

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-D031
TITLE: Recognizing and Ending Domestic Violence in our Congregations
PROPOSER: Ms. Laura Russell
TOPIC: Violence

Directly Related: (Attached)

2009-D096 Encourage Training for Prevention of Domestic Violence
2006-A086 Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse
2000-C025 Urge a Response to Issues of Sexual and Domestic Violence
2000-D073 Support Legislation to Reduce Domestic Violence and Protect Victims
1991-C022 Renew Commitment to Address Violence in Society

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

2015-D054 Refer a Resolution on Violence Against Women (Referred)
2006-D018 Support Nonviolence Training
1994-A049 Encourage Ministries That Respond to Violence Against Women
1988-D064 Urge Training to Respond to Family Violence

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.

D031 Recognizing and Ending Domestic Violence in our Congregations

Proposer	Ms. Laura Russell
Endorsed by	Lawton, Ms. Sarah; Allen, Ms. Jennifer
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	HD / 14 - Christian Formation and Discipleship
Current Status	Pre-Filed Resolution
Version	Original (as filed)
Review Status	Not yet reviewed

RESOLUTION TEXT

- 1 *Resolved*, the House of _____ concurring, That the 79th General Convention of The Episcopal Church continue to speak out clearly against domestic violence as it has done in the past; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention encourages Episcopal clergy and congregations to educate themselves on the widespread problem that domestic violence is in their neighborhoods and beyond; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention urge all Episcopal Bishops and other clergy and lay leadership to familiarize themselves with existing trainings developed for domestic violence prevention, and create procedures for supporting domestic violence survivors in their dioceses and congregations; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention urge the Church at every level to examine its response to domestic violence, especially its response to survivors of domestic violence

EXPLANATION

Domestic violence affects one in every four women. ON average, nearly twenty people per minute are physically assaulted by their partners in the United States. The statistics are staggering. It is doubtful that anyone can say that domestic violence has never affected them or a family member or friend. It would be statistically impossible to also say it has never affected every Episcopal Congregation at some point.

Yet, most congregations do not have procedures in place when it does affect their congregation. How does one handle a restraining order against a member of the congregation? Should the parish be used as a safe haven for the transfer of children from one parent to another? These are questions that most congregations do not deal with until the crisis is upon them.

Understanding domestic violence means understanding all the aspects of domestic violence. Once the physical violence stops, the other, little known, abuses continue. The emotional abuse, the economic abuse, the threats, and the fear continue. At its heart, domestic violence is not about physical abuse. It is about power and control. Power and control over the victim until they feel so helpless, so depressed,

that they accept their fate. It is one of the reasons one does not leave. The batterer controls everything, and the domestic violence survivor feels they have nothing. It even continues in a congregational setting. Batterers control the finances, and write the pledge. They control the survivor's movements, so they are more likely to sit on committees and vestries. Abusers are more ingrained in the life of the church usually than domestic violence survivors. Congregations should create policies and procedures to deal with domestic violence in their congregation. These policies and procedures should come from a place of caring for all parties, yet understanding the dynamics of domestic violence. They should be supportive of the survivor, and not judgmental or worse, not safe. Every congregation should plan for this, and in this planning should become more knowledgeable on the widespread issue of domestic violence.



Resolution Number: 2009-D096
Title: Encourage Training for Prevention of Domestic Violence
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 76th General Convention speak out clearly against the widespread practice of domestic violence; and be it further

Resolved, That members of General Convention covenant to pray for victims and their families; and be it further

Resolved, That we urge the appropriate interim bodies to review and recommend the utilization of existing training developed for domestic violence prevention, in order to counter the culture which sustains it; and be it further

Resolved, That the Convention strongly encourage all Episcopal bishops and other clergy and lay leadership to participate in such training as may be available to them; and be it further

Resolved, That clergy take leadership in making such information and training available to their congregations and the community.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Anaheim, 2009* (New York: General Convention, 2009), p. 379.



Resolution Number: 2006-A086
Title: Create and Disseminate Training Materials to Recognize and Respond to Abuse
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Substituted
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention instruct the Standing Commission on Ministry Development to create and disseminate training materials to assist leaders in ministry to recognize and respond to evidence of abuse; and be it further
Resolved, That the Standing Commission on Ministry Development report on this initiative to the 76th General Convention.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Columbus, 2006* (New York: General Convention, 2007), p. 511.



Resolution Number: 2000-C025
Title: Urge a Response to Issues of Sexual and Domestic Violence
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention call upon every congregation within the church to designate at least one Sunday each year during one of the following months:

- a. April (National Sexual Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month) or
- b. May (Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month) or
- c. October (National Domestic Violence Awareness Month)

for special prayers for all whose lives have been affected by any form of sexual, domestic, or family violence, remembering in particular those who have been violated by sexual misconduct within the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention call upon the National Church Center to make available to every congregation within the church educational opportunities for its members about practical, pastoral, spiritual, and/or theological issues related to the problems of sexual or domestic violence and call upon congregations to make an active and ongoing response to these problems in their local community.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 326f.



Resolution Number: 2000-D073
Title: Support Legislation to Reduce Domestic Violence and Protect Victims
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 73rd General Convention of the Episcopal Church call upon state governments to promote and enact statutes addressing the reduction of domestic violence and the protection of victims of domestic violence and child neglect.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Denver, 2000* (New York: General Convention, 2001), p. 680.



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.