

## **Some of The Episcopal Church's Resolutions at its General Conventions:**

**Resolution Number:** 1976-A069

**Title:** Recognize the Equal Claims of Homosexuals

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That it is the sense of this General Convention that homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all other persons upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church.

**Resolution Number:** 1976-A071

**Title:** Support the Right of Homosexuals to Equal Protection of the Law

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That this General Convention expresses its conviction that homosexual persons are entitled to equal protection of the laws with all other citizens, and calls upon our society to see that such protection is provided in actuality.

**Resolution Number:** 1985-D082

**Title:** Urge Dioceses to Reach a Better Understanding of Homosexuality

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 68th General Convention urge each diocese of this Church to find an effective way to foster a better understanding of homosexual persons, to dispel myths and prejudices about homosexuality, to provide pastoral support, and to give life to the claim of homosexual persons "upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral care and concern of the Church" as recognized by the General Convention in 1976.

**Resolution Number:** 1988-D100

**Title:** Decry Violence Against Homosexuals

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That this 69th General Convention decries the increase of violence against homosexual persons and calls upon law enforcement officials across the land to be sensitive to this peril and to prosecute the perpetrators of these acts to the fullest extent of the law;

and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Executive Council be directed to communicate with the Attorney General of the United States, and the Attorney Generals of the several States the expressed wishes of this General Convention that such violence be decreased markedly; and be it further

*Resolved*, That all Bishops, and especially the Presiding Bishop, be encouraged to speak openly and publicly to repudiate the misconception that the Church encourages such violence, and to counter the public declarations of those who claim that AIDS is the punishment of God upon homosexual persons;

and be it further

*Resolved*, That the actions of the 65th General Convention, which declared that "...homosexual persons are children of God who have a full and equal claim with all others upon the love, acceptance, and pastoral concern and care of the Church" be re-emphasized to all members of this Church.

**Resolution Number:** 1988-D132

**Title:** Support Exploration of Causes of Suicide Among Gay and Lesbian Youth

*Resolved*, the House of Deputies concurring, That this 69th General Convention of the Episcopal Church recognize with love and compassion the tragic suffering of gay and lesbian youth and the loss of life of these children and others who felt compelled to end their lives;

and be it further

*Resolved*, That this Episcopal Church pledge pastoral support of troubled youth, including exploration of the root causes of why many gay and lesbian children are driven to suicide; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Youth Ministries Office of the Education for Mission and Ministry Unit be requested to include in their present resources information on the diverse dimensions of suicide, including gay and lesbian, for distribution to dioceses and congregations throughout the Church.

**Resolution Number:** 1994-D006

**Title:** Call on US Government to Extend Benefits to Gay and Lesbian Couples

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 71st General Convention call upon municipal council, state legislatures and the United States Congress to approve measures giving gay and lesbian couples protection[s] such as: bereavement and family leave policies; health benefits, pension benefits; real-estate transfer tax benefits, and commitments to mutual support enjoyed by non-gay married couples.

**Resolution Number:** 2006-D005

**Title:** Oppose Criminalization of Homosexuality

*Resolved*, That the 75th General Convention adopt the following statement:

The 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church declares that efforts to criminalize homosexual behavior are incompatible with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, incompatible with resolutions at successive Lambeth conferences including the 1998 Lambeth Resolution I.10, and incompatible with the Primates' statement from Dromantine which declares that the, "victimization or diminishment of human beings whose affections happen to be ordered towards people of the same sex is anathema to us. We assure homosexual people that they are children of God, loved and valued by him, and deserving of the best we can give of pastoral care and friendship." In affirming these consistent statements we declare our opposition to the imposition of civil or criminal penalties, especially imprisonment and execution, upon gay and lesbian people and our opposition to laws anywhere in the world that specifically target and impose imprisonment for homosexual behavior, speech, or assembly of gay and lesbian people and their supporters; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 75th General Convention commend the government of Brazil for its courageous efforts to extend the protections of the U.N.'s Declaration on Human Rights to include gay and lesbian people and that the Secretary of Convention convey this resolution to the Brazilian Ambassador to the United States and the Episcopal Primate of Brazil. We commend to their attention Lambeth 1998 I.1, which affirms and adopts the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the 75th General Convention direct the Executive Council to monitor the progress of efforts to criminalize or decriminalize homosexuality and efforts such as Brazil's to extend the protections of basic human rights; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Secretary of the 75th General Convention convey this resolution to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, all Primates in the Anglican Communion, the President of the United States, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Secretary General of the United Nations, Anglican Observer of the United Nations, heads of state of all nations represented by Bishops and Deputies, all U.S. Senators and Representatives and the Governors of all states or territories within the pastoral jurisdiction of The Episcopal Church.

