



## **Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. Resolutions Resolution Denouncing the White Supremacy and Racism of the Trump Administration**

**WHEREAS**, white supremacy and racial division have experienced a resurgence in the United States of America;

**WHEREAS**, racism is organic to American life and continues to define and divide the United States of America;

**WHEREAS**, Donald Trump did not create the climate of white supremacy, white nationalism and the racism that infects the body politic of the United States, but has tapped into it for his political gain, inspiring and emboldening bigots and the resurgence of hate crimes;

**WHEREAS**, Donald Trump and his racism were made in America;

**WHEREAS**, Russia used the American weakness of anti-black racism to hack the 2016 election which resulted in Trump becoming the first Russian-selected president in the history of the United States;

**WHEREAS**, Trump has repeatedly shown that he is a racist; siding with violent white nationalists in Charlottesville, VA; attacking political leaders of color with racially-coded language; inspiring his followers to chant “send her back,” referring to a brilliant, bold black Congresswoman and citizen of the United States who immigrated from Somalia; building his political career on the bigotry of birtherism; unapologetically calling for the death penalty of the exonerated Central Park Five, while surrounding himself with white nationalists and racists in his cabinet; and, referring to black football players who were protesting racial injustice as SOBs;

**WHEREAS**, it is evident that Trump’s motto to “Make America Great Again” was a racist dog whistle to “Make America Hate Again” and to “Make America White Again;”

**WHEREAS**, America is experiencing a “cold civil war” with race, racial division and racism as its ugly undertone;

**WHEREAS**, every powerful empire in history has collapsed from within and America is on such a path, being propelled by white supremacy;

**WHEREAS**, structural racism continues to produce disparate outcomes between blacks and whites in health, wealth, life expectancy, mass incarceration and education;

**WHEREAS**, one example of racism being manifested in disparities is that blacks with some college education actually have higher unemployment rates than whites who never finished high school. At each level of education, the black rate of unemployment is twice as high as that of whites;

**WHEREAS**, contrary to the racist denunciations Trump made about the Congressional districts of John Lewis and Elijah Cummings, the Kerner Commission is instructive, reminding us that the ghettos of this nation were created by whites and white racism as a means of social control.

## **ACTION:**

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention strongly denounces the racism. We call for the United States to confront racism in all of her structures and systems. We challenge white Americans in general and white Christians in particular to repent and purge this nation of the spirit of racism;

The Progressive National Baptist Convention is reminded of the insight of our theological trailblazer, Dr James Cone who insisted that “God is present in the struggle for Black dignity, justice and respect and not in metaphysical musings of privileged intellectuals” and we encourage all persons of conscience and goodwill to join God in this struggle;

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention is calling for a Twitter cease fire from the President on black leaders and black communities; and

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention stands in solidarity with the “Squad,” U.S. Representatives Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-NY, Ilhan Omar, D-MN, Ayanna Pressley, D-MA, and Rashida Tlaib, D-MI and deplore all racist statements to “send them back,” both from the President of the United States and his racist followers and affirms that as Americans citizens they are home; and

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention solemnly urges the President to repent of racism and lead our nation to a higher moral ground of love and respect while being guided by values of justice and righteousness; and

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention strongly urges the president and Congress to convene a Conference on Race, Racism and Rebuilding our Cities; and

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls upon this President and Congress to develop a “Marshall Plan” for underserved and neglected black communities; and

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention, born as a protest movement, strongly urges that the meaning of racism and how to end it become a part of the curriculum of every school at every grade level in the United States because no one is born a racist, they are conditioned and taught to be such; and finally

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention challenges America to live up to her promise of “liberty and justice for all.”

## **Resolution Calling for Reparations**

**WHEREAS**, 2019 is the four hundredth year since Africans were kidnapped and forcibly brought to the shores of what eventually became the United States of America;

**WHEREAS**, one cannot explain the power and prosperity of the United States without the profits derived from slavery and the continued plunder of black people post emancipation;

**WHEREAS**, two hundred and forty-four years of evil enslavement of black bodies, one hundred years of legal racism of American apartheid and sixty-four years of continued injustice and oppression mean that black people have not lived one day without oppression and some form of injustice in a nation founded on the promise and principles of “liberty and justice for all;”

**WHEREAS**, the evil institution of slavery in the United States was the most barbaric, brutal and dehumanizing expression of enslavement in the history of humanity;

**WHEREAS**, the enslaved Africans were not freed but fired by the Emancipation Proclamation;

**WHEREAS**, white slaveowners received reparations for losing their slaves as a result of emancipation;

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have stood for freedom and democracy in the United States even as they were denied both;

**WHEREAS**, the emancipation of black people was followed by a backlash of lynching’s of black bodies, which hung as “strange fruit on southern trees;”

**WHEREAS**, black communities like Rosewood, Black Wall Street and many others were destroyed by white terrorism;

**WHEREAS**, 100 years ago a red summer resulted in the killing of hundreds of black Americans;

**WHEREAS**, fifty years after the victories of the civil rights movement, black people continue to be confined to the bottom of almost all socioeconomic metrics;

**WHEREAS**, the negative statistics that reflect black life in the United States are the result of the legacy of slavery, the advantages given to whites by public policy and continued structural and systemic racism;

**WHEREAS**, the history of black wealth deprivation, from the failure to provide ex-slaves with “40 acres and a mule” to the violent destruction of black property in white riots to the seizure and expropriation of black-owned land to the impact of racially restrictive covenants on homeownership to the discriminatory application of policies like the GI Bill and FHA, created the foundation for a perpetual racial wealth gap;

**WHEREAS**, White supremacy and racism are ugly habits that contradict the values expressed by America on paper.

## **ACTION:**

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention declares reparations a moral issue; the future of the United States depends on its moral response to the question of reparations for black people; and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention reminds the nation of the words of our prophet of liberation, Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., that it's time for us to receive our "check;" and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention challenges the United States of America to follow the example of the biblical "Year of Jubilee" and transform structures of oppression into structures of freedom and economic justice; and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls for the United States government to follow the biblical model of Nehemiah and recognize the building of a "more perfect union" cannot go forward until we repay and repair those broken by oppression and economic injustice; and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention prophetically confronts this nation with the liberating message and ministry of Jesus, our Hero from heaven and the "hood," who confronted and caused Zacchaeus to repair and repay all those he plundered and had stolen from; and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that our denomination, informed and inspired by a black theology of liberation, strongly urges every corporation, academic institution and municipality to follow the moral examples of Princeton and Georgetown Universities and conduct an audit to ascertain how they profited from slavery and creatively determine, in concert with the black community, what reparations will look like; and

**Be it resolved**, that the social justice consciousness of the Progressive National Baptist Convention causes us to solemnly insist that this nation fight to close the systemic gap by increasing resources to black communities and removing constraints faced by black people; and

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention strongly reaffirms that reparations cannot be limited to handing out individual checks but must include intentional policies (housing, education, job creation, business and community development, health, access to capital) which benefit black people who have suffered under American oppression while being specifically targeted for plunder and disinvestment; and

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention stands with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee and HR-40 in calling for a study of reparations for black people; and

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention strongly insists that, while we support HR-40, we oppose a study that becomes a stall tactic rather than a call for action that restructures America, repairs broken, black communities and repays black people.

## **Resolution for Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

***Whereas***, xenophobia and white supremacy have become the guiding principles of the immigration policies of the Trump Administration;

***Whereas***, the president of the United States has repeatedly castigated and criminalized people of color who desire to immigrate to this country;

***Whereas***, a generation of immigrants have experienced the horror of escaping the frying pan of persecution in their native lands only to come to the fire of xenophobic hatred and terror as children are separated from their families and suffer in inhumane conditions that have been compared to concentration camps;

***Whereas***, the racism of President Trump has referred to countries of color and African nations as “s\_\_ hole nations” while he whimsically wondered why the United States does not have more immigrants from Norway;

***Whereas***, Trump campaigned on a promise to build a wall along the southern border, an obvious dog whistle to white nationalists;

***Whereas***, the crisis at the southern border of the United States and in immigration is a politically created crisis;

***Whereas***, the policies of the American empire have contributed to the corruption and poverty found in many of the countries from which refugees are escaping;

***Whereas***, the highly publicized ICE raids have created a climate of fear in many communities.

### **ACTION**

***Be it resolved***, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention denounces the xenophobia of the Trump Administration while insisting that Congress pass comprehensive immigration reform;

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls upon this nation to remember the prophetic wisdom of our Drum Major for Justice, Dr Martin Luther King, Jr., who said we must learn to live together in this “world house;” and

***Be it resolved***, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention affirms the need for justice in foreign policy that impacts our neighbors in this “world house,” recognizing that the mold of poverty, exploitation and corruption experienced in one “room” may one day spread and infect other rooms in the “house;” and

***Be it resolved***, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention strongly challenges this nation of immigrants to recommit to the values and principles etched on the base of the Statue of Liberty; and

***Be it resolved,*** that Progressive National Baptist Convention stands with sanctuary cities and encourages cities with a conscience to open their arms to refugees; and

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention stands in solidarity with those engaged in civil disobedience who protect refugees from ICE raids; we call upon ICE to cease engaging in such raids until there is a comprehensive Immigration Policy characterized by justice, love and compassion; and

***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention deplores white supremacy and the xenophobia that has generated the immigration crisis; we remember the words of Jesus and warn America that this nation may be sentenced to an existential hell as we hear our Savior and Liberator (who, as a child was a refugee) declared "... I was a stranger and you built a wall and snatched me from my parents; you refused to give me a toothbrush and soap while sentencing me to sit in my own feces..." In response to the query of our nation, "When did we do such?" Jesus will say "Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have also done it to me."

## **PNBC Resolution on the 2020 U.S. Census**

**WHEREAS**, the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc., was established in 1961 to give a voice and platform to the social, political and civil rights of all people, especially people of color, and

**WHEREAS**, we believe that every person is created in the image of God with equal dignity and each person deserves to be counted by their government,

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Census will determine more than \$800 billion in federal government funding and will impact the allocation of funds for local schools, roads, hospitals, and safety net programs for our communities, and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 U.S. Census will determine how many representatives each state will send to Congress as well as how congressional districts and redistricting lines will be drawn,

**WHEREAS**, people of color, including 3.7 million African Americans, were undercounted in the 2010 Census, costing our communities billions of dollars in federal funding and representation in Congress and state legislatures,

**WHEREAS**, systemic racism has resulted in people of color being undercounted and underrepresented thereby having less access to capital, educational funding and other resources,

**WHEREAS**, people who are currently incarcerated are often undercounted although they have a right to be included in the counts in their home districts and not the cities/towns where they are incarcerated,

**WHEREAS**, historically people of color, children under age 5, black men, people living in poverty or experiencing homelessness, immigrants and religious minorities have been undercounted, underrepresented and considered "hard to count communities,"

**WHEREAS**, fear of reprisal from participating in the Census is greatest in Black communities, while people of color also have the most to lose by not participating in the U.S. Census,

**WHEREAS**, many people of color are suspicious of the U.S. Census and need to be informed about the complete confidentiality of Census data and how the data is and is *not* used, including that it is illegal to share Census data with other government agencies according to Title 13 of the U.S. Code; Title 13 prohibits a Census Bureau employee from disclosing or publishing any census or survey information that identifies an individual or business,

**WHEREAS**, our church leaders and congregants represent trusted voices and influencers in our communities who can thwart the attempts of some to spread false information about the U.S. Census and try to instill fear in people of color so that they will not be counted,



**WHEREAS**, U.S. Census local field offices have been reduced from 492 to 280, and regional offices have been cut in half from 12 to 6, making the task of counting every person, particularly those in “hard to count” populations, even more difficult,

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Census will be the first high-tech Census with online response options as well as the more traditional options of responding by telephone or filling out and returning a paper questionnaire mailed to homes,

**WHEREAS**, faith leaders are well-positioned and equipped to help educate and mobilize people to be counted and to ensure that every person in their communities is counted in the 2020 U.S. Census, especially those in “hard to count” communities,

**WHEREAS**, ensuring that our children and communities have adequate resources is a matter of economic, racial and social justice as well as a moral responsibility.

## **ACTION**

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls on all churches to be actively engaged in ensuring that every person in the United States is counted in the 2020 Census, including, but not limited to, posting flyers on church websites, bulletin boards and social media outlets; making announcements during church services; joining or forming a church-based Complete Count Committee with guidance from the U.S. Census Bureau; and providing assistance during the count to help people access the internet and fill out their forms.

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention encourages members of churches to apply for jobs to help with the 2020 Census and to become Census “Faith Ambassadors” to help lead local efforts, educate community members, receive training and materials and recruit others to be ambassadors as well, with a goal of reaching “hard to count” communities. We recognize that being counted in 2020 will have lasting impacts that will reverberate through our communities for at least a decade. Therefore, we must stand up and be counted and make sure that every person in our communities is counted as well!

## **PNBC 2019 Resolution on Voting**

**WHEREAS**, the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc., was established in 1961 to give a voice and platform to the social, political and civil rights of all people, especially people of color, rooted in our moral values, and

**WHEREAS**, the hard-fought advances we have made because of the Civil Rights government and other social justice efforts, are now being systematically dismantled and rolled back,

**WHEREAS**, our churches and leaders have been actively involved in organizing, marching, protesting, and otherwise fighting for the right to vote, including giants in our faith and convention like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Dr. Gardner C. Taylor,

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that too many of our ancestors have fought and some died in the struggle for freedom, including in our fight for the right to fully participate in the American democracy by being able to vote,

**WHEREAS**, we know that when we vote, we win and there is a high cost to our communities when we do not register and get out to vote in local and national elections,

**WHEREAS**, we know that in 2016, the number of unregistered Black voters exceeded the margin of victory by the current President in the states of Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Texas,

**WHEREAS**, we acknowledge that in 2016, the Black voter turnout rate declined for the first time in 20 years according to the Pew Research Center<sup>1</sup>, falling to 59.6% after reaching a record high of almost 67% in 2012, leading, in part, to the election of an executive and legislative branch of government that has tried to roll back advances in civil and human rights and has put forth a policy agenda detrimental to our communities,

**WHEREAS**, voter suppression efforts during the 2018 midterm election were aggressive and widespread across the country but most especially in states like Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and Texas, where there were key political races that could have resulted in more positive outcomes for people of color in those states,

**WHEREAS**, voter suppression tactics have been ramped up, including voters unknowingly being purged from registered voter rolls, long lines at polling places with wait times in some reportedly up to 8 hours, new voter ID laws that caused confusion and prevented some from voting, movement of voting locations [polling places] from inner cities to the suburbs, which sometimes presents transportation challenges, and, racist robo calls targeting Black voters and other ongoing voter intimidation and harassment efforts,

**WHEREAS**, voting will determine the future of our communities as we move into the next decade; the impact will be felt in funding for our schools, local businesses, housing, health care, redistricting, and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), and also funding for programs that help our people and communities thrive as well as other issues that directly impact the livelihood and vitality of our communities,

**WHEREAS**, some may try to discourage us from voting, including foreign governments, as they did in the 2016 and 2018 elections,

**WHEREAS**, we recognize that too much is at stake for our children, our families and our communities for us to disengage or stay home and not vote in upcoming elections in 2019 and 2020,

**WHEREAS**, the lower voter registration and turnout rates among millennial and Generation Z voters are a critical challenge we must meet by targeted social media messages promoting the benefits of voting for younger voters with images relevant to their lives.

## **ACTION**

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention urges our member churches and pastoral leaders to engage in wide-ranging efforts to **register, educate, protect, and mobilize** voters who turnout for local elections in 2019 and the presidential election in 2020. We believe that protecting the precious citizen's right to vote is a moral issue; every person created in the image and divinity of God and deserves to have their voice heard through exercising their right to vote. We believe in the promise of voting and affirm that it is the most basic right of every citizen in a democracy to be able to freely cast their ballot without intimidation. We further encourage all PNBC churches to host voter registration events, collaborate with community partners, work with other local churches, use social media outlets and find ways to engage in voter registration, education, protection, and mobilization efforts.

**Therefore, be it further resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention recognizes that there are no perfect candidates, indeed, none of us is perfect. However, we encourage our members to support candidates whose policy positions advance, rather than roll back, social and racial justice as well as those who seek to empower, rather than further disenfranchise, our communities, reflecting our moral values rooted in our faith.

## **Resolution in support of “Christians Against Christian Nationalism” initiative**

***WHEREAS***, the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc. (PNBC), was established to give a voice and platform to social, political and civil rights of all people especially those of color, and

***WHEREAS***, defending religious freedom for all people as a God-given right is at the core of what it means to be Baptist and, specifically, to be Progressive Baptist, and

***WHEREAS***, PNBC has joined with other Baptist denominations in showing commitment to religious freedom for all as a member body of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty (BJC) for more than 40 years, and

***WHEREAS***, BJC is leading a nationwide, ecumenical campaign in 2019 for “Christians Against Christian Nationalism,” gathering signatures from Christians opposed to the damaging political ideology that “seeks to merge Christian and American identities, distorting both the Christian faith and America’s constitutional democracy,”

***WHEREAS***, we agree that Christian nationalism “often overlaps with and provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation,” and

***WHEREAS***, the “Christians Against Christian Nationalism” statement puts forward the following principles with which we agree, that “as Christians we are bound to Christ, not by citizenship, but by faith. We believe that:

- People of all faiths and those with none have the right and responsibility to engage constructively in the public square.
- Patriotism does not require us to minimize our religious convictions.
- One’s religious affiliation, or lack thereof, should be irrelevant to one’s standing in the civic community.
- Government should not prefer one religion over another or religion over nonreligion
- Religious instruction is best left to our houses of worship, other religious institutions and families.
- America’s historic commitment to religious pluralism enables faith communities to live in civic harmony with one another without sacrificing our theological convictions.
- Conflating religious authority with political authority is idolatrous and often leads to oppression of minority and other marginalized groups as well as the spiritual impoverishment of religion.

- We must stand up to and speak out against Christian nationalism, especially when it inspires acts of violence and intimidation—including vandalism, bomb threats, arson, hate crimes, and attacks on houses of worship—against religious communities at home and abroad.” And

***WHEREAS***, we agree that “whether we worship at a church, mosque, synagogue, or temple, America has no second-class faiths.” And

***WHEREAS***, we agree that “As Christians, we must speak in one voice condemning Christian nationalism as a distortion of the gospel of Jesus and a threat to American democracy.”

## **ACTION**

***Be it resolved***, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention recognizes this critical moment for advocacy and involvement among our leaders, clergy, and laypersons in denouncing Christian nationalism as a political ideology at odds with our faith, and

***Therefore, be it further resolved***, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention encourages all in the Progressive Baptist family to add their support and name to this statement at [ChristiansAgainstChristianNationalism.org](http://ChristiansAgainstChristianNationalism.org).

## **Resolution on Supporting Palestine**

### **Background**

#### **I. Who we are and why we came:**

- a. We came to Israel and Palestine, as disciples of the Risen Christ who said “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19 NRSV)
- b. We came on a religious pilgrimage as a joint delegation of leaders from historic black denominations of the National Council of Churches (NCC) in the United States of America and heads of South African church denominations of the South African Council of Churches (SACC).
- c. We came as representatives of African American communities; as descendants of those who survived slavery and Jim Crow and who now work to dismantle the new Jim Crow of mass incarceration and militarization of police in our communities; and as representatives of the South African people who lived through the indignity of over 300 years of dehumanizing dispossession, colonialism, segregation and apartheid.
- d. We came to visit Israel and the Palestinian Territories in the hope of meeting Israeli and Palestinian citizens. We came seeking to better understand the realities on the ground, particularly related to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (East Jerusalem, West Bank, and the Gaza Strip).
- e. We came as people with a shared history of racial segregation, as victims of injustice and as a people who have been dehumanized and marginalized. We came as people who have stood against racism, against anti-Semitism, against Islamophobia.
- f. We came as people standing on the side of justice and equality for all.

#### **II. What we have seen and heard:**

- a. We visited Yad Vashem the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, and we remembered and learned even more about the extent of the horrific industrialization and technological design that Hitler led in an effort to exterminate the Jewish people.
- b. We heard the Jewish perspective that proposes a continuum from the biblical lands of Israel taken from the Canaanites to the present-day political State of Israel.
- c. We shared a Bible study with a Jewish Rabbi and came to more deeply appreciate the hundreds of years of rabbinical scholarship that provide fresh insights for us into the scriptures and their bearing on the current issues in the Israeli religious communities.

- d. We visited Palestinian communities and homes where people are not allowed to have freedom of movement or self-determination.

#### Entrance to the Aida Camp (a.k.a., Aida Refugee Camp)

- e. We visited a refugee camp of displaced persons who still hold the keys to their homes that were confiscated over 70 years ago. We met and heard stories of men, women and children who have themselves been or family members who have been victims of state-sanctioned violence in the form of detention, interrogation, teargassing's, beatings, forced confessions and death.
- f. We met with families who are fighting to keep their homes from being taken over and turned into Jewish settlements and developments.
- g. We heard stories of how Palestinians, within the occupied territory of the Gaza Strip, must contend with a perpetual blockade, the excessive use of force by Israel to subjugate the entire population in collective punishment and the debilitating confinement that renders Gaza one big, densely populated prison.
- h. We heard of the acute shortage of fuel and electricity, seriously affecting daily life and, especially, the provision of health services in Gaza; and the heavily polluted, undrinkable water, which accelerates child mortality rates.
- i. We heard of the impact of fateful cuts by the Trump Administration on humanitarian aid to the Palestinian Authority and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) supports Palestinian refugees.
- j. We saw the patterns that seem to have been borrowed and perfected from other previous oppressive regimes:
  - i. The ever-present physical wall surrounding the Palestinian territory is a political wall reminiscent of the Berlin Wall.
  - ii. Roads have been built through occupied Palestinian villages, on which Palestinians are not permitted to drive; families and their homes are divided by walls and barriers.
  - iii. The heavy militarization of the West Bank is reminiscent of the military occupation of Namibia by apartheid South Africa.
  - iv. The laws of segregation allow one thing for the Jewish people and another for the Palestinians; there was evidence of forced removals; homes abandoned, olive trees uprooted or confiscated and taken over, shops and businesses with doors bolted and welded shut to close out any commercial activities.

- k. We are overawed by the resolve in the hopeless of hope, of ordinary Palestinians who live a grinding and dehumanizing existence.
- l. We heard and appreciated how the leaders of the Palestinian Authority made a conscious decision to forgo armed solutions to the conflict and pray that this will be responded to in kind.
- m. We felt the thick density of Israeli fear that begets hatred and the support for draconian security measures; as well, we felt the Palestinian fear that gives rise to a paradoxical combination of despair and hopeful resolve in a grinding and dehumanizing existence.
- n. We realize that there is little or no space for the Palestinian story to be heard by the ordinary Israelis or for the Israeli story to be heard by ordinary Palestinians.
- o. We met with church leaders and heard the cry of the Christian churches for our ecumenical presence with them – “Do not forget us!” “Pray with and for us!”

#### International observers

- p. We saw and heard both Jewish and Palestinian champions of a just peace that makes for positive, loving and a secure future for both peoples.
- q. We saw international observers who are the assurance that peace for the people of Palestine and Israel is a global concern.

#### **What this says to us:**

- a. As Christian pastors and leaders of denominations and the ecumenical movement, we are humbled by the recognition that, though shrinking, indigenous Christian church communities of Palestine and Israel maintain a continuous presence of the church; whose mission is to evangelize the rest the world and without whom we wouldn't have the salvation we have in Jesus Chris—the one born at Bethlehem and crucified and resurrected at Jerusalem.
- b. Jerusalem is at the heart of these matters, made even more critical by the prospect of it becoming Israel's official capital; and rather than a city be a place of blessing for all peoples.
- c. Yet, even so, we depart this place of our pilgrimage and of deep religious significance with heavy hearts and a forlorn sense that unless something is done by the people of faith for the peace of Jerusalem, the conflict will be the painful heritage of many future generations.



### **III. Therefore, as we depart, here we stand:**

#### **1. In the face of these observations:**

- a. We are dismayed at the conditions in which Palestinian communities live; our hearts cry out to God over the prospect that this political standoff, of which both Palestinians and Israelis have become prisoners, may last long into the future.
- b. We are shocked at what appears to be an unstoppable gobbling up of Palestinian lands almost render the proposed two-state solution unworkable.
- c. We support a two-state solution in which a safe and secure State of Israel will reside next to be safe, secure, viable, and contiguous State of Palestine.
- d. We are cut up by the misery in which poor families in Palestine have to survive; especially those holed up in refugee camps, clutching only the original key and their home ownership papers. We call for the return of refugees and exiles (to their homes).
- e. We are saddened by the increasing hardening of the hearts of the Israeli powers that be to the prospect of a just peace with security and dignity for all.
- f. We are disheartened by the patent divisions among the Palestinian political leaders that make it almost impossible for them to come to a common position and vision of the way to justice, peace and security for all.
- g. We hope elections will soon be held in the Palestinian Territories and that they will be peaceful and without disputes, in order to enhance the unity of the Palestinian people and their positions on a peaceful and prosperous future for all.
- h. We commit to doing all we can as faith leaders to promote a fair understanding of the painful reality of the situation in this place.
- i. We commit to reach out to the Jewish and Moslem communities we can reach, to discuss these challenges and seek the path of healing that is our calling in the Lord.
- j. We pray for a dispensation that will transform the fear that breeds a wall disposition into the openness that multiplies opportunities and provides for justice for all.
- k. We call for a greater presence of international observers as a ministry of presence.
- l. We appeal for tour groups to the Holy Land to make a conscious point of touring both Israel and Palestine.
- m. We appeal for partnerships of congregations around the world with the congregations of Palestine and Israel, to promote linkages and intensify the ministry of presence.

- n. We pray that the impending Israeli elections will result in a government devoted to pursuing peace negotiations and a two-state solution that will provide for a viable, contiguous Palestinian State and a secure Israel.
- o. We pray for the soonest arrival of the day when Jerusalem will be the capital of both a Palestinian and Israeli State at peace with one another, for the blessing of all Abrahamic faiths.
- p. We commit to continuing on this journey together, to work alongside the oppressed Palestinian people; to advocate in our own countries within our governments for actions and policies that will help lead to a resolution of the conflict.
- q. We pray for an end of weapons sales and its proliferation to all engaged in the conflict and, indeed, to the entire region.
- r. We recognize the Kairos nature of this moment – where something has to be done to resolve the conflict, failing to do so, all will stand judged! The different narratives notwithstanding, the justice, equality and human rights issues cry out for attention.

## 2. In Conclusion:

Based on our own histories and struggles as South Africans and African Americans, we are keenly aware of the need to preserve the option of utilizing economic pressure as a means of bringing recalcitrant, dominant forces to the negotiating table. As disciples of the One who died that we all may have life, “and have it abundantly”; we seek to stand in the gap between justice and injustice. We seek to stand in response to the One whose character is to hear the cry of the oppressed. However, we recognize that many of us have been uninformed, while others have been quite aware of the grim situation in this land have been silent and turned a blind eye. We admit that silence in the face of injustice is complicity. Indeed, there were many Christians that were silent and closed their ears against the sound of the deadly apartheid jackboot in the lives of South African blacks. There were whole communities of Christians who not only condoned the untold dehumanization of people through slavery, but who thrived on that evil, and their slavery-sourced head-start has become the silent norm of the social and economic landscape of the world today. Communities and neighborhoods in Europe were silent and complicit to the horror of the Holocaust. We shall not and cannot be silent, for as the Lord says through Isaiah:

*He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene; so his own arm brought him victory, and his righteousness upheld him. Isaiah 59:16 (NRSV)*

We raise our collective hand to be the extension of that arm, through which God’s salvation and righteousness shall be realized even in this troubled land, and “proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor!”

## Delegation Members

BISHOP ZIPHO SIWA, President of the South African Council of Churches (SACC) and the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa

BISHOP M. MALUSI, General Secretary of the South Africa Council of Churches (SACC)

BISHOP DARIN MOORE, Chair of the National Council of Churches, USA and Presiding Prelate of the Mid-Atlantic District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

JIM WINKLER, President and General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, USA

REV. AUNDREIA ALEXANDER, Associate General Secretary for Justice and Peace of the National Council of Churches

MOST REVEREND ARCHBISHOP STEPHEN BRISLIN, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cape Town

BISHOP GEORGE CRENSHAW, Bishop of the Central and Southern Africa District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

THE RIGHT REVEREND DINO GABRIEL, Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Natal

DR. CASSANDRA GOULD, Senior Pastor of Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Jefferson City, Missouri

DR. NOMASONGO MAGWAZA, Executive Director of Ecumenical Service for Socio-Economic Transformation

PASTOR M.G. MAHLOBO, President of the Apostolic Faith Mission of South Africa

BISHOP ZANDILE MYENI, Acting Presiding Bishop of the Ethiopian Episcopal Church

REV. DR. TYRONE PITTS, General Secretary Emeritus of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.

BISHOP MOSA SONO, Founder and Presiding Bishop of Grace Bible Church

BISHOP REV. DR. TERESA E. SNORTON, Presiding Bishop of the Fifth Episcopal District and Ecumenical Officer of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

PRESIDING ELDER LAWRENCE JEFFERSON-SNORTON, Presiding Elder of the Birmingham District, Fifth Episcopal District of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

REV. DR. GINA STEWART, 1st Vice-President of the Lott Carey Foreign Missions

REV. DR. RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, Senior Pastor of the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, spiritual home of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## RESOLUTION ON SUPPORTING PALESTINE

### ACTION

**WHEREAS**, the prophet Isaiah cautioned against coveting the lands and homes of one's neighbors: "Doom to those who acquire house after house, who annex field to field until there is no more space left and only you live alone in the land" (Isaiah 5:8); and

**WHEREAS**, the continuing confiscation of Palestinian land for construction of settlements and the building of a separation wall violates human rights, subverts the peace process, destroys the hope of both Israelis and Palestinians who are working for and longing for peace,

**WHEREAS**, continued and often intensified closures, curfews, dehumanizing check points, home demolitions, uprooted trees, bulldozed fields, and confiscation of Palestinian land and water by the government of Israel have devastated economic infrastructure and development in Gaza and the West Bank,

**WHEREAS**, people in the United States, through their taxes, provide more than \$10 million dollars a day in economic and military aid to the State of Israel each year, which allows for the building of bypass roads and settlements that are illegal according to the Fourth Geneva Convention;

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. affirms the prophetic voice and courageous witness of Palestinian Christians. We support the non-violent struggle and leadership of Palestinian Christians, Muslims, and other faiths in their pursuit of peace and justice for all people;

**Be it further resolved**, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. calls for the end of military occupation of the Palestinian land of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes and the continued building of illegal Israeli settlements

**Be it further resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. calls on the U.S. government to end all military aid to Israel and to work in cooperation with the United Nations to demand that the State of Israel:

1. cease the confiscation of Palestinian lands and water and the demolition of Palestinian homes
2. cease the building of new, or expansion of existing, illegal Israeli settlements, checkpoints and apartheid roads in the occupied Palestinian Territories
3. lift the closures and curfews on all Palestinian towns by completely withdrawing Israeli occupation forces

**Be it further resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc. calls on Israel to immediately end the immoral and inhumane siege of Gaza, open the borders and put an end to the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.:

1. engages in the study of the Kairos document, “A moment of truth, a word of faith, hope and love from the heart of Palestinian suffering” and learn from the voices, witness and faith-in action of Palestinian Christians, found at <http://kairospalestine.ps/index.php/about-us/kairospalestine-document>
2. calls for the organization of Christian solidarity pilgrimages to Palestinian-occupied territories as a way to express our stand against the Israeli occupation system and its backing by American government aid
3. call for the support of the Palestinian local economy by intentionally buying and promoting Palestinian products throughout these pilgrimages

## **Resolution on Immigration**

**WHEREAS**, every human being—every man, woman, and child—from every race, language and nation is a special creation of God, made in His own image; and

**WHEREAS**, God commands His people to treat immigrants with the same respect and dignity as those native-born citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, The Progressive National Baptist Convention affirms the value of all families, with parents being charged with the responsibility of raising their children; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has policies that break up and destroy the family unit; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has no comprehensive Immigration Reform Policy; and

**WHEREAS**, many Immigrants flee their countries to protect their families from warfare, violence, disease, extreme poverty, and other destitute conditions; universally, millions of people leave their homelands to seek a better life in the United States for themselves and their children; and

**WHEREAS**, Scripture is clear on the believer's hospitality towards immigrants, stating that meeting the material needs of "strangers" is tantamount to serving the Lord Jesus Himself; and

**WHEREAS**, there are millions of men, women and children seeking to enter the United States legally, desiring to become good American citizens, often languish at the borders due to the complexity of our Immigration System; and

**WHEREAS**, there are literally thousands of children in detention centers, separated from their parents, sleeping on floors, and lacking adequate food and health care; and

**WHEREAS**, Congress and the President of the United States have refused to take appropriate actions to make our Immigration System more just, humane, efficient and orderly; and

**WHEREAS**, children are dying in detention centers along the border due to neglect and overcrowding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Progressive National Baptist Convention has a spiritual as well as a moral responsibility to speak out against such horrible conditions;

## **ACTION**

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that delegates to the Progressive National Baptist Convention, meeting in Atlanta, GA, affirm the value and dignity of immigrants, regardless to their religion, race, ethnicity, national origin, culture or legal status; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention seeks to impasse upon the Congress of the United States to pass a Comprehensive Immigration Reform Legislation that maintains the priority of family unity, and a pathway to citizenship; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention encourages and works with all elected officials, especially those affiliated with the Convention to do everything in their power to advocate for a just and equitable immigration system; to work with immigrants in their communities to provide resources that will equip and empower our churches and members to reach and serve the immigrant communities; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention encourages our pastors to address immigration issues with their members and other local churches so that we might be able to advocate on behalf of the immigrant community; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention encourages our government to stop its current deportation policies and seek more humane ways of dealing with those who seeking a better life for themselves and their children; and

***Be it resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention calls upon Congress to create a national immigration program with a path to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention advocates for more funding to assist detention centers to meet the physical, material, and health needs of the detainees, especially the children; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention opposes any local or state efforts to deputize local law enforcement agencies to enforce immigration laws on behalf of the federal government, and

***Finally, be it resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention affirms that all immigrants are our brothers and sisters in Christ, they are God's children and we seek to demonstrate to them the love of Christ in tangible ways.

## **Resolution on Global Warming and Climate Change**

**WHEREAS**, the earth's climate is experiencing destabilization and our planet's ability to sustain life as we know it is in Crisis; and

**WHEREAS**, God has given humanity dominion over the earth and has called us to protect, and preserve the earth and all living things; and

**WHEREAS**, human-generated, greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel combustion, exacerbated by unsustainable land use such as deforestation, are a leading cause of Climate Change; and

**WHEREAS**, deforestation and wildfire suppression are making forests more vulnerable to fires and reducing the ability of forests to sequester and store carbon; and

**WHEREAS**, glaciers melting at heightened rates have been and are resulting in rising sea levels, threatening coastal populations and ocean ecology; and

**WHEREAS**, the predicted impact of Climate Change through global warming will have a disproportionate impact on those living in poverty, least developed countries, the elderly, children and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, ninety-seven percent of scientist around the world agree that Climate Change is real and human induced and that must stabilize global temperatures to prevent a dangerous impact to humans, flora, the sea and air; and

**WHEREAS**, we have witnessed significant shifts in precipitation, resulting in droughts and floods around the globe, and the increase in other extreme weather events, like tsunamis and hurricanes, leading to food insecurity and famine and decreased access to clean drinking water; and

**WHEREAS**, there is serious denial of the Global Climate Change phenomenon among some elected officials, politicians and religious leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, unchecked Climate Change will have consequences in the areas of unemployment, human displacements, and an increase in homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, drastic Global Climate Change is a challenge facing the church, the nation and all populations around the world.

## **ACTION**

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention seeks to education and provide leadership to the masses of our people regarding the real dangers of Climate Change; and



***Therefore, be it resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention supports all mandatory measures that reduce the absolute amount of greenhouse gas emissions and, in particular, emissions of carbon dioxide to levels that support and sustain life; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention urges state and local governments to support and invest in energy conservation and, specifically, in sustainable, renewable and affordable systems of transportation; we call on business and industry to lead in responses to Global Climate Change through increased investments in efficient and sustainable energy technologies which are economically accessible and just; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention recognizes the complicity of humans in the damage caused to the earth's climate and other planetary life systems and urge a recommitment to our faith, to be responsible stewards of God's creation, and express profound concern for the pending environmental, economic, and social tragedies threatened by Climate Change to creation, human communities and traditional sacred spaces; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention urges all segments of our church family to address Climate Change in all of the decisions we are called upon to make and all investments in which we engage; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention lends its support for the development and proliferation of renewable sources of energy and fuel, particularly wind and solar; and

***Be it further resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention seeks to help elect persons who understand the real dangers of Climate Changes and will assist faith communities in claiming our rightful role as "Caretakers of the Earth;" and

***Finally, be it resolved,*** that the Progressive National Baptist Convention uses all of its resources to inform, educate, train, enlighten, organize and mobilize its constituencies to engage in concrete actions that will change and make a difference in how Climate Change is addressed.

## **Resolution on Trafficking**

**WHEREAS**, millions of men, women and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking is a crime, a human rights violation, abuse and a form of modern-day slavery; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, deception or coercion to compel someone into labor, servitude or commercial sexual exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, every minor child exploited for commercial sex is a victim of human trafficking, even without force, fraud or coercion; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking targets the most vulnerable, those with disabilities, runaways, youth with sexual identity issues, and youth who are being raised in poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, human tracking, especially sex trafficking, disproportionately affects women and girls; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking generates about \$36 billion each year, with about 25% of those dollars circulating in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the church has a moral and a spiritual responsibility to protect the most vulnerable in our society for sexual exploitation; and

**WHEREAS**, every year, hundreds of thousands of children, mostly girls in early adolescence, are at risk of being trafficked; and

**WHEREAS**, research indicates that the majority of trafficked persons come from vulnerable groups, including undocumented migrants, runaways, at-risk youth, oppressed and marginalized groups, and the poor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Word of God commands us to take care of the most vulnerable, especially the children in our society; and

**WHEREAS**, in the United States, existing anti-trafficking laws have only partially protected victims of human trafficking; and

**WHEREAS**, human trafficking exposes victims to physical, sexual and psychological abuse which incurs serious and complex health consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the faith community has very little knowledge or training on the procedures and practices of sex trafficking.

## ACTION

***Be it resolved***, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention continues its commitment to educate members, the public and elected officials about the perils of Sex Trafficking; and

***Therefore, be it resolved***, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention supports the fight to end human trafficking and especially condemn the ongoing exploitation and profit from sex trafficking of children and youth; and

***Be it further resolved***, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention provides resources to inform and educate our members about the issue of Sex Trafficking and the actions that can be taken to guard against it; and

***Be it further resolved***, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention combats child trafficking by providing training and appropriate resources to ensure our members have skills to safely report suspicious activity to the right authorities, such as The National Human Trafficking Resource Center and other protective agencies; and

***Be it further resolved***, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention addresses the consequences of human trafficking by supporting programs that counteract victims' criminalization and stigmatization, which educate victims about their rights and opportunities, and assist victims in obtaining sustainable employment; and

***Be it further resolved***, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention supports any and all legislation to eradicate human trafficking in the United States and abroad; and

***Be it further resolved***, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention educates members and community leaders about the facts surrounding human trafficking; and

***Be it further resolved***, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention designates the month of January as a time to educate our members and communities about the facts surrounding sex trafficking and provide opportunity for direct involvement; and

***Be it finally resolved***, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention celebrates the value and dignity of all those trapped in trafficking and seeks to free them through the power of the Gospel to a more excellent way.

## **Resolution on the Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.'s Commitment to the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)**

**WHEREAS**, we commit to support SEIU members and workers fighting for their unions across multiple industries and geographies in our *Fight for \$15*; and envision a union movement which will use every opportunity, from the bargaining table to the ballot box, to demand unions for all and drive a unified demand for more workers to have a seat at the table to create family- and community-sustaining jobs;

**WHEREAS**, in 2020 and in all future elections, we will demand that candidates unabashedly champion economic and racial justice and commit to throwing open the doors for every person in this country to have the opportunity to join a union, no matter where they work;

### **ACTION**

**Be it resolved that**, The Progressive National Baptist Convention will support SEIU and stands united with all those across the country fighting to build an inclusive and just world, including the millions united in the Movement for Black Lives who envision a world in which black families live with dignity and safety and all our communities thrive; Dreamers in the immigrant rights movement, fighting for the welcoming, inclusive America they were promised; young leaders of the Sunrise Movement who know we have to take immediate, decisive action to save our planet; the students of Parkland and parents of Sandy Hook, who will not back down from their demands for gun control and safe schools; teachers across the country, using their powerful platform in our communities to win for our children; Native and indigenous peoples across North America, who showed us at Standing Rock what it means to put action behind our values; women across the country, whose bodies and reproductive choices are legislated and criminalized; lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and queer people, who continue to fight for acceptance, inclusion, and visibility; and everyone who yearns for a more just world.

## **Resolution on PNBC's Disaster Preparedness and Response Program**

### **Situational Analysis**

*With increased emphasis on the growing devastations emanating from natural disasters, it has become more and more critical that community organizations, key leadership, and faith based organizations be acutely aware and equipped with the necessary competencies to respond, aid, and assist people impacted during natural disasters.*

**WHEREAS**, natural disasters occur often, with and without warning.

**WHEREAS**, government agencies, such as the Field of Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provide emergency management across the country;

**WHEREAS**, the American Red Cross alleviates human suffering by mobilizing a worldwide network of volunteers and donors;

**WHEREAS**, the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), an association of organizations that mitigate and alleviate the impact of disasters, provides a forum promoting communication, coordination and collaboration; it also fosters more effective delivery of services to communities affected by disaster.

**WHEREAS**, The Progressive National Baptist Convention will, when possible, work in partnership with other faith-based organizations on disaster relief, response and recovery programs and initiatives; some of those organizations include Lott Cary Baptist Foreign Mission Society, AME, AMEZ, and CME churches, the Southern Baptist Convention, Baptist Men, Catholic Services, and Lutheran Ministries.

### **ACTION**

**Be it resolved that**, the Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC):

1. will officially establish disaster training, relief, and recovery plans and operations;
2. will establish a disaster relief alliance and communication link with local, state, regional, and federal disaster preparedness leadership
3. will work to raise funds, identify resources, and provide assistance in disaster response, relief and recovery training, relief and recovery efforts;
4. will develop a disaster preparedness culture at PNBC that underscores the importance of a having a true commitment to disaster response, relief and recovery;
5. will develop disaster awareness and education initiatives to formalize the institutionalization of disaster preparedness training protocols resulting in a well defined, disaster organizational infrastructure;

6. will establish alliances with major disaster preparedness, relief, response and recovery organizations and programs within both the public and private sector;
7. will establish that regional vice-presidents and state presidents coordinate with the PNBC Disaster Preparedness chairperson to develop and implement a formal Disaster Preparedness Program within their respective areas;

**RESOLUTION ON THE  
PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.'S  
SUPPORT OF THE OPEN LETTER OF BLACK WOMEN LEADERS  
AND WOMEN OF COLOR AGAINST RACIST ATTACKS**

*“If I take a finger and touch you, you won’t even know you’ve been tapped. If I take two fingers, you will know that something touched you. But if I bring all of those fingers together in a fist, I can give you a terrible blow!”*

*Dr. Dorothy I. Height*

**WHEREAS**, we are outraged at the series of attacks by the President of the United States on Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Congresswoman Ayanna S. Pressley, and Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib, who are all women of color that were recently elected, representing a new generation of public servants;

**WHEREAS**, we are horrified that the President of the United States would attack these Congressional leaders by name in such a derogatory and incendiary manner at a recent campaign rally that had a primarily white crowd—calling Rep. Omar, who is a Muslim-American, with the throwback racist chant “*send her back*.” Sadly, the crowd was also filled with many white children who joined in the chants, putting these ugly racially charged sentiments into the minds of future generations;

**WHEREAS**, we share the concern and are alarmed that too many political leaders are supporting President Trump’s racist and white nationalist views through their silence, endorsements or excuses. As Black women, who solemnly recognize that 2019 is the 400th anniversary of the first captive Africans landing in Jamestown, VA being forced into free labor to build this country—we know all too well what racism, white nationalism and sexism looks like, sounds like and feels like;

**WHEREAS**, the chant “Go back to where you came from” is one Black people and other people of color have heard our entire lives in this country. To be clear, racism is the belief that one’s racial or ethnic group is superior to another. The blatant and inexcusable racism of the chant implies that Rep. Omar and her colleagues love this country less than the primarily white chanters and therefore should leave;

**WHEREAS**, while President Trump did not start racism and white nationalism in our nation, he has exploited it for his economic and political gain. **Our nation also has never addressed forthrightly America’s historic racial and ethnic divisions.** Yet, Trump has made the problem of racial tension worse because he has failed to be the President of all Americans as he promised, and is required by the Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Trump’s history of inadequately addressing questions of race spans years, from his spreading false “birtherism” claims that America’s first Black president was not born in the United States, calls for the execution of the “Central Park 5” who were later exonerated;

to supporting white nationalists in Charlottesville, VA and attacks on Black athletes kneeling for justice and calling them “SOBs;” to calling African nations “s\_\_t hole” countries and attempting to impose a Muslim travel ban; to the administration’s policy of caging and separating babies from their families at the border; and pushing a “love our country or leave it” call to four elected members of Congress.

These are all examples of the President exacerbating the racial divides in our country. The campaign crowd he encouraged to participate in “send her back,” chants is frightfully reminiscent of crowds whipped up into hateful attacks in the 1950s and 1960s against the Little Rock Nine, against Black men, women, children and others who peacefully marched during the Civil Rights Movement, against the “Bloody Sunday”(Selma to Montgomery) marchers, including severely beaten Civil Rights icon Congressman John Lewis, Activist Amelia Boyton and other marchers, and more recently, against the attacks by neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan and other white nationalist groups against demonstrators in Charlottesville, VA, that resulted in the death of demonstrator, Heather Heyer.

**Hate-filled words have impact on inciting violence**, such as a man, inspired by the President's Words, who sent pipe bombs to high level democratic leaders; the rise in hate crimes, hate groups and school bullying; the calling of police by white people on Blacks for showing up Black; and the random attacks on America's streets against people. Hate is a cancer that spreads and harms the entire body—Americans of every background.

**We unite to declare---Enough is enough!** The time is up for blatant disrespect of Congressional women of color, like Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congresswoman Frederica Wilson, Congresswoman Karen Bass, and other women of the Congressional Black Caucus; and now, four freshmen congresswomen of color (referred to as *The Squad*) and others. Also, the time is up for people of color being the targets and scapegoats for America's failed policies of justice and equality!

**Know that Black women and our allies across generations are putting everyone on notice** that every time these despicably racist and nationalist sentiments are voiced or written, we will rapidly respond, react and confront those responsible at every level. We also caution the news media against affirming, perpetuating, and being complicit with America's growing division by repeating as "breaking news" every insult coming, predictably, from the White House until Americans become numb and tune it out.

**Most Americans are weary of the escalating racial division.** Where are their stories? Where are the stories of people attempting to build bridges of racial healing across the nation? Where are the stories of Black women and other women of color telling their own truths about the impact of overt bigotry and implicit bias? And, where are the stories of leaders of every background calling America to the highest ideals of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights? To the question posed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his book, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community*, we cannot yet say, like many leaders today, "we are better than this!" We are not better than this, but we can be.



**Black women across generations will not be silent.** United with other women of color and their allies, **we are fortified, ready and willing to continue to fight** against racism, sexism, hate and religious intolerance, whenever, wherever and by whomever—**just as our ancestors did.**

*Join us in solidarity,*

**MELANIE L. CAMPBELL**, President & CEO, NCBCP and Convener, Black Women's Roundtable

**DR. BARBARA WILLIAMS-SKINNER**, Co-Chair, National African American Clergy Network

**REV. LEAH D. DAUGHTRY**, Co-Convener, Power Rising

**REV. AUNDREIA ALEXANDER, ESQ.**, Associate General Secretary for Action and Advocacy, National Council of Churches, USA

**BOBBIEJEAN ANDERSON**, CDP E-Board, Former Los Angeles City Human Resources Commissioner

## **Resolution Bail Assistance**

**WHEREAS**, the present bail system is biased against African American suspects, and disproportionately affects the poor; it contributes to mass incarceration and the dehumanizing of America's prison industrial complexes;

**WHEREAS**, the number of people in jail who have not been convicted of a crime has more than doubled since the early nineties; half the people locked in local jails have not been convicted of a crime and are awaiting bail. That number has grown to 65 percent-from about 200,000 inmates to more than 450,000;

**WHEREAS**, African American drivers are stopped more often by police, searched more often by law enforcement officers, and are 2.5 times more likely to be shot and killed by police;

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2017 report by the ACLU and Color of Change, statistics show that African American receive higher bail amounts and are less likely to be released without bail. 70% percent of people in local jails have not been found guilty of a crime. Most of the people (60 percent) in jail are there because they cannot afford bail.

**WHEREAS**, as according to a recent Princeton study:

- Bail for black defendants is, on average, \$10,000 higher than bail for white defendants.
- White defendants are released on their own recognizance more often than black defendants but whites are more likely to be arrested for committing a crime while out on bail.
- Black men and women ages 23 to 39 held in local jails earned a median income of only \$900 and \$568, respectively, in the month prior to being held.
- Black defendants between the ages of 18 and 29 receive higher bail amounts and are less likely to be released on recognizance than were white defendants.
- In Maryland, the \$250 million in bail fees are overwhelmingly paid by black defendants.
- In New Orleans, black residents paid 84% of bail premiums and associated fees.

**WHEREAS**, bail system does not work; it is immoral, racist, unfair and contributes to the racial disparities in the criminal justice system.

### **ACTION**

**Be it resolved**, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention

1. calls on its member churches and affiliate ecumenical organizations to establish an Ecumenical Bail Bond Fund to provide bail for poor people who cannot afford it.

2. calls on its member churches, interfaith leaders and Congress to reform the Bail Bond System.
3. calls for a national summit of churches and social and civic organizations on Bail Reform.

## **Resolution Supporting the Apache Nation**

### **Support for Repeal of Section 3003 of the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, The Southeast Arizona Land Exchange**

**WHEREAS**, the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona (ITAA), an association of 21 tribal governments in Arizona, provides a forum for tribal governments to advocate for national, regional and specific tribal concerns and to join in united action to address these issues; and

**WHEREAS**, the Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona have the authority to act to further their collective interests as sovereign tribal governments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona is charged to support and represent particular Member Tribes on matters directly affecting them upon their request; and

**WHEREAS**, through treaties with the United States, federal laws mandated the allotment of Indian lands and other U.S. takings; tribal governments ceded and hundreds of millions of acres of tribal homelands were taken to help build this nation; and

**WHEREAS**, federal lands are carved out of the ancestral lands of Indian tribes; the historical and spiritual connections of Native Americans to these lands have not been extinguished; some of these lands include the remains of our ancestors, Native Americans continue to pray, hold ceremonies, and gather traditional and medicinal plants on these lands; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States government has legal and moral obligations to provide access to Native Americans and to protect these traditional cultural territories in a manner that respects the cultural, historical, spiritual and religious importance to Indian tribes; and

**WHEREAS**, for more than ten years, Congress considered and rejected legislation titled the "Southeast Arizona Land Exchange and Conservation Act" ("the Land Exchange") that proposed a mandatory conveyance of National Forest Service lands to Resolution Copper, a private mining company owned by foreign mining giants, Rio Tinto PLC (United Kingdom) and BHP Billiton Ltd (Australia), to conduct a massive and unprecedented black cave copper mining project; and

**WHEREAS**, the lands to be conveyed under the Land Exchange lie within the Tonto National Forest and are known as "Oak Flat", which are the ancestral homelands of the Apache, Yavapai, and other Tribes in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, Oak Flat is a place filled with power—a place where Native people go today for prayer, to conduct ceremonies such as Holy Ground and the Apache Puberty Rite Ceremony (often referred to as the Sunrise Dance) which celebrates a young woman's coming of age, to gather medicines, ceremonial items, and to seek and obtain peace and a personal cleansing; and

**WHEREAS**, Oak Flat has played an essential role in Apache religion, traditions, and culture for Centuries; it is a holy site and traditional cultural property with deep tribal religious, cultural, archaeological, historical and environmental significance; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2016, Oak Flat was listed on the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places as a *Traditional Cultural Property*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Land Exchange circumvents federal laws that mandate protection of Native religion and culture and circumvents federal laws that mandate protection the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the ITAA has passed resolutions opposing the Land Exchange and has joined hundreds of Native Nations, Native organizations and others in opposition to the Land Exchange because the proposal will destroy the religious and cultural integrity of Oak Flat and set dangerous precedent for entire Native Indian Country by conveying federal lands that encompass a known Native sacred area to a private company for mining activities; and

**WHEREAS**, over the united opposition by ITAA Member Tribes and other Indian tribes, nations and organizations across the country, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange legislation was attached to the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act and enacted in December 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, under Section 3003, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) must begin implementation of the Land Exchange, which includes conducting an environmental assessment of the Land Exchange and conducting government-to-government consultations with impacted Indian tribes which also includes a mandatory transfer of Oak Flat to the foreign-owned mining corporation, regardless of the results of the environmental assessment and tribal government consultations; and

**WHEREAS**, today, the U.S. Forest Service is working to implement the directives of Section 3003 to conduct an environmental assessment of the Land Exchange; it currently predicts that a draft environmental assessment will be published in the summer of 2019, making the land exchange imminent; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution 0115, adopted on August 28, 2015, the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona previously expressed its support for the repeal of Section 3003 of the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, the Southeast Arizona Land Exchange; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation calling for the repeal of Section 3003 of the FY 2015 National Defense Authorization Act ("To repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015" or the "Save Oak Flat Act") has now been re-introduced in the current 116<sup>th</sup> Congress as H.R. 665 (sponsored by Representative Grijalva), and S. 173 (sponsored by Senator Sanders).

## **ACTION**

**Be it resolved**, that the Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona hereby reaffirm our commitment to the protection of Native sacred and cultural sites located on federal lands; and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Member Tribes of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona urge Congress to pass the Save Oak Flat Act in order to repeal Section 3003 of the FY 2015

National Defense Authorization Act and protect Oak Flat from being given over to foreign mining interests to facilitate a highly destructive copper mine.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

The foregoing resolution was presented and duly adopted at a meeting of the Inter Tribal Association of Arizona, where a quorum was present on **Friday, June 14, 2019**. Submitted by Shan Lewis, President, Inter Tribal Association of Arizona and Vice-Chairman, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe

**RESOLUTION CONCERNING GUN VIOLENCE  
IN THE UNITED STATES**  
**Adopted by**  
**THE PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.**  
**Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Georgia from August 5-9, 2019**

**WHEREAS**, 29 people were recently killed and 45 more wounded by gunfire from semi-automatic, assault-style rifles in El Paso, TX and in Dayton, OH, and

**WHEREAS**, there have been 250 mass shootings so far this year in the United States where three or more persons suffered fatal injuries due to gun violence, and,

**WHEREAS**, the 1994 assault weapons ban prohibited the sale and possession of semi-automatic weapons with a large ammunition capacity, however that ban expired in 2004 and has not been renewed in the last 15-years even though such weapons have regularly been used in mass shootings in this country including Dayton, Ohio where 9 people were killed and 27 wounded in less than one minute, and,

**WHEREAS**, gun violence has reached inside of places of worship killing people while they were praying to God in Islamic mosques, Sikh temples, Jewish synagogues, and Christian churches, and,

**WHEREAS**, gun violence has also erupted in high schools, colleges, shopping malls, movie theaters, baseball fields, music concerts, nightclubs, grocery stores, and other public places where people gather and go about their daily lives, and

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta reports that in 2017, nearly 40,000 persons died as result of gun violence due to homicide, suicide, accidental shootings, domestic violence, and deaths tied specifically to hate crimes<sup>1</sup>, and is on track to exceed that number in 2019, and

**WHEREAS**, many of the shootings occurred at the hands of persons with diagnosed mental illnesses and those who have documented criminal records which should have prevented them from ever having legal access to a gun of any type based upon current gun laws, and

**WHEREAS**, reasonable gun control legislation called the Bi-Partisan Background Checks Act of 2019 has already passed in the United States House of Representatives by a vote of 240 to 190, but Mitch McConnell refuses to bring the bill before the United States Senate because the bill is opposed by the National Rifle Association, and

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<sup>1</sup> Ed Pilkington, "Gun deaths in US rise to highest level in 20 years, data shows", TheGuardian.com, December 13, 2018, and Sarah Mervosh, "Nearly 40,000 people died from guns in U.S. last year, highest in fifty years", NewYorkTimes.com, December 18, 2018

**WHEREAS**, recent acts of gun violence were fueled by racial animosity, a white supremacist ideology, and by a President of the United States whose recent comments attacking members of the United States Congress who are persons of color from New York, Michigan, Minnesota, Maryland, and Massachusetts have resulted in death threats against those legislators<sup>2</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, members of the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States seem more interested in enforcing voter ID laws to suppress the vote among minority groups than imposing background checks to suppress gun violence in the United States.

## **ACTION**

**Be it resolved**, that the Progressive National Baptist Convention goes on public record as extending its sympathies to the victims of the recent mass shootings in El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio, and to their families, and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention calls for the U.S. Senate to immediately act on the Bi-Partisan Background Check Act of 2019 already approved by the House of Representatives, and send it to the President, who should sign it into law; we also call upon Congress and the President to reenact the 1994 assault weapons ban that will remove military style, high-capacity semi-automatics from civilian use; and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention are encouraged to cast their votes at every level of government for candidates willing to embrace comprehensive gun control legislation; and

**Therefore, be it resolved**, that The Progressive National Baptist Convention draws a clear connection between recent acts of gun violence in the United States and the rise of anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim, anti-black rhetoric in the nation's public discourse. PNBC calls upon President Donald Trump, in particular, to end his tweets and taunts that have served to radicalize domestic terrorists in this country driven by a white nationalist agenda.

This resolution is offered in sacred memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a member of PNBC who was, himself, the victim of gun violence driven by racism, hatred, and was killed by a hunting rifle that was used to target and assassinate a human being.

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<sup>2</sup> Alexis Arnold, "The safety of the squad: why these Congresswomen of color stick together", Huffingtonpost.com, July 18, 2019.