

THE  
*Episcopal*  
CHURCH



POLICY *for* ACTION



## INTRODUCTION

The catechism of the Book of Common Prayer tells us that the mission of the Church is “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ,” and that the Church lives out this mission “as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.” The pursuit of a world that more closely reflects God’s dream for it – *thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven* – is central to basic Christian discipleship and the identity of all who are baptized.

The Episcopal Church adopts policies on a range of issues related to justice and peace through its triennial General Convention. The Church then lives out these policy positions through a variety of means, including the direct engagement of government officials by the Presiding Bishop and other elected leaders of the Church; the witness of the Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations in Washington and its Office of Global Relations at the United Nations in New York City; the leadership of dioceses and congregations in each of the 16 sovereign nations in which The Episcopal Church is present; and, most fundamentally, through the grassroots witness of individual Episcopalians around the world. Though the shape and form of our advocacy may vary based on our national or community context, we are united in our understanding that to be a people rooted in mission we must work tirelessly for justice and peace.

The following compendium of the social policies of The Episcopal Church reflects the breadth of our Church’s witness on a variety of subjects local and global. Each has been adopted through the deliberation of the triennial General Convention or the Executive Council, the interim legislative authority of The Episcopal Church between Conventions. The policies listed are grouped by subject area and listed with the most recent first. A searchable full text set of these and related resolutions is available online through The Episcopal Church’s archives at <http://www.episcopalarchives.org>.

As you use this resource, please join the Episcopal Public Policy Network, a church-wide network of grassroots advocates organized and resourced by the Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations: (<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/page/justice-and-advocacy-ministries>)

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## LEGEND

<b>DFMS:</b>	Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society – the name under which The Episcopal Church is incorporated, conducts business, and carries out mission
<b>EC:</b>	Executive Council
<b>GC:</b>	General Convention
<b>IMF:</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>NCCC USA:</b>	National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA
<b>OGR:</b>	Office of Government Relations
<b>U.N.:</b>	United Nations
<b>MDGs:</b>	Millennium Development Goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger</li><li>• Achieve universal primary education</li><li>• Promote gender equality and empower women</li><li>• Reduce child mortality</li><li>• Improve maternal health</li><li>• Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases</li><li>• Ensure environmental sustainability</li><li>• Create a global partnership for development with targets for aid, trade, and debt relief</li></ul>

# INTERNATIONAL

## Making Peace

Challenge the Church to respond to targeted acts of violence against individuals and communities, and to draw on prayer for guidance, wisdom, and courage in seeking God's path of grace and peace even in times of darkness. **(EC 11/15)**

Call upon the U.S. government to balance legitimate military security needs and poverty alleviation programs in its federal budget priorities. **(GC '15)**

Recognize the increased use of drones by the U.S. military and intelligence agency, and call upon two interim bodies of the General Convention to prepare a report evaluating their ethical implications and providing recommendations for governmental leaders and military commanders concerning their use. **(GC '12)**

Urge the administration to move expeditiously toward adopting a universal policy disavowing the use of nuclear weapons to deter an attack, and to consent to the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. **(EC 6/10)**

Encourage dioceses and congregations throughout The Episcopal Church to promote passage of ordinances establishing nuclear-weapons-free zones in their local communities. **(EC 6/10)**

Urge the U.S. government to renounce its 2002 policy that asserts the right to military action in the name of forestalling or preventing non-imminent and uncertain military threats. **(GC '09)**

Call upon the U.S. government to renew its commitment to eliminating the scourge of international criminal gangs by extending international refugee conventions and national immigration norms to provide relief to victims of criminal gangs. **(GC '09)**

Commend the President's efforts to scale down the world's nuclear stockpile. **(GC '09)**

Urge the President and Congress to explore a moratorium on production of new nuclear arms. **(GC '09)**

Call upon U.S. policymakers to determine a timely process for the dismantling of existing U.S. nuclear weapons while urging other nations to do the same. **(GC '09)**

Ban the use of cluster bombs. **(GC '09)**



Condemn the use of cluster bombs and urge all governments to pursue an international treaty banning their production, transfer, stockpiling, and use. **(EC 6/08)**

Call upon the President to reject any military policy that would permit preemptive use of nuclear weapons. **(EC 10/05)**

Express deep concern over the violence in Iraq and the treatment of detainees. **(EC 6/04)**

Urge dioceses and congregations to study and better understand just war theory and pacifism as they apply to the U.S. in responding to contemporary international conflicts. **(GC '03)**

Support the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence. **(GC '03)**

Support the Kimberley Process or an international framework intended to bring an end to the flow of illegal diamonds in which the trade funds regional conflict and terrorist activities. **(EC 6/02)**

Affirm the work of the U.N. in pursuit of global peace, justice, protection of fundamental human rights and the environment, health, and poverty eradication. **(EC 11/98)**

Call upon Congress and the President to ensure that all military training programs emphasize concern for human rights and democratic principles. **(GC '97)**

Support the goal of total nuclear disarmament. **(GC '97)**

Urge the President to sign and implement the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons. **(GC '94)**

Urge Congress to enact legislation prohibiting the sale and export of conventional arms of war. **(GC '94)**

Call for an international ban on the production, use, and sale of land mines. **(GC '94)**

Endorse development of federal policies shifting economic resources from military to civilian use. **(GC '91)**

Call upon the U.S. government to resolve disputes with other nations by negotiation and other peaceful means. **(GC '91)**

Support conscientious objection as a faithful response to war. **(GC '88)**

## Supporting Human Rights and Reconciliation

Support automatic grant of citizenship by the country in which a person is born (“birthright citizenship”). **(GC’15)**

Condemn the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence in war as a crime against humanity. **(EC 10/14)**

Urge the U.S. government to collaborate with international partners to end discriminatory practices that leave women and children vulnerable to statelessness, including efforts to ensure equality between women and men in nationality laws and access to documentation, and the promotion of birth registration. **(GC’12)**

Call for legislation and action to assist with the recovery and reintegration of trafficking victims into society, and for greater prominence of this work within The Episcopal Church and in partnership with other Churches of the Anglican Communion. **(GC’12)**

Encourage increased public-policy emphasis on the protection of maternal and child health around the world. **(GC’12)E**

Endorse the “Responsibility to Protect” doctrine that affirms the role of nations in protecting populations from mass atrocities including genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, as defined by international law. Urge Episcopal communities to reflect upon the doctrine and to advocate for its adherence by their respective governmental leaders. **(GC’12)**

Call upon Episcopalians to support legislation for and action oriented toward the protection, recovery, and reintegration into society of victims of human trafficking. **(GC’09)**

Call upon the President and Congress to devise and implement truth and reconciliation-based methods of accountability to make transparent to the American people government practices of torture and extraordinary rendition, which allows terror suspects to be sent without judicial review to nations where they may be tortured. **(GC’09)**

Affirm that Episcopalians shall not engage in, counsel, order, or assist in the torture of any human being. **(GC’09)**

Call upon the U.S. government and all governments to comply with the Geneva Conventions, the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the administration of justice. **(GC’09)**

Call upon the U.S. government and all governments to prevent the use of torture and extraordinary rendition in the U.S. and abroad. **(GC’09)**

Call upon the international community to provide food, clothing, shelter, and medical care for displaced persons in Pakistan, especially those of the persecuted Christian community. **(GC '09)**

Condemn any use of torture, and call upon the U.S. government to renounce and cease these practices and to work toward the prevention of such practices domestically and abroad. **(EC 3/07)**

Urge the U.S. government to justly compensate the victims of torture and their families. **(EC 3/07)**

Call upon the U.S. government to close the military prison at Guantanamo Bay. **(EC 3/07)**

Oppose the use of all secret detention centers, and cease the practice of extraordinary rendition. **(EC 3/07)**

Oppose any governmental legal system that violates fundamental human rights. **(GC '03)**

Condemn domestic and international trafficking of persons for sexual purposes. **(GC '03)**

Encourage dioceses to educate Episcopalians about the plight of and need to support women and children of all faiths in war-torn areas. **(GC '03)**

Call upon U.S. government to pressure the Government of India to recognize untouchability as a crime against humanity and abolish practices of untouchability. **(GC '00)**

Observe the United Nations' Decade of Non-Violence. **(GC '00)**

Respond to our Anglican partners' guidance as to the most appropriate help that The Episcopal Church can provide to combat religious persecution in their countries. **(GC '97)**

Support and affirm religious freedom. **(GC '88)**

Urge the U.S. government to work for abolition of torture worldwide. **(EC 6/84)**

## Fighting HIV/AIDS

Call upon Episcopal leaders to form pastoral and liturgical responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic both at home and overseas. **(GC '09)**

Call upon the Church to implement a campaign for awareness about the continuing HIV/AIDS pandemic. **(GC '06)**

Call upon the U.S. government and international agencies to increase efforts to address the AIDS crisis through funding programs of education and awareness about the spread of AIDS in developing countries; programs to assist families affected by AIDS, especially the millions of orphaned children; and efforts to make affordable medications available to those infected. **(EC 2/01)**

Support initiatives to make HIV/AIDS-related medications available at affordable prices throughout the world. **(GC '00)**

## **Increasing Development Assistance, Fair Trade, and Debt Reduction**

Support standards for distribution of foreign aid by the United States that give priority to the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and transgender individuals. **(GC '15)**

Encourage Episcopalians to study genetically modified organisms and to reflect upon their global and domestic impact in the light of the Christian mission. Request that the Presiding Bishop, in consultation with the President of the House of Deputies, name a volunteer task force to study and guide the Church's advocacy on the issue of genetically modified crops. **(GC '12)**

Endorse a framework for the moral evaluation of global trade policy intended to promote the dignity and well-being of all persons, serve impoverished and vulnerable populations, and safeguard the rights of all human beings. **(GC '12)**

Reaffirm the MDGs as a mission priority for The Episcopal Church. **(GC '12)**

Support the cancellation of debt to heavily indebted poor countries that have not previously qualified for debt cancellation and that have a per capita income of less than \$3 per day. **(GC '09)**

Condemn the practices of vulture funds and call upon the U.S. Treasury to design a legal framework that will stop the operation of vulture funds. **(GC '09)**

Establish the "ONE Episcopalian" campaign in cooperation with "ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History." Make the MDGs a priority for all Episcopal groups and individuals. **(GC '06)**

Commend the U.S. government as part of the G8 for \$55 billion worth of debt relief, and urge the G8 to extend even more debt relief in pursuit of MDG 8. **(EC 6/05)**

Encourage the endorsement of the United Nations' MDGs and reaffirm the challenge that all dioceses and congregations contribute 0.7% of their budget to fund international development programs. **(GC '03)**

Call upon the Church to adopt and implement ethical principles for international economic development, including partnership, respect, empowerment, oneness with creation, distributive justice, and people-centered development. **(GC '00)**

Commend micro-credit initiatives. **(GC '00)**

Reaffirm the principles of "Jubilee 2000" of debt cancellation, environmental stewardship, and human liberation. **(GC '97)**

Call for democratic and socially responsible reform of the World Bank and IMF policies. **(EC 6/95)**

Affirm foreign aid policies that support sustainable development, stabilize population growth, strengthen civil society, promote peace and human rights, and provide humanitarian relief. **(EC 2/95)**

## Endorsing Fair Refugee/Immigration Policy

Broadly affirms standard practices of just treatment of immigrants and refugees, opportunity to pursue citizenship, and reunification of family members of immigrants; rejects border militarization; and advocates for Temporary Protective Status for those fleeing abuse. The Church commits to advocating for meaningful and humane immigration reform. **(EC 1/18)**

Authorizes the Presiding Bishop to take legal action to defend Episcopal Migration Ministries and challenge any religious test for the lawful entry to the US of any refugee, immigrant or asylum seeker. **(EC 2/17)**

Urge the administration to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Guatemalans living in the U.S. and to all immigrants fleeing from violence, environmental disaster, economic devastation, cultural abuse, or other forms of abuse. **(GC '15)**

Acknowledge continued violence against and displacement of citizens in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Call upon The Episcopal Church to support efforts of civil society groups and regional bodies, especially the work of our sister Anglican province La Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (IARCA), the Diocese of Honduras, and human rights organizations that seek to address these issues. **(GC '15)**

Support expanded immigration relief for youth and parents designed to keep families together. **(GC'15)**

Call upon The Episcopal Church to recommit to the spirit of the New Sanctuary Movement so congregations can assist immigrant individuals, unaccompanied minors, families, and communities in the absence of comprehensive, humane immigration reform. **(GC'15)**

Deplore the unprecedented levels of detention and deportation carried out by the U.S. government against individuals who pose no threat to society. **(EC 6/14)**

Urge that when deportations do occur, individuals are repatriated in a safe and humane manner. **(EC 6/14)**

Urge that the U.S. government employ humane and family-centric detention practices. **(EC 6/14)**

Urge the U.S. Congress to pass legislation creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth and young adults, and call upon churches to provide higher education scholarships for these persons. **(GC'12)**

Endorse immigration law reform that permits same-sex legal domestic partners and spouses of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to seek lawful permanent resident status. **(GC'12)**

Call upon the U.S. Congress to reform and modernize the Refugee Act of 1980 to meet the critical needs of diverse refugee groups, including culturally and linguistically appropriate policies for reestablishing the lives of refugees in welcoming, safe communities. **(GC'12)**

Urge The Episcopal Church to identify emerging refugee crises and to assist vulnerable populations through resettlement and advocacy. **(GC'12)**

Call for a halt to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Priority Enforcement Program (Secure Communities program), which can lead to lengthy, unrepresented detainment and can discourage victims from reporting crimes. **(GC'12)**

Decry racial profiling as a means of identifying suspects of immigration violation, and oppose identity checks for the purpose of determining immigration status. **(GC'12)**

Urge the U.S. government to commence a generous program of resettlement for Colombian refugees unable to return home or remain in Ecuador. **(EC 2/10)**

Encourage the U.S. government to strengthen protection and assistance for refugees who flee based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to intensify efforts to work diplomatically in the international community to strengthen protections in all parts of the world and in all aspects of the refugee and asylum process. **(EC 2/11)**

Call upon the federal government to enact comprehensive immigration reform that safeguards family unity, provides a reasonable pathway to legal residency, enforces labor rights for all workers, provides for due process and humanitarian treatment in all immigration proceedings and detention, and calls for proportional and humane enforcement of national borders and immigration law. **(EC 6/10)**

Urge the U.S. Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform to give undocumented persons who have established roots in the United States a pathway to legalization and full social and economic integration into the United States. **(GC '09)**

Urge the U.S. government to terminate any program that allows or funds local law enforcement agencies' enforcement of immigration law, thereby allowing immigrant victims of crime to report it without fear of deportation. **(GC '09)**

Urge the U.S. government to establish a moratorium on roadside checkpoints and raids carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that tear families apart. **(GC '09)**

Urge the U.S. government to ensure that undocumented immigrant detainees are provided with humane treatment, adequate food and medical care, and sanitary conditions. **(GC '09)**

Urge the U.S. government to consider alternatives to a costly prison-like detention system for immigrants. **(GC '09)**

Urge the U.S. government to allow undocumented youth who arrived as infants or children to pursue higher education and/or to serve in the military in order to contribute to their communities and become citizens. **(GC '09)**

Adopt fundamental principles of the basic rights of undocumented persons and undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians on the plight of refugees, immigrants, and migrants. **(GC '06)**

Urge the U.S. government to extend the protection of asylum to vulnerable peoples, especially women fleeing mutilation or cultural practices that deny their full humanity. **(EC 2/04)**

Oppose unfair and unjust treatment of racial and ethnic minorities. Call upon the whole Church at every level to collaborate with other faith bodies, communions, and immigrant/human rights organizations to redress these concerns. **(EC 4/03)**

Urge Congress to enact legislation to expand temporary workers' programs to include all persons in the U.S. in meaningful labor, as well as overseas workers offered employment in the U.S. **(GC '03)**

Advocate for a generous program of refugee admissions. **(GC '97)**

Urge the U.S. government to ensure that immigrants in need are not unfairly denied essential services and benefits. **(GC '97)**

Advocate for a just system of asylum for persecuted persons. **(GC '97)**

Oppose any policy that encourages school or other public officials to report individuals who they suspect are undocumented immigrants. **(EC 2/95)**

## Africa

Call upon The Episcopal Church to advocate for the protection of refugees, conflict resolution, and sustainable development in South Sudan and Sudan. **(GC '15)**

Call upon the international community to provide support for the peace-monitoring teams in South Sudan to ensure lasting peace. **(EC 2/14)**

Commend the dioceses and congregations of the Church that have engaged in advocacy, mission, and ministry to the people of South Sudan, and encourage such ongoing advocacy and support in the future. **(EC 2/14)**

Call upon the U.S. government and private organizations to intensify relief work in response to the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa. **(GC '12)**

Call upon all Episcopalians to continue advocating for peace along the unsettled border between Sudan and South Sudan, in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan, and in the Darfur region by supporting strong U.S. government action aimed at full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. **(GC '12)**

Urge the international community to insist on an end to the political violence, torture, intimidation, and other abuses of human and political rights undertaken habitually by the Mugabe government. **(EC 1/09)**



Urge Episcopalians to stand in solidarity with the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe and all Zimbabwean people through advocacy, education, and continual prayer for the peace, healing, and reconciliation of Zimbabwe. **(EC 1/09)**

Call upon the local, regional, and national news media to increase the breadth and depth of coverage of the following issues: efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals, the ongoing peace process between North and South Sudan, and the ongoing genocide in Darfur. **(GC'09)**

Reaffirm the need for an early end to hostilities in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan, as well as the need for full access by humanitarian organizations to assist refugees. **(GC'09)**

Ask for continued advocacy and prayer from Episcopalians to achieve the following goals of peace and justice in the Sudan:

- International commitment to the fair, transparent, and successful implementation of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement;
- Increased economic investment in Southern Sudan;
- Successful care and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), including the condemnation of violence against refugees and IDPs (particularly women and girls); and
- Meaningful support for the Archbishop of The Episcopal Church of Sudan and the United Nations peacekeeping units in Sudan. **(GC'09)**

Call upon the U.S., the U.N., and the world community to take more serious actions to stop the escalation of violence in Darfur and to implement Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement. **(EC 6/05)**

Urge the President to deploy peacekeeping forces alongside international forces in Liberia. Commend support by government and nongovernment organizations that provide aid. Urge Episcopal congregations and dioceses to assist the Church in Liberia with efforts to restore pastoral care, health services, and education to its people. **(GC'03)**

Commend churches in Africa fighting AIDS, poverty, and injustice, and call upon all levels of the Church to partner with the Churches of the Anglican Communion in Africa and other agencies to implement the United Nations' MDGs. **(GC'03)**

Urge the President to deploy peacekeeping forces alongside international forces in Liberia. Commend support by government and nongovernment organizations that provide aid. Urge Episcopal congregations and dioceses to assist the Church in Liberia with efforts to restore pastoral care, health services, and education to its people. **(GC'03)**

Urge the U.S. government to increase aid to South Africa to improve education and reduce poverty. **(GC'00)**

Urge the business sector to encourage private investment in South Africa. **(GC '00)**

Stimulate public awareness of human rights in the Sudan and encourage diocesan relations with The Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan. **(GC '94)**

## The Middle East

Encourage Episcopalians to pray for peace in the Middle East, for an end to the humanitarian and refugee crisis in Syria, and for the continued witness and presence of Christian communities there. **(GC '15)**

Invite Episcopalians to observe the Seventh Sunday of Easter each year as Jerusalem Sunday and to commit to praying and advocating for the peace of Jerusalem. **(EC 6/14)**

Commend the Arab Spring democratic movements, and reaffirm a call for the U.S. government to provide a full and transparent accounting of all aid to the region. Urge the U.S. President to seek accountability among recipient governments to protect core democratic principles and uphold U.S. laws defining legal uses of U.S. funding. **(GC '12)**

Reaffirm The Episcopal Church's commitment to a negotiated two-state solution with a secure and recognized Israel existing alongside a secure and viable Palestinian State, with a shared capital of Jerusalem. Endorse a triennium of study and advocacy, and encourage dioceses to engage in advocacy, education, prayer, and humanitarian aid for peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. Affirm interfaith dialogue, and decry extremism, fundamentalism, and all forms of violence. Prioritize investment in the institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and commit to monetary investment in the economic infrastructure of the Palestinian territories. **(GC '12)**

Call upon bishops and dioceses for advocacy for the restoration of international humanitarian funding for the Al-Ahli Hospital, a health-care institution in the Gaza Strip administered by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Encourage Episcopalians to engage in fundraising support for the hospital. **(GC '12)**

Encourage the U.S. and its allies to promote economic development and human rights for the victimized people of Afghanistan, and urge the U.S. Congress to provide for the material, financial, medical, and spiritual needs of troops deployed to Afghanistan and their families. **(EC 2/10)**

Call upon the U.S. government to pursue a fair and balanced approach to making peace that fulfills the fundamental needs of both Israelis and Palestinians, and to press the State of Israel to end the blockade of the Gaza Strip. **(EC 2/10)**

For more than 30 years The Episcopal Church has supported and worked for a two-state solution in which a secure and universally recognized State of Israel, the homeland for the Jewish people, lives alongside a secure, viable, and universally recognized Palestinian state with Jerusalem as the shared capital. Resolutions have named actions that are obstacles to a just resolution of the conflict. For Palestinians, obstacles include the Israeli occupation and building of settlements in the West Bank, the separation barrier where it incurs into Palestinian land, and checkpoints and home demolitions. For Israelis, obstacles include the lack of universal recognition of the right to a homeland for the Jewish people, terrorism, and acts of violence against innocent Israelis. **(EC 2/08, GC '06, GC '03, EC 6/02, GC '97, EC 6/95, GC '94, EC 2/89).**

Advocate for a holistic plan to address the humanitarian crisis of refugees and others displaced by the ongoing violence in Iraq. **(EC 3/07)**

Call for a comprehensive approach to diplomacy across the Middle East. **(EC3/07)**

Encourage Episcopalians to engage in an interfaith prayerful dialogue with their Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers and to offer their prayers for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. **(EC 2/08)**

Express anguish over victimization of the Christian minority in Pakistan, and urge U.S. government to work toward political reform and humanitarian relief in Pakistan. **(GC'00)**

Urge congregations to develop mutual understanding and respect with Jews and Muslims and to discuss the Middle East. **(GC'94)**

## Central America, South America, and the Caribbean

Condemn the ruling of the Dominican Republic's constitutional court, which ruled ineligible for citizenship any children born of Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic. Advocate to U.S. government and the United Nations on this issue. **(GC'15)**

Declare solidarity with Dominicans of Haitian descent who have been essentially made stateless by the Dominican Republic's constitutional court. Stimulate awareness of these stateless Dominicans among members of the Church. **(EC 2/14)**

Commend the work of Church leaders and the U.S. government in easing restrictions on travel exchanges between the U.S. and Cuba, and advocate for the end to the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba. **(GC'12)**

Call for the release of political prisoners currently held in Cuban jails, urge an end to Cuban suppression of political dissent, and support advocacy for the humane treatment and pastoral care of four convicted Cuban spies currently serving time in American prisons. **(GC'12)**

Oppose the installation by U.S. government of military bases in Colombia, the presence of which contributes to the displacement of persons within Colombia and between Colombia and Ecuador. **(EC 2/10)**

Urge the U.S. government to end the embargo against Cuba, thus allowing the free travel of Cubans and Americans between the U.S. and Cuba, financial remittances between the two countries, and the strengthening of the Church's mission in Cuba. **(GC'09)**

Urge the U.S. government to increase disaster relief and economic development assistance to Haiti, extend trade preferences for Haitian exports to the U.S., and designate Temporary Protected Status to Haitian immigrants living in the U.S. **(GC'09)**

Call upon international lending organizations to continue investments, aid, and loans to Honduras. **(GC'09)**

Support crisis negotiations in Honduras, request that the Organization of American States reconsider the decision to suspend Honduras from participation in its workings, and ask that the U.S. government to refrain from taking actions that will penalize the people of Honduras. **(GC'09)**

Urge the U.S. government to facilitate a negotiated peace in Haiti and to prevent the deportation of Haitians living in the U.S. back to Haiti by granting them Temporary Protected Status. **(EC 6/05)**

Call upon the authorities of the Dominican Republic to exercise greater efforts and concerns in favor of the poorest among them. **(EC 1/03)**

Support policies and programs that will alleviate the poverty and ameliorate the injustices experienced by millions of Colombians. **(EC 10/02)**

Urge the U.S. government to assign the highest priority to achieving a negotiated peace in Colombia and work with other governments in the region and other allies in bringing a peaceful end to Colombia's longstanding civil conflict. **(EC 10/02)**

Urge the U.S. government to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba through a process that promotes human rights, freedom of speech, and the movement of political prisoners. **(GC'00)**

Call upon the U.S. and Haitian governments, in consultation with nongovernmental organizations, to develop and implement a poverty reduction strategy for Haiti. **(GC '00)**

Urge the U.S. government to end restrictions on the sale of food, medicines, and medical supplies to Cuba. **(EC 2/98)**

Urge the U.S. government to provide economic aid to Central America with the same commitment it provided military aid in the past. **(GC '97)**

Urge religious and cultural exchange between Episcopalians in the U.S. and Cuba. **(EC 6/96)**

## Asia and the Pacific

Reaffirm the Church's support for the reunification of the Korean peninsula, and urge:

- The governments of the People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK) to continue family visits and cultural exchanges across their borders;
- Governments on all sides to minimize exercises that escalate military tensions and to cease efforts that abuse human rights or disturb peace; and

The U.S. government and encourage the ROK and other international organizations to expand humanitarian aid for impoverished Koreans in the DPRK. **(GC '12)**

Condemn the unresolved human rights cases, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, illegal arrests, and the detention of church workers, in the Philippines. **(EC 6/10)**

Call upon the Philippine government to do all in its power to ensure that the human rights of church workers are respected and to seek the release of illegally detained church workers in the Philippines. **(EC 6/10)**

Urge the U.S. government to champion human rights and to encourage an end to extrajudicial killings and disappearances in the Philippines using influence such as the withholding of military aid. **(GC '09)**

Urge the peaceful resolution of international tensions with North Korea. Call upon North Korea to end the nuclear armaments program, and call upon China, Russia, and the U.S. to begin to welcome North Korean refugees. **(EC 2/04)**

Urge the U.S. government to recognize the rights of citizens of the Republic of Korea to equal treatment and legal redress of grievances and to pursue the goal of phasing out U.S. military bases in Korea. **(GC '03)**

Urge the U.S. government to remove military bases and personnel from

Okinawa. **(GC '00)**

Encourage advocacy that exposes the horrors confronting people in Indonesia, and urge the U.S. government to work to provide relief for those whose property is destroyed. **(GC '00)**

Express hope for direct dialogue between the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama. **(GC '97)**

Express sorrow to the Japanese people for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. **(GC '97)**

Express dismay at the continuing repression of the people of Myanmar. **(GC'94)**

Promote human rights, oppose military aid and “total war” government policy, and support land reform in the Philippines. **(GC '94)**

Support the rights of Chinese Christians to form associations free from government control. **(GC '91)**

Support the efforts of The Episcopal Church in the Philippines in its struggle for peace and justice. **(EC 6/89)**

## DOMESTIC

### General

Call on the President and Congress to restore and repair the Voting Rights Act, and urge Episcopalians to advocate for campaign finance reform, transparency in election finances, and a reduction of special interest money in politics. **(EC 6/16)**

Support net neutrality also known as “open Internet.” **(EC 10/14)**

Call upon the President and U.S. Congress to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act. **(10/13)**

Urge federal lawmakers to pursue policies that encourage all Americans to financially support the work of charitable and philanthropic organizations, and to reject policies that may encourage Americans to give at a lesser rate. **(EC 10/11)**

Urge nonviolence training for personal and social change, and encourage each diocese to make available active nonviolence training. **(GC '06)**

Recognize the act of voting and political participation as an act of Christian stewardship. **(EC 2/04)**

### Expanding Health Care and Fighting Drug Dependency

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Asks Episcopalians to advocate for a coordinated health, legal and legislative response to opioid abuse and care, calls for the decriminalization of addiction, and recognizes the profound impact on persons of color of racial discrimination against those affected by addiction and incarceration. **(EC 10/17)**

Support legislation and non-legislative efforts that call for an end to discrimination against women's access to health care, and support the right of women to self-determination in regard to their personal choices about the health care that they choose to receive, especially for contraception, pregnancy, and childbirth. **(EC 10/14)**

Reaffirm the commitment of The Episcopal Church to work toward universal health care, and urge the Church to educate its membership and community on health care reform and to advocate measures that make patients and consumers the central focus of our health care system. **(GC '12)**

Urge the U.S. Congress and President to ensure that people with preexisting conditions, such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, will be covered under any health care plan. **(GC '09)**

Call upon The Episcopal Church to advocate for access to adequate medical care regardless of any factor other than the need for health care. **(GC '09)**

Call upon the U.S. government to provide our nation's veterans with the best possible health care and benefits (including mental health care), to which they are entitled, in a timely manner. **(GC '09)**

Urge the U.S. government to pursue short-term, incremental, innovative, and creative approaches to universal health care until a single-payer universal health care system is established. **(GC '09)**

Encourage all elected officials to create, with the assistance of experts in related fields, a comprehensive definition of "basic health care," to which our citizens have a right; establish a system to provide basic health care to all; create an oversight mechanism, separate from the immediate political arena, to audit the delivery of that "basic health care"; educate our citizens in the need for limitations on what each person can expect to receive in the way of medical care under a universal coverage program in order to make the program financially sustainable; and educate our citizens on the role of personal responsibility in promoting good health. **(GC '09)**

Urge dioceses and parishes of the Church to become informed of the laws and policies regarding end-of-life decisions and medical futility, and urge the Standing Commission on Health to respond further to the need for making prayerful end-of-life decisions. **(EC 3/07)**

Assert the right of all individuals to health care, and call upon the President

and Congress to protect the Medicare and Medicaid programs. **(EC 2/05)**

Call upon dioceses to establish committees on alcoholism and drug dependency to provide educational programs and address problems related to alcohol or drug dependency. **(GC '03)**

Call upon federal and state lawmakers to remove obstacles to hospice and palliative care. **(GC '00)**

Urge the Church at every level to give high priority to suicide prevention. **(GC '00)**

Urge that all interior space under the jurisdiction of the Church be declared “tobacco-free zones.” **(GC '00)**

Call upon the President, Congress, governors, and leaders to devise universal access to health care for the nation’s people. **(GC '91)**

## Fighting HIV/AIDS

Call upon Episcopal Church members to take the lead in insuring that all methods of HIV/AIDS prevention are taught in educational settings. **(GC '03)**

Call for continuing of efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS among teens and young adults. **(GC '00)**

Affirm accessible drug treatment, needle access, safe-sex programs, and monogamy in all sexual relationships to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. **(GC '94)**

Support federal HIV/AIDS initiatives and press for comprehensive HIV/ AIDS care in any health care reform package. **(GC '94)**

Call for AIDS education on the parish level. **(GC '88)**

## Affirming Reproductive Choice

Call upon the Church to minister to men and women suffering from post-abortion stress. **(GC '00)**

Express grave concern about the use of intact dilation and extraction except in extreme situations. **(GC '97)**



Oppose any legislative, executive, or judicial action limiting the ability of a woman to reach an informed decision about the termination of a pregnancy or access to a safe means of acting on that decision. **(GC '94)**

Oppose efforts to legislate parental notification in cases of pregnant minors. **(GC '91)**

Condemn abortion to select sex of children. **(GC '88)** Condemn violence against abortion clinics. **(GC '88)**

Reaffirm the right to use birth control. **(GC '82)**

## Recognizing Human Sexuality

Reaffirm the Church's position that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection under the law. **(EC 3/07)**

Recognize that there are couples in the Church living in marriage and other lifelong relationships and that such relationships will be characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection, respect, and careful and honest communication. **(GC '00)**

Denounce promiscuity, exploitation, and abusiveness in relationships of Church members. **(GC '00)**

Reaffirm the imperative to promote conversation between those of differing experiences and perspectives. **(GC '00)**

Acknowledge the Church's teaching on the sanctity of marriage. **(GC '00)**

Urge dioceses and congregations to provide safe places for youth and young adults to discuss human sexuality. **(GC '00)**

Urge parishes to teach and support youth sexual abstinence. **(GC '97)**

Propose that all provinces of the Anglican Communion and those sharing ecumenical dialogue initiate pan-Anglican/ecumenical dialogue on human sexuality. **(GC '91)**

## Setting Medical Ethics

Establish that all experimental genetic interventions in human beings must meet ethical standards. **(GC '03)**

Resolve to support the choice of those who wish to donate early embryos after *in vitro* fertilization, and urge Congress to pass legislation authorizing federal funding for medical research on human embryonic stem cells, provided that the embryos meet certain standards. **(GC '03)**

Reject conception for the purpose of providing fetal tissue for therapeutic or medical research usage. **(GC '91)**

Affirm a living will as a beneficial document. **(GC '91)**

Approve *in vitro* fertilization. **(GC '82)**

## Promoting Inclusivity and Accessibility

Urge congregations and institutions of The Episcopal Church to open their facilities to trained, certified service animals. **(GC '03)**

Adopt the NCCC USA policy statement on disabilities. **(GC '00)**

Encourage the Church to become knowledgeable about mental illness to stop stigmas and stereotypes. **(GC '91)**

Work for accessibility for disabled persons. **(GC '85)**

## Preventing Violence and Physical Abuse

Condemnation of Domestic Violence **(EC 02/16)**

Condemn all manifestations and instances of domestic and sexual violence, regardless of the victim or the circumstances. Support governmental actions that protect the rights of victims of violent acts and urge all Episcopalians to strive for justice and healing through prayer, advocacy, care, and action. **(EC 2/16)**

Call upon state governments to enact legislation to reduce domestic violence. **(GC '00)**

Call upon congregations to make an active and ongoing response to problems of sexual or domestic violence in their communities. **(GC '00)**

Identify and communicate resources for combating pornography. **(GC '97)**

Oppose violence and educate at every level of the Church to build just and nonviolent relationships. **(GC '94)**

Condemn all forms of violence against women. **(GC '94)**

Renew commitment to address violence in every sector of society, especially domestic violence and hate-based violence. **(GC '91)**

## Promoting Women's Rights

Urge the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. **(EC 4/12)**

Affirm that the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo established an important plan of action for securing rights for all the world's citizens. Recognize the pivotal role that women play in securing health and well-being for themselves and their families. **(EC 2/04)**

Endorse the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). **(GC '91)**

Support the Equal Rights Amendment. **(GC '82)**

## Advocating for Children

Urge the U.S. government to provide funding for programs that combat social and economic conditions preventing children from achieving their full potential. **(GC '06)**

Confirm that care for the needs of children is a priority of the Church, and urge the President and Congress to make funding for children's care a priority. **(EC 2/05)**

Affirm that children are central to the mission of the Church. **(GC '00)**

Ask each diocese to increase awareness and implementation of the Children's Charter as a continuing vision of The Episcopal Church's ministry in nurturing, ministering to, advocating on behalf of, and supporting children in their ministries. **(GC '00)**

Affirm the value of adoption, and ask Congress to pass legislation making adoption counseling available. **(GC '00)**

Support crime prevention programs that provide recreation, education, and other activities to discourage youth from gangs and crime. **(EC 2/95)**

Encourage the Church to address issues of youth suicide and throwaway youth, especially concerning conflict over sexuality. **(GC '94)**

Call upon the Senate to ratify the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. **(GC '94)**

## Protecting God's Creation

Commend the work and supportive leadership on behalf of the Sioux Nation in its response to corporate and governmental intrusion onto its sacred ground, and support the Sioux Nation's right for peaceful assembly and protest. **(EC 10/16)**

Commit to working for global eco-justice and to support the development of eco-justice sites, as well as regional and advisory groups to network and facilitate eco-justice. **(EC 6/16)**

Affirm support of Agenda 2030 and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and commit to the goals of eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development by 2030. **(EC 10/16)**

Support public policies and laws that protect the health and safety of workers throughout the food system, protect our Earth's natural environment, protect humanity's ability to produce food for generations to come, and increase access to healthy food for all people. **(GC '15)**

Urge the Church to deepen its commitment to addressing food insecurity, food-related health issues, and food-related environmental effects in our communities and nations. **(GC '15)**

Urge the Church to advocate for sustainable, equitable, culturally appropriate, and accessible food systems. **(GC '15)**

Call upon The Episcopal Church to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy. **(GC '15)**

Urge Congress to pass legislation curbing air pollution at U.S. ports, and encourage Episcopal dioceses located near ports to become more engaged in environmental, community, and worker justice efforts at the ports. **(GC '12)**

Call upon The Episcopal Church to advocate for policies that will promote sustainable energy and alleviate burdens on those most affected by climate change and the transition away from fossil fuels. **(GC '12)**

Call upon The Episcopal Church to support grassroots solutions to climate change that strengthen local resilience, local food sovereignty, ecological restoration, and economic relocalization. **(GC '12)**

Call upon Episcopalians to restrict their use of bottled water where safe drinking water is available and to employ other everyday water conservation techniques to lessen the negative ecological impact of wasted water and bottled water production. **(GC '09)**

Urge the U.S. government to legislate equitable subsidies for renewable energy and balance its current subsidies for nonrenewable energy sources. **(GC '09)**

Support the adoption of a federal renewable energy standard that requires energy suppliers to obtain at least 20% of their electricity from renewable energy sources. **(GC '09)**

Support programs worldwide that conserve water and utilize clean energy to power public buildings and transportation. **(GC '09)**

Affirm that policy decisions affecting the health and well-being of humans and ecosystems must be based on scientifically evaluated, peer-reviewed data. **(GC '09)**

Support legislative efforts to maintain the highest degree of scientific integrity in research that is intended for use in legislative deliberation. **(GC '09)**

Endorse the Earth Charter, a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century; and call upon Episcopalians to take actions consistent with the Earth Charter locally, nationally, and internationally. **(GC '09)**

Promote awareness about the public environmental decisions that adversely affect the lives and health of the most vulnerable in our society, especially children, indigenous communities, and communities of people of color; and encourage environmentally just actions in all spheres of society. **(GC '09)**

Promote awareness about how our everyday decisions affect the lives and health of endangered species, farmed food animals, and domesticated animals. **(GC '09)**

Urge the President and Congress to commit to a course of action, in collaboration with the other nations of the world, to lower the output of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by 25% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050. **(GC '09)**

Challenge Episcopalians, and all Christians, to be mindful of the consequences that our lifestyles have around the world, particularly for the health of marginalized communities, and to act upon our beliefs by working for justice and peace for all of God's creation through personal actions, congregational action, and public witness with policymakers. **(EC 3/07)**

Offer our prayers for those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and encourage Episcopalians to continue to offer support and assistance, while pressing the U.S. government to rebuild the Gulf Coast. **(EC 3/07)**

Affirm that global warming threatens the future of God's creation, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and support efforts to reduce global warming. **(GC '06)**

Encourage dioceses, congregations, and individuals to become active stewards of their water resources. **(GC '03)**

Recognize that the responsible care of animals falls within the stewardship of creation and work for the protection of animals. **(GC '03)**

Direct OGR to work on public policy ensuring clean water. **(GC '03)**

Call for conservation-based energy legislation consistent with the long-standing belief that we are stewards of God's creation, responsible for its care and preservation. **(EC 2/03)**

Oppose drilling or mining in our nation's dwindling wild lands and places important to the traditional cultures of indigenous peoples, including oil and gas exploration and drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which threaten the life and culture of the Gwich'in people. **(EC 3/02)**

Urge the President and Congress to provide financial support and leadership for developing nations to control their emissions of greenhouse gases in order to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. **(EC 6/01)**

Urge the President to address the issue of global warming and take the necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. **(EC 6/01)**

Urge the President and Congress to provide funds and leadership in an effort to encourage renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation. **(EC 6/01)**  
Oppose environmental racism. **(GC '00)**

Oppose mountaintop removal and valley-fill mining and other mining operations that threaten the ecology and low-income communities. **(GC '00)**

Call upon the Church to practice environmentally sound and energy-efficient living. **(GC '97)**

Encourage Church investors to influence corporations to find alternatives to the manufacture, use, and disposal of hazardous chemicals. **(GC '94)**

Express vigorous opposition to the U.S. use of foreign countries as dumping grounds for waste. **(GC '91)**

## Seeking Economic Justice

Affirm support of Agenda 2030 and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and commit to the goals of eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development by 2030. **(EC 10/16)**

Reaffirm support for current local efforts to establish a Living Wage and advocate for an increase in the national minimum wage, indexed to inflation. Commend ongoing efforts of labor to organize for improved work conditions for all working people. **(EC 6/16)**

Commend Congress' efforts to address poverty and hunger, focusing on childhood education and criminal justice reform and reducing inefficiencies in federal poverty programs without impairing successful programs. Encourage all Episcopalians to advocate for the poor with policy makers at all levels. **(EC 06/16)**

Commend proposed Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rules and regulations intended to protect consumers and govern the payday loan industry, and encourage Episcopalians to express faith and justice concerns regarding payday lending. **(EC 6/16)**

Call upon The Episcopal Church to engage in and advocate for increasing the minimum wage to a living wage. **(GC '15)**

Call for a reversal of federal and state tax cuts and the erosion of progressivity in federal and state tax rates. **(GC '15)**

Call upon Congress to address economic insecurity by raising the minimum wage, and encourage Episcopalians to stand in public solidarity with our low-wage brothers and sisters. **(EC 6/14)**

Encourage all Episcopalians to strive to transform the workforce and economic systems that perpetuate unequal pay between genders. **(EC 2/13)**

Urge Congress to pass legislation protecting the rights of port workers to organize and ensuring that these workers are paid a living wage. **(GC '12)**

Affirm the Church's commitment to working toward a just and fair system of taxation that places a proportional burden on those with higher incomes, encourages governmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility, and promotes economic justice for society's most vulnerable citizens. **(GC '12)**

Urge the U.S. government to adopt a multifaceted approach to curbing unemployment, including a federal jobs-creation program, a long-term plan to rebuild the nation's infrastructure, movement to a greener economy, and job training. **(GC '12)**

Express opposition to the legislative attempts to remove or diminish the collective bargaining rights of employees in the private and public sectors. **(GC '12)**

Affirm The Episcopal Church's commitment to working toward stricter usury laws that reflect fair loan structures, repayment schedules, and interest rates, and eliminating loopholes in usury laws that allow predatory lending practices. **(GC'12)**

Affirm The Episcopal Church's commitment to a fair and just mortgage lending industry by supporting legislation that allows fair lending for community reinvestment, micro-financing and micro-lending, just loan repayment for homeowners, transparency in the banking industry, and termination of predatory lending. **(GC'12)**

Call upon Congress to enact legislation that ensures the credit reporting industry provides transparent, uniform, and accurate reporting; requires strong enforcement in implementing regulations; and funds adequate staffing of the agencies charged with regulation. **(GC'12)**

Call upon all elected officials to respect the labor rights of public employees and to withdraw any legislation that would limit or eliminate those rights. **(EC 6/11)**

Encourage Episcopalians to work together on issues of poverty, social service, and social justice. **(GC'09)**

Advocate for comprehensive government regulations over economic transactions in the financial and banking sectors to prevent practices that negatively affect moderate- and low-income people. **(GC'09)**

Commend elected officials and community leaders who have established sites at which day laborers are treated fairly and in a manner that benefits their communities, and continue to support these efforts. **(GC'09)**

Urge Congress to pass, and the President to sign labor law reform: legislation to better protect employees engaged in collective bargaining, to simplify the procedures by which employees may choose to organize, and to assist employers and employees in reaching an agreement. **(GC'09)**

Reaffirm the rights of all workers to organize and form unions, including seasonal and migrant workers. **(GC'06)**

Urge the President and Congress to establish a living wage, including health benefits, as the standard of compensation for all workers in the U.S. **(GC'03)**

Urge Congress to support legislation raising the federal minimum wage to the hourly equivalent of an annual wage at the current federal poverty line for a family of four. **(GC'03)**

Affirm support for and advocacy on social and economic problems facing farming and rural communities. **(GC'00)**



Encourage awareness of past and present discriminatory practices in granting of federal subsidies and loans to African American and other minority farmers. **(GC '00)**

Challenge every congregation to develop at least one direct, person-to-person ministry to and with the poor. **(GC '97)**

Charge dioceses and provinces with greater responsibility in sustaining and developing ministries to migrant and seasonal farm workers. **(GC '97)**

Reaffirm support for affirmative action and fair employment practices. **(EC 11/95)**

Reaffirm Jubilee as a model for ministry and outreach, and urge dioceses and congregations to reexamine their mission statements with regard to outreach. **(GC '94)**

## Supporting Human Needs

Call upon the Church to advance the human rights of farm workers by encouraging study and action on the purchasing practices of the corporate food industry and promoting socially responsible practices. **(EC 3/07)**

Commend the work done to aid victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and acknowledge that far more must still be done by federal, state, and local governments. **(EC 10/05)**

Recognize the Social Security program as important in protecting orphans, the elderly, and the disabled. Urge that any potential changes in the program neither change the intent of the program nor put an undue burden on the poor. **(EC 2/05)**

Affirm the support for and improvement of the federal network of programs to reduce the numbers of those living in poverty, to support workers' efforts to achieve self-sufficiency, and to ensure continuing benefits for those who require a safety net to feed their families. **(EC 3/02)**

Support the eligibility of faith-based social service programs for public funds, so long as these programs 1) do not discriminate in hiring or provision of services on the basis of religion, race, national origin, sexual orientation, age, sex, or disability; and 2) do not require those seeking services to receive religious instruction or proselytizing as part of receiving services. **(EC 6/01)**

Support increased public funding for programs addressing critical human needs at the local, state, and federal level through both secular and faith-based providers, and support proposals to use the tax code to create incentives for increasing charitable giving. **(EC 6/01)**

Support a welfare system that does not discriminate on the basis of marital status, age, legal immigrant status, or ability to identify other parent. **(EC 2/95)**

Support a welfare system that holds families together. **(EC 2/95)**

## Ending Hunger

Supports a day of prayer and fasting and charges all Episcopalians to advocate against Congressional cuts to federal programs for the poor and hungry. **(EC 6/17)**

Commend Congress' efforts to address poverty and hunger, focusing on childhood education and criminal justice reform and reducing inefficiencies in federal poverty programs without impairing successful programs. Encourage all Episcopalians to advocate for the poor with policy makers at all levels. **(EC 6/16)**

Reaffirm our commitment to federal nutrition programs that address basic food and health care needs in vulnerable populations. **(GC '15)**

Call upon Episcopalians to advocate for public policies that lift people out of poverty and end hunger. **(GC '15)**

Support federal nutrition programs. **(EC 3/95)**

Support increased funding for the federal Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. **(GC '91)**

Reaffirm our commitment to eradication of hunger and poverty domestically and worldwide. **(GC '88)**

## Expanding Housing and Community Investment

Advocate for legislation that provides adequate levels of support and opportunities for low-income people by investing in community development corporations, small business development, and land trusts, and by encouraging loans and deposits to community development financial institutions. **(GC '09)**

Reaffirm our commitment to provide rental and owner-occupied housing that is safe, accessible, and affordable for low-income persons and their families, including persons with disabilities. **(GC '03)**

Support the Community Reinvestment Act and other means of providing capital to low- and moderate-income communities. **(EC 11/95)**

Encourage Church institutions to explore ways that financial resources can be used to promote justice. **(EC 11/95)**

## Strengthening Public Education

Support equity in public education for all young people through advocacy and service. **(GC '09)**

Urge legislatures and school boards to establish standards for scientific education that is based on the best available scientific knowledge as accepted by a consensus of the scientific community. **(GC '06)**

Commend those committed to and involved in public education. **(GC '00)**

Work with government and civic institutions to strengthen public schools. **(GC '00)**

Oppose private school voucher plans that weaken public school systems. **(GC '00)**

Assure constitutional balance in treatment of moment-of-silence statutes. **(GC '94)**

## Protecting Civil Liberties

Commits the Church to advocate at all levels of government to ensure fair districting and equitable representation, and opposes partisan gerrymandering or redistricting aimed at diluting the votes of people of color. **(10/17)**

Support national and state legislation against discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression, and call on local, state, and federal officials to enact such legislation to protect equal access to public accommodation. Oppose all legislation seeking to deny dignity, equality, and civil rights of transgender people. **(EC 6/16)**

Express concern that federal statutes and legal precedents not be used by the U.S. government to suppress the civil liberties of Muslims, Arabs, or Palestinians living in the U.S. **(GC '12)**

Urge the President of the United States to use law-enforcement protocols to bring to justice those who commit acts of terrorism, treating terrorists as criminals, and call upon all Episcopalians to refrain from demonizing and dehumanizing terrorists. **(GC '12)**

Endorse the provision of the same political rights to residents of the District of Columbia as those enjoyed by other Americans, including the right to elect voting members of Congress. **(GC '12)**

Oppose the overly broad interpretation of the “material support” provisions of

the USA PATRIOT Act, which allows for the refusal of admission into the U.S. to certain refugees, and recommend an interpretation of these provisions that pertains only to formally designated foreign terrorist organizations and does not apply to those who have resisted regimes that denied them basic human rights or to those who, under duress, unwittingly associate with a terrorist organization. **(EC 11/06)**

Encourage Congress to hold public hearings about the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 and possible curtailing of civil liberties. **(GC '03)**

Oppose any further expansion or extension of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 that would further curtail the civil rights of ethnic and religious minorities. **(EC 4/03)**

Oppose legislation that alters the current tax code regarding political activity by houses of worship. **(EC 10/02)**

Urge the protection of constitutional rights and civil liberties so that the rights of certain persons will not be wrongfully jeopardized because of their ethnicity or race, while recognizing legitimate security concerns in the wake of September 11, 2001. **(EC 10/01)**

## Seeking Criminal Justice

Oppose for-profit prisons and detention centers that capitalize on the criminal, civil, or immigration incarceration of individuals. **(EC 10/14)**

Urge Congress to create a bipartisan U.S. Commission on Criminal Justice to examine reform of the U.S. prison system. **(GC '12)**

Call upon The Episcopal Church and its members to urge Congress and other elected officials to support reentry programs for prisoners and ex-offenders. **(EC 3/07)**

Urge Congress to repeal the mandatory federal sentencing guidelines and to restore the discretion of federal trial judges. **(GC '03)**

Support the establishment and/or expansion of occupational, therapeutic treatment, and academic programs in prisons where prisoners may be prepared for reentry into society. **(GC '03)**

Support a justice system that addresses the needs of juvenile offenders. **(GC '00)**

Call upon federal and state governments to enact legislation that ensures DNA testing is made available to accused persons and to prisoners at any time during the corrections process. (GC'00)

Reaffirm opposition to the death penalty, and call for immediate moratorium on capital punishment. (GC'00)

Urge the Church to be active in public policy decisions affecting the growing prison industrial complex on the local, state, and national levels. (GC'00)

Call for a moratorium on the posting of prisoners outside their home states. (GC'00)

Endorse the exploration and study of restorative justice for our nation's criminal justice system. (GC'00)

Urge moratorium on maximum control unit prison construction, and observe human rights and needs of prisoners. (GC'94)

Urge resources be allocated for rehabilitation, education, housing, health care, productive employment, and other basic human needs for those imprisoned. (GC'94)

Encourage the Parish Visitation Program to inmates, and support and training to newly discharged inmates. (GC'94)

## Expanding Gun Safety

Affirms the Sandy Hook principles and calls for advocacy against gun violence to corporations, especially those in the Church's investment portfolio. (EC 6/17)

Support handgun purchaser licensing. (GC'15)

Call upon Church members to work for removal of handguns and assault weapons from homes, residential communities, and vehicles. (GC'00)

Urge the U.S. government to prohibit the export of handguns. (GC'00)

Express deep concern about the repeated use of easily available handguns and assault weapons by and against children. (GC'00)

Urge Congress to increase restrictions on firearms sale, ownership, and use. (GC'97)

Encourage legislation to ban carrying concealed firearms. (GC'97)

Support the federal ban on assault weapons. (EC 2/95)

# FIGHTING RACISM *and* DISCRIMINATION

## General

Reaffirm the Church's commitment to racial reconciliation and justice and distribute the Church's treasures in a way that reflects that commitment. Empower the Executive Council to aid the Church to achieve racial justice. **(EC 11/15)**

Urge all persons, along with public, governmental, and religious institutions, to discontinue the display of the Confederate Battle Flag. **(GC '15)**

Oppose racial profiling by law enforcement and civil authorities that unjustly victimize people of color. **(EC 4/2012)**

Recognize the continued presence of racism, and extend anti-racism commitment for another nine years. **(GC '09)**

Call upon the Episcopal faith community to continue to gather information on the history of The Episcopal Church's complicity in the slave trade and subsequent racial segregation and discrimination in this country. **(GC '09)**

Call upon the Episcopal faith community to recommit itself to the process of truth-telling, repentance, and reconciliation in response to this history. **(GC '09)**

Reiterate our theological principle that all human beings are created in the image of God. **(GC '09)**

Urge Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment. **(GC '09)**

Urge the Church at every level to support legislation initiating study of and dialogue about the history and legacy of slavery. **(GC '06)**

Deplore the desecration of any religious text or space, and call upon all people to respect religious diversity. **(EC 6/05)**

Affirm the Church's abhorrence of violence and racial profiling of Muslims and people of color done in the name of religion. **(GC '03)**

Reaffirm the Church's historic commitment to eradicating racial injustice. **(GC '03)**

Condemn all acts motivated by hate; Support hate crimes legislation at local, state, and national levels, which includes categories of political or religious creed, color, ethnic or national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or age. **(GC '00)**

Reaffirm support for affirmative action and fair employment practices. **(EC 11/95)**

## Promoting Racial Justice in the Church

Reaffirm the Church's commitment to racial reconciliation and justice and to distribute the Church's treasures in a way that reflects that commitment. Empower the Executive Council to aid the Church to achieve racial justice. **(EC 11/15)**

Urge the Church to increase dialogue and improve education on racial injustice and to create and share resources on curriculum and programs dedicated to ministries of reconciliation. **(GC '15)**

Urge the Church to respond faithfully to the call to action that #BlackLivesMatter, Too, and stand in solidarity in valuing and protecting people of color who are discriminated against. **(EC 10/14)**

Mandate that all dioceses give a progress report to the Anti-Racism Committee on their efforts to engage their members in the restorative justice process, in order to fulfill the vision of a Church without racism. **(GC '09)**

Call upon the Office of Anti-Racism and Gender Equality to design frameworks to actively recruit persons of color to pursue ordination; analyze how persons of color are deployed to parishes; and document the experience of persons of color going through the discernment process, seminary, and the ordination process. **(GC '09)**

Declare unequivocally that the institution of slavery is a sin that continues to plague our common life in the Church and our culture, and resolve that The Episcopal Church acknowledge its history of participating in this sin. Express our most profound regret that The Episcopal Church supported slavery both before and after it was formally abolished, and establish a process for creation of a program of healing and reconciliation. **(GC '06)**

Develop an anti-racism plan for self-assessment and systematic change. **(EC 2/04)**

Encourage The Episcopal Church Center to develop new ways of welcoming people of diverse ethnic backgrounds into the Church. **(GC '03)**  
Make all official documents and publications by DFMS available in Spanish and French no later than 2006. **(GC '03)**

Mandate anti-racism training for all professional staff and all lay and clergy leaders at all levels of the Church. **(GC '00)**

Strengthen the recruitment, retention, and education of people of color for the ordained ministry. **(GC '94)**

Call on baptized persons to remove racism from the life of the nation. **(GC '91)**

## Recognizing Native Americans

Commend the work and supportive leadership on behalf of the Sioux Nation in its response to corporate and governmental intrusion onto its sacred ground, and support the Sioux Nation’s right for peaceful assembly and protest. **(EC 10/16)**

Call upon professional sports leagues and college and high school organizations to endorse the policy instituted and enforced by the NCAA in regard to so-called “native” names that promote negative stereotypes. **(EC 2/14)**

Repudiate the “Doctrine of Discovery,” and call upon The Episcopal Church to protect the rights and cultures of indigenous people. **(GC ‘12)**

Call upon the U.S. government to recognize the Native American tribes that have been requesting federal tribal recognition but have not yet received it. **(GC ‘09)**

Call upon Episcopalians to advocate and support the honoring of all Indian treaty rights and the right to internal autonomy and self-determination of Indian Nations and Tribes. **(GC ‘09)**

Call upon The Episcopal Church to establish a community development initiative in poor communities, especially Native Peoples’ communities, using asset-based community development models. **(GC ‘09)**

Endorse the Crazy Horse Defense Project to halt the commercial exploitation of Native American tribes. **(GC ‘97)**

Support local, state, and national efforts to protect Native American Churches’ rights to practice their religions. **(GC ‘91)**

Support Native American treaty rights. **(GC ‘85)**

Increase employment opportunities for American Indians. **(GC ‘82)**

## Protecting the Rights of Gay and Lesbian Persons

Support national and state legislation against discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression, and call on local, state, and federal officials to enact such legislation to protect equal access to public accommodation. Oppose all legislation seeking to deny dignity, equality, and civil rights of transgender people. **(EC 6/16)**

Support legislation banning practices that try to change people’s sexual orientation or force them to deny their gender identity. **(GC ‘15)**



Urge the repeal of federal laws that discriminate on civilly married same-sex couples and the passage of legislation to allow the federal government to provide benefits to these couples. **(GC'12)**

Encourage the U.S. government to strengthen protection and assistance for refugees who flee based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to intensify efforts to work diplomatically in the international community to strengthen protections in all parts of the world and in all aspects of the refugee and asylum process. **(EC 2/11)**

Support the passage of Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which will give protected status under federal employment law to the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community. **(GC'09)**

Condemn the criminalization of homosexuality and advocacy for equal treatment of LGBT persons in many countries around the world, as well the increased violence against such persons. **(EC 3/07)**

Urge the U.S. government to grant asylum to LGBT persons, or those who advocate for these groups, whose lives are threatened in their home countries for these reasons. **(EC 3/07)**

Urge the Church's Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements not to propose any site for any future General Conventions located in a state that prohibits domestic partnerships or the associated rights. **(EC 3/07)**

Support gay and lesbian persons as children of God and their entitlement to full civil rights. **(GC'06)**

Oppose any state or federal constitutional amendment that prohibits same-sex civil marriage or civil unions. **(GC'06)**

Declare efforts to criminalize homosexual behavior to be incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **(GC'06)**

Encourage the Boy Scouts to allow membership irrespective of sexual orientation. **(GC'00)**

Establish formal process for congregations to identify themselves as "safe spaces" for gay and lesbian persons. **(GC'00)**

Call upon the U.S. government to extend benefits such as bereavement and family leave policies, health benefits, pension benefits, and real-estate transfer tax benefits to gay and lesbian couples. **(GC'97)**

Reaffirm the civil rights of homosexual persons. **(GC'94)**

## Protecting Persons with HIV/AIDS

Urge church members to work to eliminate the stigma of HIV/AIDS. **(GC'06)**

Encourage the Church at every level to combat oppression that contributes to spread of HIV/AIDS and hinders prevention, education, treatment, and access to services. **(GC'00)**

Urge all baptized persons to speak publicly in opposition to discrimination against those who are HIV positive. **(GC'91)**

## Advancing Interfaith Relations

Urge congregations to serve as model peacemakers in their relationships with others, and commend the efforts of these congregations for their work in interfaith bridge building between the Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities. **(GC'12)**

Encourage dialogue between Christian and Muslim communities “that maintains the theological integrity of both faith communities and commitment to genuine human rights and religious freedom.” **(GC'03)**

Call upon the whole Church to engage in local interfaith dialogues among peoples of the three Abrahamic faiths, especially the core belief of nonviolence as expressed in salaam, shalom, and peace. **(EC 10/01)**

Urge dialogue with Muslims and Jews on local concerns including hunger, homelessness, teenage pregnancy, and prison ministry. **(GC'94)**

Distinguish criticisms of the Israeli government from anti-Jewish prejudice. **(GC'91)**

Oppose anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish prejudice. **(EC 2/85)**

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