

7 February 2012

Dear Bishop

Anglican Refugee and Migrant Network (ARMN)

Warmest greetings from the Anglican Communion Office.

I am writing to you:

- to let you know about the Anglican Refugee and Migrant Network (ARMN)
- to introduce you to the Network's coordinator, the Revd Catherine Graham
- to ask if you would kindly provide insights and information from your own diocese or area
- to ask for contact details for one or more persons who would be willing to keep in touch with ARMN on behalf of your diocese or area.

ARMN was formally re-established by the Anglican Consultative Council when it met in 2009:

Resolution 14.31: Anglican Refugee and Migrant Network

The Anglican Consultative Council

- welcomes the re-establishment of the Anglican Refugees and Migrant Network as an official Network of the Anglican Communion
- thanks the Province of Hong Kong for hosting the Network, and
- commends the objectives of the Network to the Provinces.

The objectives referred to in clause (c) are listed at the end of this letter.

The Anglican Province of Hong Kong has appointed the Revd Catherine Graham as coordinator for ARMN based at St John's cathedral in Hong Kong. Catherine has ten years' experience of working on issues of migrant labour in the Gulf states of the Middle East and is now looking forward to working with Anglicans throughout the Communion.

Catherine's role as ARMN coordinator is to support the implementation of the Network's objectives and, in the process, to support information sharing, consultation and action on refugee and migration issues within the Anglican Communion. Catherine will also look for opportunities to collaborate with the Anglican Alliance for Development, Relief and Advocacy, and to engage with ecumenical partners, United Nations and other agencies.

As you know, conflict, persecution, climate change and environmental degradation, natural disaster, and the global financial crisis have led to unprecedented movement of people across the world. United Nations figures show that in 2010 there were 214 million migrants. There are also 27.5 million internally displaced people and 15.4 million refugees worldwide. This means that about one in every 28 persons in the world is a migrant, internally displaced person or refugee.

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Across the Anglican Communion, church communities are supporting migrants, internally displaced people and refugees in many different ways. To help Catherine understand how best to facilitate networking among Anglicans who are involved in such mission and ministry, and to enhance international awareness and support of local initiatives, we would like to ask for your assistance.

Catherine would be very grateful to receive as much information as you are able to offer in respect of migrants, internally displaced people and/or refugees in your diocese or area. This might include a description of the local situation with any available statistics, together with an account of particular challenges faced locally by children, women and men who are now living away from their country or place of origin – and also by host communities.

Catherine would also value any information you are able to give concerning the church's mission and ministry among, or on behalf of migrants, internally displaced people and/or refugees. This work might cover a broad range, for example, helping congregations to become aware of global situations giving rise to the displacement of people and the gospel imperative to respond to those in need; providing pastoral care and opportunities for worship for new arrivals; offering practical support.

It would be very useful to know of any engagement with local government and agencies, and with international structures or agencies on these matters.

Keeping in touch

Finally, Catherine would be grateful if you could put her in touch with a person or persons in your diocese, engaged in these concerns, who would be willing to participate in ARMN, sharing news and information electronically for the mutual benefit of all involved.

Catherine's contact details are as follows:

Email: cgraham@stjohnscathedral.org.hk

The Revd Catherine Graham
St John's Cathedral
4-8 Garden Road
Hong Kong SAR
China

ARMN's immediate plans include the setting up of a website for the Network within the Anglican Communion portal at www.anglicancommunion.org, and the formation of a global management committee, representative of the Communion, to help steer its activities. Any information you are able to provide will help to shape the way forward for ARMN as it begins to network Anglicans concerned with migrants, internally displaced people and refugees and their gospel needs.

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Catherine is looking forward very much to hearing from you. Thank you sincerely for your kind attention to this new initiative in the Anglican Communion which aims to serve God's mission among some of the world's most vulnerable people.

Yours sincerely

Terrie Robinson

The Revd Terrie Robinson
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Objectives of the Anglican Refugee and Migrant Network

1. To share information, ideas and experience, and to provide affirmation and mutual support for front-line programme-workers and programme-managers working with refugees and migrants on behalf of the Anglican Church through the creation of an active informal network.
2. To provide, when appropriate, practice-based information and briefing to the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primates, other Anglican Church leaders, and the Anglican Observer to the UN, to inform and strengthen their prophetic, advocacy and pastoral work on behalf of refugees and migrants;
3. To promote awareness, concern and commitment to action within dioceses and parishes, to the benefit of local refugees and migrants;
4. To encourage and collaborate with the wider ecumenical family and other faiths in promoting active ministry to refugees and migrants;
5. To help tackle the root causes contributing to the creation of refugees and migrants through advocacy;
6. To network with other institutions working on behalf of refugees and migrants; and,
7. To develop and share theological reflection on the causes, issues and consequences relating to refugees and migrants.