

Resolution 20

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- 1 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God recognizes biblical guidelines that support human rights for
2 all people regardless of their race, sex, creed, nationality, economic status, born or
3 unborn; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The Bible teaches that all people are created by God and in His image (Genesis
5 1:26,27), therefore demonstrating the sanctity and value of life (Psalm 8:4,5); and
- 6 WHEREAS, Sins against our fellowman that demean, abuse, devalue, destroy, and enslave in any
7 form are unjust; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Sins against our fellowman are sins against God (Matthew 25:40), who created
9 humankind in His image; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is an issue that is confronting the Church and American society
11 today; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Human trafficking continues to confront people in other countries, as human
13 trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, using force, fraud, and coercion to
14 achieve the exploitation of victims, especially for purposes of sexual exploitation;
15 and
- 16 WHEREAS, Evidence of 27 million people (80 percent women, 50 percent children) are victims
17 of human trafficking; and
- 18 WHEREAS, 14,500–17,500 such victims are trafficked into the United States each year, with an
19 estimate of 800,000 trafficked annually across international borders worldwide; and
- 20 WHEREAS, The average age of a girl in the United States forced into the sex trade is 14, and can
21 be as young as 8 internationally; and
- 22 WHEREAS, Human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a multibillion dollar
23 industry, and linked to criminal activity and pornography; and
- 24 WHEREAS, Without Jesus Christ, these women and children remain lost and without hope of
25 spiritual freedom; and
- 26 WHEREAS, No current position paper or perspectives statement in the Constitution or Bylaws of
27 The General Council of the Assemblies of God exists to reflect our common biblical
28 understanding regarding human trafficking; and
- 29 WHEREAS, THE GENERAL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION, Article III. PREROGATIVES, e,
30 page 84, states we are “to respond to human need with ministries of compassion”;

1 and our position and perspectives statement address abortion; poor; abuse; suffering;
2 pornography; HIV/AIDS; euthanasia; and racism; (all of which are exacerbated by
3 human trafficking), but is presently silent on the historic and pressing issue of human
4 trafficking; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the following statement be adopted by this General Council in session in
6 Orlando, Florida, August 4-7, 2009:

7 The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that an essential part of the gospel
8 ministry is to “proclaim freedom for the prisoners” and to “release the oppressed”
9 both spiritually and physically (Luke 4:18,19, NIV). We are to be imitators of the
10 Lord in His concern for the afflicted and oppressed (Psalm 10:14-18) and are
11 commanded to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Proverbs
12 31:8,9). We therefore strongly condemn the sin of human trafficking in all forms
13 and among all people, especially those which oppress the most vulnerable among
14 us (women and children) for the purposes of sexual exploitation;

15 And, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That The General Council of the Assemblies of God calls for an abolition of slavery
17 in every form. We will partner with the work of the Holy Spirit, asking Christ to
18 empower us and give us courage to actively confront the sin of human trafficking and
19 we call for repentance and the application of justice and opposition to the people and
20 organizations responsible for human trafficking; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we call on our churches, both corporately and individually, to pray about and
22 seek ways to minister to the enslaved and lead them into the fullness of life and
23 freedom in Christ; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery take action by tasking the Commission on Doctrinal
25 Purity to study and develop a position paper and perspectives statement for adoption
26 and distribution to our districts and churches that can be used as a resource and
27 teaching document.

Sponsor: Montana District Council
Northern Missouri District Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____