

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-B013
TITLE: Response to Yemen Humanitarian Crisis
PROPOSER: The Rt. Rev. James Magness
TOPIC: Warfare

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-A016 Affirm the Moral Responsibility to Protect Populations from Atrocities
1991-C033 Encourage the Peaceful Resolution of Conflict Within the Church and Beyond

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

2012-A015 Commend Democratic Movements and Request Foreign Aid Accountability
2012-A079 Urge Defense of Human Rights and Communities Unduly Affected
2003-C024 Support Non-violent Foreign Policy

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.

B013 Response to Yemen Humanitarian Crisis

Proposer	The Rt. Rev. James Magness
Endorsed by	Beisner, The Rt. Rev. Barry; Rickel, The Rt. Rev. Gregory
Sponsored by	
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HiA / Leg. Cttee	HD / 07 - Social Justice and International Policy
Current Status	Pre-Filed Resolution
Version	Original (as filed)
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RESOLUTION TEXT

- Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church note with deep concern and dismay the ongoing conflict in Yemen, now in its fourth year, and the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict, which has left 22 million people—three-quarters of the country’s population—in need of humanitarian assistance including food and clean water; and it be further
- Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church call upon the U.S. government: 1) to observe the embargo of arms sales to all parties in the conflict, as called for by the United Nations, and specifically to avoid supplying munitions, military equipment or technology that could be used in the conflict, as well as logistical and financial support for such transfers; 2) to call upon all parties to the conflict to allow unobstructed access in the conflict areas for humanitarian relief organizations, medical relief personnel, human rights investigators, and journalists; and 3) to express an urgent need for a politically negotiated solution; and be it further
- Resolved*, That The Episcopal Church and Episcopal Relief and Development be encouraged to undertake, in partnership with the Anglican Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf, relief and long-term economic development projects in areas such as education, job creation, and health care, as well as sustainable solutions for the lack of access to water, a primary source of conflict across the Middle East region that is one of the drivers of conflict across the Middle East region.

EXPLANATION

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently Yemen called “the world’s worst humanitarian crisis.” The statistics are staggering: 22.2 million people in Yemen need humanitarian assistance; 2.5 million children are out of school because of the conflict; 3 million people displaced from their homes. As well, 13 million people—half the population—struggle to secure clean water each day, and water-borne diseases kill thousands of children each year. The water crisis itself is driven by a regional drought and ultimately by climate change and is exacerbated by unequal distribution of water and failing water systems in the country, and the water crisis is understood to be one of the underlying causes of war and conflict in the Middle East as whole in recent years, including the deadly conflict in Yemen.

The conflict itself began in March 2015 when an international coalition led by Saudi Arabia (known as the Arab Coalition), in cooperation with the Yemeni government, launched airstrikes against the

armed Houthi coalition within the country. Houthis belong to a branch of Shi'a Islam and are being armed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, whereas the majority of Yemenis are adherents of Sunni Islam, so this conflict can be seen as one part of the larger power struggle (too simplistically described as Sunni versus Shi'a and Saudi Arabia versus Iran) within the region as whole.

In response to the humanitarian toll of the war, the United Nations has called upon member states to refrain from arming any party to the conflict. However, the United States has continued to send arms to Saudi Arabia since the conflict began. Amnesty International stated in 2017 that bombs being used in the conflict are being manufactured in the United States, saying, "There simply is no explanation the USA or other countries such as the UK and France can give to justify the continued flow of weapons for use in the conflict in Yemen." This resolution calls for The Episcopal Church to urge the U.S. government to observe the international arms embargo and to push, especially with U.S. strategic allies, for a political solution to the conflict.

This resolution also encourages The Episcopal Church and Episcopal Relief and Development to work in partnership with the Anglican Dioceses of Cyprus and the Gulf for relief of the humanitarian crisis and for long-term development solutions, to include finding sustainable water access solutions for a large portion of the population.



Resolution Number: 2012-A016
Title: Affirm the Moral Responsibility to Protect Populations from Atrocities
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention affirms that our Lord's commandment to love thy neighbor implies a binding moral responsibility on sovereign states to protect their populations from mass atrocities, including genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as defined by international law; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention welcomes the United Nations' establishment of the responsibility to protect as an international norm, and its efforts to uphold it through collective action when individual states fail to do so; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention commends the President of the United States for adopting the responsibility to protect as a principle of United States foreign policy; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention most strongly discourages the abuse of this norm to rationalize military actions in sovereign states for political ends; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention encourages the Presiding Bishop through the Office of Government Relations to join the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect so as to shape the continued development of precautionary principles for this norm and promote its faithful implementation; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention urges all Episcopalians to understand and reflect upon the principle of the responsibility to protect, and to advocate for its adherence by their respective governmental leaders.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), p. 226.



Resolution Number: 1991-C033
Title: Encourage the Peaceful Resolution of Conflict Within the Church and Beyond
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church encourages the settlement of disputes within the Church by peaceful dispute resolution processes, and in furtherance thereof:

Calls upon all dioceses and other administrative units of the Church to develop and employ consensus building methods in the conduct of their decision making business and to initiate, continue and strengthen their training of persons in conflict management and resolution and to promote the use of such personnel in the Church.

Urges seminaries and other schools for ministry to include training in conflict management and resolution for all candidates for ordination.

Encourages all congregations to offer training in conflict management and resolution. Commits itself through the appropriate agencies of the National Church staff to make available appropriate curricula in conflict management and resolution for use by dioceses and congregations.

Encourages all members of the Episcopal Church to make use of enlightened methods of negotiation and mediation as they work to resolve conflicts between the Episcopal Church and other Christian communions;

and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church call upon the Government of the United States:

To resolve disputes affecting it and other nations by negotiation, mediation, non-binding arbitration, binding arbitration, and adjudication.

To recognize and respect the jurisdiction and judgments of the International Court of Justice.

To provide sufficient funding for the Institute for Peace in order to train individuals in the peaceful management and resolution of international conflicts;

and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church call upon all nations:

To utilize the United Nations and to respect the authority of the Secretary General in the resolution of international conflicts.

To strengthen the role and authority of the Secretary General in the resolution of international conflicts.

To adhere to the rule of the law in dealing with their own citizens and those of other countries.

To utilize regional and private organizations in conflict resolution;

and be it further

Resolved, That this resolution be transmitted to the President, Members of Congress, Secretary of State, Secretary General of the United Nations, the Ambassadors to the United Nations of all member nations, other Anglican Churches, and the appropriate body of other Christian Churches.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Phoenix, 1991* (New York: General Convention, 1992), p. 379.