

IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

International Affairs Committee

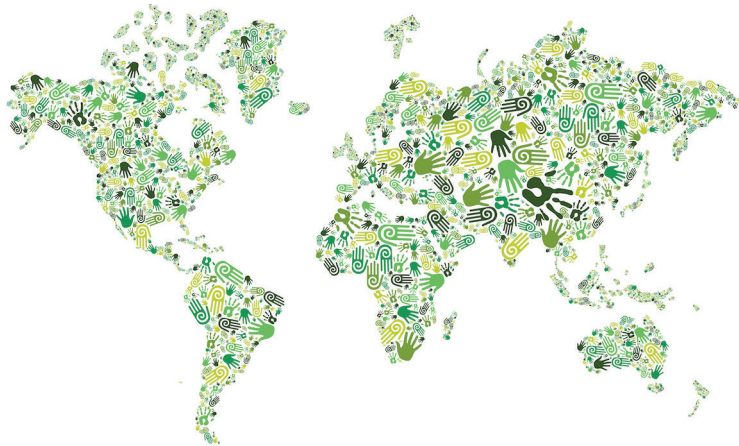
2017 Edition Vol. 5

*Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish."
And her daughter was healed instantly.
Matthew 15:28*

Respecting Human Rights for All

When Jesus was admonished by a Syrophenician woman to extend God's grace to her and heal her daughter, he complied, and by doing so, taught us to love and serve the outsider as we would our own brother or sister, for we are all God's children. (Matt 15:21–28) Above all, Christians are called to invite our neighbours into loving relationships. To love means to reach out and befriend the other. Commanded to love, we are called to respond whenever our neighbour is vulnerable.

In 76 countries, laws still criminalize consensual same-sex relations between adults, exposing individuals to the risk of arbitrary arrest, prosecution, imprisonment and even the death penalty in at least five countries. Laws criminalizing cross-dressing are used to arrest and punish transgender people. Other laws are used to harass, detain, discriminate or place restrictions on the



IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

International Affairs Committee

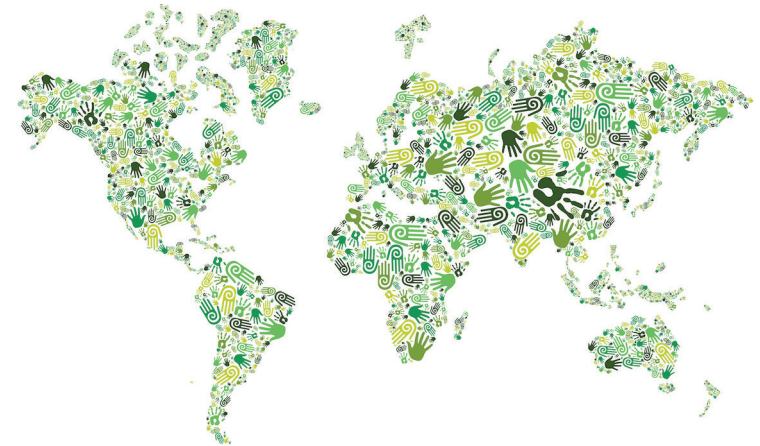
2017 Edition Vol. 5

*Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith!
Let it be done for you as you wish."
And her daughter was healed instantly.
Matthew 15:28*

Respecting Human Rights for All

When Jesus was admonished by a Syrophenician woman to extend God's grace to her and heal her daughter, he complied, and by doing so, taught us to love and serve the outsider as we would our own brother or sister, for we are all God's children. (Matt 15:21–28) Above all, Christians are called to invite our neighbours into loving relationships. To love means to reach out and befriend the other. Commanded to love, we are called to respond whenever our neighbour is vulnerable.

In 76 countries, laws still criminalize consensual same-sex relations between adults, exposing individuals to the risk of arbitrary arrest, prosecution, imprisonment and even the death penalty in at least five countries. Laws criminalizing cross-dressing are used to arrest and punish transgender people. Other laws are used to harass, detain, discriminate or place restrictions on the



freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. These discriminatory laws contribute to perpetuating stigma and discrimination as well as hate crimes, police abuse, torture and ill-treatment, family and community violence, and have a negative impact on public health by impeding access to health and HIV services.



In many countries, homophobia and transphobia are entrenched in police forces. There are frequently flaws in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes against LGBT people. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is opposed to homophobia. Church statements have affirmed that scripture treats homosexual practice as a departure from God's created order, but that homosexual orientation is not a sin. In 1969, the General Assembly agreed with the proposed changes to the Criminal Code of Canada that homosexual acts done in private by consenting adults be de-criminalized.

The Church Responds

Following the recommendation made by General Assembly, the Moderator wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs encouraging the Government of Canada to continue calling for an end to violence against LGBT people and for the respect of human rights of all people regardless of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.



Prayer

We pray for people facing persecution, violence and injustice because they are members of a sexual minority.

The International Affairs Committee is mandated by General Assembly to monitor and draw the church's attention to international issues. Its full report is found in the Acts & Proceedings 2016.



freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people. These discriminatory laws contribute to perpetuating stigma and discrimination as well as hate crimes, police abuse, torture and ill-treatment, family and community violence, and have a negative impact on public health by impeding access to health and HIV services.



In many countries, homophobia and transphobia are entrenched in police forces. There are frequently flaws in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes against LGBT people. The Presbyterian Church in Canada is opposed to homophobia. Church statements have affirmed that scripture treats homosexual practice as a departure from God's created order, but that homosexual orientation is not a sin. In 1969, the General Assembly agreed with the proposed changes to the Criminal Code of Canada that homosexual acts done in private by consenting adults be de-criminalized.

The Church Responds

Following the recommendation made by General Assembly, the Moderator wrote to the Minister of Foreign Affairs encouraging the Government of Canada to continue calling for an end to violence against LGBT people and for the respect of human rights of all people regardless of sexual orientation and/or gender identity.



Prayer

We pray for people facing persecution, violence and injustice because they are members of a sexual minority.

The International Affairs Committee is mandated by General Assembly to monitor and draw the church's attention to international issues. Its full report is found in the Acts & Proceedings 2016.

