

Continue the Fight against Human Trafficking in Province V

Whereas, Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that covers both sex and labor exploitation; and the victims of human trafficking include young children, teens, men and women; and human trafficking is both the second largest criminal industry in the world and the fastest growing, *and*

Whereas, The General Conventions of 2000, 2003, 2009, and 2012 approved five resolutions addressing the serious problem of human trafficking; and these five resolutions are 2000-A057, 2003-A025, 2003-D034, 2009-A167, and 2012-D042, *and*

Whereas, These five resolutions contain specific instructions and advice for all Episcopal provinces, dioceses, and congregations to join the effort against human trafficking; and these instructions and advice remain valid and urgently needed, *and*

Whereas, Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said in December 2014, “Faith leaders can make sure that every worshipping community know about modern slavery and is ready to work to prevent and end such abuses”; *therefore be it*

Resolved, This Synod recommits Province V and all branches of the Episcopal Church contained within Province V to the important work that previous General Conventions have called for against the scourge of human trafficking; *and be it further*

Resolved, This Synod encourages all branches of the Episcopal Church contained within Province V to seriously and prayerfully consider taking up the following projects mentioned specifically in the above General Convention resolutions: 1) consult resource materials developed by the Executive Council’s Committee on the Status of Women and Anglican Women’s Empowerment, 2) launch educational campaigns within each diocese and congregation regarding the nature of this problem and ways to combat it, 3) partner with other churches, nongovernmental organizations, and law enforcement agencies to create a victim-centered approach to the fight against trafficking, 4) find ways to meet the medical, psychological, legal, and spiritual needs of victims, 5) support legislation to at all levels to combat this problem, 6) observe every year a Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and 7) dialogue

with other Episcopal provinces and branches of our church outside of Province V to share ideas and strategies for combating this grave problem; *and be it further*

Resolved, This Synod commends the work already done by Province V's Anti-Human Trafficking Network, asks the Network to continue organizing and encouraging efforts against trafficking throughout our province, to continue serving as a clearinghouse of information on this subject, and to help lead in the implementation of this resolution; *and be it further*

Resolved, That all dioceses and congregations within Province V are encouraged to look to our provincial Anti-Human Trafficking Network for leadership on this issue and are encouraged to identify individuals who might be interested in becoming active members of the Network; *and be it further*

Resolved, That this Synod advises everyone to remember that the fight against human trafficking is nonpartisan, that people of all political parties and ideologies can and should join in this fight, that this effort should never be cast in partisan terms for political advantage, and that this effort must be informed by expert opinion, the best available research and data, and the practices and strategies proven to be most effective.

Explanation

Here are some relevant websites and webpages that could be useful:

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline (NHTRC). Call for Help – 888-3737-888 or HELP to BeFree (233733)
- <https://polarisproject.org>
- <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking>
- National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- <https://caclapeer.org/human-trafficking-the-internet/>
- Check with your state Attorney General

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