

What in the World is MU doing? ...

at the United Nations

MU, at the worldwide level, has representatives on the UN Consultative Council and is able to address issues concerning families and women.

At the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2008, MU made the following statement to the Secretary General: *“Motivated by their faith (MU) members lobby national governments and international bodies on issues encountered in their communities.”*

•Areas of great concern to MU are:

1. Women, girls and poverty - women are more likely to experience poverty than men. 1.4 billion people live on less than \$1.25 a day.
2. Education and training - out of the 71 million children who are not in school across the world, 57% are girls.
3. Health - globally over ½million women die each year from causes related to pregnancy or birth. This figure hasn't changed since 1995.
4. Violence - up to 70% of women across the world experience physical or sexual violence from men in their lifetime. More women between 15 and 44 die from such violence than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war combined.

•MU is also greatly concerned in the role of women in military conflict, the economy, power and decision-making and the media.

•MU calls on governments to strengthen their commitment to the goals of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995. In particular, governments need to:

1. Eliminate all forms of insitutional discrimination against women and counteract these through education, addressing the media's sexualised and violent representation of women and girls.
2. Invest in health care, health education and training health-care workers, for all people at all stages of life.
3. Ensure that girls and women have equal access to and participation in education and training at all stages of life.
4. Eliminate the gender pay gap, the denial of land rights.
5. Ensure fair and equal political participation for women, including freedom to take on genuine political leadership.

•MU works to further the status of women through the values of dignity, justice, peace, reconciliation and the equal value of all.

