

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-D060
Title: Support for LGBTQ Persons Facing Additional Discrimination During COVID-19
Proposer: The Rev. Cynthia Black
Topic: Discrimination, Homosexuality

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-A230 Condemn Unjust Scapegoating
2015-A051 Support LGBTI Advocacy in Africa
1988-D100 Decry Violence Against Homosexuals

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2018-C022 Support End of Discrimination Against Transgender and Non-Binary People
2018-C054 Adopt Guiding Principles for Inclusion of Transgender and Non-binary People
2009-D012 Support Laws that Prohibit Discrimination Based on Gender Identity
2000-D009 Condemn All Hate Crimes

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

D060 - Support for LGBTQ Persons Facing Additional Discrimination During COVID-19

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: The Rev. Cynthia Black

Endorsed by: The Very Rev. Brian Coleman, El Rvdo. Bryan Vélez-Garcia

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HB

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 07 - Social Justice & International Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention lament the harm done to LGBTQ persons throughout the world who, during COVID-19 restrictions, have been subjected to torture, humiliation, and scapegoating; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church urge the Office of Global Partnerships, dioceses and congregations throughout The Episcopal Church to condemn this opportunistic discrimination and offer support to partner dioceses, including through working with affirming organizations, to help those persons who have suffered, and continue to suffer, harm.

Explanation

According to reports from Human Rights Watch and others, increased anti-LGBTQ bias was directly related to the rise in COVID-19 in all regions of the world. In Uganda police detained some 20 LGBTQ homeless youth on spurious charges of breaking Covid-19 restrictions and tortured them in prison. In the Philippines, village officials humiliated LGBTQ people while enforcing curfew. In South Korea, social media users scapegoated LGBTQ people after some media linked an outbreak to gay clubs. In Panama, police and private security officials discriminated against transgender people while enforcing a gender-based quarantine.

Hungary's leader used COVID-19 emergency powers to rush through discriminatory legislation against transgender people. Meanwhile Poland stoked anti-LGBTQ sentiment in the name of family values. In addition to anti-trans legislation, Hungary banned adoptions by same sex couples, while Poland's president likened LGBTQ persons to an ideology worse than communism, signed a "Family Charter" pledging to block gay marriage, adoption by same sex couples, and the teaching on LGBTQ issues in schools, and also encouraged the increasing numbers of local authorities declaring themselves to be "LBGT free" zones. Egypt, Tunisia, Uganda, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka, among others, performed unscientific forced anal exams.[i]

In addition to a rise in discrimination, the economic impact of COVID has been experienced more deeply among the LGBTQ population in the United States.

[i] <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/02/24/global-trends-lgbt-rights-during-covid-19-pandemic#>



Resolution Number: 2018-A230
Title: Condemn Unjust Scapegoating
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention proclaims that the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement repudiates all political appeals and language rooted in the sin of scapegoating groups of human beings on the basis of race, language, culture, belief, economic and physical condition, immigration status, gender identification, and sexual orientation; and be it further
Resolved, That General Convention observes that such attacks have escalated alarmingly in the current political climate, including, but not limited to, the scapegoating of people of African descent in our cities—blamed for crime; non-white immigrants and asylum seekers from the Southern Hemisphere—blamed for stealing jobs; visitors and U.S. citizens from Arab Muslim countries—blamed for terrorism; indigenous peoples—blamed for a wide range of social ills and for thwarting energy independence; women and LGBTQ+ people—blamed for the de-masculinization and disintegration of society and families; the economically disadvantaged—blamed for being a burden on the wealthy and comfortable; the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated—condemned as irredeemable; and persons with disabilities—ridiculed, as in Jesus’s time, as outcasts. We recognize also that the sin of scapegoating occurs in virtually every nation in which The Episcopal Church ministers; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention repudiates the acts of violence that inevitably result from the rhetoric and tactics of political scapegoating; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention finds group scapegoating to be abhorrent to the heart of Christ and the soul of democracy. It offends against the rootedness of the best ideals of our government in the ethics respecting the dignity of individuals to which Christianity and all great faiths are pledged. It degrades politics by basing appeals for votes on fear and hate instead of hope and love. It invites comparisons to the darkest moments in human history, when race-based, clan-based, and other forms of scapegoating unleashed acts of genocide; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention commends the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to such consultations as they deem fit with The Episcopal Church’s ecumenical and interfaith partners (including the National Council of Churches’ A.C.T. Now to End Racism initiative) with a goal of uniting people of faith and like mind and spirit behind a consolidated, comprehensive, and coordinated witness against an ungodly practice that pollutes and strains our common life.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 610-611.



Resolution Number: 2015-A051
Title: Support LGBTI Advocacy in Africa
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize and commend the unconditional love and support that families, communities, scholars, and activists have shown to their Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) sisters and brothers in Africa who are at risk of violence, discrimination, and imprisonment; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the following redemptive words in the statement of the Primates of the Anglican Communion in the Dromantine Communique (2005) that: “The victimisation or diminishment of human beings whose affections happen to be ordered towards people of the same sex is anathema to us. We assure homosexual people that they are children of God, loved and valued by him, and deserving of the best we can give of pastoral care and friendship;” and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage parishes and dioceses, especially those with companion relationships with Anglicans in Africa, as well as advocacy groups, to build relationships with and learn from Anglican African scholars who are already offering Biblical interpretations that affirm the dignity and humanity of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex people; and be it further

Resolved, That the Office of Global Partnerships, Justice, and Advocacy Ministries, the Office of the Presiding Bishop, and other relevant church-wide offices be directed to work in partnership with African Anglicans who publicly oppose laws that criminalize homosexuality and incite violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex people; and be it further

Resolved, That The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church direct the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns or other appropriate body as designated by Executive Council to compile, for church-wide reference and use, a listing of information and resources developed by African Anglican leaders and organizations working to curb anti-gay and anti-transgender violence, discrimination, and marginalization; and be it further

Resolved, That The 78th General Convention of The Episcopal Church encourage parishes and dioceses to offer prayers for the safety of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex sisters and brothers, their families and communities, and for the scholars and activists who tirelessly work on their behalf.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 917-918.



Resolution Number: 1988-D100
Title: Decry Violence Against Homosexuals
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 69th General Convention decries the increase of violence against homosexual persons and calls upon law enforcement officials across the land to be sensitive to this peril and to prosecute the perpetrators of these acts to the fullest extent of the law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council be directed to communicate with the Attorney General of the United States, and the Attorney Generals of the several States the expressed wishes of this General Convention that such violence be decreased markedly; and be it further

Resolved, That all Bishops, and especially the Presiding Bishop, be encouraged to speak openly and publicly to repudiate the misconception that the Church encourages such violence, and to counter the public declarations of those who claim that AIDS is the punishment of God upon homosexual persons; and be it further

Resolved, That the actions of the 65th General Convention, which declared that "...homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all others upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church" be re-emphasized to all members of this Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 706.