

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

R37/17

UN Conference on Nuclear Disarmament

Bishop Philip Huggins moving, Bishop Cameron Venables seconding

That this General Synod urges our Australian Government to be a strong and positive contributor to the 2018 high level UN Conference on Nuclear Disarmament.

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and aware of current instabilities, we urge that this opportunity be taken to elevate the issue of nuclear disarmament and to build pressure on nuclear-weapon States to agree to specific nuclear disarmament proposals.

5 September 2017

R42/17

Australian Freedom Network

Bishop Matt Brain moving, Bishop Stephen Pickard seconding

That this General Synod –

1. Notes the establishment of the Australian Freedom Network (AFN) signed by the Primate on our behalf;
2. Commends those involved in the establishment of the Global Freedom Network of which the AFN is part;
3. Acknowledges the continuing reality of human trafficking and slavery, and laments the damage that this does to all involved as a distortion of what it means to be created in God's image;
4. Commits to personal and organisational behaviour that utilises tools such as the "Ethical Fashion Guide" and information regarding corporate supply trains to inform decisions surrounding consumption so that ethical choices can be made; and
5. Requests that the General Synod network, Anglican Schools Australia, consider how it may collaborate with the AFN to explore how Anglican Schools in Australia may be supported as they educate students to be ethical leaders in the Australian community.

6 September 2017

R49/17

Condemnation and Apology for Domestic Violence

Bishop Stephen Hale sought leave that Motion 21.3 to be considered immediately after consideration of Motion 21.2. Leave was so granted.

Bishop Stephen Hale moving, The Ven Kara Hartley seconding

The General Synod affirms that:

1. All human beings, male and female, are created in the image of God, and are precious to him. So their value and dignity should be upheld by all, and rightly commands respect and protection.
2. In following the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, Christian relationships, families, and households are to be characterised by mutual love, respect, compassion and a commitment to the wellbeing of

	<p>one another. No one should feel unsafe in their own home.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The Bible condemns the misuse of power to control or exploit others, and rejects all abuse, whether physical, verbal, or otherwise expressed from one person towards others. Therefore domestic violence is sin, and Scripture should never be twisted to justify or excuse any abuse. 4. No victim of domestic abuse should ever be pressured to forgive, submit to, or restore a relationship with an offender. 5. Our churches are committed to being safe places for all people, especially children and vulnerable adults, and we will therefore work to protect those experiencing domestic abuse as a first priority. 6. We grieve with victims and survivors of domestic abuse, and pray for their healing and recovery. We give thanks for those women and men, clergy and lay people, who have faithfully supported, cared for and protected such victims in our churches and communities. 7. However, we also confess with deep shame that domestic abuse has occurred among those who attend our churches, and even among some in leadership. We apologise for those times our teaching and pastoral care has failed adequately to support victims and call perpetrators to account. 8. We urge Anglican dioceses around Australia to ensure they have policies and good practice guidelines in place, along with education and training, for responding well to situations involving domestic violence within our parishes and organisations. 9. We call on all institutions preparing people for ordained or lay ministry in the Anglican Church of Australia to review curriculum and content to ensure that material which may give rise to unhealthy views about power or the marginalisation of women, are addressed. 10. We also acknowledge our responsibility to work with the police, statutory child protection authorities and specialist agencies in responding to domestic abuse, including our legal obligations in reporting abuse. This should include consideration of growing the practical trauma programmes and advocacy undertaken by our Anglicare Australia agencies in this growing area of community need. 11. Finally, this Synod again upholds Faithfulness in Service as our national code of conduct for clergy and church workers, specifically its affirmations that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse of power is at the heart of many relationship problems in the Church and the community. In essence, abuse is one person's misuse of power over another. Sometimes abuse will be a one off event and at other times it will be a pattern of behaviour. (§6.2) • It is important for clergy and church workers to be good citizens and obey the laws of the community, except where those laws conflict with Christian convictions. (§6.4) • You are not to abuse your spouse, children or other members of your family. (§6.6) <p style="text-align: right;">7 September 2017</p>
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R50/17	<p>Family Violence Study</p> <p>The Rev'd Tracy Lauersen moving, Bishop Genieve Blackwell seconding,</p> <p>That this General Synod requests the General Synod Standing Committee to investigate and if appropriate commission (using contingencies or other available sources of funding) a professionally designed and independent research study into the nature and prevalence of family violence prevalence within the Australian Anglican Church population. The General Synod Standing Committee could also explore the feasibility and practicality of inviting other denominations to consider participation in any such independent research.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7 September 2017</p>
R54/17	<p>The Global Goals for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Bishop Sarah Macneil moving, Bishop Chris Jones seconding</p> <p>That, celebrating the success of the Millennium Development Goals and noting that the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than halved since 1990, the General Synod:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) welcomes the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development which aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and pursue the common good; b) encourages theological engagement with the goals, and missional commitment to their achievement; c) commends the work of Anglicare Australia, the Anglican Board of Mission, Anglican Overseas Aid, Anglican Aid and other Anglican organisations in striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; d) renews our call for a fair share of Australia's national budget (0.7% of Gross National Income) to be dedicated to Overseas Development Assistance that aims to reduce poverty; and e) encourages each diocese, through its synod, to consider 0.7% of gross diocesan income, or some other meaningful proportion, to projects supporting the Sustainable Development Goals. <p style="text-align: right;">7 September 2017</p>

R60/17	<p>Refugees on Manus Island and Nauru</p> <p>The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moving, The Rev'd Gillian Moses seconding,</p> <p>That this General Synod, in the divine providence and as a matter of human decency, recognising the exceptional circumstances, urges the Federal Government to resettle in Australia, by Christmas 2017, any refugees and asylum seekers still held on Manus Island and detained on Nauru as at 1 October 2017.</p> <p>That this General Synod urges the Federal Government to partner with the Churches as regards the healing and resettling of these refugees and asylum seekers.</p>
R61/17	<p>Refugees from Syria and Iraq</p> <p>The Very Rev'd Peter Catt moving, The Rev'd Gillian Moses seconding,</p> <p>That this General Synod, recognising the exceptional circumstances, urges our Federal Government, as soon as possible, to make another allocation of 12,000 additional refugee places for people, especially Christians and other minorities, displaced by the ongoing conflict in Syria and Iraq.</p> <p>That, relatedly, this General Synod urges the Federal Government to increase funding to assist their integration into Australian society, including the provision of assistance and training to obtain employment opportunities.</p> <p>That this General Synod, from the experience of its members, affirms the life-saving consequences of the earlier extra 12000 places, particular for Christians and other minorities who had been targeted by ISIS.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8 September 2017</p>

R62/17

Action to contribute to the Paris Climate Accord

The Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt moving, Dr Beth Heyde seconding,

Noting:

- the global groundswell of community and industry support for effective and rapid action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the very challenging goal expressed in the 2015 Paris Climate Accord (to limit warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels);
- the critical importance of community action, both in achieving that goal and in leading governments to act;
- the Anglican Communion's fifth mark of mission: 'to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth', and
- General Synod's Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 which required meaningful action and reporting by participating Dioceses on steps taken to reduce their environmental impact;

The General Synod

1. encourages Federal and State governments in Australia to act quickly to resolve perceived conflicts of interest between the wider community and commercial beneficiaries of fossil fuels, and show leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions through effective market mechanisms based on consistent expert recommendations.
2. requests each Diocese that has adopted the Protection of the Environment Canon 2007 to report to the Standing Committee of General Synod in 2018, and to the next meeting of General Synod, on progress in reducing their environmental impact (as required by s.3(1)), with particular emphasis on energy efficiency in order to minimise contributions to global warming.
3. encourages Dioceses to make use of standardised instruments such as the Parish Quick Carbon Self-Report instrument (available through the Public Affairs Commission) in order to develop an internal reporting mechanism.
4. encourages Dioceses to report to the Standing Committee of General Synod in 2018, and to the next meeting of General Synod, on progress made towards divestment from fossil fuels or other measures to improve the ecological sustainability of Diocesan investments portfolios, as encouraged by motion 61/14 of General Synod.
5. encourages Dioceses to engage in teaching and preaching on the theology of the environment.
6. encourages Dioceses to consider the work of the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC) towards spiritually-inspired stewardship in reducing greenhouse gas emissions: and to encourage participation in the work of this multi-faith network and consideration also of secular networks with similar aims to reduce global greenhouse emissions.

8 September 2017

R63/17	<p>Assisted Dying</p> <p>Dr Denise Cooper-Clarke moving, Dr Karin Sowada seconding,</p> <p>General Synod, recognising the continued push for laws concerning ‘assisted dying’ in a number of Australian States –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) notes Synod Resolution 81/10, affirming the sanctity of life; that life is God’s gift and that our task is to protect, nurture and sustain life to the best of our ability; b) notes that in 1995, Synod expressed its opposition to euthanasia in response to legislation passed by the Northern Territory Parliament; c) opposes the legalisation of assisted dying; d) urges all Australian State and Territory governments to better resource palliative care services, including in regional and remote communities, Aboriginal communities and nursing homes, and to provide better training in palliative care for all health professionals; and e) recognising the vital contribution made by people of faith to public debate, urges Australian Anglicans to contact their MP’s to express their views, particularly in NSW and Victoria where legislation will be debated this year. <p style="text-align: right;">8 September 2017</p>
R65/17	<p>Rohingya Muslim People</p> <p>Bishop Philip Huggins moving, The Very Rev’d Peter Catt</p> <p>That this General Synod noting with sadness today’s reports about the suffering of the Rohingya Muslim people, prayerfully urges our government’s further diplomatic initiative and provision of humanitarian assistance.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8 September 2017</p>