

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-A081
Title: Combat Rising Religious Nationalism
Proposer: Standing Commission on World Mission
Topic: Discrimination, Racism, Violence

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-D022 Support the Human Rights of Minority Peoples in China
2012-B019 Support Israeli-Palestinian Peace

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

2022-A078 Create a Task Force on Imagining a Church Grounded in Social Justice as Christian Ministry

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2022, 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](#).

A081 - Combat Rising Religious Nationalism

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Standing Commission on World Mission

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Changes Mandate Of Existing Ib: No

Directs Dfms Staff: Yes

Directs Dioceses: Yes

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: No House Assigned

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: No Committee Assigned

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 81st General Convention acknowledge the urgent issue of rising religious nationalism as a deeply rooted issue, both domestically and globally, as it rises to the forefront as a continued and troubling phenomenon; and be it further,

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church as a Body of Christ lament the negative impact of rising religious nationalism in the promotion of violence against marginalized groups, adversely affecting social, cultural, and historical contexts; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention encourage individuals, congregations, dioceses and other communities within the Church to educate themselves more thoroughly about this critical issue and its negative impact on marginalized groups; and be it further

Resolved, That General Convention urge The Episcopal Church and its mission-related entities to combat rising religious nationalism in partnership with inter-religious, ecumenical, and Anglican Communion partners.

Explanation

Both domestically and globally, extremism is at a crisis point, including religious nationalism. Religious nationalism is the intersection of religious identity and nationalist ideologies within a specific country or nation. Rising religious nationalism includes both the “Christian nationalist” movement in the United States of America and global forms of extremism. These movements promote violence against marginalized groups, severely affecting social, cultural and historical contexts.

Since the mission of The Episcopal Church, as stated in the Book of Common Prayer’s catechism, is “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ (pg. 855),” the Episcopal Church has a responsibility to acknowledge and identify rising religious nationalism given our presence domestically and globally, to identify incidents of this movement and to call them out urgently. Incidents may include turmoil or volatility in a social context, life-threatening behaviors against a people or religion, an historically based continuation of systemic hate crimes, and the targeting of minority groups.

The Standing Commission on World Mission offers this resolution to call for the recognition and acknowledgment of rising religious nationalism and urges The Episcopal Church to combat rising religious nationalism in partnership with inter-religious, ecumenical, and Anglican Communion partners.



Resolution Number: 2022-D022
Title: Support the Human Rights of Minority Peoples in China
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize with grave concern growing authoritarianism, attacks on democratic systems, and human rights abuses linked to ethnic and religious nationalism in many countries and regions around the world, and urge vigilance by Christians and all people of faith, civil society organizations, and governments in resisting this troubling trend; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church take note of a pattern of repression and surveillance by the Government of the People’s Republic of China against many different minority ethnic and religious groups, recognizing especially, with deep alarm, the recent campaign to control and constrain Uyghur, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and other Turkic Muslim people in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China and around the world, which has been characterized by global human rights organizations as a crime against humanity due to the mass scale of surveillance, arbitrary arrest and detention, forced labor, cultural and religious suppression and erasure, and family separation in Xinjiang as well as surveillance of members of these ethnic communities living abroad from China, including in the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention fully supports policies to pressure the Chinese government to respect the human rights of these and other minority peoples in China and to protect members of the diasporic communities of Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups from intimidation by Chinese embassies and agents and stop their repatriation to China; and be it further

Resolved, That the Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility of the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church take this resolution into account in the implementation of its corporate human rights screen for the Church’s investment portfolio, with attention to the use of forced labor in the supply chain of companies in which the church is invested, in Xinjiang and elsewhere in the world.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 483-484.



Resolution Number: 2012-B019
Title: Support Israeli-Palestinian Peace
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention express its regret at the lack of progress in negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians toward a just and peaceful resolution of the longstanding conflict between the two peoples, and call for the cessation of violence by all parties, and reaffirm this Church's commitment to a negotiated two-state solution in which a secure and universally recognized State of Israel lives alongside a free, viable, and secure state for the Palestinian people, with a shared Jerusalem as the capital of both; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commend the leadership of the Presiding Bishop in calling all Episcopalians to advocacy for an end to the conflict and support for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the other Christian communities of the Holy Land, particularly through her 2011 Pastoral Letter on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict (accessible on the website of The Episcopal Church); and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourage all dioceses, as well as the Executive Council and the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns, to engage actively in the discipline of advocacy, education, and prayer for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, as well as the provision of humanitarian aid that promotes peace and reconciliation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention affirm the importance of interfaith dialogue in the resolution of the Arab-Israeli-Palestinian conflict, both in the Holy Land itself and in other contexts around the world; and decry religious extremism and fundamentalism in all their forms and the violence that arises from their expression; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church affirm the truth that some mission is best enacted at the local level, and therefore urges all congregations to seek, over the next Triennium, to engage with local Jewish and Muslim congregations to study peace with justice in the Middle East, and urges that the narratives and theologies that inform the conversation on peace with justice in the Middle East be particular focuses of attention; and be it further

Resolved, That the Theology Committee of the House of Bishops, the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns, the resources of the Episcopal seminaries, and the Advocacy and Networking Committee of the Executive Council be called upon the support, through the triennium, the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian study on peace with justice in the Middle East, and produce and annotated bibliography of resources to be posted on the website of The Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, That the triennial study groups on Middle East peace with justice prepare report sharing what they learned about a constructive path to peace with justice, and that these reports be collected and shared with the Church by the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and be it further

Resolved, That the Presiding Bishop develop an interfaith model pilgrimage composed equally of Episcopalians, Jews, and Muslims in order to further encourage the travel of pilgrims

and witnesses to the Holy Land in order to experience the multiple narratives of the diverse peoples who call the land their home; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention affirm positive investment as a necessary means to create a sound economy and a sustainable infrastructure in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip because without these measures there can and will be no viable Palestinian state and no enduring peace; and be it further

Resolved, That in seeking to encourage such positive investment in the Palestinian territories, Episcopalians give priority to investment in the institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, which provide healthcare, education, and social services without discrimination on the basis of religion, political ideology, gender, socioeconomic standing, or national identity; and be it further

Resolved, That the work of the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Good Friday Offering be commended to all Episcopalians as faithful vehicles for providing economic and other support to the Diocese of Jerusalem and its institutions; and be it further

Resolved, That, as a component of this Church's support for positive financial investment in the Palestinian territories, the General Convention urge the Economic Justice Loan Committee to consider a loan of at least \$200,000 to strengthen the economic infrastructure of the Palestinian territories.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 221-222.