



Ecumenical Women

at the United Nations

MEDIA ALERT

Ecumenical Women Publish Guide to Advocacy at the United Nations

New York, February 24, 2009 -- In preparation for the March meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-53) at the United Nations, Ecumenical Women, an international coalition of church and ecumenical organizations, has launched an advocacy guide: *Faith at the UN, Gender in the Church: Ecumenical Women's Guide to Advocacy*.

The resource prepares delegates from faith-based non-governmental organizations for effective action at the annual United Nations meeting.

Including a brief history of advocacy by women of faith at the United Nations, the guide provides an overview on how to advocate for women's rights at the UN, gender-equality action strategies for congregations, and theological reflections on gender equality written by women and men from around the world.

The 53rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women will take place March 2-13, 2009 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. More than two thousand women delegates come to New York from around the world to participate in the annual meeting. This year approximately one in every ten women will be a member of Ecumenical Women.

Grounded in faith and a commitment to global justice, *Faith at the UN, Gender in the Church* combines traditional methods of advocacy at the United Nations with a message centered in the radical Christian concept of love for one's neighbor.

Chair of Ecumenical Women and editor of the guide, Emily Davila, said, "We hope this book helps equip a movement of women and men who will transform their churches and societies to be places where all people have access to resources and opportunities to reach their greatest potential."

Ecumenical Women provides this guide as a contribution to effective action and policy development empowering women worldwide.

To download or to order copies of *Faith at the UN, Gender in the Church: Ecumenical Women's Guide to Advocacy*, please visit <http://ecumenicalwomen.org>.

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ABOUT ECUMENICAL WOMEN: *Ecumenical Women is an international coalition of church denominations and ecumenical organizations which have status with the Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) at the United Nations. These bodies share and*



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are committed to a common mission and vision. Grounded in our faith and commitment to global justice, Ecumenical Women trains and empowers our expanding network to advocate for gender equality at the United Nations.

MEMBERS: Anglican Communion Observer, Association of Presbyterian, Women Aotearoa New Zealand, Church Women United, Episcopal Church (USA), Lutheran World Federation, National Council of Churches (USA), Presbyterian Church (USA), Salvation Army, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, World Council of Churches, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, World Student Christian Federation; and World YWCA.

WEBSITE: <http://ecumenicalwomen.org>

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