

Resolution of Support for Engagement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America through the #ThursdaysinBlack Campaign of the World Council of Churches

Whereas in 2015, the ELCA Church Council adopted the ELCA social message “Gender-based Violence” in order to increase awareness, accountability, and action across the church about the alarming degree of gender-based violence in church and society; and

Whereas the companion “Foundational documentation for a social message on Gender-based Violence” provides additional resources for understanding gender-based violence as a deeply systemic social problem, a theological concern, a pastoral challenge, and a critical matter for faith-based action and advocacy; and

Whereas in 2013 the Lutheran World Federation Council adopted a “Gender Justice Policy,” laying out a biblically-rooted framework for the global Lutheran communion of churches to take concrete, contextually-appropriate steps to implement gender justice; and

Whereas the XII Assembly of the LWF in 2017 passed a resolution encouraging member churches to partner with civil society on sex education and the elimination of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence in church and society; and

Whereas the World Council of Churches (WCC) Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998) gave witness to the movements of women against gender-based violence around the world and inspired the launch of a global, ecumenical campaign, Thursdays in Black: Resistance and Resilience; and

Whereas the WCC, on the occasion of its 70th anniversary in 2018, relaunched its #ThursdaysinBlack campaign, calling upon its member churches and the global ecumenical family to recommit to work toward education about and elimination of gender-based violence;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America calls upon all people across all expressions of the church to participate in the #ThursdaysinBlack campaign by wearing black on Thursdays and actively participating in the various reflection and action items detailed in the ELCA “Gender-based Violence” social message and documentation; the LWF Gender Justice Policy; and the WCC resources for #ThursdaysinBlack.

<https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Gender-Violence>

<https://www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-lwf-gender-justice-policy>

<https://www.oikoumene.org/en/get-involved/thursdays-in-black>