

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 



# **POLICY FOR ACTION**

## **An Index of Episcopal Church Public Policy Resolutions**

*Published by the Office of Government Relations of The Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.*

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## INTRODUCTION

The catechism of the Book of Common Prayer tells us that the mission of the Church is “to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ,” and that the Church lives out this mission “as it prays and worships, proclaims the Gospel, and promotes justice, peace, and love.” The pursuit of a world that more closely reflects God’s dream for it – *thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven* – is central to basic Christian discipleship and the identity of all who are baptized.

The Episcopal Church adopts policies on a range of public policy matters related to justice and peace through General Convention, the governing body of the Church and the Church’s highest temporal authority. Many of these resolutions are directed towards the Office of Government Relations, the Episcopal Public Policy Network, or the Washington Office.

The Office of Government Relations was established in 1979 and has been a core part of the Church’s public witness for more than 40 years. The Office, sometimes also called the Washington Office, is charged with representing the policy positions of the Church to the federal government in Washington, D.C. The Office also aims to educate and equip Episcopalians to carry out the Church’s ministry of public policy advocacy, primarily through the Episcopal Public Policy Network. The staff of OGR support the advocacy of Episcopalians through relationship building with key Congressional offices and government officials, deep connections with coalitions, and analysis of relevant legislation and policy initiatives. Through the Episcopal Public Policy Network, Episcopalians can send Action Alerts to Congressional representatives, have access to advocacy and issue-based resources, and participate in in-person advocacy days as well as virtual webinars and briefings.

The Office of Government Relations works in partnership with others throughout the Church and the staff of the Church Center to maximize the impact of our advocacy.

The following document lists in brief resolutions of The Episcopal Church pertaining to public policy, representing the breadth of our Church’s witness on a variety of subjects, local and global. (Note: this document does not include many resolutions pertaining to issues within the structure, canons, programs, and other aspects of the institution.) Each has been adopted through the deliberation of our bicameral governing body, General Convention, or Executive Council. The policies listed are grouped by subject area, an occasionally imperfect but helpful means of creating an index of hundreds of resolutions. A searchable full text is linked by each resolution. These are all also searchable via [The Archives of the Episcopal Church](#).

As you use this resource, please be sure to join the effort in carrying out the call of these resolutions by [signing up for the Episcopal Public Policy Network](#), a church-wide network of grassroots advocates run and resourced by The Episcopal Church’s [Office of Government Relations](#).

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## INTERNATIONAL

### Global Health

Support the position that the United States of America remain a full member of the World Health Organization. Support full payment by the United States of their assessed financial contributions and funding to the World Health Organization. ([GC 2022-A027](#))

Support for responsible use of antibiotics. Work with other faith-based groups to respond to this crisis and to take action to address related crises, partnering when possible to develop responses jointly that will help people around the world. Urge support for funding of antimicrobial resistance research, responsible use of antibiotics, and public health systems that provide assistance for all people. ([EC 022020.30](#))

Encourage increased public-policy emphasis on the protection of maternal and child health around the world. ([GC 2012-A140](#))

Call upon Episcopal leaders to form pastoral and liturgical responses to the HIV/AIDS pandemic both at home and overseas. ([GC 2009-A164](#))

Call upon the Church to implement a campaign for awareness about the continuing HIV/AIDS pandemic. ([GC 2006-A133](#))

Call upon the U.S. government and international agencies to increase efforts to address the AIDS crisis through funding programs of education and awareness about the spread of AIDS in developing countries; programs to assist families affected by AIDS, especially the millions of orphaned children; and efforts to make affordable medications available to those infected. ([EC 022001.19](#))

Support initiatives to make HIV/AIDS-related medications available at affordable prices throughout the world. ([GC 2000-A051](#))

### Global Migration

Urge all nations, especially the United States, to actively accept vulnerable SOGIESC (sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/or sex characteristics) refugees and asylees, and not send them back to their countries of origin. ([GC 2022-D045](#))

Advocate for the continued evacuation of Afghans that are at risk still within the country, as well any Afghan refugees displaced to a third country during this conflict. ([EC 102022](#))

Set forth principles to guide the Church's response to human migration, acknowledging the role of U.S. policy in such causes for migration as armed conflicts, climate change, and economic collapse. Call on all governments to keep their commitments and legal obligations to respect the rights and dignity of all people, including access to justice and social services, while recognizing the complexity of developing just immigration policies in any country, and the legitimate need to protect borders and address security threats to sovereign nations; insist that the United States of America and other nations to the best of their ability, contribute to resettlement, establish and maintain safe and orderly humanitarian protection for refugees, internally displaced persons, and other migrants seeking long-term solutions and safety; recognize that displacement due to climate change already happens and will increase, and we insist that our governments and the international community must commit to development of long-term protection solutions for persons displaced by climate change. ([GC 2018-D009](#))

Acknowledge continued violence against and displacement of citizens in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador. Call upon The Episcopal Church to support efforts of civil society groups and regional bodies, especially the work of our sister Anglican province La Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America (IARCA), the Diocese of Honduras, and human rights organizations that seek to address these issues. Encourage the governments of Central America and Mexico to acknowledge and uphold the legal rights of the displaced, asylum seekers, and victims of crimes perpetrated by armed groups and/or state actors. ([GC 2015-D033](#))

Support automatic grant of citizenship by the country in which a person is born ("birthright citizenship"). ([GC 2015-D069](#))

Call upon the U.S. Congress to reform and modernize the Refugee Act of 1980 to meet the critical needs of diverse refugee groups, including culturally and linguistically appropriate policies for reestablishing the lives of refugees in welcoming, safe communities. Urge The Episcopal Church to identify emerging refugee crises and to assist vulnerable populations through resettlement and advocacy. ([GC 2012-B028](#))

Encourage the U.S. government to strengthen protection and assistance for refugees who flee based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to intensify efforts to work diplomatically in the international community to strengthen protections in all parts of the world and in all aspects of the refugee and asylum process. ([EC 022011.06](#))

Urge the U.S. government to extend the protection of asylum to vulnerable peoples, especially women fleeing mutilation or cultural practices that deny their full humanity. ([EC 022004.28](#))

Oppose unfair and unjust treatment of racial and ethnic minorities. Call upon the whole Church at every level to collaborate with other faith bodies, communions, and immigrant/human rights organizations to redress these concerns. ([EC 042003.17](#))

Affirm refugee rights of Palestinians and Israelis. Affirm the principle of the right of return for every Palestinian, as well as restitution/compensation for their loss as called for by the United Nations. ([GC 2000-B016](#))

Support the rights of women fleeing the practice of female genital mutilation (female circumcision) to be granted refugee status and, when seeking such protection in the United States, be granted asylum. ([GC 1997-C017](#))

Advocate for a generous program of refugee admissions. Urge the U.S. government to ensure that immigrants in need are not unfairly denied essential services and benefits. Advocate for a just system of asylum for persecuted persons. ([GC 1997-D081](#))

Urges the United States government to apply its refugee policies in a uniform and equitable manner without regard to the nationality, race or creed of those seeking refugee status so that, for example, those individuals from Central America and the Caribbean Basin can be treated equally with individuals from Eastern Europe and Russia. ([GC 1994-A101](#))

Urge President and Congress to create a uniform federal code to welcome refugees and immigrants without discrimination or inhumane treatment. Urge President and Congress to adopt policies that will grant permanent resident status to overstayed/undocumented persons who have resided in the United States for a definite and reasonable period of time and have come here because of political economic stress. ([GC 1982-A063](#))

## Human Rights

Support child labor protections. Support domestic and foreign policies to strengthen and enforce child labor laws in the United States of America and globally and throughout the labor supply chain. ([GC 2024-D021](#))

Renew call to close and commit to never reopening the U.S. military detention facility at Guantánamo Bay. ([GC 2024-D028](#))

Support policies to pressure the Chinese government to respect the human rights of these and other minority peoples in China and to protect members of the diasporic communities of Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups from intimidation by Chinese embassies and agents and stop their repatriation to China. Take this resolution into account in the implementation of its corporate human rights screen for the Church's investment portfolio. ([GC 2022-D022](#))

Ensure that U.S. military assistance and arms sales not be used to perpetuate conflict, violate human rights, or contribute to corruption, instability, or violence. Oppose U.S. government military assistance, including the sale or provision of arms and related technologies such as surveillance equipment, to countries that have demonstrated well-documented, persistent, and egregious human rights abuses or severe corruption contributing to instability and conflict, and work to ensure that the United States government is not playing a role in furthering violent conflicts. ([GC 2022-D024](#))

Condemn discrimination based on caste or descent and encourage legislative advocacy against such human rights violations and education through organizations like the India Network. ([GC 2018-A222](#))

Call on governments to cease voter suppression efforts and work to increase voter participation. Reaffirm that the votes of all eligible citizens must be fairly represented and counted regardless of race or ethnicity. ([GC 2018-D003](#))

Reaffirm condemnation of torture as a human rights violation and call for an end to prolonged solitary confinement as a form of torture. ([GC 2018-D029](#))

Affirm freedom of religion as a human right and expresses concern over world-wide religious persecution. Encourage the Church to advocate on behalf of legislation to protect religious freedom. ([GC 2018-D050](#))

Direct the development of criteria for the Church's investments based on concern for human rights, as well as procedures to determine engagement in shareholder activism or boycotting. ([GC 2018-D068](#))

Work in partnership with African Anglicans who publicly oppose laws that criminalize homosexuality and incite violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex people. ([GC 2015-A051](#))

Condemn the heinous acts of violence and persecution directed toward our brothers and sisters in Christ and all others throughout the world persecuted for their faith. ([GC 2015-C055](#))

Advocate for the protection of religious, gender, and other minorities with the Government of Pakistan and international agencies. ([GC 2015-D035](#))

Ratify UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. ([GC 2015-D071](#))

Condemn the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence in war as a crime against humanity. ([EC 102014.13](#))

Endorse the "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine that affirms the role of nations in protecting populations from mass atrocities including genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity, as defined by international law. Urge Episcopal communities to reflect upon the doctrine and to advocate for its adherence by their respective governmental leaders. ([GC 2012-A016](#))

Urge the U.S. government to collaborate with international partners to end discriminatory practices that leave women and children vulnerable to statelessness, including efforts to ensure equality between women and men in nationality laws and access to documentation, and the promotion of birth registration. ([GC 2012-A138](#))

Call upon Episcopalians to support legislation for and action oriented toward the protection, recovery, and reintegration into society of victims of human trafficking. ([GC 2009-A167](#))



Call for legislation and action to assist with the recovery and reintegration of trafficking victims into society, and for greater prominence of this work within The Episcopal Church and in partnership with other Churches of the Anglican Communion. ([GC 2012-D042](#))

Call upon the President and Congress to devise and implement truth and reconciliation-based methods of accountability to make transparent to the American people government practices of torture and extraordinary rendition, which allows terror suspects to be sent without judicial review to nations where they may be tortured. Call upon the U.S. government and all governments to comply with the Geneva Conventions, the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the administration of justice. Call upon the U.S. government and all governments to prevent the use of torture and extraordinary rendition in the U.S. and abroad. ([GC 2009-C020](#))

Condemn any use of torture, and call upon the U.S. government to renounce and cease these practices and to work toward the prevention of such practices domestically and abroad. Urge the U.S. government to justly compensate the victims of torture and their families. ([EX 032007.10](#))

Oppose the use of all secret detention centers, and cease the practice of extraordinary rendition. ([EC 032007.10](#))

Call upon the U.S. government to close the military prison at Guantanamo Bay. ([EC 032007.31](#))

Encourage dioceses to educate Episcopalians about the plight of and need to support women and children of all faiths in war-torn areas. ([GC 2003-A028](#))

Call on the United States government to be mindful of the experience and treatment in the internment of Japanese-Americans. That the United States government be instructed by this deplorable history when it considers any reauthorization, expansion, or implementation of legislation or regulations relating to "The Patriot Act of 2001." ([GC 2003-D014](#))

Oppose any governmental legal system that violates fundamental human rights. ([GC 2003-D020](#))

Condemn domestic and international trafficking of persons for sexual purposes. ([GC 2003-D034](#))

Respond to our Anglican partners' guidance as to the most appropriate help that The Episcopal Church can provide to combat religious persecution in their countries. ([GC 1997-D016](#))

Support and affirm religious freedom. ([GC 1988-D024](#))

Encourage forms of governance that guarantee freedom of association, speech, and self-determination, believing them to be the most supportive environment for religious independence and tolerance for all. ([GC 1985-D069](#))

Urge the U.S. government to work for abolition of torture worldwide. ([EC 061984.13](#))

## International Economic Policy

Support the United Nations' Decade of Action (2020-30) to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. ([GC 2022-A020](#))

Affirm the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as the basis for development policy in The Episcopal Church. ([GC 2018-B026](#))

Support standards for distribution of foreign aid by the United States that give priority to the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and transgender individuals. ([GC 2015-A049](#))

Reaffirm the Millennium Development Goals as a mission priority for The Episcopal Church. ([GC 2012-A011](#))

Endorse a framework for the moral evaluation of global trade policy intended to promote the dignity and well-being of all persons, serve impoverished and vulnerable populations, and safeguard the rights of all human beings. ([GC 2012-A012](#))

Support the cancellation of debt to heavily indebted poor countries that have not previously qualified for debt cancellation and that have a per capita income of less than \$3 per day. Condemn the practices of vulture funds and call upon the U.S. Treasury to design a legal framework that will stop the operation of vulture funds. ([GC 2009-D017](#))

Establish the "ONE Episcopalian" campaign in cooperation with "ONE: The Campaign to Make Poverty History." Make the MDGs a priority for all Episcopal groups and individuals. ([GC 2006-D022](#))

Commend the U.S. government as part of the G8 for \$55 billion worth of debt relief, and urge the G8 to extend even more debt relief in pursuit of Millennium Development Goal 8. ([EC 062005.36](#))

Encourage the endorsement of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals and reaffirm the challenge that all dioceses and congregations contribute 0.7% of their budget to fund international development programs. ([GC 2003-D006](#))

Call upon the Church to adopt and implement ethical principles for international economic development, including partnership, respect, empowerment, oneness with creation, distributive justice, and people-centered development. ([GC 2000-A002](#))

Commend micro-credit initiatives. [\(GC 2000-D033\)](#)

Reaffirm the principles of “Jubilee 2000” of debt cancellation, environmental stewardship, and human liberation. [\(GC 1997-D015\)](#)

Call for democratic and socially responsible reform of the World Bank and IMF policies. [\(EC 061995.19\)](#)

Affirm foreign aid policies that support sustainable development, stabilize population growth, strengthen civil society, promote peace and human rights, and provide humanitarian relief. [\(EC 021995.07\)](#)

## Peacebuilding

Urge all nations, especially the United States, to support the United Nations and its offices, programs and funds, as well as related specialized agencies through their active participation and full payment of their assessed financial contributions. Participate in the formulation, signature, ratification and implementation of United Nations Declarations, Treaties, Agreements and Conventions to resolve global concerns, especially those which protect the most vulnerable. Observe United Nations Day annually on October 24. [\(GC 2022-A021\)](#)

Engage in every possible effort to relieve human suffering and find a political solution to the complex ongoing war in Yemen. Support policy to allow for unobstructed access in the conflict areas for humanitarian and medical relief organizations, and journalists. [\(GC 2022-B002\)](#)

Renounce the option of using nuclear weapons first and supports pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed nations to eliminate their arsenals as established in the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Endorse the goals of organizations such as “Back from the Brink: the Call to Prevent Nuclear War” And the “International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons” and work in support of the goals of total nuclear disarmament and dismantling existing U.S. nuclear weapons. [\(GC 2022-C027\)](#)

Express continued support for the principles of multilateralism that underpin global dialogue and encourage all members of the United Nations to continue to support the UN. [\(EC 062019.11\)](#)

Advocate for a peaceful resolution of the crisis facing our sisters and brothers in Venezuela, and urge continued support for all Venezuelans, including those who have migrated to other countries. [\(GC 2018-A215\)](#)

Authorize continued public policy advocacy for a cessation of the civil war in South Sudan and armed conflict by the Government of Sudan with marginalized communities in the Nuba Mountains and Darfur. [\(GC 2018-D024\)](#)

Urge the U.S. government to reverse its withdrawal from the Iran Nuclear Deal, cease the imposition of sanctions detrimental to the lives of the people of Iran, and call for negotiated, multilateral international agreements to advocate for peaceful denuclearization. ([GC 2018-D051](#))

Challenge the Church to respond to targeted acts of violence against individuals and communities, and to draw on prayer for guidance, wisdom, and courage in seeking God's path of grace and peace even in times of darkness. Resolution passed in response to specific attacks in Paris and Beirut. ([EC 112015.01](#))

Call upon the U.S. government to balance legitimate military security needs and poverty alleviation programs in its federal budget priorities. [GC 2015-A093](#)

Recognize the increased use of drones by the U.S. military and intelligence agencies, and call upon two interim bodies of the General Convention to prepare a report evaluating their ethical implications and providing recommendations for governmental leaders and military commanders concerning their use. ([GC 2012-A017](#))

Urge each congregation in The Episcopal Church to become a model for peacemaking in our society by encouraging its members to commit themselves to nonviolent and peaceable behavior in their relationships with others and to express concern about attacks on human rights, including attacks on the right to dissent from U.S. government policy. Express its concern through its Office of Government Relations that use of the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, the Patriot Act, and the Supreme Court decision in Holder vs. Humanitarian Law Project have a chilling effect on God's call to peacemaking and unduly impact the Arab, Palestinian, and Muslim communities in the United States. Commend Episcopal congregations for their work in interfaith bridge building, including between Christian, Muslim, and Jewish communities. ([GC 2012-A079](#))

Urge the administration to move expeditiously toward adopting a universal policy disavowing the use of nuclear weapons to deter an attack, and to consent to the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. Encourage dioceses and congregations throughout The Episcopal Church to promote passage of ordinances establishing nuclear-weapons-free zones in their local communities. ([EC 062010.07](#))

Urge the U.S. government to renounce its 2002 policy that asserts the right to military action in the name of forestalling or preventing non-imminent and uncertain military threats. ([GC 2009-A042](#))

Call upon the U.S. government to renew its commitment to eliminating the scourge of international criminal gangs by extending international refugee conventions and national immigration norms to provide relief to victims of criminal gangs. ([GC 2009-A043](#))

Commend the President's efforts to scale down the world's nuclear stockpile; call upon U.S. policy makers to determine a timely process for the dismantling of existing U.S. nuclear weapons while urging other nations to do likewise; urge the President and Congress to explore a moratorium on production of new nuclear arms. ([GC 2009-D060](#))

Ban the use of cluster bombs. ([GC 2009-D078](#))

Condemn the use of cluster bombs and urge all governments to pursue an international treaty banning their production, transfer, stockpiling, and use. ([EC 062008.08](#))

Call upon the President to reject any military policy that would permit preemptive use of nuclear weapons. ([EC 102005.04](#))

Express deep concern over the violence in Iraq and the treatment of detainees. ([EC 062004.20](#))

Urge dioceses and congregations to study and better understand just war theory and pacifism as they apply to the U.S. in responding to contemporary international conflicts. ([GC 2003-A132](#))

Support the World Council of Churches' Decade to Overcome Violence. ([GC 2003-C024](#))

Support the Kimberley Process or an international framework intended to bring an end to the flow of illegal diamonds in which the trade funds regional conflict and terrorist activities. This resolve was passed in the context of the civil conflict in Sierra Leon. ([EC 062002.17](#))

Affirm the work of the U.N. in pursuit of global peace, justice, protection of fundamental human rights and the environment, health, and poverty eradication. ([EC 111998.23](#))

Call upon Congress and the President to ensure that all military training programs emphasize concern for human rights and democratic principles. ([GC 1997-D009](#))

Support the goal of total nuclear disarmament. ([GC 1997-D022](#))

Urge Congress to enact legislation prohibiting the sale and export of conventional arms of war. ([GC 1994-A104](#))

Call for an international ban on the production, use, and sale of land mines. ([GC 1994-C023](#))

Urge the President to sign and implement the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test- Ban Treaty on nuclear weapons. ([GC 1994-D122](#))

Call upon the U.S. government to resolve disputes with other nations by negotiation and other peaceful means. ([GC 1991-C033](#))

Support conscientious objection as a faithful response to war. ([GC 1988-D017](#))

Urge the Government of the United States to take a position of moral leadership in trying to decrease the manufacture of chemical (nerve gas) weapons throughout the world. ([GC 1985-D041](#))

## Africa

Lament the overthrow and subsequent outbreak of civil war in Sudan and advocate for diplomatic efforts to bring about a cease-fire. ([GC 2024-D047](#))

Expresses its heartfelt concern for the plight of Ugandan LGBTQ individuals impacted by the recently enacted law and condemns any supportive stance taken by churches, acknowledging such support as incompatible with the ethos of the way of love. Executive Council calls upon the Office of Global Partnerships to collaborate with The United Nations Human Rights Council, advocating for the human rights of all those affected by this legislation, with a particular focus on the LGBTQ community. Additionally, the Executive Council instructs the Office of Government Relations to actively engage with the U.S. Government, urging protection of human rights for individuals impacted by this law, including LGBTQ persons. ([2023 MB 007](#))

Support for LGBTQ+ people in Ghana. Advocate to the U.S. Government for the human rights for all people including LGBTQ persons. ([EC 102021](#))

Support for U.S. government diplomatic efforts to reverse the overthrow of the transitional government, protect those arrested in Sudan, prevent the resumption of religious persecution, and move towards an elected civilian government. ([EC 102021](#))

Partner with Anglicans and ecumenical partners to advocate for peace, human rights, and good governance in Burundi. ([EC 062019.22](#))

Authorize continued public policy advocacy for a cessation of the civil war in South Sudan and armed conflict by the Government of Sudan with marginalized communities in the Nuba Mountains and Darfur. ([GC 2018-D024](#))

Call upon The Episcopal Church to advocate for the protection of refugees, conflict resolution, and sustainable development in South Sudan and Sudan. ([GC 2015-B018](#))

Call upon the international community to provide support for the peace monitoring teams in South Sudan to ensure lasting peace. Commend the dioceses and congregations of the Church that have engaged in advocacy, mission, and ministry to the people of South Sudan, and encourage such ongoing advocacy and support in the future. ([EC 022014.27](#))

Call upon the U.S. government and private organizations to intensify relief work in response to the ongoing drought in the Horn of Africa. ([GC 2012-A018](#))

Call upon all Episcopalians to continue advocating for peace along the unsettled border between Sudan and South Sudan, in the Blue Nile and South Kordofan, and in the Darfur region by supporting strong U.S. government action aimed at full implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [\(GC 2012-A019\)](#)

Urge the international community to insist on an end to the political violence, torture, intimidation, and other abuses of human and political rights undertaken habitually by the Mugabe government. Urge Episcopalians to stand in solidarity with the Anglican Church in Zimbabwe and all Zimbabwean people through advocacy, education, and continual prayer for the peace, healing, and reconciliation of Zimbabwe. [\(EC 012009.12\)](#)

Advocate and pray to achieve peace and justice in the Sudan by obtaining: international commitment to the fair, transparent, and successful implementation of Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement; increased economic investment in Southern Sudan; care and resettlement of refugees and internally displaced persons, including the condemnation of violence against refugees (particularly women and girls); and meaningful support for the Archbishop of The Episcopal Church of Sudan and the United Nations peacekeeping units in Sudan. [\(GC 2009-A033\)](#)

Call upon the local, regional, and national news media to increase the breadth and depth of coverage of the following issues: efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals, the ongoing peace process between North and South Sudan, and the ongoing genocide in Darfur. [\(GC 2009-C052\)](#)

Reaffirm the need for an early end to hostilities in Darfur and elsewhere in Sudan, as well as the need for full access by humanitarian organizations to assist refugees. [\(GC 2009-D007\)](#)

Call upon the U.S., the U.N., and the world community to take more serious actions to stop the escalation of violence in Darfur and to implement Sudan's Comprehensive Peace Agreement. [\(EC 062005.30\)](#)

Commend churches in Africa fighting AIDS, poverty, and injustice, and call upon all levels of the Church to partner with the Churches of the Anglican Communion in Africa and other agencies to implement the United Nations' MDGs. [\(GC 2003- A035\)](#)

Urge the President to deploy peacekeeping forces alongside international forces in Liberia. Commend support by government and nongovernment organizations that provide aid. Urge Episcopal congregations and dioceses to assist the Church in Liberia with efforts to restore pastoral care, health services, and education to its people. [\(GC 2003-D023\)](#)

Urge the U.S. government to increase aid to South Africa to improve education and reduce poverty. Urge the business sector to encourage private investment in South Africa. [\(GC 2000-A003\)](#)

Stimulate public awareness of human rights in the Sudan and encourage diocesan relations with The Episcopal Church of South Sudan & Sudan. [\(GC 1994- D012\)](#)

## East Asia Pacific

Reaffirm the Church's support for the reunification of the Korean peninsula; urge family visits and cultural exchanges across their borders of the People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Republic of Korea (ROK). The Church urges all governments to minimize military tensions and observe human rights. The U.S. government, the ROK, and international organizations are asked to expand humanitarian aid for impoverished Koreans in the DPRK. ([GC 2012-A014](#))

Condemn the unresolved human rights cases, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, illegal arrests, and the detention of church workers, in the Philippines. Call upon the Philippine government to do all in its power to ensure that the human rights of church workers are respected and to seek the release of illegally detained church workers in the Philippines. ([EC 062010.20](#))

Urge the U.S. government to champion human rights and to encourage an end to extrajudicial killings and disappearances in the Philippines using influence such as the withholding of military aid. ([GC 2009-A032](#))

Urge attention and air to the relief of humanitarian needs in the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. Urge the peaceful resolution of international tensions with North Korea. Call upon North Korea to end the nuclear armaments program, and call upon China, Russia, and the U.S. to begin to welcome North Korean refugees. ([EC 022004.26](#))

Urge the U.S. government to recognize the rights of citizens of the Republic of Korea to equal treatment and legal redress of grievances and to pursue the goal of phasing out U.S. military bases in Korea. ([GC 2003-A037](#))

Encourage advocacy that exposes the horrors confronting people in Indonesia, and urge the U.S. government to work to provide relief and development for those whose property is destroyed. ([GC 2000-B053](#))

Support the Okinawan people and urge the U.S. government to remove military bases and personnel from Okinawa. ([GC 2000-D028](#))

Express hope for direct dialogue between the People's Republic of China and the Dalai Lama. ([GC 1997-C001](#))

Express sorrow to the Japanese people for the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and promote reconciliation. ([GC 1997-D049](#))

Promote human rights, oppose military aid and "total war" government policy, and support land reform in the Philippines. Encourage economic development and the alleviation of poverty. ([GC 1994-A097](#))

Express dismay at the continuing repression of the people of Myanmar and promote democracy and human rights. ([GC 1994-D020](#))



Support the rights of Chinese Christians to form associations free from government control. Call for the release of all political prisoners being held because of their religious beliefs. ([GC 1991-D127](#))

Support the efforts of The Episcopal Church in the Philippines in its struggle for peace and justice. Engage in the study of the impact of U.S. military bases on Philippine life. ([EC 061989.19](#))

## Europe

Call for justice and peace in Ukraine and condemn the war crimes committed. ([GC 2024-D019](#))

Condemn the actions of Azerbaijan and stand in solidarity with the people of Armenia and the refugees from Nagorno Karabagh against genocide. Advocate for and promote U.S. government policies and legislation to further this position, humanitarian relief to Armenia, and diplomatic interventions. ([GC 2024-D062](#))

Call upon all those in authority to labor without ceasing to bring a swift and just end to this conflict, and a restoration of Ukraine's independence and autonomy under conditions of tranquility. ([GC 2022-B008](#))

Establish and coordinate shareholder strategy addressing Carbon-Intensive Lending by U.S. Banks and other financial lending institutions. Identify banks and financial lending institutions within the DFMS and CPF portfolios that are carbon-intensive lenders and initiate the appropriate shareholder strategy with these institutions to slow global warming. Support joint efforts with the Church of England National Investing Bodies (NIBs) in achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. ([GC 2022-C016](#))

Urge the United States to respond wisely to the tension between Russia and Ukraine, condemning any violation of territorial integrity while holding armed intervention to be a last resort. Condemn the illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014 and laments the harms caused to that population and to all Ukrainians. ([EC 012022](#))

Express sorrow for terrorist attacks on Paris and Beirut; strive for justice and peace among all people, even in this moment of chaos, injury, and death. ([EC 112015.01](#))

## Middle East

Condemn and lament the Hamas lead attack against Israel and the violent and destructive retaliation of the Israeli government in Gaza. Call for an immediate cease-fire in Gaza, for the release of all Hamas-held hostages, and of Israeli-held unjustly detained Palestinian prisoners, and for the urgent provision of comprehensive, substantial humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza, in particular such vulnerable populations as children, the elderly, and those in need of medical care. ([GC 2024-D007](#))

Acknowledge U.S. accountability and responsibility in rebuilding Gaza. ([GC 2024-D009](#))

Reaffirm commitment to conditioning U.S. Military assistance to Israel on human rights and a negotiated peace. ([GC 2024-D012](#))

Affirm our hope for all the people of Israel and Palestine to enjoy freedom, peace, justice, and national self-determination, and affirm our hope for the creation of a Palestinian State, coexisting with the Jewish State of Israel. ([GC 2024-D013](#))

Advocate for the protection Iraqi Christians and other minority groups in Iraq. ([GC 2024-D043](#))  
Contact Representatives to call for a Ceasefire in Gaza and call for a suspension of arms going into Israel. Decry the terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and the ongoing terrorist activity of Hamas. ([GC 2024-D056](#))

Call for the Immediate Release of Ms. Layan Nasir from Administrative Detention in Israel Condemn the April 7, 2024, arrest and imprisonment of Palestinian Anglican Layan Nasir by the Israeli military. Denounce the use of administrative detentions without charge, trial, or conviction with no or extremely limited access to legal counsel or family visitation. ([GC 2024-D075](#))

Directs the Office of Government Relations to advocate before Congress, and The Episcopal Church representative to the United Nations to endorse, coordinated humanitarian relief operations regarding displaced Armenians. This includes pushing for a comprehensive humanitarian needs assessment, facilitating unimpeded access to Nagorno-Karabakh and the Lachin Corridor under a United Nations mandate. The objective is to ensure that humanitarian aid organizations can expeditiously and effectively deliver aid. ([2023 MB 010](#))

Manifestly condemns the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7, 2023. Laments the loss of life of innocents caused by Israeli airstrikes in Gaza, as well as the suffering from the lack of electricity, food, and safe water, and all of the violence that has occurred across Israel and Palestine. ([2023 MB 011](#))

Calls upon the Federal Government to spearhead a lasting investment in systemic disaster relief at an international level, focusing on areas such as the recent Turkey/Syria earthquake. The aim is to foster collaboration in establishing a permanent international body that provides sustained funding, expertise, and ongoing disaster relief, thus facilitating the enduring development and redevelopment of regions affected by events like the Turkey/Syria earthquake. ([2023 MB 003](#))

Engage in every possible effort to relieve human suffering and find a political solution to the complex ongoing war in Yemen. Support policy to allow for unobstructed access in the conflict areas for humanitarian and medical relief organizations, and journalists. ([GC 2022-B002](#))

Oppose legislation that penalizes or criminalizes support for all nonviolent boycotts, divestment and/or sanctions, especially on behalf of Palestinian human rights, as an infringement of First Amendment rights. ([GC 2022-C013](#))

Urge the President of the United States and the U.S. Congress to take action to oppose Israeli laws and practices that result in unequal rights for two peoples. Recognize the right of the State of Israel to exist and condemn the continued occupation, segregation and oppression of the Palestinian people; recognizing that for Israel to continue as a democracy it must allow for equality of all its peoples. ([GC 2022-C039](#))

Adopt the ELCA Action on Israel/Palestine adopted by 2018 General Convention and adopt the Global Human Rights Screen with “criteria for the Israel//Palestine conflict” (B016) as directed by General Convention (the TEC Global Screen & Criteria) as investment policy for the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society (DFMS) and hereby

creates a DFMS Human Rights No Buy List based on the TEC Global Screen & Criteria for corporations that resist effective engagement on human rights. ([EC 102019.13](#))

Reaffirm that Jerusalem is a holy city to three faiths, and, in the event of a two-state solution, it should be a shared capital with full protection for civil rights, religious observance, and all holy sites. Recognize the relocation of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem as an obstacle to peace. ([GC 2018-B003](#))

Express concern over the crisis in Yemen and call for an embargo on arms sales, unobstructed access for humanitarian organizations, and a politically-negotiated solution. Call for economic development to alleviate sources of conflict in the region. ([GC 2018-B013](#))

Join the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in calling for shareholder advocacy in support of human rights in Israel and Palestine and encourage positive investment in Palestine to support economic development. ([GC 2018-B016](#))

Urge the U.S. government to restore full funding to United Nations relief efforts for Palestinian refugees and to repeal the freeze on aid to Palestine, honoring its historic commitment to alleviating Palestinian poverty. ([GC 2018-B021](#))

Call on Israel to guarantee basic rights and just treatment of detained Palestinian children and request annual assurance from the United States Government that no aid to Israel is used to support the detention of Palestinian children. ([GC 2018-C038](#))

Reaffirm a negotiated two-party solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that may include a two-state solution or other solutions such as one binational state or confederation. Uphold the principle that no people's right to self-determination should be exercised at the expense of another's. ([GC 2018-D018](#))

Calls on the U.S. government to cooperate with independent investigations into Israeli human rights violations, and, if violations are found, to invoke the Leahy Amendment to halt funding to the Israeli military. ([GC 2018-D027](#))

Express support for Christians in Iraq and urge State Department advocacy against their persecution. ([GC 2018-D063](#))

Reaffirm the Episcopal Church's support for a two-state solution. Oppose any action by either party that undermines progress towards negotiations including ongoing violence and the continued building of settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Urge all parties to work towards creating two secure, independent, and viable states. ([EXC062011.06](#))

Encourage Episcopalians to pray for peace in the Middle East, for an end to the humanitarian and refugee crisis in Syria, and for the continued witness and presence of Christian communities there. ([GC 2015-D041](#))

Commend the Arab Spring democratic movements, and reaffirm a call for the U.S. government to provide a full and transparent accounting of all aid to the region. Urge the U.S. President to seek accountability among recipient governments to protect core democratic principles and uphold U.S. laws defining legal uses of U.S. funding. ([GC 2012-A015](#))

Call upon bishops and dioceses for advocacy for the restoration of international humanitarian funding for the Al-Ahli Hospital, a health-care institution in the Gaza Strip administered by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. Encourage Episcopalians to engage in fundraising efforts for the hospital. ([GC 2012-B017](#))

Reaffirm The Episcopal Church's commitment to a negotiated two-state solution with a secure and recognized Israel existing alongside a secure and viable Palestinian State, with a shared capital of Jerusalem. Endorse a triennium of study and advocacy, and encourage dioceses to engage in advocacy, education, prayer, and humanitarian aid for peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. Affirm interfaith dialogue, and decry extremism, fundamentalism, and all forms of violence. Prioritize investment in the institutions of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and commit to monetary investment in the economic infrastructure of the Palestinian territories. ([GC 2012-B019](#))

Call upon the U.S. government to pursue a fair and balanced approach to making peace that fulfills the fundamental needs of both Israelis and Palestinians, and to press the State of Israel to end the blockade of the Gaza Strip. ([EC 022010.24](#))

Encourage Episcopalians to engage in an interfaith prayerful dialogue with their Jewish and Muslim sisters and brothers and to offer their prayers for a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. ([EC 022008.16](#))

Advocate for a holistic plan to address the humanitarian crisis of refugees and others displaced by the ongoing violence in Iraq. ([EC 032007.05](#))

Call for a comprehensive approach to diplomacy across the Middle East. ([EC 032007.04](#))

Call upon the President and the U.S. government to urge the State of Israel to end its policy of the demolition of Palestinian homes. ([GC 2003-D008](#))

Affirm refugee rights of Palestinians and Israelis. Affirm the principle of the right of return for every Palestinian, as well as restitution/compensation for their loss as called for by the United Nations. ([GC 2000-B016](#))

Urge the Security Council of the United Nations and the President of the United States to take immediate action to lift restrictions on normal trade in civilian goods with Iraq while retaining appropriate political sanctions and a strict embargo on military-related items. ([GC 2000-C027](#))

That Jerusalem should serve as the capital for two sovereign and independent states, Israel and Palestine. The government of Israel should remove forthwith all roadblocks and obstacles preventing free access to Jerusalem for Palestinians; the government of Israel should change its planning policies so that Palestinians have equal rights to build housing in Jerusalem and develop their institutions which have been restricted since 1967; East Jerusalem, as an integral part of the occupied territories, should be included in all political arrangements relating to those territories, including self-determination, release of prisoners, right of return, and eventual sovereignty. [\(GC 1997-A107\)](#)

Urge congregations to develop mutual understanding and respect with Jews and Muslims and to discuss the Middle East. [\(GC 1994-A102\)](#)

Affirm and support the Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles signed in September 1993. Urge all parties concerned to do all in their power to support the Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority, and the elected Council, authorized by the above-mentioned Declaration, and all the other agreed upon principles and undertakings. Require that the United States adhere to a single standard of justice in its diplomatic efforts to support the peace process and in granting aid to both Israel and Palestine. Send aid to the newly autonomous Palestinian Authority on its abandonment of violence as a tactic of struggle and that the Palestinian police make every effort within their power to apprehend violators. Condition aid and loan guarantees to Israel on its abandonment of violence as a tactic of civilian control and on the release of all Palestinian political prisoners and detainees. [\(GC 1994-A103\)](#)

Distinguish criticisms of the Israeli government from anti-Jewish prejudice. [\(GC 1991-D122\)](#)

Encourage the U.S. government to stress the importance of religious liberty and human rights in the development and execution of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. [\(GC 1991-D130\)](#)

Oppose the movement of the United States Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, except within the context of a broad resolution of Middle East problems, with the status of Jerusalem having been determined by negotiation and not by unilateral action by any one community, religion, race or nation. [\(GC 1985-B017\)](#)

Affirm the existence of the State of Israel and its right to recognized and secure borders, as well as the civic and human rights of all those who live within its borders. Affirm the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, including choice of their own representatives and the establishment of their own state. [\(GC 1988-D053\)](#)

Affirms the Camp David Accords as the appropriate vehicle for pursuing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. Supports the rights of Palestinian people to exercise responsibility for their political future, with the proviso that the Palestinians recognize the legitimacy of the State of Israel. [\(GC 1982-B047\)](#)

## South and Central Asia

Advocate for the continued evacuation of Afghans that are at risk still within the country, as well any Afghan refugees displaced to a third country during this conflict. [\(EC 102022\)](#)

Advocate for the protection of religious, gender, and other minorities with the Government of Pakistan and international agencies. ([GC 2015-D035](#))

Encourage the U.S. and its allies to promote economic development and human rights for the victimized people of Afghanistan, and urge the U.S. Congress to provide for the material, financial, medical, and spiritual needs of troops deployed to Afghanistan and their families. Support the goal of achieving a just and lasting peace in Afghanistan free of terrorism and foreign occupation. ([EC 022010.08](#))

Call upon the international community to provide food, clothing, shelter, and medical care for displaced persons in Pakistan, especially those of the persecuted Christian community. ([GC 2009-D084](#))

Express anguish over victimization of the Christian minority in Pakistan, and urge U.S. government to work toward political reform and humanitarian relief in Pakistan. ([GC 2000-B047](#))

Call upon U.S. government to pressure the Government of India to recognize untouchability as a crime against humanity and abolish practices of untouchability. ([GC 2000-D024](#))

## Western Hemisphere

Work diligently with aid agencies, international organizations, and their respective governments, to support the indigenous population of Amazonia in whatever way possible during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, seeking to assure the continuation of their languages, culture, and very lives. ([EC 062020.06](#))

Advocate for a peaceful resolution of the crisis facing our sisters and brothers in Venezuela, and urge continued support for all Venezuelans, including those who have migrated to other countries. ([GC 2018-A215](#))

Call on the Church to employ its official status at the UN to engage in partnership with Latin American states to advance mutual goals and mission. ([GC 2018-D098](#))

Urge the U.S. government to commence resettlement for people who cannot return to Columbia and are unable to integrate or remain in Ecuador. Urge the United States government to work with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and other organizations to assist host countries (especially Ecuador) by providing adequate funding. Urge the United States government to press for a political solution to the armed conflict between the Colombian government and opposing forces in order to reach a peaceful and just end to the internal conflict in Colombia. Oppose the installation by U.S. government of military bases in Colombia, the presence of which contributes to the displacement of persons within Colombia and between Colombia and Ecuador. ([EC 022010.25](#))

Urge the U.S. government to commence a generous program of resettlement for Colombian refugees unable to return home or remain in Ecuador. ([EC 022010.25](#))

Call upon international lending organizations to continue investments, aid, and loans to Honduras. Support crisis negotiations in Honduras, request that the Organization of American States reconsider the decision to suspend Honduras from participation in its workings, and ask that the U.S. government to refrain from taking actions that will penalize the people of Honduras. ([GC 2009-B031](#))

Call upon the authorities of the Dominican Republic to exercise greater efforts and concerns in favor of the poorest among them. ([EC 012003.09](#))

Support policies and programs that will alleviate the poverty and ameliorate the injustices experienced by millions of Colombians. Urge the U.S. government to assign the highest priority to achieving a negotiated peace in Colombia and work with other governments in the region and other allies in bringing a peaceful end to Colombia's longstanding civil conflict. ([EC 102002.15](#))

Urge the U.S. government to provide economic aid to Central America with the same commitment it provided military aid in the past. ([GC 1997-A105](#))

Express vigorous opposition to the U.S. use of foreign countries as dumping grounds for waste, especially the Latin American and Caribbean countries. ([GC 1991-B044](#))

## Western Hemisphere: Cuba

Reiterate The Episcopal Church's call for an end to the embargo; and we reassert our commitment to strengthening relations between the Cuban and American peoples. ([EC 062019.09](#))

Reassert the Church's commitment to strengthening relations with the Cuban people and La Iglesia Episcopal de Cuba and recognize it as a Diocese in union with General Convention. ([GC 2018-A238](#))

Commend the work of Church leaders and the U.S. government in easing restrictions on travel exchanges between the U.S. and Cuba, and advocate for the end to the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba. ([GC 2012-A020](#))

Call for the release of political prisoners currently held in Cuban jails, urge an end to Cuban suppression of political dissent, and support advocacy for the humane treatment and pastoral care of four convicted Cuban spies currently serving time in American prisons. ([GC 2012-A021](#))

Urge the U.S. government to end the embargo against Cuba, thus allowing the free travel of Cubans and Americans between the U.S. and Cuba, financial remittances between the two countries, and the strengthening of the Church's mission in Cuba. ([GC 2009-A034](#))

Urge the U.S. government to restore diplomatic relations with Cuba through a process that promotes human rights, freedom of speech, and the movement of political prisoners. ([GC 2000-C045](#))

Urge the U.S. government to end restrictions on the sale of food, medicines, and medical supplies to Cuba. ([EC 021998.14](#))

Respond to the invitation of the Diocese of Cuba and urge religious and cultural exchange between U.S. Episcopalians and Cuba. ([EC 061996.18](#))

## Western Hemisphere: Haiti

Lament the state of unrest in Haiti and advocate for supportive actions directed at their stability. ([GC 2024-D060](#))

Urge support of the Commission for a Haitian Solution to the Crisis and their work seeking a resolution of the governance crisis. Aim to listen to and better engage our Haitian relatives to ensure that the Church and people can flourish in Haiti. ([EC 102021](#))

Condemn the ruling of the Dominican Republic's constitutional court, which ruled ineligible for citizenship any children born of Haitian migrants in the Dominican Republic. Advocate to U.S. government and the United Nations on this issue. ([GC 2015-D058](#))

Declare solidarity with Dominicans of Haitian descent who have been essentially made stateless by the Dominican Republic's constitutional court. Stimulate awareness of these stateless Dominicans among members of the Church. ([EC 022014.25](#))

Urge the U.S. government to increase disaster relief and economic development assistance to Haiti, extend trade preferences for Haitian exports to the U.S., and designate Temporary Protected Status to Haitian immigrants living in the U.S. ([GC 2009-A036](#))

Urge the U.S. government to facilitate a negotiated peace and human rights in Haiti and to prevent the deportation of Haitians living in the U.S. back to Haiti by granting them Temporary Protected Status. Urge immediate action to support an enhanced multi-national (international) peace keeping force in Haiti with a mandate to restore security to Haiti, while respecting the human rights of all Haitians. ([EC 062005.29](#))

Call on the US Government to take actions that would help alleviate this suffering and bring peace and justice to the people of Haiti. Extend temporary protected status (TPS) to Haitians now residing in the United States. Pass the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act to protect those Haitians now residing in the United States without legal status to be allowed to remain legally. Ensure that Haitians having bona fide asylum claims be able to have their claims properly assessed and, where warranted, be granted asylum. Urge for an independent body appointed by the Secretary General of the United Nations be established to investigate the circumstances leading to the departure of former President Aristede and human rights abuses and make recommendations concerning the establishment of a



legitimate government. Endorse and contribute as necessary to an international peace keeping operation that would remain as long as is necessary to assist in the restoration of peace and stability in Haiti and to allow for fair and open elections. That the U.S. serve as a major donor nation in supporting the rebuilding of Haiti's infrastructure. ([EX 062004.21](#))

Call upon the U.S. and Haitian governments, in consultation with nongovernmental organizations, to develop and implement a poverty reduction strategy for Haiti. ([GC 2000-A012](#))

## DOMESTIC

### Children

Support child labor protections. Support domestic and foreign policies to strengthen and enforce child labor laws in the United States of America and globally and throughout the labor supply chain. ([GC 2024-D021](#))

Support the child welfare system and the needs of children who are in foster care as well as their families. Support legislation that: Creates a system where children of color are not unfairly over-represented; Ensures protections for children in foster care of all sexual orientations, and gender identities, recognizing their unique needs; Ensures protections for adults seeking to be foster parents that they not be discriminated against because of their race/ethnic background, gender, age, marital status, family size, disability, gender identity or sexual orientation, or any other factor not relevant to being a good foster parent; Creating an equal access to resources and funding for all children who are involved in child protective and foster care systems; Create adequate training and funding for caseworkers in the child welfare system; Create a right to counsel for all parties involved in the foster care system; Create a continuum of care for youth aging out of foster care that includes counseling, medical care, education, housing and other resources; Urging full flexible funding for sufficient resources for the child welfare system, especially for guardianship, reunification, education and counseling. ([GC 2022-D046](#))

Call for robust laws and protections for surrogates and parents-to-be as well as moral discernment for all involved. Support public policies that understand the importance of the surrogate relationship as more than a financial transaction; that protect the surrogate from the emotional, physical and financial exploitation that can occur; and that attend to the surrogate's emotional, physical, and spiritual needs both during and after pregnancy. ([GC 2022-D049](#))

Support public policies that calls for legislatures to investigate incidents of forced adoption and to enact policies that respect the rights and dignity of mothers of adoption loss and adoptees. ([GC 2022-D074](#))

Urge Episcopalians to patronize companies that have adopted the EPCAT Code of Conduct for the Protection of Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism as part of efforts to end human trafficking. Call for Church members to engage in advocacy with companies that have not adopted the Code. ([GC 2018-C032](#))

Endorse the National Council of Churches (NCC) comprehensive policy statement, entitled [The Church and Children: Vision and Goals for the 21st Century Policy](#). Urge the U.S. government to provide funding for extensive programs that combat social and economic conditions preventing children from achieving their full potential. ([GC 2006-B018](#))

Confirm that care for the needs of children is a priority of the Church, and urge the President and Congress to make funding for children's care a priority. ([EC 022005.26](#))

Advocate for the integrity of childhood and the dignity of all children at every level of our religious, civic, and political structures. ([GC 2003-B008](#))

Affirm that children are central to the mission of the Church. Ask each diocese to increase awareness and implementation of the Children's Charter as a continuing vision of The Episcopal Church's ministry in nurturing, ministering to, advocating on behalf of, and supporting children in their ministries. ([GC 2000-D045](#))

Affirm the value of adoption and ask Congress to pass legislation making adoption counseling available. ([GC 2000-D104](#))

Support crime prevention programs that provide recreation, education, and other activities to discourage youth from gangs and crime. ([EC 021995.07](#))

Call upon the Senate to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. ([GC 1994-C024](#))

Encourage the Church to address issues of youth suicide and runaway/throwaway youth, especially as these result from conflict over sexuality. ([GC 1994-C026](#))

Petition Congress to encourage more flexibility in the educational placement of deaf children...giving proper weights to such variables as the social, emotional, psychological, education, or vocational needs of the child. ([GC 1979-B031](#))

## Civil Liberties

Support regulations on generative artificial intelligence. ([GC 2024-D017](#))

Support policies at all levels of government to regulate technology companies to protect consumers, especially youth, from unreasonable surveillance, personal data collection, addictive features, and harmful content; regulate the use of digital technology and artificial intelligence in the workplace to surveil, monitor, and manage workers; regulate the use of data collection and storage by public authorities, including law enforcement agencies; regulate cryptocurrencies to reduce climate impact; support public investment to close digital wealth and racial divide in access to technology and technology education. ([GC 2022-D020](#))

Condemn the continued use of scapegoating language in all its forms and protecting the various status of individuals who are made vulnerable in our current society. The church repudiates the acts of violence that inevitably result from the rhetoric and tactics of political scapegoating. ([GC 2018-A230](#))

Authorize the development of ecumenical and interfaith strategies for repealing the portion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment that allows slavery as a punishment for crime and offering new constitutional language ending slavery “without exception.” ([GC 2018-D013](#))

Condemn the use of racist language by political leaders, both explicit and racially coded language, particularly that which targets Muslims, rejects national security as a moral or legal justification for curtailing civil rights, and call on the U.S. government to seek remedies for discrimination. ([GC 2018-D089](#))

Support national and state legislation against discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression, and call on local, state, and federal officials to enact such legislation to protect equal access to public accommodation. Oppose all legislation seeking to deny dignity, equality, and civil rights of transgender people. ([EC 062016.08](#))

Support net neutrality also known as “open Internet” and oppose a two-tiered system with fast and slow lanes. ([EC 102014.15](#))

Express concern that federal statutes and legal precedents, specifically acts such as the Patriot Act, The Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, and supreme court decisions, are not used by the U.S. government to suppress the civil liberties of Muslims, Arabs, or Palestinians living in the U.S. ([GC 2012-A079](#))

Urge the President of the United States to use law-enforcement protocols, rather than a warfighting paradigm that designates terrorists ‘warriors’, to bring to justice those who commit acts of terrorism, treating terrorists as criminals, and call upon all Episcopalians to refrain from demonizing and dehumanizing terrorists. ([GC 2012-D005](#))

Oppose the overly broad interpretation of the “material support” provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act, which allows for the refusal of admission into the U.S. to certain refugees, and recommend an interpretation of these provisions that pertains only to formally designated foreign terrorist organizations and does not apply to those who have resisted regimes that denied them basic human rights or to those who, under duress, unwittingly associate with a terrorist organization. ([EC 112006.34](#))

Encourage Congress to hold public hearings about the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 and possible curtailing of civil liberties as well as the expansion of police powers. ([GC 2003-D063](#))

Oppose any further expansion or extension of the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 that would further curtail the civil rights of ethnic and religious minorities. ([EC 042003.17](#))

Oppose legislation that alters the current tax code regarding political activity by houses of worship, either limiting the current ability to pursue advocacy as well as opposing the expansion of political engagement such as endorsing political candidates, creating PAC’s or funneling political donations to partisan issues. ([EC 102002.11](#))

Urge the protection of constitutional rights and civil liberties so that the rights of certain persons will not be wrongfully jeopardized because of their ethnicity or race, while recognizing legitimate security concerns in the wake of September 11, 2001. ([EC 102001.10](#))

## Climate and Environment

Endorse the Anglican Consultative Council's Communion Forest resolution. Undertake appropriate projects in support of the Communion Forest initiative. ([GC 2024-A084](#))

Seek further steps towards the phase-out of fossil fuels in future international negotiations, including the upcoming COP 29 meetings scheduled for Baku, November 2024, as well as in implementing legislation and regulations in the United States. Support public policy steps to reduce the adverse impacts of a fossil fuel phase-out on people and communities reliant on such industries for jobs, investment, and tax revenue; steps consistent with General Convention Resolution 2018-D081. ([GC 2024-A098](#))

Advocate for Indigenous and native people's rights involving just use and protection of water resources. ([GC 2024-A167](#))

Acknowledge that in the transition away from fossil fuels there is a need to support the use of reliable carbon-free energy sources such as nuclear energy as a supplemental and stable supporter of weather dependent sources such as wind and solar. Call for nuclear energy as one of many methods of reducing carbon emissions and recognizing nuclear fuel as nuclear waste. ([GC 2024-C029](#))

Advocate for Indigenous and native people's rights to safety, transparency, and restoration in cases where the U.S. government and/or its agencies and military forces threaten or damage clean water and other natural resources, especially in decommissioning and defueling of Red Hill Bunker. ([GC 2024-D008](#))

Endorse the commitment by the U.S. government to conserve at least 30% each of U.S. lands and waters by the year 2030, as consistent with The Episcopal Church's commitment to care for creation. ([GC 2024-D029](#))

Recognizes and commends the efforts of nations, including Vanuatu and Tuvalu, alongside other Pacific Island nations, in crafting the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. The treaty has received endorsements from influential bodies such as the World Health Organization and the European Parliament, as well as the support of thousands of civil society organizations and individuals dedicated to addressing climate change and its contributing factors. The Executive Council acknowledges these collaborative initiatives and their significant contribution to the global efforts toward climate mitigation. ([2023 MBMW 005](#))

Establish biodiversity as a central priority for the Episcopal Church's creation care strategies at church-wide, diocesan, congregational, and institutional levels. Advocate for policy priorities that protect both biodiversity and the rights of indigenous and local communities, such as those priorities reflected in the Faiths at COP 15 statement, including a rights-based approach to biodiversity management and aggressive and enforceable conservation goals. ([2023 MBMW 002](#))

Support and advocate for the subsistence rights of Indigenous people and policies that protect and preserve land and resources solely for subsistence use. (Noted within a resolution calling for net carbon neutrality of The Episcopal Church by 2030.) ([GC 2022-A087](#))

Advocate for legislation and other public policies that directly address the impact of climate change among marginalized, indigenous, and frontline communities and that tangibly and financially assist those communities with the costs of both climate change and mitigation, and policies that prohibit the authorization and construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure including but not limited to coal, oil, or gas leases on public lands, all forms of mountaintop removal mining, and tar sands pipelines such as Keystone XL, Enbridge Line #3, and the Dakota Access Pipeline. Reaffirm that the Episcopal Church shall support and advocate for policies, programs, pastoral responses, and theologies that work to ensure no community - especially financially impoverished communities, frontline residents, migrants, and BIPOC communities (Black, indigenous, and people of color) - shall bear a disproportionate impact of the environmental, health, and economic threats of climate change. ([GC 2022-A088](#))

Advocate for and support public policies that support a just transition for fossil fuel dependent communities. ([GC 2022-A089](#))

Pursue an investment strategy that will fund methods of capturing and storing greenhouse gases through sustainable nature-based, land management solutions such as afforestation and regenerative agricultural practices. ([GC 2022-C015](#))

Establish and coordinate shareholder strategy addressing Carbon-Intensive Lending by U.S. Banks and other financial lending institutions. Identify banks and financial lending institutions within the DFMS and CPF portfolios that are carbon-intensive lenders and initiate the appropriate shareholder strategy with these institutions to slow global warming. Support joint efforts with the Church of England National Investing Bodies (NIBs) in achieving the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. ([GC 2022-C016](#))

Advocate for our governments to address environmental and ecological issues, such as the Green New Deal to help communities, regions, and nations achieve environmental sustainability and economic stability. ([GC 2022-D064](#))

Support methods of permanently capturing and storing greenhouse gases, including nature-based solutions (tree-planting, preservation of unique ecosystems such as prairies, bogs, estuaries, and mangrove stands); Carbon Capture and Storage (also called Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage); and direct air capture technologies. Support appropriate research and testing to avoid unintended consequences from these technologies and other climate change mitigation efforts. Urge that the costs of carbon capture and other climate change mitigation efforts should not fall disproportionately on poor, minority, and indigenous communities. ([EC 012021](#))

In the Episcopal Creation Covenant, pursue liberating advocacy: For God's sake, standing alongside marginalized, vulnerable peoples, we will advocate and act to repair Creation and seek the liberation and flourishing of all people. Engage in federal, state and local advocacy, especially around policies outlined by General Convention and with the guidance of the Office of Government Relations and the Episcopal Public Policy Network. ([EC 102019.08](#))

Divest from fossil fuel companies and reinvest in clean renewable energy in a fiscally responsible manner. ([GC 2018-A020](#))

Reaffirm the Church's commitment to environmental justice and authorize a report on legal remedies for marginalized communities that disproportionately suffer from the effects of climate change. ([GC 2018-A011](#))

Recognize climate change as a human-made threat that particularly hurts vulnerable communities, and call for the Church to advocate at the United Nations for a binding climate treaty. ([GC 2018-A018](#))

Recognizes water as a human right and common good, and urges Episcopalians to educate themselves about local water issues, avoid using bottled water, and advocate for public ownership of water utilities. This includes the protection of aquifers and watersheds, as well as adequate sanitation of water. ([GC ' 2018-B025](#))

Support national and international gender inclusive responses to climate change disasters, recognizing that women are often disproportionately impacted and advocate for women's leadership on climate justice. ([GC 2018-B027](#))

Calls on Episcopalians to support and advocate for justly implemented policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as a carbon tax, with a specific concern for reducing economic impacts on lower-income communities. ([GC 2018-C020](#))

Call on the Church to engage in shareholder advocacy by lobbying for the inclusion of a sustainability expert to sit on the Boards of companies that negatively impact the environment. ([GC 2018-C021](#))

Call on The Episcopal Church to advocate for ocean health via support for public policies establishing marine sanctuaries, mitigating pollution and the effects of offshore drilling, overfishing, and invasive species, and protecting endangered species. Minister to the people who are adversely affected by declines in ocean health. ([GC 2018-C063](#))

Endorse the Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe Nation's opposition to the construction of the Enbridge #3 oil pipeline as a potential environmental disaster and urge the state of Minnesota to open and maintain a line of communication with native leaders. ([GC 2018-C064](#))

Call on the Church to support public investment in education, renewable energies, public works and development for communities impacted by economic change and automation, support the creation of good jobs with living wages and benefits and express support for the right of workers to organize. ([GC 2018-D006](#))

Urge the federal government to support sustained recovery efforts and disaster prevention planning, working with other nations. Encourage Episcopalians to create emergency preparedness and response plans. ([GC 2018-D007](#))

Direct the development of criteria for the Church's investments based on concern for care of creation, as well as procedures to determine engagement in shareholder activism, divestment, or boycotting. ([GC 2018-D068](#))

Advocate for public policy initiatives to assist communities negatively affected by the transition away from fossil fuels through training, education, and housing assistance, and call on Episcopalians to develop programs to strengthen these communities. ([GC 2018-D081](#))

Commit to working for global eco-justice and to support the development of eco-justice sites, as well as regional and advisory groups to network and facilitate eco-justice. ([EC 062016.12](#))

Commend the work and supportive leadership on behalf of the Sioux Nation in its response to corporate and governmental intrusion onto its sacred ground, and support the Sioux Nation's right for peaceful assembly and protest. ([EC 102016.29](#))

Affirm support of Agenda 2030 and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and commit to the goals of eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development by 2030. ([EC 102016.30](#))

Urge the Church to deepen its commitment to addressing food insecurity, food-related health issues, and food-related environmental effects in our communities and nations. Urge the Church to advocate for sustainable, equitable, culturally appropriate, and accessible food systems. ([GC 2015-A091](#))

Modify and support public policies and laws that protect the health and safety of workers throughout the food system, protect our Earth's natural environment, protect humanity's ability to produce food for generations to come, and increase access to healthy food for all people. ([GC 2015-A170](#))

Oppose environmental racism, expressed in such ways as the locating of extraction, production, and disposal industries where they disproportionately harm neighborhoods inhabited by people of color and low income communities. ([GC 2015-C013](#))

Call upon The Episcopal Church to engage the topic of divestment from fossil fuels and reinvestment in clean energy. ([GC 2015-C045](#))

Call upon The Episcopal Church to advocate for policies that will promote sustainable energy and alleviate burdens on those most affected by climate change and the transition away from fossil fuels. Call upon The Episcopal Church to support grassroots solutions to climate change that strengthen local resilience, local food sovereignty, ecological restoration, and economic re-localization. ([GC 2012-B023](#))

Urge Congress to pass legislation curbing air pollution at U.S. ports, and encourage Episcopal dioceses located near ports to become more engaged in environmental, community, and worker justice efforts at the ports. ([GC 2012-C119](#))

Enact stricter controls on the use of carbon-based fuels, and create incentives for our nation's transitions from dependence upon fossil fuels to safe, clean, renewable energy. ([GC 2012-D055](#))

Call upon Episcopalians to restrict their use of bottled water where safe drinking water is available and to employ other everyday water conservation techniques to lessen the negative ecological impact of wasted water and bottled water production. ([GC 2009-A045](#))

Urge the U.S. government to legislate equitable subsidies for renewable energy and balance its current subsidies for nonrenewable energy sources. Support the adoption of a federal renewable energy standard that requires energy suppliers to obtain at least 20% of their electricity from renewable energy sources. Support programs worldwide that conserve water and utilize clean energy to power public buildings and transportation. ([GC 2009-C011](#))

Affirm that policy decisions affecting the health and well-being of humans and ecosystems must be based on scientifically evaluated, peer-reviewed data. Support legislative efforts to maintain the highest degree of scientific integrity in research that is intended for use in legislative deliberation. ([GC 2009-C012](#))

Endorse the Earth Charter, a declaration of fundamental ethical principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society in the 21st century; and call upon Episcopalians to take actions consistent with the Earth Charter locally, nationally, and internationally. ([GC 2009-C064](#))

Promote awareness about the public environmental decisions that adversely affect the lives and health of the most vulnerable in our society, especially children, indigenous communities, and communities of people of color; and encourage environmentally just actions in all spheres of society. ([GC 2009-D014](#))

Encourage education about how our everyday decisions affect the lives and health of endangered species, farmed food animals, and domesticated animals. ([GC 2009-D015](#))

Urge the President and Congress to commit to a course of action, in collaboration with the other nations of the world, to lower the output of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by 25% by 2020 and by 80% by 2050. ([GC 2009-D031](#))

Challenge Episcopalians, and all Christians, to be mindful of the consequences that our lifestyles have around the world, particularly for the health of marginalized communities, and to act upon our beliefs by working for justice and peace for all of God's creation through personal actions, congregational action, and public witness with policymakers. ([EC 032007.29](#))

Offer our prayers for those affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and encourage Episcopalians to continue to offer support and assistance, while pressing the U.S. government to rebuild the Gulf Coast. ([EC 032007.30](#))



Affirm that global warming threatens the future of God's creation, especially the poorest and most vulnerable, and support efforts to reduce global warming. Seek to reduce Global Warming nationally at every level. ([GC 2006-B002](#))

Commend the work done to aid victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and acknowledge that far more must still be done by federal, state, and local governments. The church highlights the underlying reality of poverty and racism that are made plain through these disasters and urge the Government to take long and short-term actions to rebuild communities, including large financial contributions. ([EC 102005.10](#))

Recognize that the responsible care of animals falls within the stewardship of creation and work for the protection of animals. ([GC 2003-D016](#))

Encourage dioceses, congregations, and individuals to become active stewards of their water resources. ([GC 2003-D046](#))

Direct OGR to work on public policy ensuring clean water. ([GC 2003-D070](#))

Call for conservation-based energy legislation consistent with the long-standing belief that we are stewards of God's creation, responsible for its care and preservation. Oppose drilling or mining in our nation's dwindling wild lands and places important to the traditional cultures of indigenous peoples, including oil and gas exploration and drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which threaten the life and culture of the Gwich'in people. ([EC 032002.20](#))

Urge the President and Congress to provide financial support and leadership for developing nations to control their emissions of greenhouse gases in order to reduce their vulnerability to climate change. Urge the President to address the issue of global warming and take the necessary steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S. Urge the President and Congress to provide funds and leadership in an effort to encourage renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation. ([EC 062001.12](#))

Oppose environmental racism. Oppose mountaintop removal and valley-fill mining and other mining operations that threaten the ecology and low-income communities. ([GC 2000-D005](#))

Call upon the Church to practice environmentally sound and energy-efficient living and discourage wasteful consumption. ([GC 1997-A041](#))

Encourage Church investors to influence corporations to find alternatives to the manufacture, use, and disposal of hazardous chemicals. Commit to justice for those who bear the brunt of hazardous waste disposal. ([GC 1994-A042](#))

Express vigorous opposition to the U.S. use of foreign countries as dumping grounds for waste. ([GC 1991-B044](#))

## Criminal Justice

The parts and kits used to build ghost guns should be banned and should be subject to full regulation as firearms and subject to all federal regulations that apply to firearms, including all oversight related to the provisions of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act. Advocate for state and federal legislation that would ban and/or subject the parts and kits used to build homemade weapons on the same oversight and regulation that exists for firearms. ([GC 2022-B003](#))

Support domestic dioceses in state-level advocacy against gun violence and other forms of community violence. ([GC 2022-B006](#))

Urge Congress and the states to reduce the use of incarceration for lower-level crimes, to pass legislation that would make default prison sentences proportional to the specific crimes committed, and to use the power of their purses to encourage these changes. Urge Congress to examine racial and gender disparities in sentencing, and adopt legislation whereby all arrests or convictions for non-violent summary or misdemeanor offenses committed more than ten years ago are sealed. ([GC 2022-D008](#))

Encourage the adoption, as appropriate, on a state-by-state basis and at the national level a moratorium on the construction of private prisons, and for their outright abolition. ([GC 2022-D009](#))

Encourage the United States Senate to promptly pass The Emmett Till Antilynching Act. ([GC 2022-D015](#))

Push for police reform as part of overall efforts to address racial justice and criminal justice reform. Recommending the following proposals— or any incremental change in the direction of increased accountability, transparency, and responsiveness with the aim of making our communities safer: banning the use of chokeholds and strangleholds, requiring warning before shooting, and banning shooting at moving vehicles; limit or end the transfer of 9 military-grade weapons to state and local police departments; and ban the use of pretext stops that promote racial and ethnic profiling; duty-to-intervene policies, which require officers to stop excessive force used by other officers and report the incidents immediately to a supervisor; requiring use of, and policies for, body cameras; civilian review boards and other community and civilian oversight bodies; improve the length, quality, and frequency of police training; adopt statutory changes; assure that where no federal investigation occurs, an independent state investigation is undertaken in all cases where people die in encounters with, or in the custody of, state or local law enforcement personnel, especially when a person of color dies in any such encounter or custody; initiate appropriate criminal prosecutions to address unjustified law enforcement violence resulting in death or injury of anyone; adopt enforceable federal policing standards; resumption of federal civil rights reviews of law enforcement agency practices. ([EC 062020.05](#))

Join community and grassroots leaders in advocating with local and state governments to bring about substantive and mandatory change in police departments and policing and to allocate resources for community-based models of safety, support, and prevention. ([EC 062020.12](#))

Encourage law enforcement to seek alternatives to deadly force when dealing with people who are unarmed, especially those in mental health crisis and distress. Advocate for mental health crisis de-escalation training for local law-enforcement officials. ([GC 2018-B024](#))

Urge state and federal governments to adopt comprehensive sentencing reforms addressing mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses which disproportionately impact minorities, repealing laws allowing life without parole for non-violent offenders and people under 18, and allowing for the sealing of records of nonviolent or misdemeanor offenses after ten years. Urge Congress to initiate studies to examine racial and gender disparities in sentencing, including racial and gender disparities in prosecutors' exercise of discretion in seeking sentencing enhancements. ([GC 2018-D004](#))

Reaffirm condemnation of torture and call for an end to solitary confinement in all U.S. detention facilities. Call for individual Episcopalians to advocate for an end to prolonged solitary confinement by every country in the world. ([GC 2018-D029](#))

Reaffirm support for death penalty repeal and urge that all current sentences of death be reduced. Call on dioceses, congregations, and individual Episcopalians to advocate for abolition of the death penalty on a state level. ([GC 2018-D077](#))

Acknowledge that implicit racial bias and racial profiling results in a criminal justice system that disproportionately incarcerates people of color damaging individuals, families, and communities. Commit mindfully and intentionally to dismantling our current mass incarceration system. Advocate for alternatives to incarceration for those who are addicted and mentally ill, and increase funding for treatment programs; advocate for protection of the civil rights and provision of appropriate support and accommodation for people with disabilities who are arrested and incarcerated; advocate for funding for job training and apprentice programs for those who are at risk of incarceration and those who are formerly released from prison; work with local businesses to create pathways to living wage jobs for formerly incarcerated people; establish mentoring and accompaniment programs for those leaving prison; advocate for the repeal of mandatory-minimum sentences for nonviolent offenses; call for the abolition of the sentencing disparity between crack-cocaine and powder-cocaine offenses and, as an intermediate step, urge the U.S. Congress, in accordance with the recommendation of the U.S. Sentencing Commission, to make retroactive the 2010 Fair Sentencing Act, which reduces the disparity in sentencing from previous levels; advocate to eliminate "three strikes" sentencing protocols; join local "Ban the Box" campaigns to remove questions about arrest records in on-line and written job application forms; oppose the creation of "for profit" prisons and immigration detention centers, and, where they exist, organize against guaranteed nightly numbers of prisoners and detainees, and advocate for access to education and rehabilitation programs for those being incarcerated or detained; reform monetary bail bond systems; advocate for immediate return of the right to vote for those who have served their sentences and left prison; and call for the exploration and creation of restorative justice programs to transform juvenile justice systems. ([GC 2015-A011](#))

Advocate for the civil rights and proper treatment of and accommodations for people with disabilities throughout the criminal justice system. ([GC 2015-D032](#))

Oppose mass incarceration. Oppose for-profit prisons and detention centers that capitalize on the criminal, civil, or immigration incarceration of individuals. Advocate for the expansion of funding for treatment, alternatives to incarceration, and reintegration services to people leaving prison. Pursue legal reforms to enhance the employability of people leaving prisons. Support and participate in mentoring and accompaniment programs for those leaving prison. Support the repeal of mandatory-minimum sentences for nonviolent offenses. Support a moratorium on the use of for-profit private prisons, including immigration detention centers, which often set occupancy or "bed" quotas,

capitalizing on the criminal, civil, and immigration incarceration of individuals. Abolish the sentencing disparity between crack-cocaine and powder-cocaine offenses; and make retroactive the 2010 Fair Sentencing Act. Urge states with monetary bail bond systems to reform those systems. Urge the creation of equitable post-sentencing parole systems that remove undue financial burden on the parolee as a condition for maintaining parole. Condemn the practice of felon disenfranchisement, which removes the right of formerly incarcerated to regain the right to vote once they complete their sentence and leave prison. Call for exploration and creation of restorative justice programs to transform juvenile justice systems. ([EC 102014.37](#))

Urge Congress to create a bipartisan U.S. Commission on Criminal Justice to examine reform of the U.S. prison system. ([GC 2012-D026](#))

Call upon The Episcopal Church and its members to urge Congress and other elected officials to support reentry programs for prisoners and ex-offenders. ([EC 032007.27](#))

Urge Congress to repeal the mandatory federal sentencing guidelines and restore the discretion of federal trial judges. ([GC 2003-A008](#))

Reaffirm opposition to the death penalty, and call for immediate moratorium on capital punishment. ([GC 2000-A082](#))

Support the establishment and/or expansion of occupational, therapeutic treatment, and academic programs in prisons where prisoners may be prepared for reentry into society. ([GC 2003-A125](#))

Support a justice system that addresses the needs of juvenile offenders. Advocate for legislation that provides alternatives to sentencing for juveniles, offers creative programs for rehabilitation, and establishes separate intermediary facilities for incarceration for juveniles convicted of serious crimes. ([GC 2003-A126](#))

Endorse the exploration and study of restorative justice for our nation's criminal justice system. ([GC 2000-B003](#))

Urge the Church to be active in public policy decisions affecting the growing prison industrial complex on the local, state, and national levels. Call for a moratorium on the posting of prisoners outside their home states. ([GC 2000-B055](#))

Urge moratorium on the construction of maximum control unit prison construction. Urge US government agencies to protect human rights by following the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and ensure that resources be allocated for rehabilitation, education, housing, health care, productive employment and other basic human needs for those imprisoned. ([GC 1994-D010](#))

Call upon federal and state governments to enact legislation that ensures DNA testing is made available to accused persons and to prisoners at any time during the corrections process. ([GC 2000-D070](#))

Encourage parishes to develop programs of visitation to inmates, and to give support and training to newly discharged inmates. [\(GC 1994-D087\)](#)

Reaffirm opposition to capital punishment. [\(GC 1979-D004\)](#)

Urge relevant authorities to ensure that marijuana possession is no more than a misdemeanor, and calls to reduce or commute the sentences of those convicted under felony status. [\(GC 1973-B138\)](#)

Whereby Indians and other persons are held in jail in lieu of excessive and unreasonable bail, Work with police departments and courts to secure the release of unconvicted defendants on their own recognizance wherever justifiable. [\(GC 1973-D097\)](#)

## Economic Justice

Affirming the Ongoing Work across the Episcopal Church in Consideration of Ethical Issues in Investing [\(GC 2024-A163\)](#)

Advocate for Congress to establish a paid family leave program, in particular for workers who do not have access to paid leave from their employers. That the federal government institute a funding mechanism for citizens to take paid family leave in order to care for a newborn child, a foster or adopted child, or immediate family members who require care during illness, as well as providing paid sick leave to the fullest extent possible. [\(GC 2022-A003\)](#)

Advocate for and support public policies that support a just transition for fossil fuel dependent communities. [\(GC 2022-A089\)](#)

Advocate for reforms to the medical debt system which encourage humane and ethical treatment of debtors. [\(GC 2022-A161\)](#)

Support public policies at the local, state, and national levels in all our countries to support caregiving labor. Raise minimum wage standards to levels that can support a family; Provide universal access to health care, so that caregivers, both paid and unpaid, are not reliant on their employment or on family members for health insurance; Extend Social Security retirement credit to unpaid family caregivers; Establish and provide funding for paid sick leave, parental leave, and family leave for all workers, as well as paid vacation; Provide exemptions for income earned for care work for family members when calculating public benefit eligibility; Raise and enforce labor standards for all paid care workers, including the right to paid sick and family leave; meal and rest breaks; good health and safety conditions and equipment; reasonable working hours, scheduling, and overtime pay; protection from workplace harassment; and written agreements with employers; Increase public investment in paid care work to support training, career ladders, safety standards, reduction of turnover, living wage standards, and ultimately, a higher quality of care; Support the right of care workers to organize in unions to have a voice in their working conditions and collective bargaining, and to seek innovative solutions to the problem of organizing worker voice in an industry with multiple employers;

Seek innovative ways to provide benefits to care workers across many employers, such as pooled, publicly administered paid sick leave and retirement funds for care workers; Increase public investment in long-term care insurance plans to fill the gaps not covered by Medicare and Medicaid to provide care in aging; Support, to the extent possible, independent living and maximum agency in decision-making for people with disabilities and elders, and increase Social Security disability benefits and long-term care benefits to a sustainable level to hire caregivers, while also maintaining and enforcing high labor standards for care workers; Include the voices of care workers and people receiving care in public policy making, and set up systems to ensure that public investments reach the care workers themselves rather than intermediary employers, and to ensure the public monies support improved quality of care. ([GC 2022-D023](#))

Support moving toward universal free public higher education, including interim steps to expand public investment at federal, state, and local levels in support post-secondary education and training. Support legislation that works to lower tuition for all higher education, and contain the costs of higher education and its ancillary expenses. Push for policies like: universally accessible free community, vocational, and technical colleges. Increased public investments to support free tuition for all 2-year and 4-year public colleges and universities of higher learning; Increased investments in the Pell Grant program to increase eligibility and expand availability for support for non-tuition expenses for low- and middle-income students; Increased funding for low-income student programs, such as work-study and paid internships; Increased state-level funding for higher education, alongside negotiated agreements or tuition caps to contain the costs of higher education; Reevaluation of the expected family contribution formula on the FAFSA to be more realistic of what people can afford, such as in areas with a high cost of living; Removal of for-profit colleges and trade schools from eligibility for federal student aid funds, given that sector's poor record in providing pathways to good jobs and the high level of student indebtedness and default in that sector; Directed funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions to bring their per-student spending to parity with colleges in their regions; General tax-free federal student loan forgiveness on a one-time basis, up to a set amount and phasing out based on income; Setting a cap on interest rates for future federal student loans for rates not to exceed 2%; Public programs to reduce or waive student loans in return for commitment to public service work, religious or secular, with reasonable applications to apply for and receive those waivers. ([GC 2022-D048](#))

Advocate for legislation, funding, and services which address the inequities in healthcare, housing, nutrition, and education affecting the quality of life of Native Peoples. Seek to address the issue that American Indians/Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians also face much higher rates of poverty, incarceration, and unemployment than the total population. ([GC 2022-D070](#))

Reaffirm the Church's commitment to environmental justice and authorize a report on legal remedies for marginalized communities that disproportionately suffer from the effects of climate change. ([GC 2018-A011](#))

Direct unflagging advocacy to close the gaps in America's safety net, supporting human rights to housing, healthcare, and adequate nutrition and advocating for these services to be provided for all residents of this country. Oppose tax policies that reduce credits for low-income families and restrictive health care proposals, and advocates for Medicaid expansion and low-income housing programs. ([GC 2018-C041](#))

Call on the Church to support public investment in education, renewable energies, public works and development for communities impacted by economic change and automation, support the creation of good jobs with living wages and benefits and express support for the right of workers to organize. ([GC 2018-D006](#))

Recognize that sexual harassment, assault, and exploitation in the workplace occur. Support the strengthening of existing worker protections and the right of workers to organize. ([GC 2018-D017](#))

Advocate for public policy initiatives to assist communities negatively affected by the transition away from fossil fuels through training, education, and housing assistance, and call on Episcopalians to develop programs to strengthen these communities. ([GC 2018-D081](#))

Lead our Church into action, ministry, and official relationship with the 2018 Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival in an effort to allow The Episcopal Church to act faithfully on its long history of honorable General Convention and Executive Council intentions but imperfect and fragmentary practical actions in matters of poverty, racism, sexism, and economic justice. ([EC 012018.07](#))

Approval of an advocacy plan for as a corporate social responsibility procedure. The issue areas identified shall be based on policy statements/resolutions of the General Convention and/or Executive Council. The Treasurer will first consult with the Director of the Office of Government Relations and the chair of an appropriate committee of Executive Council to confirm that the letter affirms existing Church policy. ([EC 102018.14](#))

Reaffirm support for current local efforts to establish a Living Wage and advocate for an increase in the national minimum wage, indexed to inflation. Commend ongoing efforts of labor to organize for improved work conditions for all working people. ([EC 062016.09](#))

Commend proposed Federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rules and regulations intended to protect consumers and govern the payday loan industry, and encourage Episcopalians to express faith and justice concerns regarding payday lending. ([EC 062016.10](#))

Commend Congress' efforts to address poverty and hunger, focusing on childhood education and criminal justice reform and reducing inefficiencies in federal poverty programs without impairing successful programs. Encourage all Episcopalians to advocate for the poor with policy makers at all levels. ([EC 062016.11](#))

Affirm support of Agenda 2030 and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and commit to the goals of eradicating poverty and fostering sustainable development by 2030. ([EC 102016.30](#))

Call for a reversal of federal and state tax cuts and the erosion of progressivity in federal and state tax rates. ([GC 2015-A094](#))

Call upon The Episcopal Church to engage in and advocate for increasing the minimum wage to a living wage. ([GC 2015-C048](#))

Call upon Congress to address economic insecurity by raising the minimum wage, and encourage Episcopalians to stand in public solidarity with our low- wage brothers and sisters. ([EC 062014.07](#))

Encourage all Episcopalians to strive to transform the workforce and economic systems that perpetuate unequal pay for women. ([EC 022013.19](#))

Affirm the Church's commitment to working toward a just and fair system of taxation that places a proportional burden on those with higher incomes, encourages governmental stewardship and fiscal responsibility, and promotes economic justice for society's most vulnerable citizens. ([GC 2012-A080](#))

Affirm The Episcopal Church's commitment to working toward stricter usury laws that reflect fair loan structures, repayment schedules, and interest rates, and eliminating loopholes in usury laws that allow predatory lending practices. ([GC 2012-A081](#))

Affirm The Episcopal Church's commitment to a fair and just mortgage lending industry by supporting legislation that allows fair lending for community reinvestment, micro-financing and micro-lending, just loan repayment for homeowners, transparency in the banking industry, and termination of predatory lending. ([GC 2012-A082](#))

Call upon Congress to enact legislation that ensures the credit reporting industry provides transparent, uniform, and accurate reporting; requires strong enforcement in implementing regulations; and funds adequate staffing of the agencies charged with regulation. ([GC 2012-A083](#))

Advocate to reduce poverty and increase economic and racial justice. ([GC 2012-A135](#))

Urge Congress to pass legislation protecting the rights of port workers to organize and ensuring that these workers are paid a living wage. ([GC 2012-C119](#))

Express opposition to the legislative attempts to remove or diminish the collective bargaining rights of employees in the private and public sectors. Affirm the dignity of work and provide avenues to seek justice at the workplace. ([GC 2012-D028](#))

Urge the U.S. government to adopt a multifaceted approach to curbing unemployment, including a federal jobs-creation program, a long-term plan to rebuild the nation's infrastructure, movement to a greener economy, and job training. ([GC 2012-D087](#))

Urge federal lawmakers to pursue policies that encourage all Americans to financially support the work of charitable and philanthropic organizations, and to reject policies that may encourage Americans to give at a lesser rate. ([EC 102011.18](#))



Call upon all elected officials to respect the labor rights of public employees and to withdraw any legislation that would limit or eliminate those rights. ([EC 062011.13](#))

Advocate for comprehensive government regulations over economic transactions in the financial and banking sectors to prevent practices that negatively affect moderate- and low-income people. ([GC 2009-B009](#))

Encourage Episcopalians to work together on issues of poverty, social service, and social justice. Advocate for legislation that provides adequate levels of support and opportunities for low-income people. ([GC 2009-C049](#))

Commend elected officials and community leaders who have established sites at which day laborers are treated fairly and in a manner that benefits their communities, and continue to support these efforts. ([GC 2009-C083](#))

Urge Congress to pass, and the President to sign labor law reform: legislation to better protect employees engaged in collective bargaining, to simplify the procedures by which employees may choose to organize, and to assist employers and employees in reaching an agreement. ([GC 2009-D039](#))

Reaffirm the rights of all workers to organize and form unions, including seasonal and migrant workers. ([GC 2006-C008](#))

Support actively the right of workers to form a union, and increase the support in our cities and states for passage of “living wage” legislation. ([GC 2006-D047](#))

Recognize the Social Security program as important in protecting orphans, the elderly, and the disabled. We urge that any potential changes in the program do not alter the fundamental structure and intent of the program, that the long-term financial stability of the program is assured, and that there is not a disproportionate burden placed on the low-income and working poor. ([EC 022005.24](#))

Urge the President and Congress to establish a living wage, including health benefits, as the standard of compensation for all workers in the U.S. ([GC 2003-A130](#))

Urge Congress to support legislation raising the federal minimum wage to the hourly equivalent of an annual wage at the current federal poverty line for a family of four. ([GC 2003-C030](#))

Affirm the support for and improvement of the federal network of programs to reduce the numbers of those living in poverty, to support workers’ efforts to achieve self-sufficiency, and to ensure continuing benefits for those who require a safety net to feed their families. Specifically, we advocate for the reauthorization of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, Food Stamps, and Child Care Development Block Grant programs. ([EC 022002.21](#))

Support the eligibility of faith-based social service programs for public funds, so long as these programs 1) do not discriminate in hiring or provision of services on the basis of religion, race, national origin, sexual orientation, age, sex, or disability; and 2) do not require those seeking services to receive religious instruction or proselytizing as part of receiving services. The church also encourages businesses to create partnerships with faith-based organizations to the end of providing for the vulnerable. Lastly, we support increased public funding for programs addressing critical human needs at the local, state, and federal level through both secular and faith-based providers, and support proposals to use the tax code to create incentives for increasing charitable giving. ([EC 062001.03](#))

Affirm support for and advocacy on social and economic problems facing farming and rural communities. Encourage awareness of past and present discriminatory practices in granting of federal subsidies and loans to African American and other minority farmers. ([GC 2000-C034](#))

Charge dioceses and provinces with greater responsibility in sustaining and developing ministries to migrant and seasonal farm workers. ([GC 1997-A129](#))

Reaffirm support for affirmative action and fair employment practices and end discrimination in employment. ([EC 101995.34](#))

The church adopts general principles of how to engage with legislation, including welfare reform: (1) support reform to the system that breaks a cycle of dependency, including allowing recipients to keep a larger portion of work earnings before losing eligibility; (2) encourage studying the placement of people in jobs prior to education/training programs; (3) Support a welfare system that does not discriminate on the basis of marital status, age, legal immigrant status, or ability to identify other parent.(4)Support a welfare system that holds families together in case of no parental abuse or neglect. ([EC 021995.07](#))

Reaffirm Jubilee as a model for ministry and outreach, and urge dioceses and congregations to reexamine their mission statements with regard to outreach. ([GC 1994-A082](#))

Urge the President and Congress of the United States to act to protect the families and children of this country from the failure to succeed in working their way out of poverty, by discontinuing the practice of defunding households of welfare benefits as soon as they begin to earn money or receive financial gift. ([GC 1991-D051](#))

Endorse development of federal policies shifting economic resources from military to civilian use. ([GC 1991-A146](#))

Monitor and advocate for substantive and equitable welfare reform with particular concern for Aid for Dependent Children, and for programs addressing the needs of low-income families who are employed and those addressing women, infants, and children. ([GC 1988-D167](#))

Urge Congress to provide a home buying tax incentive for clergy and and to reassert its authority over tax policy by enacting H.R. 385 or S. 1595. ([GC 1985-B044](#))

Seek increases in various federal programs which aid women and children in poverty and need. ([GC 1985-D033](#))

Reorder Federal budget priorities from continuing increases in military spending to maintaining, restoring, and expanding human services. ([GC 1982-D029](#))

## Ending Hunger

Supports a day of prayer and fasting and charges all Episcopalians to advocate against Congressional cuts to federal programs for the poor and hungry. ([EC 062017.27](#))

Commend Congress' efforts to address poverty and hunger, focusing on childhood education and criminal justice reform and reducing inefficiencies in federal poverty programs without impairing successful programs. Encourage all Episcopalians to advocate for the poor with policy makers at all levels. ([EC 062016.11](#))

Reaffirm our commitment to federal nutrition programs and other social safety net programs that address basic food and health care needs in vulnerable populations. ([GC 2015-A092](#))

Call upon Episcopalians to advocate for public policies that lift people out of poverty and end hunger. ([GC 2015-D015](#))

Call upon the Church to advance the human rights of farm workers by encouraging study and action on the purchasing practices of the corporate food industry and promoting socially responsible practices. ([EC 032007.09](#))

Alongside other general principles for the church to advocate on, we support federal nutrition programs. ([EC 021995.07](#))

Support increased funding for the federal Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. ([GC 1991-C027](#))

Reaffirm our commitment to eradication of hunger and poverty domestically and worldwide. ([GC 1988-D023](#))

Urge policy makers to increase use of our national resources to meet basic human needs. ([GC 1982-D059](#))

Support legislation that will bring agricultural workers under the jurisdiction of the National Labor Relations Act, and will make fair and effective collective bargaining possible in agriculture. ([GC 1973-D027](#))

## Fighting HIV/AIDS

Call upon Episcopal Church members to take the lead in insuring that all methods of HIV/AIDS prevention are taught in educational settings. [\(GC 2003-A021\)](#)

Call for continuing of efforts to prevent HIV/AIDS among teens and young adults. [\(GC 2000-A050\)](#)

Affirm accessible drug treatment, needle access, safe-sex programs, and monogamy in all sexual relationships to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS. [\(GC 1994-A003\)](#)

Support federal HIV/AIDS initiatives and press for comprehensive HIV/ AIDS care in any health care reform package. [\(GC 1994-A005\)](#)

Oppose: laws which inhibit employment, housing, education and accessibility to insurance; and every law which would violate the privacy and civil rights of persons living with HIV/AIDS; and immigration laws and policies that prevent persons from other nations who are HIV positive from immigrating to or visiting in the United States. Encourage, at every level of society, increased access to HIV/AIDS services among marginalized communities, especially communities of gay and lesbian people, people of color, homeless people, drug and alcohol abusers, and those in prison. [\(GC 1991-A008\)](#)

Call for AIDS education on the parish level. [\(GC 1988-B006\)](#)

Support anti-discrimination efforts nationwide for people who have AIDS, or ARC, or have tested HIV positive. Support the confidentiality of people who have AIDS, ARC, or have tested HIV positive. [\(GC 1988-D101\)](#)

Urge the President of the United States to allocate long term, substantial federal funding for research in response to the AIDS crisis. [\(GC 1985-D062\)](#)

## Governance and Civic Engagement

Refrain from passing laws/legislation that conflict with or interfere with the religious liberty of Episcopalians to practice their faith. [\(GC 2024-C026\)](#)

Combat Rising Religious Nationalism [\(GC 2024-A081\)](#)

Support reforms that would expand voter registration, increase voter eligibility, and make voting processes more accessible, eliminate all statewide voter ID legislation, continue advocacy to enact voter protection laws. [\(GC 2022-C054\)](#)

Establish the composition known as "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as the national hymn of the United States. ([GC 2022-D013](#))

Call for Congress to update or reform the Electoral Count Act of 1887 to guard against crises during future Presidential Elections, rectifying several deficiencies in the Electoral Count Act's 130-year-old text, including how it handles: (1) election timing, (2) state determinations, (3) the Vice President's role, (4) objections, and (5) the dispute resolution process. Support the adoption by all states of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished. ([GC 2022-D043](#))

Denounce false statements that inflame division and stoke hatred and violence by standing against the spread of false information by media platforms and calling for its members to interrupt and correct lies that may endanger lives. Support public policies that call for combating media misinformation and hateful speech and provide educational resources to identify misinformation on all platforms. Support legislative acts that include public education teaching an accurate and complete history of all peoples who make up this country. ([GC 2022-D063](#))

Advocate for the provisions in H.R. 4, or similar legislation, The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act. ([EC 102021](#))

Support and endorse the plan to designate the anthem "Lift Every Voice and Sing" as the national hymn of the United States. ([EC 062021](#))

Ensure free and fair elections. Support policy and appropriate safeguards to reduce content that is false and designed to cause harm (also known as disinformation). Advocate for: closing loopholes in current laws that allow for interference in elections; developing policies that prohibit interference in ballot initiatives; reducing the risk of electronic voting machines being hacked or other means of interference or manipulation; reducing the risk of voter personal information data breaches; requiring paper back-up copies of cast ballots; reducing the spread of content that is false and designed to cause harm. ([EC 022020.31](#))

Condemn political attacks and derogatory language rooted in unjust scapegoating of groups based on race, class, religion, national identity, gender, and sexuality. ([GC 2018-A230](#))

Urge Episcopalians to advocate for transparency in public and private life and call on governments to avoid contributing to or facilitating corruption, specifically in relation to finances such as shell companies. ([GC 2018-B002](#))

Urge Episcopalians to commit to civil discourse in political life and call for participation in bipartisan efforts and intentional engagement with elected officials from all political parties. ([GC 2018-B009](#))

Support voting reforms that achieve "one person, one vote." (Note: this resolution was unfunded.) ([GC 2018-C047](#))

Call on governments to cease voter suppression efforts and work to increase voter participation. Reject gerrymandering and reaffirms that the votes of all eligible citizens must be fairly represented and counted regardless of race or ethnicity. ([GC 2018-D003](#))

Challenge Episcopalians to engage in grassroots social justice advocacy and call for dioceses to create state advocacy networks. (Note: this resolution was unfunded.) ([GC 2018-D071](#))

Support government transparency in light of the rise of autocratic regimes and urge advocacy for good governance and civic participation around the world. ([GC 2018-D096](#))

Commits the Church to advocate at all levels of government to ensure fair districting and equitable representation, and opposes partisan gerrymandering or redistricting aimed at diluting the votes of people of color. ([EC 102017.16](#))

Urge Episcopalians to advocate for campaign finance reform, transparency in election finances, and a reduction of special interest money in politics. ([EC 062016.07](#))

Advocate for the immediate return of the right to vote for those who have served their sentences and left prison. ([GC 2015-A011](#))

Commit Episcopalians to respectful and compassionate conversation while honoring full expression of differences. ([GC 2015-C014](#))

Call upon the President and U.S. Congress to repair and restore the Voting Rights Act and restore and protect voting rights for all Americans. ([EC 102013.06](#))

Endorse the provision of the same political rights to residents of the District of Columbia as those enjoyed by other Americans, including the right to elect voting members of Congress. ([GC 2012-C033](#))

Recognize the act of voting and political participation as an act of Christian stewardship. ([EC 022004.35](#))

Reaffirm the imperative to promote conversation between those of differing experiences and perspectives on relationships other than traditional marriage. ([GC 2000-D039](#))

Supports provisions of comprehensive federal campaign finance reform which would: establish voluntary public funding; dramatically reduce the role of contributions on the part of political action committees and major individual donors; and protect federal campaign spending limits by preventing the political parties from channeling through their state affiliates money targeted for candidates seeking national office. ([EC 041991.08](#))

## Gun Violence Prevention

Call for the registration of firearms and gun regulation to protect public safety. Urge the federal government to work with manufacturers to develop nuclear barcode or other taggants and to require the use of these taggants in gunpowder so that the manufacturer and chain of distribution of batches of gunpowder may be traced. [\(GC 2024-A166\)](#)

Reaffirm previous resolutions by commending the safe storage of guns. [\(GC 2024-B004\)](#)

Call for the prohibition of assault weapons. Urge the United States Congress to ban, except for military and law enforcement agencies, the possession of all military-style assault weapons, bump stocks, and high-capacity magazines. [\(GC 2024-D011\)](#)

Call for the declaration of gun violence as a national health crisis. Urge the reform of the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to ensure equal access to benefits without discrimination to families in communities with higher-than-average rates of homicide, and designate funding to provide community-based mental health services and supports to families who have lost loved ones to gun violence, homicide and suicide. [\(GC 2024-D014\)](#)

Call upon Congress and the executive branch to allocate significant federal funding for evidence-based community violence intervention programs and strategies. Advocate for funding and public policy to support community violence intervention programs and strategies that have been proven to reduce gun violence. [\(GC 2022-B007\)](#)

Urge Congress to repeal the Dickey Amendment and recognize gun violence as a public health crisis in the United States, and call on Episcopalians to advocate for measures to encourage government study of the health impact of guns. [\(GC 2018-B005\)](#)

Commend the Mosbacher-Bennett Principles for Investors in the Gun Industry. [\(GC 2018-B007\)](#)

Affirm the Sandy Hook principles and call for advocacy against gun violence to corporations, especially those in the Church's investment portfolio. [\(EC 062017.25\)](#)

Support handgun purchaser licensing. [\(GC 2015-B008\)](#)

Implement laws to decrease gun violence including: requiring permits to carry concealed weapons and criminal background checks for every gun purchase, including those made at gun shows; ban the sale, transfer, importation and manufacture of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines; ban the importation and manufacture of Full-Auto Conversion kits that convert guns into automatic weapons; tighten laws against gun trafficking, and increase penalties for those who engage in "straw purchases" of firearms for ineligible persons; prohibit persons from purchasing guns without evidence of gun safety training; recognize the impact of existing inheritance laws on the transfer of gun ownership; promote funding for research into the prevention and causes of gun violence. [\(GC 2015-C005\)](#)

Urge the U.S. government to prohibit the export of handguns. [\(GC 2000-A006\)](#)

Call upon Church members to work for removal of handguns and assault weapons from homes, residential communities, and vehicles. ([GC 2000-B007](#))

Express deep concern about the repeated use of easily available handguns and assault weapons by and against children. ([GC 2000-D004](#))

Urge Congress to increase restrictions on firearms sale, ownership, and use. Encourage legislation to ban carrying concealed firearms. Urge to adopt legislation requiring the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to develop regulations to delineate appropriate safety standards for use of firearms, and circumstances under which firearms may be used. ([GC 1997-C035](#))

Urge the Congress of the United States promptly to pass national legislation that will apply the same quality and safety standards to domestically manufactured hand guns that are currently applied to imported hand guns. ([GC 1997-D033](#))

Support the federal ban on assault weapons. ([EC 021995.07](#))

Urge Congress to adopt effective hand gun legislation as promptly as possible, support federal, state, and local legislation aimed at controlling the sale and use of hand guns. ([GC 1976-C052](#))

## Health Care

Promote equity to reduce differences in mental health outcomes. Encourage Congress to enact legislation on the following package of policies that would serve to promote equity and to reduce differences in mental health outcomes: address implicit bias and unconscious bias in mental health diagnostics and treatment; address data challenges; address Social Determinants of Health; and invest in mental healthcare professional diversity; better mental healthcare treatment available. ([GC 2024-A078](#))

Advocate for reforms to the medical debt system which encourage humane and ethical treatment of debtors. ([GC 2022-A161](#))

Urge all dioceses and parishes to encourage training, advocacy, and pastoral resources for individuals, families, and communities affected by opioid addiction and continue advocacy for the federal government to address this as a public health crisis, affirming that opioid use disorder is a disease. ([GC 2022-A090](#))

Urge Congress to enact legislation to promote equity and reduce differences in health outcomes: address implicit bias and unconscious bias; address data challenges; address Social Determinants of Health; and invest in healthcare professional diversity. ([GC 2022-D002](#))

Support the removal of socially-determined barriers to health care. ([EC 062020.10](#))



That scientific evidence helps us to better understand God's creation, our place in it, and ways to alleviate suffering and pain. Clarify that The Episcopal Church asserts the proper and responsible use of vaccines is a duty not only to our own selves and families but to our communities and that the church does not recognize religious exemptions to vaccination requirements for our members. Urge the federal government to apply stronger mandates for vaccinations and ask Episcopal congregations to partner with medical professionals to educate communities about vaccines. ([EC 062019.12](#))

Adopt policies for all Episcopal Church institutions, programs, staff and unless exempt due to a physical ailment noted by a licensed physician, participants, that require each of the above to follow CDC vaccination requirements. ([EC 062019.08](#))

Reaffirm quality pre-natal care as a human right accessible to all, and call on state governments to adopt a human rights-based approach to maternal health care. Acknowledge the tragic disparity in maternal health care that has resulted from discrimination in pre- and post-natal maternal health care for impoverished women and women of color. ([GC 2018-D014](#))

Respond to the opioid epidemic by urging dioceses and parishes to partner with First Responders for training in medical responses to opioid overdose, and to provide pastoral care and local recovery programs. Call on the federal government to address opioid addiction as a public health crisis, recognize it as a disease, and allocate resources for treatment. This resolution concurrently acknowledges the purpose and value of prescription opioid medications in appropriate treatments. ([GC 2018-C037](#))

Equitable access to women's health care, including women's reproductive health care, is an integral part of a woman's struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being. Women's reproductive health and reproductive health procedures should be treated as all other medical procedures, and not singled out or omitted by or because of gender. Supporting legislation that creates equal utilization of health care for those in equal need. Advocate for everyone to have the right to make decisions about their bodies and those decisions should be between themselves and their provider. Ensuring equal access to every health care service regardless of gender. Ensuring health care is equal in coverage and cost regardless of gender. ([GC 2018-D032](#))

Asks Episcopalians to advocate for a coordinated health, law enforcement and legislative response to prescription opioid and heroin abuse and care, and recognize the profound impact on persons of color of racial discrimination against those affected by addiction and incarceration. ([EC 102017.15](#))

Support legislation and non-legislative efforts that call for an end to discrimination against women's access to health care, and support the right of women to self-determination in regard to their personal choices about the health care that they choose to receive, especially for contraception, pregnancy, and childbirth. ([EC 102014.14](#))

Urge the U.S. Congress and President to ensure that people with preexisting conditions, such as HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, will be covered under any health care plan. ([GC 2009-A160](#))

Urge the Congress of the United States of America to pass, and the President of the United States to sign legislation by the end of 2009 guaranteeing adequate healthcare and insurance for every citizen of the United States of America. ([GC 2009-D088](#))

Call upon the U.S. government to provide our nation's veterans with the best possible health care and benefits (including mental health care), to which they are entitled, in a timely manner. ([GC 2009-C051](#))

Urge passage of federal legislation establishing a "single payer" universal health care program which would provide health care coverage for all of the people of the United States. Assess, negotiate and deliberate the range of proposed federal health care policy options in the effort to reach the goal of universal health care coverage, and to pursue short-term, incremental, innovative and creative approaches to universal health care until a "single payer" universal health care program is established. ([GC 2009-D048](#))

Encourage all elected officials to create, with the assistance of experts in related fields, a comprehensive definition of "basic health care," to which our citizens have a right; establish a system to provide basic health care to all; create an oversight mechanism, separate from the immediate political arena, to audit the delivery of that "basic health care"; educate our citizens in the need for limitations on what each person can expect to receive in the way of medical care under a universal coverage program in order to make the program financially sustainable; and educate our citizens on the role of personal responsibility in promoting good health. ([GC 2009-C071](#))

Urge dioceses and parishes of the Church to become informed of the laws and policies regarding end-of-life decisions and medical futility, and urge the Standing Commission on Health to respond further to the need for making prayerful end-of-life decisions. ([EC 032007.28](#))

Assert the right of all individuals, including children, the working poor, and the elderly, to health care, including long term care, and call upon the President and Congress to protect the Medicare and Medicaid programs. ([EC 022005.25](#))

Call upon dioceses to establish committees on alcoholism and drug dependency to provide educational programs and address problems related to alcohol or drug dependency. ([GC 2003-A123](#))

Establish that all experimental genetic interventions in human beings must meet ethical standards. ([GC 2003-A011](#))

Resolve to support the choice of those who wish to donate early embryos after *in vitro* fertilization, and urge Congress to pass legislation authorizing federal funding for medical research on human embryonic stem cells, provided that the embryos meet certain standards. ([GC 2003-A014](#))

Call upon federal and state lawmakers to remove obstacles to hospice and palliative care, including legal, financial, regulatory, obstacles, and bolster hospice/palliative care by ensuring services are delivered in a timely manner and in ways that most benefit patients. ([GC 2000-A078](#))

Urge that all interior space under the jurisdiction of the Church be declared “tobacco-free zones.” [\(GC 2000-D001\)](#)

Urge adequate government funding and support for research and development, prevention and treatment in matters affecting the health and quality of life of women, including domestic violence, AIDS, heart disease, breast, ovarian and endometrial cancer, safe and effective contraceptives, and other methods of pregnancy prevention, maternity care, menopause, and chronic illnesses unique to or prevalent among women. [\(GC 1994-A055\)](#)

Advocate for legislation for comprehensive medical benefits to include diagnostic tests, primary and tertiary care for acute and chronic conditions, rehabilitation care, long-term care, mental health services, dental care and prescription drugs; special attention should be given to the needs of individuals with limited self-care capabilities. [\(GC 1991-A010\)](#)

Call upon the President, Congress, governors, and leaders to devise universal access to health care for the nation’s people. [\(GC 1991-A099\)](#)

Reject conception for the purpose of providing fetal tissue for therapeutic or medical research usage. [\(GC 1991-A096\)](#)

Call upon the President and Congress to authorize and appoint a National Commission on the Reform of Health Care charged with making recommendations about how health services in the U.S. may be more economically and efficiently made available in a fair and equitable manner to all Americans. [\(GC 1985-A088\)](#)

Approve *in vitro* fertilization. [\(GC 1982-A067\)](#)

## Housing and Community Investment

Recognize traffic fatalities as a justice issue due to the disparate impact that our road and transportation systems have on vulnerable populations and seek measures to ensure traffic safety. Support policies at the local, state, national, and international levels of governance to reduce traffic fatalities and increase transportation safety. [\(GC 2024-D027\)](#)

Advocate for solutions to the rising cost of housing. Support policies at the local, state and national levels to decrease the unhoused population and increase affordable housing. [\(GC 2024-D057\)](#)

Advocate for a continual strengthening of our social safety net and closing of gaps, specifically surrounding housing. The church affirms housing as a human right that should be provided for all individuals residing in the country. Additionally, we urge Congress to cap the mortgage interest deduction for wealthy taxpayers and direct the increased revenue to low-income housing assistance programs. [\(GC 2018-C041\)](#)

Advocate for legislation that provides adequate levels of support and opportunities for low-income people by investing in community development corporations, small business development, and land trusts, and by encouraging loans and deposits to community development financial institutions. ([GC 2009-C049](#))

Reaffirm our commitment to provide rental and owner-occupied housing that is safe, accessible, and affordable for low-income persons and their families, including persons with disabilities. We urge the executive and legislative branches of the federal government and diocese to adequately fund housing assistance programs, and to address the ever-growing gap between affordable units and the number of renters in the bottom quartile of income. ([GC 2003-D040](#))

Support the Community Reinvestment Act and other means of providing capital to low- and moderate-income communities. Encourage Church institutions to explore ways that financial resources can be used to promote justice. ([EC 101995.33](#))

Express concern to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development over the deteriorating housing conditions facing low- and moderate-income residents of this nation. Support the provision of decent and affordable housing to those of low and moderate income and to combatting homelessness. ([GC 1991-D078](#))

Encourage the development of housing programs for low and moderate income persons and families. Maintain and expand the role of state and federal governments and non-profit institutions in Section #8 rent subsidy programs, rehabilitation of existent sub-standard housing, and the construction of new rental and owner-occupied housing for low and moderate income people. ([GC 1988-D166](#))

## Immigration

Advocate for migration with dignity by promoting specific principles about migration that resonate with the teachings of Jesus and our baptismal promise to “respect the dignity of every human being.” ([GC 2024-C031](#))

Call for the end of labor trafficking of migrant youth. Advocate for comprehensive and enforceable policies at local, state, and national levels aimed at eradicating labor trafficking and protecting migrant youth. ([GC 2024-C035](#))

Continue to support and advocate for TPS, call for the expansion of TPS and protect those who qualify for TPS. ([GC 2024-D067](#))

Advocate for a fundamental change to the way we process migrants, moving away from detention and other mechanisms that can support unjust immigration policies. Oppose the U.S. government’s increased use of electronic monitoring and surveillance of immigrants as “alternatives” to detention. Prioritize policies that will help reduce and eventually eliminate the need for detention and surveillance for virtually all migrants. Provide true community-based and community-supported alternatives to detention. Fund non-governmental non-profit organizations to deliver case management support based on individualized needs assessments. Include referrals to community-supported services, especially legal services that provide individuals with information about their legal proceedings while improving the Executive Office of Immigration Review’s adjudication of cases in the immigration court system. Assure that any restrictions and compliance obligations placed on asylum seekers and migrants are the least onerous possible. ([GC 2022-D031](#))

Broadly affirm standard practices of just treatment of immigrants and refugees, opportunity to pursue citizenship, and reunification of family members of immigrants; reject border militarization; and advocate for Temporary Protective Status for those fleeing abuse. The Church commits to advocating for meaningful and humane immigration reform. ([EC 012018.08](#))

Call for an end to the inhumanity and injustice in U.S. immigration policy, particularly the separation of families and incarceration of migrant children. Urge advocacy for women and children migrants to ensure safety from abuse, exploitation, and trafficking. ([GC 2018-A178](#))

Condemn the discharge of non-citizens from voluntary service in the U.S. Armed Forces, and urge the U.S. government to honor its commitments to immigrant veterans who are promised a pathway to citizenship. ([GC 2018-A286](#))

Reaffirm support for the New Sanctuary Movement and calls on Episcopalians to challenge unjust immigration policies. ([GC 2018-C009](#))

Condemn racist treatment of immigrants and reaffirm support for DACA and Dreamers. Urge advocacy for immigration reform, a pathway to citizenship, continuation of protections for TPS holders and those fleeing to the U.S., and the resettlement of refugees. ([GC 2018-C033](#))

Challenge any religious test for the lawful entry to the US of any refugee, immigrant or asylum seeker. ([EC 022017.10](#))

Support expanded immigration relief for youth and parents designed to keep families together. ([GC 2015-D048](#))

Urge the administration to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to Guatemalans living in the U.S. and to all immigrants fleeing from violence, environmental disaster, economic devastation, cultural abuse, or other forms of abuse. ([GC 2015-D074](#))

Call upon The Episcopal Church to recommit to the spirit of the New Sanctuary Movement so congregations can assist immigrant individuals, unaccompanied minors, families, and communities in the absence of comprehensive, humane immigration reform. ([GC 2015-D057](#))

Deplore the unprecedented levels of detention and deportation carried out by the U.S. government against individuals who pose no threat to society. Urge that when deportations do occur, individuals are repatriated in a safe and humane manner. Urge that the U.S. government employ humane and family-centric detention practices. ([EC 062014.08](#))

Urge enactment of legislation to permit same-gender legal domestic partners and spouses of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents to seek lawful permanent resident status in the same manner as different-gender spouses of citizens and lawful permanent residents. ([GC 2012-D011](#))

Decry racial profiling as a means of identifying suspects of immigration violation, and oppose identity checks for the purpose of determining immigration status. Oppose the use of identity checks for the purpose of determining immigration status. ([GC 2012-D059](#))

Urge the U.S. Congress to pass legislation creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth and young adults, and call upon churches to provide higher education scholarships for these persons. ([GC 2012-D067](#))

Endorse immigration law reform that permits same-sex legal domestic partners and spouses of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents to seek lawful permanent resident status. ([GC 2012-D067](#))

Call upon the federal government to enact comprehensive immigration reform that safeguards family unity, provides a reasonable pathway to legal residency, enforces labor rights for all workers, provides for due process and humanitarian treatment in all immigration proceedings and detention, and calls for proportional and humane enforcement of national borders and immigration law. ([EC 062010.08](#))

Urge the U.S. Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform to give undocumented persons who have established roots in the United States a pathway to legalization and full social and economic integration into the United States. Urge the U.S. government to terminate any program that allows or funds local law enforcement agencies' enforcement of immigration law; establish a moratorium on roadside checkpoints and raids carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) that tear families apart; ensure that undocumented immigrant detainees are provided with humane treatment, adequate food and medical care, and sanitary conditions; consider alternatives to a costly prison-like detention system for immigrants; allow undocumented youth who arrived as infants or children to pursue higher education and/or to serve in the military in order to contribute to their communities and become citizens. ([GC 2009-B006](#))

Urge fairness in immigration and specifically provide immigration equality for same-sex couples by permitting a citizen or permanent resident alien to sponsor an immigrant partner for permanent residence in the United States. ([GC 2009-D076](#))

While recognizing the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its borders, adopt the following fundamental principles: Undocumented aliens should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency; Legal workers should be allowed to enter the United States to respond to recognized labor force needs; Close family members should be allowed to reunite without undue delay with individuals lawfully present in the United States; Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted all persons; Enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane. ([GC 2006-A017](#))

Permit the orderly entry of legal workers to the US to respond to recognized labor force needs; ensure that close family members be allowed to enter or be reunited with individuals legally entering the US to accept employment; ensure that migrants working legally in the US be granted the rights and benefits accorded US workers, including the right to change employment. ([EC 062005.40](#))

Urge the United States Government to implement policies and practices that extend the protection of asylum to such vulnerable persons. ([EC 022004.28](#))

Urge Congress to enact legislation to expand temporary workers' programs to include all persons in the U.S. in meaningful labor, as well as overseas workers offered employment in the U.S. ([GC 2003-C033](#))

Oppose any policy that encourages school or other public officials to report individuals who they suspect are undocumented immigrants. ([EC 021995.07](#))

Call upon Congress to enact immigration legislation of a positive nature that will recognize human realities of the millions of undocumented people in the country, provide for appropriate asylum and safe haven for those fleeing political repression from abroad. ([GC 1985-D113](#))

### Inclusivity and Accessibility

Recognize that disabled people continue to face barriers to education, employment, and access, and encourage removing the barriers preventing people with disabilities from full integration in society, including but not limited to lack of communication access, unnecessary institutionalization, lack of access to health care, lack of access to appropriate services and supports, barriers to education and gainful, meaningful employment; and widespread discrimination in everyday life. ([GC 2018-D090](#))

Advocate for total compliance with the spirit and intent of the Americans with Disabilities Act by all covered entities, including public and government entities and places of public accommodation. ([GC 2015-D034](#))

Adopt the [NCC USA policy statement on disabilities](#). ([GC 2000-C030](#))

Encourage the Church to become knowledgeable about mental illness to stop stigmas and stereotypes. That dioceses and congregations work with existing agencies and organizations to assist with and initiate programs, such as support groups, drop-in centers, housing and employment opportunities, which lead to an improved quality of life for people who have a mental illness, with specific attention to those who have become homeless. That dioceses, congregations and individual parishioners become advocates for public policy and adequate funding to provide comprehensive community-based services, hospital care and research into the causes and treatment of mental illness. ([GC 1991-D088](#))

Work for accessibility for disabled persons. ([GC 1985-A087](#))

Petition Congress to encourage more flexibility in the educational placement of deaf children...giving proper weights to such variables as the social, emotional, psychological, education, or vocational needs of the child. ([GC 1979-B031](#))

## Indigenous Rights

Advocate for Indigenous and native people's rights involving just use and protection of water resources. ([GC 2024-A167](#))

Advocate for Indigenous and native people's rights to safety, transparency, and restoration in cases where the U.S. government and/or its agencies and military forces threaten or damage clean water and other natural resources, especially in decommissioning and defueling of Red Hill Bunker. ([GC 2024-D008](#))

We grieve the unequal treatment Indigenous and Native Peoples have received when they have suffered harms that deserve attention and redress, and expresses its solidarity with the Indigenous and Native Peoples of the world and supports the rights of Indigenous and Native Peoples to equal treatment. Create an Executive Council Committee for Indigenous Boarding Schools and Advocacy as a Committee of Executive Council. As part of the Advocacy Initiative, the Committee will work with the Office of Indigenous Ministries and the Office of Government Relations of The Episcopal Church in its development of proposals for advocacy and other action responding to the issues identified around Indigenous Boarding Schools. ([EC 23 April 2022](#))

Support federal legislation to create a truth and healing commission on Indian boarding school policy, consistent with the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative of the U.S. Department of the Interior. ([GC 2022-A0127](#))

Designate a day honoring our Indigenous ancestors. Further, refer to the U.S. federal holiday of Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day. ([GC 2022-A140](#))

Advocate for legislation, funding, and services which address the inequities in healthcare, housing, nutrition, and education affecting the quality of life of Native Peoples. Seek to address the issue that American Indians/Alaska Natives/Native Hawaiians also face much higher rates of poverty, incarceration, and unemployment than the total population. ([GC 2022-D070](#))

Support legislation directing the federal government to address gaps in care, protection, and data collection meant to address the high rates of missing Indigenous and all women and girls of color. ([GC 2022-D082](#))

Refer to the U.S. federal holiday of Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples' Day. ([EC 042022](#))

Urge protection of the sacred land of Oak Flat, through legislation such as the "Save Oak Flat Act bill (S.915 & H.R.1884)" or executive action. ([EC 012022](#))

Endorse the Leech Lake Band of the Ojibwe Nation's opposition to the construction of the Enbridge #3 oil pipeline and urge the state of Minnesota to open and maintain a line of communication with native leaders. ([GC 2018-C064](#))



Commend the work and supportive leadership on behalf of the Sioux Nation in its response to corporate and governmental intrusion onto its sacred ground, and support the Sioux Nation's right for peaceful assembly and protest. ([EC 102016.29](#))

Advocate for public policies that address the sustainable subsistence rights of Indigenous cultures. ([GC 2015-C053](#))

Call upon professional sports leagues and college and high school organizations to endorse the policy instituted and enforced by the NCAA in regard to so-called "native" names that promote negative stereotypes. ([EC 022014.26](#))

Call upon the U.S. government to recognize the Native American tribes that have been requesting federal tribal recognition but have not yet received it. ([GC 2009-A153](#))

Call upon The Episcopal Church to establish a community development initiative in poor communities, especially Native Peoples' communities, using asset-based community development models. ([GC 2009-A155](#))

Repudiate and renounce the "Doctrine of Discovery," and call upon The Episcopal Church to protect the rights and cultures of indigenous people. Call for the U.S. government to endorsement of the "United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." ([GC 2009-D035](#))

Call for conservation-based energy legislation consistent with the long-standing belief that we are stewards of God's creation, responsible for its care and preservation. Oppose drilling or mining in our nation's dwindling wild lands and places important to the traditional cultures of indigenous peoples, including oil and gas exploration and drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which threaten the life and culture of the Gwich'in people. ([EC 032002.20](#))

Endorse initiatives by the Crazy Horse Defense Project and advocate for the halt of commercial exploitation of Native American tribes. ([GC 1997-D053](#))

Support local, state, and national efforts to protect Native American Churches' rights to practice their religions. ([GC 1991-C069](#))

Advocate and support the honoring of all Indian treaty rights and the right to internal autonomy and self-determination of Indian Nations and Tribes. ([GC 1985-B007](#))

Advocate for the creation of employment opportunities on Indian Reservations to alleviate the suffering caused by unemployment. ([GC 1982-D109](#))

Whereby Indians and other persons are held in jail in lieu of excessive and unreasonable bail, Work with police departments and courts to secure the release of unconvicted defendants on their own recognizance wherever justifiable. ([GC 1973-D097](#))

## Interfaith Relations

Affirm the Church's ongoing work of interreligious engagement, particularly the deepening of relationships between Christian, Jewish, and Muslim communities. ([GC 2018-A037](#))

Encourage dialogue between Christian and Muslim communities "that maintains the theological integrity of both faith communities and commitment to genuine human rights and religious freedom." ([GC 2003-A090](#))

Call upon the whole Church to engage in local interfaith dialogues among peoples of the three Abrahamic faiths, especially the core belief of nonviolence as expressed in salaam, shalom, and peace. Urge that the safe haven to refugees and asylum seekers be respected ([EC 102001.10](#))

Urge dialogue with Muslims and Jews on local concerns including hunger, homelessness, teenage pregnancy, and prison ministry. ([GC 1994-D130](#))

Urge Christians to end racism and religious bigotry, especially anti-Semitism. ([EC 021985.27](#))

## Prevention of Violence and Abuse

Defeat funding initiatives and governmental support for coercive and abusive Christian ministries. ([GC 2024-D031](#))

Support public policies and other efforts to reduce sexual harassment, assault, and exploitation in the workplace. Support labor policies that address exploitation of workers who are especially vulnerable due to financial precarity, citizenship status, race, and/or gender. ([GC 2018-D017](#))

Encourage Episcopalians to speak out clearly against all forms of domestic violence and urge the Church at every level to examine its response to domestic violence. ([GC 2018-D031](#))

Condemn all manifestations and instances of domestic and sexual violence, regardless of the victim or the circumstances. Support governmental actions that protect the rights of victims of violent acts and urge all Episcopalians to strive for justice and healing through prayer, advocacy, care, and action. ([EC 022016.20](#))

Urge nonviolence training for personal and social change, and encourage each diocese to make available active nonviolence training. ([GC 2006-D018](#))

Call upon state governments to enact legislation to reduce domestic violence. ([GC 2000-D073](#))

Identify and communicate resources for combating pornography. ([GC 1997-D001](#))

Condemn all forms of violence against women. ([GC 1994-A049](#))

Oppose violence and educate at every level of the Church to build just and nonviolent relationships. ([GC 1994-D005](#))

Renew commitment to address violence in every sector of society, especially domestic violence and hate-based violence. Advocate for education, social service and public policy programs that will address the problems of violence. ([GC 1991-C022](#))

## Public Education

Calls upon all Episcopalians, dioceses, parishes, and institutions to actively urge their elected officials to champion the inclusion and promotion of Black history education, while steadfastly opposing any efforts to eliminate, restrict, or impede the teaching of Black history. ([2023 MBMW 001](#))

Support moving toward universal free public higher education, including interim steps to expand public investment at federal, state, and local levels in support post-secondary education and training. Support legislation that works to lower tuition for all higher education, and contain the costs of higher education and its ancillary expenses. Push for policies like: universally accessible free community, vocational, and technical colleges. Increased public investments to support free tuition for all 2-year and 4-year public colleges and universities of higher learning; Increased investments in the Pell Grant program to increase eligibility and expand availability for support for non-tuition expenses for low- and middle-income students; Increased funding for low-income student programs, such as work-study and paid internships; Increased state-level funding for higher education, alongside negotiated agreements or tuition caps to contain the costs of higher education; Reevaluation of the expected family contribution formula on the FAFSA to be more realistic of what people can afford, such as in areas with a high cost of living; Removal of for-profit colleges and trade schools from eligibility for federal student aid funds, given that sector's poor record in providing pathways to good jobs and the high level of student indebtedness and default in that sector; Directed funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority Serving Institutions to bring their per-student spending to parity with colleges in their regions; General tax-free federal student loan forgiveness on a one-time basis, up to a set amount and phasing out based on income; Setting a cap on interest rates for future federal student loans for rates not to exceed 2%; Public programs to reduce or waive student loans in return for commitment to public service work, religious or secular, with reasonable applications to apply for and receive those waivers. ([GC 2022-D048](#))

Support that in the transition to a green economy, educational systems be adapted to train and equip workers with skills needed in a changed economy. The church supports the principle and goal of public funding for universal access to community college programs that are preparing students with skills to meet the workforce needs of the present and future, as well as apprenticeship programs. ([GC 2018-D006](#))

Affirms support for those in the deaf and disability community. We recognize there are many spaces where significant barriers to full integration into community and society exist, including barriers within education. ([GC 2018-D090](#))

Support fair practices for student loans, including best practices for fair lending, transparency, collections, and interest rates for that education loans provided by the federal government and private lenders. Support ease of access to Income-Based Repayment (IBR) programs for education debt, particularly for those on public assistance. Support programs providing education debt relief for those with two or more years in careers of public service, the provision of vital community services for under-served populations (for example, health care and education) or in poverty relief. Support policies increasing access to and affordability of state and community colleges, across all academic disciplines. Support policies that promote transparency among all higher education institutions. ([EXC062013.03](#))

Oppose any laws that make the teaching of ethnic studies illegal and penalize school districts financially for incorporating ethnic studies in their curriculums. ([EC 012012.04](#))

Support equity in public education for all young people through advocacy and service. ([GC 2009-B025](#))

Urge legislatures and school boards to establish standards for scientific education that is based on the best available scientific knowledge as accepted by a consensus of the scientific community. ([GC 2006-A129](#))

Endorse the National Council of Churches comprehensive policy statement as it pertains to children and their continued ability to flourish in society. Specifically, we advocate for: a value of teachers as a key component to child development, respect and providing for each child's differences and capacities to learn, recognizing the needs of those children with disabilities and with special gifts, ensure the availability of remedial education for children and their adult caregivers who need special help to be ready for further education and eventually to become employable. Additionally, support an equitable, fully-funded system that prepares every child for life-long learning, ensure that every community provides safe, excellent, well-funded public schools for all their children, develop the use of schools as community resources during and beyond school hours, and teach children to understand, respect, and celebrate diversity, multiple cultures and languages, and a global perspective. ([GC 2006-B018](#))

Commend those committed to and involved in public education, and affirm working with government and civic institutions to strengthen public schools. Further, we oppose private school voucher plans that weaken public school systems. ([GC 2000-B036](#))

Assure constitutional balance in treatment of moment-of-silence statutes. ([GC 1994-D090](#))

That the church gives strong support to responsible local public and private school programs of education in human sexuality. ([GC 1988-A089](#))

Affirm our support for public education and the multiple benefits to society it brings, such as enlarging a multicultural community, handing on democratic and religious traditions of human worth and dignity for all social and ethnic groups, and as a vehicle for upward mobility for urban and rural poor people. Lastly, we urge the church to form partnerships to help education in their communities. [\(GC 1988-A116\)](#)

Petition Congress to encourage more flexibility in the educational placement of deaf children...giving proper weights to such variables as the social, emotional, psychological, education, or vocational needs of the child. [\(GC 1979-B031\)](#)

Support the principle of affirmative action especially special admissions programs for minorities in universities and professional schools and programs to upgrade unskilled workers to the skilled level. [\(GC 1979-D083\)](#)

## Racial Justice and Healing

Advocate within states and localities for the expansion of bias categories to encompass race/color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender/sex, gender identity, and disability. This advocacy includes efforts to increase penalties for bias crimes and enhance data collection. Furthermore, the Executive Council applauds the ongoing efforts of the Office of Government Relations in advocating for augmented funding for hate crimes protection. [\(2023 MBMW 004\)](#)

Calls upon all Episcopalians, dioceses, parishes, and institutions to actively urge their elected officials to champion the inclusion and promotion of Black history education, while steadfastly opposing any efforts to eliminate, restrict, or impede the teaching of Black history. [\(2023 MBMW 001\)](#)

Advocate for legislation and other public policies that directly address the impact of climate change among marginalized, indigenous, and frontline communities and that tangibly and financially assist those communities with the costs of both climate change and mitigation, and policies that prohibit the authorization and construction of new fossil fuel infrastructure including but not limited to coal, oil, or gas leases on public lands, all forms of mountaintop removal mining, and tar sands pipelines such as Keystone XL, Enbridge Line #3, and the Dakota Access Pipeline. Reaffirm that the Episcopal Church shall support and advocate for policies, programs, pastoral responses, and theologies that work to ensure no community - especially financially impoverished communities, frontline residents, migrants, and BIPOC communities (Black, indigenous, and people of color) - shall bear a disproportionate impact of the environmental, health, and economic threats of climate change. [\(GC 2022-A088\)](#)

Support legislation directing the federal government to address gaps in care, protection, and data collection meant to address the high rates of missing indigenous and all women and girls of color. [\(GC 2022-D082\)](#)

In response to an increase in hate crimes against Asian and Pacific Islanders, work in communities to organize, advocate, and dismantle systems, policies and practices that reinforce racialized violence and vigilante acts and perpetuate the sin of racism. [\(EC 042021\)](#)

Develop a plan for The Episcopal Church's holistic response to Christian nationalism and violent white supremacy. [\(EC 012021\)](#)

Enhance the capacity of The Episcopal Church to work in communities to organize; advocate; and dismantle systems, policies and practices that reinforce racialized violence and vigilante acts and perpetuate the sin of racism. [\(EC 062020.11\)](#)

Reaffirm the Church's commitment to environmental justice and authorize a report on legal remedies for marginalized communities that disproportionately suffer from the effects of climate change. [\(GC 2018-A011\)](#)

Condemn instances in which law enforcement personnel have intimidated or killed people of color and deplore efforts to silence those who speak out about such violence. [\(GC 2018-A229\)](#)

Condemn racist treatment of immigrants and reaffirm support for DACA and Dreamers. Urge advocacy for immigration reform, a pathway to citizenship, continuation of protections for TPS holders and those fleeing to the U.S., and the resettlement of refugees. [\(GC 2018-C033\)](#)

Authorize the development of ecumenical and interfaith strategies for repealing the portion of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment that allows slavery as a punishment for crime and offering new constitutional language ending slavery "without exception." [\(GC 2018-D013\)](#)

Condemn the use of explicit and coded racist language by political leaders and call on the U.S. government to seek remedies for wrongs committed through discrimination, government policies, and political rhetoric that cause injury to communities that have been discriminated against. [\(GC 2018-D089\)](#)

Reaffirm the Church's commitment to racial reconciliation and justice and distribute the Church's treasures in a way that reflects that commitment. Empower the Executive Council to aid the Church to achieve racial justice. [\(EC 112015.17\)](#)

Urge the Church to increase dialogue and improve education on racial injustice and to create and share resources on curriculum and programs dedicated to ministries of reconciliation. [\(GC 2015-A182\)](#)

Oppose environmental racism, expressed in such ways as the locating of extraction, production, and disposal industries where they disproportionately harm neighborhoods inhabited by people of color and low income communities. [\(GC 2015-C013\)](#)

Urge all persons, along with public, governmental, and religious institutions, to discontinue the display of the Confederate Battle Flag. [\(GC 2015-D044\)](#)

Urge the Church to respond faithfully to the call to action of #BlackLivesMatter, Too, and stand in solidarity in valuing and protecting people of color who are discriminated against. [\(EC 102014.35\)](#)

Oppose racial profiling by law enforcement and civil authorities that unjustly victimize people of color. ([EC 042012.13](#))

Recognize the continued presence of racism and extend the Church's commitment to anti-racism. Mandate that all dioceses give a progress report to the Anti-Racism Committee on their efforts to engage their members in the restorative justice process, in order to fulfill the vision of a Church without racism. ([GC 2009-A142](#))

Call upon the Episcopal faith community to continue to gather information on the history of The Episcopal Church's complicity in the slave trade and subsequent racial segregation and discrimination in this country. Call upon the Episcopal faith community to recommit itself to the process of truth-telling, repentance, and reconciliation in response to this history. ([GC 2009-A143](#))

Promote awareness about the public environmental decisions that adversely affect the lives and health of the most vulnerable in our society, especially children, indigenous communities, and communities of people of color; and encourage environmentally just actions in all spheres of society. ([GC 2009-D014](#))

Declare unequivocally that the institution of slavery is a sin that continues to plague our common life in the Church and our culture, and resolve that The Episcopal Church acknowledge its history of participating in this sin. Express our most profound regret that The Episcopal Church supported slavery both before and after it was formally abolished, and establish a process for creation of a program of healing and reconciliation. ([GC 2006-A123](#))

Urge the Church at every level to support legislation initiating study of and dialogue about the history and legacy of slavery and of proposals for monetary and non-monetary reparations to the descendants of the victims of slavery. ([GC 2006-C011](#))

Deplore the desecration of any religious text or space, and call upon all people to respect religious diversity. ([EC 062005.38](#))

Develop an anti-racism plan for self-assessment and systematic change. ([EC 022004.37](#))

Affirm the Church's abhorrence of violence and racial profiling of Muslims and people of color done in the name of religion. ([GC 2003-A010](#))

Reaffirm the Church's historic commitment to eradicating racial injustice. ([GC 2003-A010](#))

Monitor governmental policies on the imprisonment and restrictions of American citizens or legal residents based solely on ethnicity. ([GC 2003-D077](#))

Condemn all acts motivated by hate. Support hate crimes legislation at local, state, and national levels, which includes categories of real or perceived sexual orientation, gender, and disability as protected under federal prosecution of a hate crime. ([GC 2000-C029](#))

Affirm support for and advocacy on social and economic problems facing farming and rural communities. Encourage awareness of past and present discriminatory practices in granting of federal subsidies and loans to African American and other minority farmers. ([GC 2000-C034](#))

Oppose environmental racism. Oppose mountaintop removal and valley-fill mining and other mining operations that threaten the ecology and low-income communities. ([GC 2000-D005](#))

Reaffirm support for affirmative action and fair employment practices. ([EC 101995.34](#))

Encourage Church investors to influence corporations to find alternatives to the manufacture, use, and disposal of hazardous chemicals. Commit to justice for those who bear the brunt of hazardous waste disposal. ([GC 1994-A042](#))

Call on baptized persons to remove racism from the life of the nation. ([GC 1991-B051](#))

Reaffirm commitment to vigorous affirmative action programs in all institutions in society as a remedy to historical, racial, and sexual injustices. ([GC 1988-A112](#))

Support the principle of affirmative action especially special admissions programs for minorities in universities and professional schools and programs to upgrade unskilled workers to the skilled level. ([GC 1979-D083](#))

Call on the government to redouble its efforts through non-violent means to encourage those States which engage in oppressive and racist practices, to restore freedom to practice religion, justice and dignity to all their people. ([GC 1976-D070](#))

## Reproductive Rights

That equitable access to women's health care, including women's reproductive health care, is an integral part of a woman's struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being. Call for women's reproductive health and reproductive health procedures to be treated as all other medical procedures, and not singled out or omitted by or because of gender. Support legislation that creates equal utilization of health care for those in equal need, regardless of ability to pay, and reject reasons for unequal use as well as strategies that promote unequal access to health care. Advocate for everyone to have the right to make decisions about their bodies and those decisions should be between themselves and their provider. Ensure equal access to every health care service regardless of gender, and ensure health care is equal in coverage and cost regardless of gender. ([GC 2018-D032](#))



Access to abortion is a key element in preserving the health, independence, and autonomy of those who can bear children. [\(GC 2022-D083\)](#)

Call upon the Church to minister to men and women suffering from post- abortion stress. [\(GC 2000-D083\)](#)

Express grave concern about the use of intact dilation and extraction except in extreme situations. [\(GC 1997-D065\)](#)

Oppose any legislative, executive, or judicial action limiting the ability of a woman to reach an informed decision about the termination of a pregnancy or access to a safe means of acting on that decision. [\(GC 1994-A054\)](#)

Oppose efforts to legislate parental notification in cases of pregnant minors. [\(GC 1991-C037\)](#)

That legislation concerning abortions will not address the root of the problem. We therefore express our deep conviction that any proposed legislation on the part of national or state governments regarding abortions must take special care to see that individual conscience is respected, and that the responsibility of individuals to reach informed decisions in this matter is acknowledged and honored. While we acknowledge that in this country it is the legal right of every woman to have a medically safe abortion, as Christians we believe strongly that if this right is exercised, it should be used only in extreme situations. We emphatically oppose abortion as a means of birth control, family planning, sex selection, or any reason of mere convenience. [\(GC 1988-C047\)](#)

Condemn violence against abortion clinics. [\(GC 1988-D124\)](#)

Encourage all efforts to eliminate violence and terrorism at reproductive health care facilities. [\(GC 1985-D022\)](#)

Strongly condemns the act of abortion when the sole purpose of such action is the selection of the sex of the child. Abortion after the diagnosis of non-serious or trivial abnormalities, or abortion in a case where purely cosmetic abnormalities are discovered, is also strongly condemned. [\(GC 1982-A065\)](#)

Reaffirm the right to use birth control. [\(GC 1982-D016\)](#)

## Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Women's Rights

Affirm and uplift ongoing efforts to educate and empower advocacy addressing violence against women and girls. [\(GC 2024-A089\)](#)

Condemn unnecessary censorship and defend access to books at schools and libraries. Advocate for access to material affirming of LGBTQIA+, racial minority, and other marginalized experiences in schools and libraries. [\(GC 2024-D039\)](#)

Call for the end of child and forced marriage. Support state and national policies that advocate for the minimum age to marry be eighteen, without exception and eliminate parental consent as an exception to marriage. Support policies such as access to educational, social and economic opportunities for girls. [\(GC 2024-D042\)](#)

Urge Congress to adopt reforms that would reduce the maternal mortality rate of Black women. [\(GC 2024-D054\)](#)

Expresses its heartfelt concern for the plight of Ugandan LGBTQ individuals impacted by the recently enacted law and condemns any supportive stance taken by churches, acknowledging such support as incompatible with the ethos of the way of love. Executive Council calls upon the Office of Global Partnerships to collaborate with The United Nations Human Rights Council, advocating for the human rights of all those affected by this legislation, with a particular focus on the LGBTQ community. Additionally, the Executive Council instructs the Office of Government Relations to actively engage with the U.S. Government, urging protection of human rights for individuals impacted by this law, including LGBTQ persons. [\(2023 MB 007\)](#)

Advocate for access to gender affirming care in all forms (social, medical, or any other) and at all ages. supports public policies at the local, state, and national levels in all our countries to support gender affirming care. [\(GC 2022-D066\)](#)

Reaffirm opposition to discrimination and violence based on gender identity and urge congregations to ensure that transgender people can fully access their facilities and activities. Advocate for federal legislation that protects transgender and gender non-conforming people from discrimination. [\(GC 2018-C022\)](#)

Reaffirm quality pre-natal care as a human right accessible to all. Calls for state governments to adopt a human rights-based approach to maternal health care, and express concern over the rising maternal mortality rates, particularly among poor women and women of color. [\(GC 2018-D014\)](#)

Advocate for an end to disparities in health care based on gender and ensure all women and girls can access reproductive health care. [\(GC 2018-D032\)](#)

Support national and state legislation against discrimination based on gender identity or gender expression, and call on local, state, and federal officials to enact such legislation to protect equal access to public accommodation. Oppose all legislation seeking to deny dignity, equality, and civil rights of transgender people. [\(EC 062016.08\)](#)

Work in partnership with African Anglicans who publicly oppose laws that criminalize homosexuality and incite violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex people. [\(GC 2015-A051\)](#)

Support legislation banning practices that try to change people's sexual orientation or force them to deny their gender identity. [\(GC 2015-D028\)](#)

Encourage all Episcopalians to strive to transform the workforce and economic systems that perpetuate unequal pay between genders. ([EC 022013.19](#))

Urge the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. ([EC 042012.14](#))

Endorse efforts against gender violence. ([GC 2012-A139](#))

Urge the repeal of federal laws that discriminate against civilly married same-sex couples and the passage of legislation to allow the federal government to provide benefits to these couples. ([GC 2012-D018](#))

Encourage the U.S. government to strengthen protection for refugees who flee based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to intensify diplomatic efforts to strengthen protections in all parts of the world and in all aspects of the refugee and asylum process. ([EC 022011.06](#))

Support the passage of employment non-discrimination laws, which will give protected status under federal employment law to the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) community. ([GC 2009-C048](#))

Renew support for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. ([GC 2009-D042](#))

Urge fairness in immigration and specifically provide immigration equality for same-sex couples by permitting a citizen or permanent resident alien to sponsor an immigrant partner for permanent residence in the United States. ([GC 2009-D076](#))

Reaffirm the Church's position that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection under the law. ([EC 032007.07](#))

Urge the Church's Joint Standing Committee on Planning and Arrangements not to propose any site for any future General Conventions located in a state that prohibits domestic partnerships or the associated rights. ([EC 032007.08](#))

Condemn the criminalization of homosexuality and advocacy for equal treatment of LGBT persons in many countries around the world, as well as the increased violence against such persons. ([EC 032007.11](#))

Urge the U.S. government to grant asylum to LGBT persons, or those who advocate for these groups, whose lives are threatened in their home countries for these reasons. ([EC 032007.11](#))

Oppose any state or federal constitutional amendment that prohibits same--sex civil marriage or civil unions. ([GC 2006-A095](#))

Urge church members to work to eliminate the stigma of HIV/AIDS. ([GC 2006-A132](#))

Support gay and lesbian persons as children of God. ([GC 2006-A167](#))

Declare efforts to criminalize homosexual behavior to be incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. ([GC 2006-D005](#))

Affirm that the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo established an important plan of action for securing rights for all the world's citizens. Recognize the pivotal role that women play in securing health and well-being for themselves and their families. Support improving women's health, access to education and reproductive freedom, and by ensuring every child's health and opportunity. ([EC 022004.27](#))

Oppose any coercive or manipulative religious, spiritual, psychological, or psychiatric treatment which seeks to assist those who are confused about or unhappy with their sexual orientation. ([GC 2003-C004](#))

Establish formal process for congregations to identify themselves as "safe spaces" for gay and lesbian persons. ([GC 2000-A009](#))

Urge dioceses and congregations to provide safe places for youth and young adults to discuss human sexuality. ([GC 2000-A046](#))

Encourage the Church at every level to combat oppression that contributes to spread of HIV/AIDS and hinders prevention, education, treatment, and access to services. ([GC 2000-A052](#))

Encourage the Boy Scouts to allow membership irrespective of sexual orientation. ([GC 2000-C031](#))

Recognize that there are couples in the Church living in marriage and other lifelong relationships and that such relationships will be characterized by fidelity, monogamy, mutual affection, respect, and careful and honest communication. Denounce promiscuity, exploitation, and abusiveness in relationships of Church members. Acknowledge the Church's teaching on the sanctity of marriage. ([GC 2000-D039](#))

Urge parishes to teach and support youth sexual abstinence. ([GC 1997-D032](#))

Call upon the U.S. government to extend benefits such as bereavement and family leave policies, health benefits, pension benefits, and real-estate transfer tax benefits to gay and lesbian couples. ([GC 1994-D006](#))

That governments everywhere be encouraged to recognize, acknowledge and seek remedies to reverse the rapid global population growth that adversely affects the health, education and quality of life of women; the prospects for peace; and depletes environmental resources. ([GC 1994-D009](#))

Urge all baptized persons to speak publicly in opposition to discrimination against those who are HIV positive. ([GC 1991-A003](#))

Endorse the [United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women](#) (CEDAW). ([GC 1991-A091](#))

Propose that all provinces of the Anglican Communion and those sharing ecumenical dialogue initiate pan-Anglican/ecumenical dialogue on human sexuality. ([GC 1991-B020](#))

Reaffirm the civil rights of homosexual persons. ([GC 1994-C019](#))

Support the Equal Rights Amendment. ([GC 1982-B034](#)) and ([GC 1979-B148](#))

OFFICE *of* GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

+1.202.547.7300

[www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ogr)

[eppn@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:eppn@episcopalchurch.org)

On Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @TheEPPN