

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-C013
Title: Migration with Dignity
Proposer: Northern California
Topic: Refugees

Directly Related: (Attached)

2022-D045 Support the Protection of LGBTQI+ Refugees and Asylum Seekers
2022-D090 Reaffirm the Church's Teaching on Racism
2018-C033 Denounce Racism Against Immigrants and Advocate for Immigration Reform
2018-D009 Set Forth Christian Principles to Guide Responses to Human Migration
2015-D079 Urge Church-Wide Assistance to Undocumented Persons
2012-B028 Reform Refugee Policy
2006-A017 Adopt the Principles of “The Alien Among You” as the Church Policy
2006-D073 On the Topic of Asylum for Persecuted Lesbian and Gay People (Rejected)
1997-C017 Support Asylum Rights of Women Fleeing Mutilation
1985-D113 Request Congress to Reform Immigration Legislation

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

2018-A230 Condemn Unjust Scapegoating
2015-A047 Address Moral and Spiritual Healing from Traumatic Stress Injuries
2015-D033 Support Human Rights and Refugee Relief in Central America
2006-D042 On the Topic of Opposing the "Material Support" Provisions of the Patriot Act (Rejected)
2000-A010 On the Topic of a Commission on Haitian and Dominican Migration (Rejected)
1997-D081 Develop Advocacy Agenda of Refugee Admissions and Asylum

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](#).

C013 - Migration with Dignity

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Northern California

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: No

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: Yes

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That, acknowledging that grave and serious mistreatment of ethnic minorities, migrants, and refugees is on the rise in the midst of record migration, the 81st General Convention, consistent with resolutions of previous General Conventions, declare itself to be in support of Migration with Dignity for all, including refugees, asylum seekers, displaced persons, and those who cross borders in search of opportunity; and be it further

Resolved, That the 81st General Convention directs the Office of Government relations to promote Migration with Dignity in its work with the Federal Government. Advocating for the enforcement of existing laws and policies that uphold these principles, and supporting the enactment of new laws and policies guaranteeing the adoption of these Migration with Dignity Principles.

Explanation

The Diocese of Northern California has been in the forefront of migrant issues with the recent arrival of displaced asylum seekers from Texas. We have participated in hosting them through Trinity Cathedral and our partnership with Sacramento ACT.

The resolution to the 112th Convention of the Diocese of Northern California is proposed in solidarity with other Episcopal Dioceses. It encourages the adoption of the Migration with

Dignity framework, created in response to climate migration, but increasingly recognized as necessary as migration increases across the world. This resolution reaffirms and updates the Episcopal Church's long-standing commitment to human rights as they pertain to the just treatment of refugees, asylum-seekers, and all migrants.

The resolution is grounded in Scripture:

Old Testament: "Don't mistreat any foreigners who live in your land. Instead, treat them as well as you treat citizens and love them as much as you love yourself. Remember, you were once foreigners in the land of Egypt. I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 19:33-34).

New Testament: "Be sure to welcome strangers into your home. By doing this, some people have welcomed angels as guests, without even knowing it." (Hebrews 13:2)

The Migration with Dignity framework has been developed in anticipation of increased migration due to climate change. At the heart of the principles is a commitment to human dignity. This framework includes the following principles:

- A universal right of movement consistent with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), including freedom to leave and return to one's country of origin, and freedom of movement within one's country of origin or country of settlement (UDHR, Article 13).
- The right to be secure: from sexual violence including rape and sexual exploitation, human trafficking, slavery, forced labor, and arbitrary and abusive detention
- The right of equality, to include: 1) equal treatment with no discrimination under the law based on color, gender, language, religion, political affiliation, national origin, or disability; and 2) equal opportunity for upward mobility
- Rights to a basic quality of life, including employment rights, housing rights, and food rights
- The right to access services such as health care, education, and legal representation
- Civil and political rights guaranteeing the right to identity, to use of one's language, and to freedom of speech and religion;

All six of these elements align with, and can be derived from, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Episcopal Church has strongly supported this landmark statement since it was initially proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

The resolution also accords with and supports key positions of the Anglican Communion. As set forth in the 2022 Lambeth Call on Human Dignity, actions against the human dignity of God's children, including those against migrants and refugees, are sin, and hospitality to all and faithfulness to each are key marks of a godly community (1 Peter 4:8-10).

The resolution, taken as a whole, defines a much-needed, innovative response to the increasing challenge of global migration. Grave and serious mistreatment of ethnic minorities, migrants, and refugees is currently on the rise both in the United States and globally in the midst of record migration across international borders. The number of international migrants grew to 281 million in 2020, meaning that 3.6% of the world's people

lived outside their country of birth that year, according to the United Nations' International Organization for Migration (IOM).



Resolution Number: 2022-D045
Title: Support the Protection of LGBTQI+ Refugees and Asylum Seekers
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of the Episcopal Church express its full support of the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and IOM (International Organization for Migration) in their mission to protect LGBTQI+ persons forced to seek refugee or asylee status because they fear being persecuted based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/or sex characteristics (SOGIESC); and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urge all nations, especially the United States, to actively accept vulnerable SOGIESC refugees and asylees, and not send them back to their countries of origin , where they face persecution, violence, prison and possible death; and be it further

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention request that the Episcopal Migration Ministries highlight the issues surrounding LGBTQI+ refugees and asylees and offer information on ways of support, including these, for example, in their Toolkit for Congregations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), pp. 495-496.



Resolution Number: 2022-D090
Title: Reaffirm the Church's Teaching on Racism
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 80th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reaffirms previous General Convention resolutions on racism and that these shall be considered part of the Church's teaching on racism; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention thanks the House of Bishops Theology Committee for the teachings on racism and white supremacy and commends them to the church for study and action; and be it further

Resolved, That the Church's Christian principles to guide responses to human migration (2018-D009) and all previous General Convention resolutions concerning migrants and migration shall be part of the Church's teaching on racism; and be it further

Resolved, That racism, racially-biased behavior, and teaching contrary to the Church's teaching on racism is an anathema to the Church.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Baltimore, 2022* (New York: General Convention, 2023), p. 877.



Resolution Number: 2018-C033
Title: Denounce Racism Against Immigrants and Advocate for Immigration Reform
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church reject and deplore racist and unjust treatment of immigrants of any residential status; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church reaffirm GC2009-B006 which advocates for comprehensive immigration reform; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church direct the Episcopal Office of Government Relations to advocate on this Church's behalf all elements of this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church advocate through education, communication, and representation before legislative authorities the continuation of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for all persons fleeing to or currently resident in the US seeking refuge from violence, environmental disaster, economic devastation, or cultural abuse, domestic abuse, or other forms of abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church advocate for congressional consideration and implementation of comprehensive immigration reform which will allow millions of undocumented immigrants who have established roots in the United States and are often parents and spouses of U.S. Citizens to have a realistic pathway to citizenship and to full social and economic integration into the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That we affirm comprehensive immigration reform to include:

- **Keeping families together**
- **Respecting the United States Bill of Rights**
- **Honoring Human and Worker Rights**
- **Providing a Pathway to Citizenship**

And be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention 79 support the goals of expanded immigration relief for youth as outlined in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) as stated in GC2015-D048; and support the passing of federal legislation that presents a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth and young adults known as DREAMers, as stated in GC2012-D067; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge dioceses, congregations, and individual Episcopalians to commit to long term advocacy, prayer, and study around immigration and partner with the Office of Government Relations to contact their elected officials on the need for compassionate and humane immigration reform through the Episcopal Public Policy Network.

Resolved, That The 79th General Convention commends the ongoing work of Episcopal Migration Ministries in resettling refugees to the United States on behalf of the Episcopal Church and encourages dioceses, parishes, and communities to engage the work of Episcopal Migration Ministries through its Partners in Welcome ministry network and other welcoming and advocacy programs.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), p. 613.



Resolution Number: 2018-D009
Title: Set Forth Christian Principles to Guide Responses to Human Migration
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church recognize that human migration has always been part of the human condition, and that human migration will continue in future, and will likely increase due to any number of variables including the effects of climate change on human habitat, economic instability, or ongoing war and conflict, and remembering the call in both Hebrew and Christian Scriptures to welcome the stranger, building stronger and more diverse community: “You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt” (Deuteronomy 10:19) and “I was a stranger, and you welcomed me; Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25: 35, 40); and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention set forth these principles to guide our church’s response to human migration, including internal migration, in the future:

1. We recognize the fundamental human rights of all people as expressed in our Baptismal Covenant and we reaffirm that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights applies to all refugees and both regular and irregular migrants;
2. We remember that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were refugees, as they were forced to flee into a foreign land to escape violence;
3. We call on all governments to keep their commitments and legal obligations to respect the rights and dignity of all people, including access to justice and social services, while recognizing the complexity of developing just immigration policies in any country, and the legitimate need to protect borders and address security threats to sovereign nations;
4. We commit the church to learning and engaging migration issues as part of the Jesus Movement, sacredly holding the voices and leadership of migrants themselves and honoring their leadership in this process;
5. We will endeavor to learn and address root causes of migration and advocate for just solutions with Anglican/Episcopal, ecumenical, and interfaith partners;
6. We acknowledge the connection between U.S. policies, and the policies of other states, and the root drivers of migration, including climate change, armed conflict, and disruption of local economies through global trade policies;
7. We stress the importance of demonstrating hospitality and welcome as Christian values at the local level, preaching hospitality and positive storytelling to overcome xenophobia;
8. We insist that the United States of America and other powerful, wealthy nations, and all nations to the best of their ability, contribute to resettlement, establish and maintain safe and orderly humanitarian protection for refugees, internally displaced persons, and other migrants seeking long-term solutions and safety;
9. We call on all nations to maintain family unity and safety during migration;
10. We insist that economic and foreign relationships among governments should not increase the need of migration due to economic hardships, persecution, and violence;
11. We insist that governments strive to maintain conditions which are conducive to internal stability and employment opportunity;

12. **In the event that people are forced to migrate, we insist that our governments address the drivers holistically, without racial, ethnic, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical or mental ability, health status, or religious prejudice;**
13. **We insist that our governments adhere to the internationally accepted principle known as non-refoulement, that stipulates that countries should not return migrants and refugees to unsafe conditions in their home countries or other countries;**
14. **We recognize the links between migrants in vulnerable transit situations and human trafficking and other dangers, and will seek to establish and maintain robust, safe, and orderly routes for refugees;**
15. **We urge governments to expand refugee resettlement as a humanitarian response that offers individuals safety and opportunity;**
16. **We recognize that displacement due to climate change already happens and will increase, and we insist that our governments and the international community must commit to development of long-term protection solutions for persons displaced by climate change; and be it further**

Resolved, That this General Convention recognize the process underway at the United Nations to establish a Global Compact on Refugees,[i] and a Global Compact on Migration, processes that have included advocacy by The Episcopal Church Representative to the UN and by the Office of Government Relations Refugee and Immigration Policy Advisor; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention urge the Office of the Presiding Bishop to ensure continued representation of The Episcopal Church at the United Nations and other multinational consultations with faith communities on refugee and migrant issues, alongside the Anglican Communion Office, Lutheran World Federation, and other ecumenical and interfaith partners in responding to the global refugee crisis; and be it further

Resolved, That this General Convention encourage all congregations and dioceses to learn about the intricacies of migration, including root causes through the resources provided by Episcopal Migration Ministries and its Partners in Welcome network and engage in aiding migrants to the best of their ability.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Austin, 2018* (New York: General Convention, 2018), pp. 1065-1067.



Resolution Number: 2015-D079
Title: Urge Church-Wide Assistance to Undocumented Persons
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention strongly urge dioceses and congregations to provide resources and education for undocumented persons and their families to learn about their legal rights, including their rights regarding certain immigration relief such as asylum; and be it further

Resolved, That the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation of \$10,000 for the implementation of this resolution.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), p. 409.



Resolution Number: 2012-B028
Title: Reform Refugee Policy
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention of The Episcopal Church urge the United States Congress to reform the Refugee Act of 1980 in order to modernize the nation's refugee resettlement program; and be it further

Resolved, That such modernization efforts include but not be limited to, meeting the urgent needs of a diverse refugee population through specialized and extended case management, culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health services, recertification assistance for refugees with a professional background, restoration of federal benefits from 8 months to at least one year, housing and transportation assistance, and other innovative policies that create an adaptive, sustainable, and effectual integration pathway for refugees that helps them reestablish their lives in welcoming communities and live to the full potential of their talents and abilities in freedom and safety; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church, in response to our baptismal covenant's call to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being, as part of the Anglican Communion work to identify emerging refugee crises on the ground and to lift up populations who lack access to durable solutions, including resettlement and amplify their voices to local and global decision makers.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 320-321.



Resolution Number: 2006-A017
Title: Adopt the Principles of “The Alien Among You” as the Church Policy
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church receive “The Alien Among You” in the Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and, while recognizing the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its borders, adopt the following fundamental principles included in “The Alien Among You” as the policy of The Episcopal Church.

1. **Undocumented aliens should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency.**
2. **Legal workers should be allowed to enter the United States to respond to recognized labor force needs.**
3. **Close family members should be allowed to reunite without undue delay with individuals lawfully present in the United States.**
4. **Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted all persons.**
5. **Enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane; and be it further**

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church deplore any action by the Government of the United States which unduly emphasizes enforcement, including militarization of the border between the United States and Mexico, as the primary response to immigrants entering the United States to work; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church undertake a campaign to educate Episcopalians as to the plight of refugees, immigrants, and migrants, which will include information about the root causes of migration; and be it further

Resolved, That this campaign call the Church to commit to welcoming strangers as a matter of Christian responsibility, to advocate for their well being and protection and to urge its members to resist legislation and actions which violate our fundamental beliefs as Christians, including the criminalization of persons providing humanitarian assistance to migrants.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), pp. 532-533.



Resolution Number: 2006-D073
Title: On the Topic of Asylum for Persecuted Lesbian and Gay People
Legislative Action Taken: Rejected
Text of Resolution:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church note with concern that homosexuality and the advocacy of equal treatment for gay men and lesbians is being criminalized in various countries around the world and that in addition to formal criminalization there is increasing violence against lesbians and gay men who are denied the protection of governments; and be it further

Resolved, That in light of such criminalization and lack of police protection that the government of the United States be encouraged to grant asylum to those whose advocacy of homosexuality is illegal in their home countries or whose lives are threatened for this reason; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church aid in the resettlement of such individuals; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention commend groups aiding persons seeking asylum in the United States because of serious intolerance of their sexual orientation.



Resolution Number: 1997-C017
Title: Support Asylum Rights of Women Fleeing Mutilation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 72nd General Convention support the rights of women fleeing the practice of female genital mutilation (female circumcision) to be granted refugee status and, when seeking such protection in the United States, be granted asylum.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, 1997* (New York: General Convention, 1998), p. 172.



Resolution Number: 1985-D113
Title: Request Congress to Reform Immigration Legislation
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this 68th General Convention, as it has in the past, call upon Congress to enact immigration legislation of a positive nature that will recognize human realities of the millions of undocumented people in the country, provide for appropriate asylum and safe haven for those fleeing political repression from abroad, and will eliminate the many repressive features contained in the present Senate bill, S. 1200; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to all members of the United States Senate, and to the members of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives; and be it further

Resolved, That all deputies to this Convention, as individuals and through the appropriate social concerns committees of their churches, write to their respective United States Senators.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 1985* (New York: General Convention, 1986), p. 257.