

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2024 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2024-D067
Title: Support Temporary Protected Status
Proposer: Russell, Ms. Laura
Topic: Immigration

Directly Related: (Attached)

2018-C033 Denounce Racism Against Immigrants and Advocate for Immigration Reform
2018-D009 Set Forth Christian Principles to Guide Responses to Human Migration
2015-D074 Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse
2009-B006 Advocate for Immigration Reform
1988-B034 Commend Participation in the Legalization Program for Refugees

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 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](#).

D067 - Support Temporary Protected Status

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Russell, Ms. Laura

Endorsed by: Lawton, Ms. Sarah, McDaniel, Mr. Joe

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Requests New Interim Body: No

Directs an Interim Body: No

Directs Dfms Staff: Yes

Directs Dioceses: No

Directs Executive Council: No

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 07 - Social Justice & United States Policy

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents:

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the Episcopal Church reaffirm and renew our call to Christian Principles to Guide Responses to Human Migration (2018-D009) by advocating for changes to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for immigrants, as the current program is limited in its protections, by expanding the program to:

- Allow for a pathway to citizenship for those with Temporary Protected Status;
- Creating a transparent designation process for choosing countries designated for TPS which allows for all countries similarly situated to be designated;
- Allow for an expansive use of Temporary Protected Status;
- Allow for those with Temporary Protected Status the ability adjust their status without leaving the United States.

And be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church also continue to advocate for the use of TPS, recognizing it is currently a policy tool that is available to the executive branch to support vulnerable migrants; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention work with The Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations to continue to advocate for immigration policies that expand Temporary Protected Status, and protect those who qualify for Temporary Protected Status.

Explanation

Temporary Protected Status came about to address protection gaps in the US asylum system. It was created in 1990. It authorizes the attorney general to designate a foreign country or part of a country for TPS if it meets one the following criteria:

- An ongoing armed conflict there that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of its returning nationals;
- A request from a foreign government not to return its nationals because of an environmental disaster such as an earthquake, flood, drought, or epidemic that caused substantial but temporary disruption of living conditions; or
- Other extraordinary and temporary conditions that prevent nationals of the state from returning in safety.

TPS has been a useful tool in saving hundreds of thousands of people from having to return to their country of origin when there is a danger in their country. Unfortunately, it has flaws.

First, it is legal limbo, as once designated you can stay in the United States, but you have no ability to become a citizen. Once the status ends (which is announced sixty days before the end date), you go back to your prior status, which may be no status. Therefore, you have sixty days to leave the United States or face dire consequences. And to be granted a different status, many times you must leave the United States and go to the country, which may still be experiencing the calamity, to change your status. That return to your home country may be your only way to become a US citizen.

Second, it only covers those who were in the US when the status was designated. Therefore, if you experienced the war/climate crisis/epidemic and then left for the US, you may not be eligible for status.

Finally, TPS designation is very political. The attorney general has designated some countries but not others which have the same calamity happening to them. For example, as of this writing, Darfur is not on the list. Darfur is currently a humanitarian calamity, yet it is not on the list.

The General Convention last addressed this issue in 2015 with 2015-D074. This resolution, which passed, not only was specific for Guatemala, but also referenced TPS when also describing asylum, which is a different form of immigration relief. This resolution will allow for The Episcopal Church to effectively advocate for those with Temporary Protected Status.



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-D074
Title: Extend Temporary Protective Status to Immigrants Fleeing Abuse
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the General Convention of The Episcopal Church welcome and affirm the bipartisan initiative of Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Eliot Engel (D-NY), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Albio Sires (D-NJ), Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Tony Cardenas (D-CA), Robert Dold (R-IL), Juan Vargas (D-CA), David Valadao (R-CA), and Joaquin Castro (D-TX), urging President Obama to immediately extend Temporary Protective Status (TPS) to Guatemalans living in the United States with the hope of creating a path to citizenship for this group; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church advocate through education, communication, and representation before legislative authorities for TPS for all immigrants fleeing for refuge from violence, environmental disaster, economic devastation, or cultural abuse or other forms of abuse; and be it further

Resolved, That this Resolution be communicated to the President of the United States and to the members of Congress of the United States.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Salt Lake City, 2015* (New York: General Convention, 2015), pp. 407-408.



Resolution Number: 2009-B006
Title: Advocate for Immigration Reform
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention recognize that all people living in the United States are entitled to protection provided by due process of law and that all immigrants and their families are entitled to receive protection granted by our laws and Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call for a moratorium on roadside checkpoints and raids carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) at work sites, transportation systems, community gatherings, places of worship, lawful assemblies and private residences leaving families torn apart and children parentless and negatively affecting businesses, workers and communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention advocate for a return of 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 pathway to legalization and to full social and economic integration in to the United States; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention deplore conditions found in immigration detention centers and the over-reliance on a costly prison-like detention system for immigrants, and urge the uses of alternatives to detention, and calls for accountability and oversight to ensure detainees are provided with humanitarian treatment, adequate food and medical care and sanitary conditions; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call for termination of any program which allows or funds local enforcement agencies to enforce immigration law, and return that enforcement to Federal Immigration Agents, leaving local law enforcement agencies the work of keeping communities safe and dedicating their resources to that end, and provide for a sense of safety for immigrant victims of crimes to come forward and report without fear of detention and deportation; and be it further

Resolved, That in as much as youth are a priority of The Episcopal Church, the 76th General Convention support the provision of conditional legal status for undocumented youth who arrived as infants and/or children and have grown up as members of our communities and schools, providing for them the opportunity to pursue higher education and/or serve the United States so they can become full contributing members of our communities and could eventually become U.S. Citizens.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 142.



Resolution Number: 1988-B034
Title: Commend Participation in the Legalization Program for Refugees
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 69th General Convention commend the 24 Dioceses and the 55 parishes across the nation which have been participating in the Legalization Program established by the United States Congress in the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986; and be it further

Resolved, That said Dioceses and parishes be commended and encouraged to continue into the Second Phase of the Legalization Program by assisting persons who have received Temporary Residence in the First Phase to prepare for Permanent Residence through education in English, American History and American Government, as well as by continued immigration counseling and, when appropriate, with assistance in the preparation of their applications for Permanent Residence.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 632.