

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-A230
TITLE: Deploring the Sin of Scapegoating in Politics
PROPOSER: 09 - Racial Justice and Reconciliation
TOPIC: Discrimination

Directly Related: (Attached)

2003-D077 Affirm Abhorrence of Racial Profiling and Violence
2000-D009 Condemn All Hate Crimes
1994-D136 Recommit Church to Combat Racism Through a New Covenant
1991-C022 Renew Commitment to Address Violence in Society

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

2015-C019 Work for Racial Justice and Reconciliation
2012-A125 Recommit to Anti-Racism Work
2009-D012 Support Laws that Prohibit Discrimination Based on Gender Identity
2006-D018 Support Nonviolence Training
2000-C029 Urge Congress to Enact Hate Crimes Legislation
2000-D068 Commend Passage of Hate Crimes Prevention Act
1988-D055 Condemn All Hate Crimes
1988-D100 Decry Violence Against Homosexuals

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.

A230 Deploring the Sin of Scapegoating in Politics

Proposer	09 - Racial Justice and Reconciliation
Endorsed by	
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HB / 09 - Racial Justice and Reconciliation
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 proclaims that the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement repudiates all political appeals and language rooted in the sin of scapegoating groups of human beings on the basis of race, language, culture, belief, caste, immigration status, gender identification, and sexual orientation; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That such attacks have escalated alarmingly in the current political climate, including, but not limited to, the scapegoating of African-Americans in our cities—blamed for crime; non-white immigrants and asylum seekers from the Southern Hemisphere—blamed for stealing jobs; visitors and citizens from Arab Muslim countries—blamed for terrorism; indigenous peoples—blamed for a wide range of social ills and for thwarting energy independence; and women and LGBTQ+ people—blamed for the de-masculinization and disintegration of American society and families; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That we repudiate the acts of violence that inevitably result from the rhetoric and tactics of political scapegoating; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That group scapegoating is abhorrent to the heart of Christ and the soul of democracy; and be it further
- 5 *Resolved*, That the General Convention commends the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to such consultations as they deem fit with The Episcopal Church’s ecumenical and interfaith partners (including the National Council of Churches’ A.C.T. Now to End Racism initiative) with a goal of uniting people of faith and like mind and spirit behind a consolidated, comprehensive, and coordinated witness against an ungodly practice that pollutes and strains our common life.

EXPLANATION

The historical proclamation that “all [people] are created equal” is formed from the same substance as the core Christian doctrine, proclaimed in the baptismal covenant, that God commands God’s people to respect the dignity of every human being. This universal human imperative, toward which all faith traditions strive equally, helped form the basis of systems of democratic government which proclaim, without by any means always respecting, the dignity of all people.

It is therefore the responsibility of the Church, vanguard of the Jesus Movement, to repudiate the statements and actions of leaders or political movements choosing to engender resentment and fear of any group of human beings on the basis of race, language, culture, belief, immigration status, gender, gender identification, sexual orientation, or caste.

Group scapegoating offends against the rootedness of democracy in the ethics respecting the dignity of individuals to which Christianity and all great faiths are pledged. It degrades politics by basing appeals for votes on fear and hate instead of hope and love. It invites comparisons to the darkest moments in human history, when race-based, clan-based, and other forms of scapegoating unleashed acts of genocide.



Resolution Number: 2003-D077
Title: Affirm Abhorrence of Racial Profiling and Violence
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That this Church affirm its abhorrence of all violence toward and racial profiling of Muslims and people of color done in the name of religion, especially toward our Muslim brothers and sisters; and be it further

Resolved, That all members of this Church be encouraged to reach out in friendship to our neighbors of all religions—especially at this time to Muslims—seeking mutual understanding and expressing support; and be it further

Resolved, That The Episcopal Church direct the Committee on National Concerns of Executive Council to examine and direct the Office of Government Relations to monitor governmental policies on the imprisonment and restrictions of American citizens or legal residents based solely on ethnicity; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention acknowledge the danger that in this post 9/11 era a repeat of racial hatred, terrorism, hysteria, and a failure of political leadership could result in governmental policies causing the incarceration of citizens and legal residents based solely on their ethnicity.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 2003* (New York: General Convention, 2004), p. 342.



Resolution Number: 2000-D009
Title: Condemn All Hate Crimes
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal church condemn all acts motivated by hate against any individual or group of persons as totally opposed to the gospel of Jesus Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That this convention direct the national office of the Episcopal Church to continue and increase the "Stop the Hate" campaign, including making available congregational resources for promoting discussion and taking action against incidents of hate motivated by political or religious creed, race, color, ethnic or national origin, marital status, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, or age; and be it further

Resolved, That this Convention urge its members to support the passage of local, state, and national hate crimes legislation which includes any of the above categories among its protected designations.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 304.



Resolution Number: 1994-D136
Title: Recommit Church to Combat Racism Through a New Covenant
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, and in response to the House of Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Racism, That we do hereby commit ourselves afresh to combat racism in this Church and in society, and to hold ourselves accountable to this new covenant. Following the lead of the bishops, each of us will take a personal inventory of racist attitudes as a basis for transforming our lives in the following ways:

We refuse to participate in overtly and intentionally racially discriminatory clubs or other institutions;

We refuse to participate in racially denigrating jokes and stories;

We will listen carefully to those on the margins of society;

We will seek to transform a socio-economic system that drives many into poverty, alienation, despair and violence;

We will consistently place a high priority on the inclusion of people of color in our efforts to evangelize;

We will attend closely to the Good News God wants to tell us through people of color;

We will develop strategies to recruit and deploy people of color, lay and clergy, at every level, and work for their inclusion in the decision-making processes of our Church;

We will encourage, under the direction of the Ordinary, the use of liturgical expressions and the development of educational programs that reflect the Church's racial and ethnic composition, and clearly articulate the Good News that in Jesus Christ every barrier that separates God's people is broken down;

We will continue to work to fulfill the Baptismal Covenant: "Will you strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being? I will with God's help" (BCP p. 305); and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the General Convention be directed to distribute signatory pages for deputies and bishops of each diocese, and as evidence of our commitment to hold ourselves accountable, we the undersigned meeting in Indianapolis in 1994 do hereby affix our signatures and ask that the same be spread upon the Journal of this Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 1994* (New York: General Convention, 1995), pp. 816-17.



Resolution Number: 1991-C022

Title: Renew Commitment to Address Violence in Society

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Substituted

Final Text:

Resolved, That the 70th General Convention call upon the Church at every level to renew a commitment to address violence in every sector of society, especially that of domestic violence aimed toward spouses, children and older adults; violence of hate directed toward persons of differing ethnic, religious or political persuasions; violence stemming from homophobia and other irrational fears; and be it further

Resolved, That parishes and dioceses be urged to develop educational programs and resources through preaching, through liturgy, through pastoral care for both the victims and the perpetrators of all kinds of violence and through advocacy with the public sector for programs of education, social service and public policy that will address the problems of violence.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 388.