

## **The Resolutions passed by the 248<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York**

### **Resolutions 21 to 25: Becoming a “Sanctuary Diocese”: Recommitting to Provide Radical Hospitality for the Newest New Yorkers**

Resolved [21] that the communities of the Diocese of New York, taking seriously Jesus call to welcome (“I was a stranger and you welcomed me,” Matthew 25:35) and the calls in the Hebrew Bible (“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself,” Lev 19:34) have long been committed to offering sacred hospitality to the immigrant, refugee, and stranger among us in providing sanctuary, basic human necessities, and pastoral care; and be it further

Resolved [22] that communities in all 10 counties of the Diocese have seen and responded to a recent increase in migrants/asylum seekers from all over the globe by providing shelter, legal support, and other basic human necessities; and be it further

Resolved [23] that the people of Diocese of New York recommit to radical welcome by pledging itself to be a “Sanctuary Diocese” that provides care, support, and advocacy for our newest neighbors in every context both within and beyond the walls of our buildings including ecumenical, interfaith, and local nonprofit partnership; and be it further

Resolved [24] that the communities and structures (staff, committees, and commissions) of the Diocese of New York commit to education, organizing, legal direct action, and advocacy with state, local, and federal lawmakers to see continued advancement in immigration laws that meet the various needs of our newest neighbors as laid out by General Convention and Diocesan resolutions; and be it further

Resolved [25] that the Diocese of New York pledge to assist in equipping congregations, clergy, and lay leaders to engage in such work, appropriate to local contexts, capacity, and discernment.

## **Resolution Emanating from the Bishop's Address to Convention: In Support of LGBTQ+ Rights and Safe Haven for Transgender Individuals Facing Persecution**

Whereas the Episcopal Church's Baptismal Covenant calls us to respect the dignity of every human being, and the United States of America is founded upon the principles of liberty, equality, and justice, where all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, deserve to live free from all discrimination, violence, and persecution; and

Whereas recent changes in laws and policies in several states have created an environment of increased threat and uncertainty for LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly transgender individuals, who may face discrimination in areas such as healthcare, employment, housing, and public accommodations; and

Whereas the human rights of transgender individuals are at risk, as laws are being enacted that restrict access to gender-affirming care, deny protections against discrimination, and criminalize the right to self-identify; and

Whereas the rights and safety of transgender and gender-nonconforming people must be safeguarded through active, proactive measures to provide refuge and support for those who are fleeing persecution, threats of violence, or legal discrimination; and

Whereas it is our shared responsibility as a community and as a society to create safe spaces and sanctuary for individuals whose lives and freedoms are threatened by state-sanctioned discrimination, and to ensure that these individuals have access to legal protections, healthcare, employment, housing, and other essential services;

Be it Resolved that the 248th Convention of the Diocese of New York ("Convention") commits the Diocese of New York ("the Diocese") to work with local, state, and national organizations to establish and expand safe haven policies for transgender and other LGBTQ+ individuals fleeing persecution, including providing shelter, legal assistance, advocating for access to healthcare, and employment support; and be it further

Resolved that the Diocese commit to advancing policies and laws that protect the rights and dignity of transgender individuals, including creating and requiring training to educate congregations to understand and welcome transgender individuals, and including ensuring access to gender-affirming care, prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, and public services, and advocating for the removal of harmful anti-transgender legislation; and be it further

Resolved that the Diocese pledges to advocate for federal protections that guarantee equal rights and protections for transgender individuals nationwide, ensuring that no state can enact laws that infringe upon the basic human rights of LGBTQ+ individuals; be it further

Resolved that the Diocese actively support and collaborate with LGBTQ+ advocacy groups, legal aid organizations, and mental health services to provide a network of resources for transgender individuals seeking refuge from state-sanctioned persecution or threats; and be it further

Resolved that the Diocese work to educate the public on the challenges faced by transgender individuals, particularly in states with regressive laws, and promote understanding, tolerance, and respect for diversity in all communities; and be it further

Resolved that the Diocese strive to implement inclusive policies within our own organizations and communities that provide safe, supportive environments for transgender individuals, including the establishment of clear anti-discrimination guidelines and resources for transitioning individuals; and be it further

Resolved that this resolution be communicated to local, state, and federal representatives, as well as to media outlets and advocacy organizations, with the aim of fostering broader collaboration and creating a unified movement to protect the rights and freedoms of transgender individuals across the United States.