

The Anglican Consultative Council: statements and resolutions for ACC-19

1. The Anglican Consultative Council (ACC) is a charitable company. Its Constitution gives its charitable purpose as:

“To advance the Christian religion and in particular to promote the unity and purposes of the Churches of the Anglican Communion in mission, evangelism, ecumenical relations, communication, administration and finance.”

2. The Members of the ACC, present at its plenary session, are present therefore to promote the unity and purposes of the Churches of the Anglican Communion in mission, evangelism, ecumenical relations, communication, administration and finance.
3. ACC19 will be convened under the theme ‘Called to One Hope’. Arising from the discussions on that theme and the reports presented by Commissions and Networks there will be some matters which Members decide the ACC, guided by the Standing Committee, should respond to and act upon.
4. Some of the ACC’s existing Commissions and Networks will also be proposing resolutions and it is hoped that these will be published in advance of the plenary session.
5. Commissions, Networks and Members will have the opportunity to propose resolutions by submitting written statements which they would like all the Members to consider supporting. There will be three ways to do this:
 - Through an expression of solidarity
 - Through the ACC’s final public statement
 - Through a resolution (action point)

Resolutions – process:

6. For information on the resolutions process Members should refer to the *Guidelines for Meetings of the Anglican Consultative Council*.
7. Members are to submit statements using the pro forma provided. Each statement must have the support and signature of 10 members. Once the statements are published, Members will also be able to submit amendments to them (again with the support and signature of 10 Members). (This does not apply to advance statements from Commissions and Networks)

8. The submissions will be considered by a Resolutions Committee appointed by the Standing Committee. The Resolutions Committee will consist of Members from a range of the Member Churches present and will be supported by staff from the Anglican Communion Office.
9. The Standing Committee is responsible for the content, business and running of ACC19. It has therefore given the following directions to the Committee:
 - i. Submitted statements should use and follow the format on the pro forma provided.
 - ii. Submitted statements should be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee to consider any close duplications.
 - iii. If more than one statement has been submitted in broadly similar terms, the Committee can combine those with the consent of the proposers.
 - iv. Statements put before the Members should advance the ACC's charitable purposes.
 - v. Statements which seek to determine questions of doctrine (for example, in matters concerning human sexuality) will not be permitted. The ACC cannot determine these matters, which are for each Member Church.
 - vi. Further directions can be sought from the Chair and Vice-Chair of the ACC, whose decision will then apply.
10. The Resolutions Committee will then organize and publish the statements so that they can be considered by the Members. A timetable setting out the schedule for submission, publication and consideration of statements will be provided.
11. The Resolutions Committee propose the retention of a 'consent list' as was used at ACC16, 17 and 18. This is for resolutions which the Resolutions Committee considers can be passed without discussion. It is proposed that Members are asked to give general assent to pass those resolutions *en bloc* (ie all at once). Members will be given time to consider the consent list and if there are any objections to passing a particular resolution in this way, the Member objecting is requested to bring this to the attention of the ACC Chair before the session at which the consent list is passed. The Chair will announce which resolutions are to be removed and considered separately.

Categories of statement:

[A] Expressions of solidarity

12. Often ACC Members bring to the gathering deep concerns about what is happening in their own provinces – examples may include facing civil war, situations of famine, outbreaks of serious disease, political and civil unrest, and inter-religious strife. They wish the ACC to make a statement showing that the other members of the Anglican family stand in solidarity with the Christians in their own province.
13. These can therefore be suggested as “expressions of solidarity”, but rather than pass them as resolutions the Standing Committee would like to incorporate them into our worship so that we can pray for the situations they refer to. These expressions of solidarity will be recorded in the formal minutes of the meeting and, as usual, will be displayed on the Anglican Communion website together with the records of the meeting.

[B] Public statement

14. As a representative meeting of all the Members Churches, the ACC is often asked to make public statements about what is happening around the world and to commend or question these events. They are statements expressing views but not asking for any action from the Churches other than to keep commending what we see as right and good; or bringing to light those things we see as evil and wrong; and praying about these matters.
15. These can therefore be suggested as “Public Statements”. Members will be asked to discuss them and to approve bringing them together in a final “Public Statements from ACC19” which would then be released to the press, and incorporated in the official records of the meeting.

[C] Resolution: action point

16. A resolution (action point) can be proposed arising out of the discussions during the plenary session as a way of putting our shared learning and discernment from ACC19 into action.

17. When proposing a resolution of this kind Commissions, Networks and Members should follow these rules:

1. The format for resolutions should be:

The Anglican Consultative Council:

1. *Welcomes / gives thanks / receives / notes*
2. *Commends / affirms / endorses / supports*
3. *Encourages / calls on / requests / asks / invites*

(though please note that although a resolution could use one of these – there is no need for a single resolution, for example, to welcome, commend *and* encourage, it could simply ‘give thanks’ and ‘invite’)

2. The content of resolutions should be brief, clear and those drafting it should be mindful of the need for translation and understanding in different languages.

3. Those drafting the resolution should be clear about:

- i. *who* is being asked to do something and whether the ACC has the authority to ask them and whether they in a position to do this;
- ii. *what* exactly are they being asked to do;
- iii. *how is it to be funded* ie, is funding available and, if so, where from?
- iv. *how* implementation is to be assessed?

4. Resolutions requesting the Anglican Communion Office to undertake something that has either staffing or financial implications (or both) must first have the agreement of the Secretary General, before it is given to the Resolutions Committee.

5. The content should not contain a narrative of matters which are discussed in submitted reports. For Commissions and Networks, reference can be made to the title of a submitted report and a link to this will be provided with the published resolution, if passed.

6. The resolution should be limited to three or four numbered paragraphs as a maximum, with each paragraph having a single, short sentence of no more than three lines.

7. Resolutions should avoid using acronyms (so that these are spelled out in full) or other terms which would not be readily understood by those reading the resolutions in the future.

Some examples from previous resolutions are:

From ACC18: <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/acc-18-resolutions/>

From ACC17: <https://www.anglicancommunion.org/acc-17-resolutions/>

20. Where necessary, these rules should also be applied to expressions of solidarity and public statements.
21. Members are encouraged to discuss a proposed statement with a member of the Resolutions Committee before submitting it, and to request guidance on its drafting.