

THE
Domestic and Foreign
Missionary
SOCIETY



The Episcopal Church

December 22nd, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to encourage your financial support of Ms. Amanda Gaona, who was chosen by our 26th Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori as a member of the Episcopal Church's delegation to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) during its 60th session, March 14th – 24th, 2016. UNCSW is an annual gathering of member states at the United Nations to consider global issues related to women's empowerment and gender justice. In 2016, the United Nations will consider women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development, as well as violence against women and girls.

Both Episcopal and Anglican women and men from around the world come to New York to participate in this global convening, attending workshops and UN meetings, networking, learning and organizing events, worshipping together and advocating together in order to learn from and influence the process and conversation happening at the United Nations. Amanda's participation continues the tradition of a strong Anglican/Episcopalian presence at UNCSW since 2000, with the Episcopal Church Center serving as a gathering place for hospitality, fellowship, worship, events and advocacy.

Amanda's presence as an official delegate comes as the result of an upgrade in the status of The Episcopal Church at the United Nations in 2014. This new status allows the Church to send up to twenty official representatives to the floor of UNCSW. Amanda will represent the Church and its official positions through her presence, actions, and advocacy, both at the United Nations and once she returns home.

As Amanda shares the Church's positions on this subject, her own stories, experiences and contributions will add a unique touch to the message. In doing so, she will be bringing to the UN the voices of many other Episcopalians who cannot attend UNCSW, but who care deeply about the empowerment of women, and who will look to her as a leader by virtue of her presence and participation.

The total cost of this important event, including travel, lodging for a shared room, registration fees and a per diem for meals and miscellaneous expenses, is \$3,845 per delegate. Each delegate is responsible for the full amount of her participation. This is not only an investment in each individual as a delegate at the United Nations, but also as a leader for The Episcopal Church, including in her local parish and faith community. To enhance and enable this dual function, the delegates attend workshops during UNCSW on how to bring what has been learned and shared to others back home.

We are sure Amanda's role in representing the Church in the world, and bringing the concerns of the world back to the Church and her local community afterwards, will be a blessing and a gift that keeps on giving. Thank you in advance, during these seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany as we reflect on the coming of our Lord, for your assistance in bringing about the advent of women's and girls' empowerment by financially supporting our worthy Episcopal sister.

In Christ,

The Reverend David Copley
Team Leader, Global Partnerships and Director of Mission Personnel