

ELCIC RESOLUTION ON ADDRESSING SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Approved at the Fourteenth Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

July 3-7, 2013

NC-2013-02 M/S To adopt the following motion:

Resolution on Addressing Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking

- Affirms and supports the initiatives of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) and the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada (WICC) to eliminate human trafficking.
- Ask congregations, rostered leaders and synods to provide leadership in preaching, teaching and other forms of public witness against the commercial exploitation of human beings.
- Ask the National Bishop to write a letter to the Prime Minister, urging the government of Canada to provide resources for the protection of victims of sexual exploitation, including counselling, accessible, affordable and safe housing, eligibility and access to health and social services, employment referrals, and offer language training. In addition, urge the Government of Canada to provide law enforcement resources for the prosecution and rehabilitation of offenders who engage in human trafficking.
- Ask this church to study and advocate for opportunities to strengthen Canadian legislation and policies which "discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children," as called for in the *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children* Article 9, Section 5 (www.unodc.org)
- Ask the National Bishop to prepare a list of resources for addressing sexual exploitation, and post this on the ELCIC website.
- Commit ourselves as church to respond faithfully to opportunities for partnerships and cooperation between church and society working for legislation that will protect persons liberated from being trafficked and playing roles in bringing about cultural transformation and the elimination of trafficking. **Carried.**