

13. RESOLUTION: A CALL TO AWARENESS AND ACTION TO END THE PRACTICE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Assistant Moderator Tedder called upon Ms. Evelyn Vigil, Chair of Committee Eleven to present action from that Committee.

Ms. Vigil moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons.” She then spoke to the motion.

09-GS-29 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call to Awareness and Action to End the Practice of Trafficking in Persons.”

A CALL TO AWARENESS AND ACTION TO END THE PRACTICE OF TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

WHEREAS, trafficking in persons is a global, widespread and illegal practice which violates basic human rights, including the United Nations Declaration of Universal Human Rights, and is a sin against God,

WHEREAS, an estimated 14,000-18,000 persons are trafficked per year within the United States, often in the communities where we live, work and worship, and

WHEREAS, the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA has called upon its member communions to study and engage in advocacy on issues of human trafficking, and

WHEREAS, women and children represent the largest percentage (80%) of those being trafficked, and

WHEREAS, the United Church of Christ has longstanding commitments to ensuring the basic human rights of all persons,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Twenty-seventh General Synod of the United Church of Christ encourage its members, congregations and various settings to engage in education about the issue of trafficking in persons and advocacy efforts to end this criminal and abusive practice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries will provide resourcing for education and advocacy, including use of the National Council of Churches in the USA’s “Social Creed for the 21st Century”; work with international ecumenical bodies and other agencies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Freedom Network USA, and End Child Prostitution and Trafficking USA (ECPAT) to bring an end to human trafficking in the United States and abroad; monitoring the ongoing funding for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that local congregations will be encouraged to observe the Sunday closest to January 11th as “Human Trafficking Awareness Day” through prayer, reflection, education and actions that will assist in bringing an end to these forms of modern day slavery.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the named agencies and the subject to availability of funds.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries and Wider Church Ministries will collaborate in the implementation of this resolution.