

**GENERAL CONVENTION OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH 2018
ARCHIVES' RESEARCH REPORT**

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A222
TITLE: Against Caste-and Descent-Based Discrimination
PROPOSER: 07 - Social Justice and International Policy
TOPIC: Human Rights

Directly Related: (Attached)

2000-D024 Call on the US to Condemn All Forms of Caste-Based Discrimination
1994-D015 Reaffirm Support for Human Rights

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 1976 through 2015, 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 at 800-525-9329 before Convention or at Convention in the General Convention Secretariat.

A222 Against Caste-and Descent-Based Discrimination

Proposer	07 - Social Justice and International Policy
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HD / 07 - Social Justice and International Policy
Current Status	Resolution Filed
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Passed review

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church commend the Dioceses of New York and Rochester in taking the lead in addressing the human rights violation of discrimination associated with caste and descent; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That this General Convention condemn the human rights violation of discrimination based on caste and descent wherever it occurs and support its elimination particularly as it occurs within the United States and other countries both within and outside the Church; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That this General Convention call on congregations throughout the Church to acknowledge the fundamental injustice of caste-and descent-based discrimination, a clear human rights violation; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That this General Convention encourage all Episcopalians to engage in legislative advocacy and education at national, regional, and local levels to raise awareness of the pervasive nature of this human rights violation; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That this General Convention encourage all Episcopalians become familiar with the India Network and other organizations addressing caste-and descent-based discrimination in their local areas.

EXPLANATION

No explanation.



Resolution Number: 2000-D024
Title: Call on the US to Condemn All Forms of Caste-Based
Discrimination
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church call upon the government of the United States to pressure the government of India through the United Nations to recognize untouchability as a crime against humanity, abolish practices of untouchability, and allow for the inclusion of caste-based discrimination on the agenda of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance, 2001.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 491.



Resolution Number: 1994-D015
Title: Reaffirm Support for Human Rights
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 71st General Convention commend to the National Council of Churches, which has requested dialogue with its member commissions on human rights as it prepares its own policy statement on this subject, the perspective contained in this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention reaffirm its support for human rights throughout the world and states its conviction that civil rights and political freedom are the universal bedrock of any meaningful scheme of human rights; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention commend ecumenical and interfaith support for human rights as a moral imperative for Christians, growing out of the biblical understandings that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, that they are endowed by God with an inalienable dignity, and that they thereby possess a value that is prior to and not dependent upon the acknowledgment of such rights by a political entity; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention commend to the National Council of Churches, which has requested dialogue with its member communions on human rights as it prepares its own policy statement on that subject, the perspective contained in this resolution and its accompanying explanation; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention encourage the President and the Secretary of State to take the initiative internationally in promoting the cause of human rights and in restoring the primary focus of human rights effort[s] to the civil rights and political freedoms that are the building blocks of decent and humane societies; and be it further

Resolved, That this 71st General Convention commend continuing dialogue, both within the churches and between other faith communities and their governments, on issues of human rights, especially those issues relevant to their own jurisdictions.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 183-84.