

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

RESOLUTION NO.: 2018-D096
TITLE: Support for Good Governance
PROPOSER: Mr. Byron Rushing
TOPIC: International Relations

Directly Related: (Attached)

2012-A015 Commend Democratic Movements and Request Foreign Aid Accountability
1994-D015 Reaffirm Support for Human Rights

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

2015-D033 Support Human Rights and Refugee Relief in Central America
2003-D063 Support Hearings on the USA Patriot Act and Civil Liberties
1985-D069 Affirm Guidelines for Working for Religious Liberty
1976-D070 Call for Efforts to Restore Freedom in Oppressive States

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.

D096 Support for Good Governance

Proposer	Mr. Byron Rushing
Endorsed by	Boyce, Mr. William; Simon, Mr. James
Sponsored by	
Page numbers	Blue Book: p. N/A; Constitution & Canons: p. N/A
HiA / Leg. Cttee	/
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 is concerned about a worldwide surge in autocratic governments; and be it further
- 2 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention affirms that governments function best when they are responsive, participatory, and transparent, and ensure adequate protection for minorities; and be it further
- 3 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention encourages the Office of Government Relations to partner with Anglicans and Anglican provinces globally to support one another in advocating for good governance and free and fair participation of its citizens in civic processes; and be it further
- 4 *Resolved*, That the 79th General Convention encourages individual Episcopalians, parishes and dioceses in all provinces of The Episcopal Church to engage their own governments and civic institutions to be responsive, transparent, and participatory, and urge their governments to promote these principles of good governance globally.

EXPLANATION

Recent trends show that there is a rise of autocratic governments across the globe, and principles of human rights and good governance that are essential to economic, political, and social advancement of nation states are increasingly being compromised. Episcopalians in all contexts of The Episcopal Church can be effective advocates for governments that respect the dignity of all people, ensure the well-being of children and families, function transparently, and allow its citizens to participate in democratic and civic processes freely and timely without fear of repercussions.



Resolution Number: 2012-A015
Title: Commend Democratic Movements and Request Foreign Aid
Accountability
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred as Amended
Final Text:

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention commends the “Arab Spring” democratic movements in the Middle East and North Africa for their witness to justice and human rights, and to the power of popular nonviolent organizing for political, economic and societal change; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention reaffirms Resolution 1991-A149, “Urge a Full Accounting of the Use of Foreign Aid in the Middle East,” adopted by the 70th General Convention, and calls on the President of the United States for a full accounting of how United States foreign aid, including military aid, is used in the Middle East and North Africa, in recognition that transparency is critical for requiring accountability from aid recipients; and be it further

Resolved, That the 77th General Convention calls upon the President of the United States to seek accountability for those policies and practices of recipients of United States aid that contradict and undermine core democratic principles, as well as those United States laws and statutes that define legal uses of United States funding.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, 2012* (New York: General Convention, 2012), pp. 322-323.



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.