

What in the World is MU doing? ..

Sending delegates to the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women

Mothers' Union has held special consultative status with the United Nations, which entitles us to make a contribution to the UN's work in areas in which we have particular expertise. Since July 2000 we have had consultative status with the Commission on the Status of Women which meets annually at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

MU prepares policy statements and papers, and five MU delegates take these to the UN. Once at the UN the representatives engage in a range of lobbying activities by taking part in workshops and seminars, networking and drawing on the experiences of members worldwide. Consultative status means that the MU can attend any relevant open meeting of the UN's Economic and Social Council and its subsidiaries. As well as producing a written statement the MU is able to make oral interventions.

We attend this commission in particular because gender inequality compounds many other problems such as illiteracy and the spread of HIV/AIDS, and as Mothers' Union represent millions of women, we have a great deal of knowledge about the impact of women's inequality across the world.

The Commission is dedicated exclusively to advancing the status of women across the world. In the 21st Century, girls and women still face inequality and discrimination because of their gender.

Our Australian MU Trustee, Marilyn Oulds from Queensland, is currently part of the MU Faith and Policy Committee which prepares the policy statements taken to the UN by the delegates.



MU Delegates to the UN in New York, 2009



MU's Elizabeth Brown Networking at the UN



Marilyn Oulds of Australia