God.

Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’,	We are marching in the light of God,
Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’,	We are marching in the light of God,
Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’,	We are marching in the light of God,
Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos,	We are marching in the light of God
Siyahamba, hamba,	We are marching, marching,
Siyahamba, ooh, ooh!	We are marching, ooh, ooh!

Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos,
Siyahamba, hamba,
Siyahamba, ooh, ooh!
Siyahamb’ ekukhanyen’ kwenkhos’.

We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, marching,
We are marching, ooh, ooh!
We are marching in the light of God.

Go into all the world. Go in the power of the Holy Spirit. Go with courage. Go with compassion. Go with the peace of Christ.

And may the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.



Refreshment Break

Please return by 10:30am

Mothers' UNION

The Rt Revd Dr Vicentia Kgabe

Bishop of Pretoria
Anglican Church of Southern Africa

The Church as an Agent of Justice





June Butler

MU Zonal Trustee



Harriet Baka

Speaker



Sue Rivers

Speaker



Susan Watson

Speaker

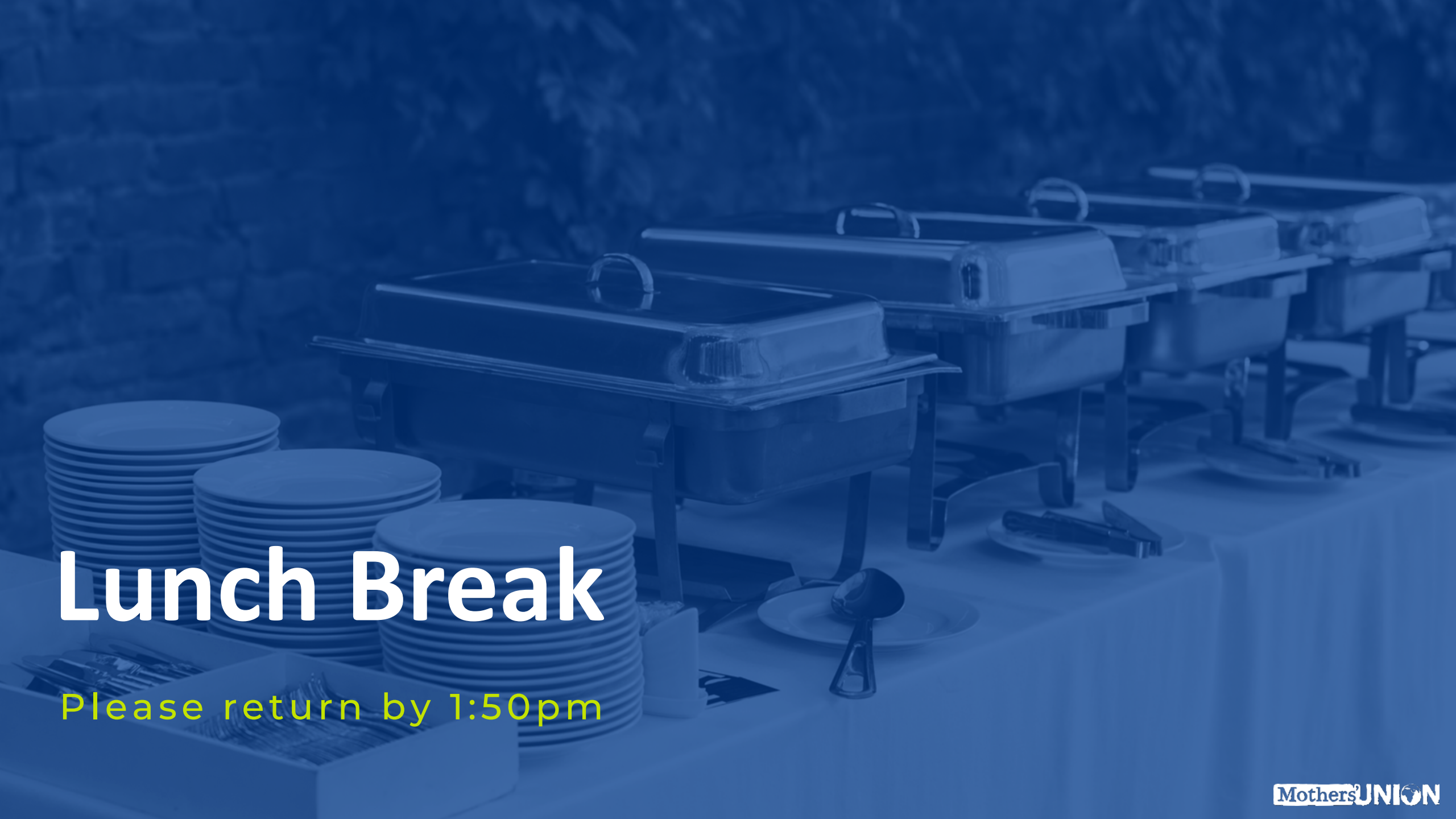


Ephena Matthew

MU Zonal Trustee

Family Panel 3 – The Crisis in our Homes

Mothers' UNION



Lunch Break

Please return by 1:50pm

Mothers' UNION



Sarah Newnham

Mothers' Union Director
of Global Programmes



Octavia Lucy Leisa

Speaker

She Stood Up: Women Who Changed the World Through Faith



Refreshment Break

Please return by 3:30pm

Mothers' UNION



Mandy Marshall

Moderator



Revd Dr Rachel Mash

Anglican Communion Environmental Network

Evelina Chachane

Speaker



Hanna Kim

Speaker



Steph Nunn

Mothers' Union Director of Membership

Family Panel 4 - Families Under Pressure

Mothers' UNION



Commitment Cards

Each delegate writes a commitment

Mothers' UNION

The Invitation

Beloved in Christ, for one hundred and fifty years the Mothers' Union has been a light kindled in the home, in the Church, and in the nations of the world. Today we do not merely remember a flame once lit; we take our place among those who tend it still.

You hold in your hands a card. Let it be more than paper. Let it be a lamp you fill today, that its light may reach the generations who are yet to come.

The Word of God

From Matthew, chapter 5

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Writing of the Commitment

Let us keep silence and let each of us write what the Spirit lays upon our heart.

Let us offer to God what we have written.

We bring our promises before you, Lord, and we ask that you would seal them with your grace.

The Prayer of Blessing

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose faithfulness has carried the Mothers' Union through one hundred and fifty years of service, we thank you for Mary Sumner and for all who, in every generation, have answered your call to nurture families in faith and love.

Bless, we pray, these cards and the commitments written upon them. Let them not be words alone, but seeds planted in willing hearts.

Where we have promised prayer, deepen our praying.
Where we have promised service, strengthen our hands. Where we have promised love, enlarge our love, until it reaches the households of the nations.
As a flame is passed from candle to candle without losing its light, so let this commitment pass from us to our children, and from our children to theirs, until Christ himself is the light every generation walks by.

Amen.

The Blessing

The Lord bless these cards, and the hands that wrote upon them, and the homes to which they will return. The Lord who has kept the Mothers' Union for one hundred and fifty years, keep you also, this day and always.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you, now and for generations to come.

Amen.

The Commissioning

Go now as bearers of the light entrusted to you.

We will carry the light for the sake of families, for the sake of the Church, and for the sake of the world.

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Comfort Break

Please be back for the Cultural Evening at 5pm

Mothers' UNION

Welcome to the

Mothers' UNION

Cultural Evening

2 October 2026

Durban

See you tomorrow from 8:30am for a 9am start!

Please remember to take your lanyards off before leaving ICC.

150 YEARS OF Mothers' UNION
Join us, Join in

#MU150Durban

www.mothersunion.org/mu150durban