



# Promote God's Mission Strive For Justice

## The Episcopal Public Policy Network

The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations advocates public policies set at General Convention and through Executive Council. These are some of the issues we have been advancing since General Convention 2000.

### Upholding Human Rights and Human Needs

Worked to increase federal funding for child care, particularly for women moving from welfare to work.

Helped to secure passage of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

Supported a compromise Faith-Based Initiative measure free of discrimination provisions.

Promoted hate crimes legislation that would expand the definition of hate crimes and the ability of local law enforcement to prosecute hate crimes.

Supported funding for UN relief and food programs to address the needs of the estimated 14 million refugees worldwide. Advocated a consistent U.S. approach to refugee resettlement policy.

Promoted universal access to healthcare and reform of the nation's healthcare system. Coordinated Episcopal healthcare conference in Washington, DC resulting in more than 100 meetings with members of Congress and staff.

Supported increased funding for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition programs.

Continued to seek ratification of the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) signed by 170 countries, but not the U.S.

### Promoting Economic Justice

Led successful campaign to push U.S. and multilateral institutions to cancel \$2 billion in poor country debt, which frees valuable resources that can be used to reduce poverty and increase access to primary education and health programs. To date, \$1 billion in debt service payments has been canceled.

Helped create major new U.S. initiative authorizing \$15 billion over five years to fight the global AIDS pandemic in Africa and Haiti. Now working to see that Congress appropriates full funding.

Helped shape the President's Millennium Challenge Account, which would dramatically increase U.S. antipoverty assistance. As many as half of the countries expected to qualify are in Sub-Saharan Africa, where half of the Anglican Communion resides.

[www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn)

## Resolving International Conflict

Directed advocacy efforts to advance and secure U.S. leadership to implement the international community's "Road Map for Middle East Peace." Shared lead role with Churches for Middle East Peace.

Advocated Church's position against unilateral military action and the use of pre-emptive force in Iraq.

Worked with Congress to develop a U.S. response to resolve conflict in Northern Uganda, Liberia, and Congo crises.

Fought for legislation monitoring diamonds mined illegally in Liberia, Angola, and Sierra Leone. "Conflict diamonds" are used to subsidize civil conflict; undermine democratically elected governments; and fund rebel soldiers who abduct women and children and then force them to serve as child soldiers and/or sex workers.

Advocated passage of the Sudan Peace Act and a strong U.S. role in jump-starting peace negotiations in Sudan, where millions of Episcopalians struggle to survive the hardships created by a 20-year long civil war.

## Supporting the Anglican Communion

Hosted and coordinated visiting Anglican partners to bring the voice of the worldwide Communion of 165 countries and 70 million members to Congress and the Administration. Facilitated appropriate media coverage of international issues that affect the worldwide Church.

Provided support for the persecuted church and advocated on behalf of the Communion, including those seeking safe passage, protection of church properties and freedom to worship.

Promoted systemic change to address AIDS and debt relief and supported funding for international relief and development.

## Advancing Environmental Justice

Worked in coalition with religious and secular partners to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and to secure the culture of the Episcopal Gwich'in, an indigenous nation of Alaska.

Supported the development of a coalition campaign designed to raise awareness of fuel economy standards and their relationships to global warming and dependence on oil.

### Sign Up Today!

Help us advance these important issues by joining the Episcopal Public Policy Network at [www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn), or call 800-228-0515.



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