

**GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY WORLD COUNCIL
SOUTH AFRICA
JULY 1999**

Minutes of the meeting of the 16th meeting of the World Council Business Meeting of the Girls' Friendly Society held from 2 to 11 July 1999, FIRSTLY IN Port Elizabeth and then in Umtata.

The Council convened at 2.15pm in the Conference Room of the Edward Hotel, Port Elizabeth, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Nobantu Makunga and in the presence of two former World Chairmen, Mrs Subuola Thompson and Mrs Joy Epton, World Vice-Chairman.

Members present:

Australia:	June Hillier	Senior Delegate
	Cyrilla Wellings	Junior Delegate
Cameroon	Justina Nzegwu	Senior Delegate
England	Pauline Searle	Senior Delegate
	Elaine Sawford	Junior Delegate
Ireland	Maeve Hannon	Senior Delegate
	Anne Healy	Junior Delegate
Japan	Grace Negishi	Senior Delegate
	Wakaha Yamada	Junior Delegate
Korea	Juliana Lee	Senior Delegate
	Maria Cho	Junior Delegate
Lesotho	Alice Mafereka	Senior Delegate
New Zealand	Liz Lowry	Senior Delegate
Nigeria	Clarice Modu	Senior Delegate
	Jane Umeh	Junior Delegate
Papua New Guinea	Lucille Haembo	Senior Delegate
Sierra Leone	Henrietta Johnson	Senior Delegate
USA	Patricia Bryant	Senior Delegate
	Angelica Ward	Junior Delegate
Wales	Adelaide Morgan	Senior Delegate
	Vanessa Williams	Junior Delegate
Zambia	Beatrice Zulu	Senior Delegate
	Bualya Mukupa	Junior Delegate
South Africa	Nomathemba Titus	Senior Delegate
	Bathalile Nokwe	Junior Delegate
World Secretary and Secretary to the Council	Mrs Hazel Braun	

Apologies were received from Barbados, Gambia, Philippines, and Sri Lanka.

It was hoped that the delegate from Ghana, Christine Adjei, would arrive as she was fully prepared to travel but was still awaiting a visa. This was also true of the Junior Delegate and an observer from Sierra Leone (in the event none of these three was granted a visa)

Observers One Hundred and ten were present. Full list of those present is found in the Conference Book.

Welcome: Mrs Nobantu Makunga welcomed all present and expressed a special welcome to the Koreans who had not been able to attend the last three World Councils. Nobantu gave the condolences of the Council to Mrs Liz Lory on the recent death of her husband, Murray, who had

planned to accompany Liz to the Council. Nobantu then invited Pat Franklin from Australia to lead the Opening Prayers (this left a good feeling as Pat's final destination became 1999 South African World Council and she passed to the greater glory on Sunday 8 August 1999 whilst still in South Africa).

Greetings to the Council were given from many around the world as in the attached list. The members were especially pleased to hear of the greeting from Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Archbishop of Cape Town, and former World Chairmen.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Council held 2-10 July 1996 in England were presented by Mrs Alison Carter, former World Secretary. With just one amendment from the Minutes as circulated – that Kenya be removed from “Not Present”- it was proposed by Pauline Searle and seconded by Subuola Thompson.

“That the minutes be accepted”.

This was agreed unanimously, and the Chairman signed the Minutes. The Book of Minutes of previous Councils was handed to Mrs Hazel Braun for safekeeping.

Council theme Nobantu explained the theme for the Council “CONTINUITY in touch with Global Development while focusing on the Cross” and the theme for Day 1 was “Touch us, heal us, forgive us” and spoke about dedication, praying for our brothers and sisters from Sierra Leone, Lesotho, and other countries with problems.

Matters arising from the Minutes:

Philippines: Mrs Joy Epton advised that Dr Kate Botengan had assured her the money was being used to train leaders and/or GFS work. There had been no correspondence so Joy considered she should possibly visit to establish if money was in a Bank Account.

Minutes of Council Meetings: It was agreed the Minutes be sent in advance of following Council.

World Banner: Mrs Liz Lowry reported that New Zealand had done no further work on this since last Council due to the limited interest shown. It was agreed that a World Banner was not necessary. She also commented with regard to the Constitutions that it should be noted that New Zealand had Trustees.

Reports to the Council of the Member Countries Each country presented the report on GFS work speaking to written copies. A copy of each report was given to each delegate.

Additional highlights:

Australia – a special note is developing of Kids Plus Ministry and National Camps to be held every three years. GFS Australia were in the process of changing the Constitution to be modern and user-friendly and would include the incorporation under the National Incorporation Act.

Korea – offered to host World Council in 2005.

Lesotho experienced a very difficult year. Lesotho still has status of a country whilst in the Province of Southern Africa.

New Zealand had endeavoured to make contact with GFS in Newfoundland but to no avail.

Papua New Guinea. Lucille Haembo thanked Australia for making it possible for her to attend Council and for the sewing machines provided.

Sierra Leone – Nobantu advised at this point that she had always wanted Mrs Subuola Thompson to be with us as she felt all former World Chairmen need to be afforded recognition.

South Africa – present membership is 3500.

Wales – GFS started in Wales in 1878.

Zambia – GFS were focusing on three concerns of Education, Spirituality and Service. Thanks were extended to Mrs Dorothy Clay, World Council and GFS Australia. The future of GFS Zambia looked a challenging one. The Chairman endorsed Zambia's appreciation of the relative closeness of Zambia

to South Africa was the only reason it had been possible for such a good number of members from Zambia to be present.

Each report was in turn accepted by the Council.

Keynote Speaker:

Mrs Maureen Sithole who holds a top position in the Mpumalanga Government was introduced to the Council.

Mrs Sithole is the Lay representative for the Province of the Church of Southern Africa on Anglican Consultative Council.

Mrs Sithole thanked the Council for the invitation. How do we actually try to get the Anglican community to get the girls to know more about this wonderful society, GFS? With this as the starting point Mrs Sithole gave a wide ranging and challenging address covering Role of Women in today's society, potential of women, health issues, employment and many other items.

Pointers were that she had a son-in-law who is an Anglican Priest and she promised to "tell" him what to do to promote GFS. Most important for us as women is to improve the situation and quality of life of all women. Women have no rights to success and are told they must have a child. She urged everyone present to put projects into practice and attain those objectives. Nobody is a stranger and to keep in touch with global developments we need each other so we can be in touch with all developments.

Patricia Bryant, the USA Senior Delegate, expressed vote of thanks in a prayer form.

Accounts of World Council 1996 were presented by Mrs Joy Epton. Copies were distributed to each delegate.

a) Income and Expenditure Account.

Joy explained the Financial Statement in detail. Joy stressed the importance of having funds to transfer from one World Council to the next. Of real assistance was a donation of £1895.50 from GFS members in England. Use of St Paul's Cathedral had been £4500. The Income and Expenditure showed a surplus of £7746.97. £14,439.13 was passed to South Africa, England having received £9890.42 from New Zealand.

Joy advised that since completion of the accounts, the Conference fee shown for Cameroon had been forwarded to South Africa for the current Council. At the New Zealand Council, it had been decided money should be allocated from the World Fund to pay for World Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer to attend the next World Council. It was agreed a decision should be taken later in the Agenda re allocation of funds for World Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers to attend future Councils.

The income amount of £1075, 74 in the Income and Expenditure Account under World Project was queried. Joy pointed out that there was a payment from the account to the World Project. Joy requested that when money is sent it should be a Bank Transfer. A covering letter and a copy of the bank document should be sent detailing exactly what the money was for.

Pauline Searle proposed and Patricia Bryant seconded

"That these accounts be accepted" **ALL IN FAVOUR**

b) Travel Fund.

It was noted that the donation from Australia had been for the fare for the delegate from Papua New Guinea. It was proposed by Maeve Hannon and seconded by Grace Negishi

"That the account be accepted" **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Reports of World Project:

- a) South Africa Poultry Project: (This had been the project voted on in 1981 but for a variety of reasons had not come to fruition until 1988) Nomathemba Titus reported: It is a

conspicuous contribution that is unforgettable in our Diocese. It has been proved that the normal process of breeding and rearing is too slow to cater for our families and communities. We are so grateful for this project. After a number of years of this project we are thinking of converting the buildings to either a sewing centre or a private pre-school. We envisage a pre-school that will be multi-raced, as we are now a free, democratic South Africa. We are one = more so in the face of God.

- b) Philippines. Joy Epton reported amount remitted to the Philippines was £8589.85 which is hopefully on deposit and earning interest. Joy thought Dr Kate Botengan published a Leader's Manual (no copy seen) and held Leader's Weekends. A letter to be sent to Kate stating our hope that now her husband is the Bishop she has no problems and able to do this work herself and in due course we shall receive information of progress of the project. Australia supported Joy and said Perth Diocese had a close relationship with Kate and there were many people prepared to write to her.
- c) Nigeria. Joy Epton explained a building offering accommodation to members was needed as they needed to stay over. Amounts as in the circulated account had been sent to assist with building and furnishings. A very full, written report of progress and expenditure was presented by Clarice Modu. The Council was appreciative of the quality of the report and Clarice was thanked and continued to have the support of the Council in the working out of this project. Joy was looking forward to attending the official opening and blessing in January 2000. Building may be used for the local church.
- d) Comments. Nigeria asked if everyone had received the project report and commented that observers should be briefed before Council on agenda items. Mrs Thompson queried the South African Project asking if there had been an assessment of the poultry project because mention was made of a pre-school. South Africa replied that the project had been so successful that many people had copied it. Mrs Thompson thanked Australia for suggesting a policy whereby a time limit exists.

Motion from England

"That the name be changed from World Chairman to World President".

Pauline Searle spoke to the motion saying that it seemed more appropriate in today's world to use the term "President" than "Chairman".

Future World Projects

- a) Papua New Guinea. Lucille Haembo presented a detailed plan and budget. Australia supported the proposal. A letter had been received from the Bishop expressing his support. It was agreed that Lucille was the right person, who in turn advised that travel in Popondetta was very difficult. Val Gribble commended the project to World Council and added mail between Popondetta and Queensland took three weeks. Voting revealed all in favour with the abstention of Kenya.
- b) Kenya has a project that needed guidelines and assistance in presentation. It was AGREED that Kenya should proceed to get a plan for presentation to future Council. New Zealand had idea of needs of Kenya. Revd Jillian Cossar commented that this was the strongest church in area and only part of Kenya where GFS had taken root so request for a project should be followed up, investigated, and given support. Ireland offered support of Project.

Link Countries:

The Chairman referred to Page 5 of 1996 Minutes for existing links. After discussion, the following position was agreed:

- Group A Australia, Cameroon, Liberia, Papua New Guinea
- Group B Barbados, England, Gambia, South Africa

Group C	Ireland, Kenya, Zambia – no contact with the Philippines.
Group D	Nigeria, Sierra Leone, USA
Group E	Ghana, Lesotho, Sri Lanka, Wales
Group F	Japan, Korea, Newfoundland, New Zealand.

Wales said that they had contributed money to enable a delegate from Sri Lanka and Ghana to be present but as no delegates from either country had been able to be present, they do not want money returned but kept in Travel Fund or used for another necessary purpose. New Zealand advised that Joy Epton had a contact in Newfoundland so new of GFS is awaited. After further discussion it was decided to leave final decisions until Junior delegates were present (The Junior Delegates were on a familiarisation visit to Walmer Township and St Augustine's Church)

Presentation to Former World Chairmen: Nobantu presented World Council T shirts to the former World Chairmen who were present and respective delegates were given T shirts and Council bags for Former World Chairmen not present and our Patron, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

World Day of Prayer: It was agreed that the Service for the next three years be produced as follows. – 2000 Zambia, 2001 Lesotho, 2003 Kenya. Joy said the advantage of this system was that there are countries that are unable to host World Council and that cannot send many members to Council, but who can offer a positive contribution by compiling the service.

World Newsletter: Nobantu emphasised the need is to have news of each country to include in the newsletter. Council was reminded that Newsletter should be published twice a year. Mrs Subuola Thompson suggested there should be a follow-up quarterly report.

World Council Guidelines:

- a) World Travel Fund. Mrs Thompson apologised for reverting (? – correct reading of handwriting) to the World Travel Fund as she was concerned that when she took over as World Chairman, she was handed three sets of money, - 1 World Dues, 2 World Travel, 3 World Project and told the World Travel Fund was used to help those unable to meet full costs of travel. World Project Fund was specific for World Project chosen by World Council. She had handled negotiations with each country which requested assistance and endeavoured to use Travel Fund as equitable as possible. General discussion followed and Wales considered a ruling should be made that money raised be paid into the Travel Fund. They were not in favour of practice of stipulating which people should be paid for. The Chairman commented on how expensive it is to travel and if it is decided to subsidise costs, as we want a good attendance, we have to decide we are going to raise the money. Nigeria considered that if a link country suggested sending money for a delegate to travel, the delegates be told the amount and advised she provide the difference. Chairman agreed that in the above manner the delegate is aware that there is some money for assistance and should be advised as early as possible. Australia advised that in their Minute Book there was a motion in place for funding the World Travel Fund. USA proposed *" that all funds for travel are sent to the World Chairman and people apply to her for assistance. The World Chairman to use her discretion to use funds as she deemed fit."* Wales seconded the motion.

Mrs Val Gribble referred to a problem of paying two expensive airfares and at that stage Australia elected to pay airfare of country they chose. This topic should be for next World Chairman to decide.

It was agreed that the motion was a good suggestion and there should be a time limit. Money should be paid within next two years. Deadline should be nine months before World Council and if considered necessary, people can do fundraising for their fare. USA advised their Chairman decides who should attend and also thinks of their Link country. Joy Epton said the Guidelines should be looked at and considered.

The motion was put and ALL WERE IN FAVOUR with no abstentions.

Australia proposed

"That future new Chairman in the next term develop Guidelines for how accommodation costs for World Council might be covered by the World Travel Fund".

Seconded by England.

USA asked if these Guidelines would be used for each World Council. Joy Epton advised that the World Travel Fund would be administered according to these guidelines.

The motion was put AND ALL WERE IN FAVOUR with no abstentions.

- b) **Travel of World Council Officers.** Referring to the earlier discussion Joy Epton advised that she was quite certain the current Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer would be able to attend next Council. Discussion followed.

Australia said host country needed to be considered and proposed

"In all cases the World Vice-Chairman goes to the next World Council, her expenses being paid by World Fund, and requested clear Guidelines".

Wales seconded the motion.

We are not in favour of funding World Secretary and Treasurer, only the World Vice-Chairman has her fare and conference fee paid to attend Council.

The motion was put with only ONE vote against and no abstentions. The motion was CARRIED (see later comment about when this would become operative.)

- c) **Participation of Observers in Council Business.** USA was concerned that only delegates were allowed to speak, and observers had to speak through the delegates, and some ideas could be wrongly interpreted. The Chairman declared the floor open for any comments, as there are often topics of general interest to delegates and observers. Joy Epton mentioned that this time, including whether former World Chairmen should speak, had been discussed in 1996. It could result in many comments from the floor. Chairman said there should be "open" and "closed" sessions so that everybody is accommodated and feel part of the Council.

Motion

"That Clause 7 of the Guidelines for GFS World Council be amended by deleting "observers are invited to the Council but shall not have the right to speak or vote" and inserting "observers are invited to Council. The World President may open and close discussion on any Agenda item to include observers at her discretion."

Proposed by USA, seconded by Australia. Motion was CARRIED with all in favour.

Former World Chairmen

The Chairman thanked former World Chairmen, Mrs Subuola Thompson, and Mrs Joy Epton for their views and input. Important we keep in touch with former World Chairmen and advised whereabouts.

Joy advised she had a list of former World Chairmen who would receive newsletters as well as Christmas cards and any information sent to delegates. Each World Chairman (President) should receive detailed list of former World Chairmen (A complete list is found inside cover of Minute Book) Nigeria moved.

“That greetings should be sent to Past World Chairmen not present at World Council and also to our Patron.”

Motion seconded by Japan and CARRIED. All in favour.

Sierra Leone enquired when the motion re who should travel to next Council (Chairman, Secretary etc) would be effective. Australia considered when the motion went into the books that the motion would be operative from this time.

Link Countries:

Lesotho reminded the meeting of need to return to Link Countries. The Chairman explained the decision to hold over final decision until Junior Delegates were present. There were no objections or comments from Junior Delegates re following Arrangement.

Group A	Australia, Cameroon, Korea, Papua New Guinea
Group B	Barbados, England, Gambia, Guyana, South Africa
Group C	Ireland, Kenya, Philippines, Zambia
Group D	Nigeria, Sierra Leone, United States of America, Liberia
Group E	Ghana, Lesotho, Sri Lanka, Wales
Group F	Japan, Newfoundland, New Zealand.

The Chairman and England and South Africa would do utmost to establish contact with Barbados. Perhaps too the Bishop of the Gambia should be asked to locate last Council's delegate. New Zealand was keen to know on what basis each GFS organisation operates and would welcome ideas.

Kenya enquired if it was possible to have an office in England where GFS started. Mrs Thompson said that as time goes on lots of material is collected at World Council and information, copy of each newsletter etc., should all be kept in safe custody.

The Chairman said all members need to agree on and support Mrs Thompson's idea to safeguard our memorabilia and should a country offer, we will accept.

Joy Epton urged members not to throw anything away and England was there for everyone as they too had a wealth of memorabilia.

Venue of next World Council

At 1996 Council, Australia had kindly withdrawn to allow South Africa to host 1999 Council and consequently they would be happy to host 2002 Council. Australia was warmly accepted with a unanimous vote.

US offered Council hospitality in 2005 and Korea also offered.

World President for 1999-2002 would be Mrs June Hillier. June was welcomed and warmly congratulated. In her response, June thanked everyone for their support and realising the mammoth honour she knew she could accomplish it with the Lord's help and everyone's support. With the exception of the Commissioning of the new World President at the Closing Service in Umtata, the Chairman declared the end of Business sessions of World Council on July 7 at 3.30pm. Votes of thanks were expressed to Nobantu, Hazel, Revd Ben Durham and all others who had facilitated the Council.

The above minutes were agreed at the 17th World Council in Australia, Signed, Nobantu Makunga, 27 September 2002.

Greetings were received from:

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother – Patron of the Society.
Most Revd George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury
Most Revd David Hope, Archbishop of York
Most Revd R Goodhew, Archbishop of Sydney, Anglican Church of Australia
Most Rev Robin Eames, Archbishop of Armagh, Church of Ireland
Most Revd John Nakoto Takenda, Bishop of Tokyo, Primate of Nippon Sei Ko Kai
Most Revd Matthew Cheung, Bishop of Seoul, Primate of Anglican Church of Korea.
Most Revd Frank Griswold, Presiding Bishop, Episcopal Church in the USA
Most Revd Rowan Williams, Bishop of Monmouth, and Acting Primate of Church in Wales.
Rt Revd David Farrer, Bishop of Wangaratta, Anglican Church of Australia
Rt Revd David McCall, Bishop of Willochra, Anglican Church of Australia
Rt Revd R F Stone, Bishop of Rockhampton, Anglican Church of Australia
Rt Revd John Gladwin, Bishop of Guildford, England
Rt Revd Julius Kalu, Bishop of Mombasa, Anglican Church of Kenya
Rt Revd Andrew Duma, Bishop of Lesotho
Rt Revd Tom Brown, Bishop of Wellington, Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia
Rt Revd Julius Lynch, Bishop of Freetown, Sierra Leone
Rt Revd Orris G Walker Jr, Bishop of Long Island, Episcopal Church in USA
Rt Revd Eric Pike, Bishop of Port Elizabeth, Church of the Province of Southern Africa
Rt Revd Zambuhle Dlamini, Bishop of St John's Church of the Province of Southern Africa
Jean Cheshire, Former World Chairman 19698-1972
Umayo Iwai, Former World Chairman 1981-1984
Joy Parkin, Former World Chairman 1990-1003
Ebe A Kingston, Mayor of Epsom and Ewell
Pauline Tibbits, GFS Secretary, Perth Diocese, Australia
Noeleen Beer, Chairman GFS Sydney, Australia
Parish of St Augustine, Shepparton with St Luke Dookie and St Mary Katandra West, Australia
Mary Marshall, Chairman GFS Barbados
Olein Gyles, former All Ireland GFS President
Janet Nunde MU Diocesan President, Zambia
Revd M Mbenuka, GFS Chaplain, Zambia.
Verbal greetings were received from each country present.