

**General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022
Archives' Research Report**

Resolution No.: 2022-D063
Title: Support for Truth to Confront Misinformation and Violence
Proposer: Canon Barbara Okamoto Bach
Topic: Civil Rights, Communication, Education, Racism,

Directly Related: (Attached)

None

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

None

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.

D063 - Support for Truth to Confront Misinformation and Violence

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Canon Barbara Okamoto Bach

Endorsed by: Mr. Joe McDaniel, Ms. Dianne Audrick Smith, The Rev. Daniel Vélez-Rivera

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 08 - Social Justice & United States Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm that God's Beloved Community will be realized by seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself, striving for justice and peace among all people, and respecting the dignity of every human being; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention commit The Episcopal Church to denounce false statements that inflame division and stoke hatred and violence by standing against the spread of false information by media platforms and calling for its members to interrupt and correct lies that may endanger lives; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church support public policies that call for combating media misinformation and hateful speech and provide educational resources to identify misinformation on all platforms; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church support legislative acts that include public education teaching an accurate and complete history of all peoples who make up this country; and be it further

Resolved, That this 80th General Convention direct, consistent with established policies and procedures, that the Executive Council refer this Resolution to the Office of Government

Relations, so that it may take all actions necessary to accomplish the intentions and purposes of this Resolution.

Explanation

Our baptismal promises and the greatest commandment to love our neighbor provide a roadmap to becoming the Beloved Community. Developing trust, telling the truth, learning about and caring for the stranger promote living in right relationship with God and others. The Episcopal Church should denounce misinformation that endangers peoples' lives.

Examples of people whose lives are in peril because of the influence of untruths are teachers who teach the cruelty of slavery, doctors who perform abortions, transgender persons, and people of color.

Throughout racism's long history, unchallenged lies have continued to harm and endanger people of color. Racial prejudice maintained by falsehoods and inflammatory misinformation have the power to incite fear, suspicion, hate, oppressive measures, and violence. Untrue conspiracy theories based on intolerance and racist ideology are being promoted and spread by some news outlets and social media. They encourage racism and distrust for the "other", perpetuate stereotypes and false characterizations, and in too many cases incite aggression and violent crimes.

The Church must speak the truth to confront lies that kill people: no one is replacing another, stop scapegoating Asian people for the coronavirus, there is no invasion of immigrants, marriage equality is not a threat to marriage. Black people were killed in Buffalo, Asian women were killed in Atlanta, the cases of scores of missing Indigenous women have not been investigated, and the southern U.S. border needs a strategy to assist refugees and migrants.

Truth-telling and education promote right relationship with peoples who do not know each other. As part of truth-telling TEC should also support legislative acts that include teaching in public education the history of all peoples who make up this country.

