# DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA 232nd CONVENTION NOVEMBER 7, 2015

Designated contact person for this resolution:

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## TITLE: Making the Anti-Human Trafficking Action Committee a Commission

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# RESOLVED: Be it resolved that the Anti-Human Trafficking Action Committee be committed as a commission to serve as one of the ministries of the Diocese of Pennsylvania .

EXPLANATION: There are 29 million trafficking victims in the world. The Anti-Human Trafficking Action Committee was begun in March, 2014 as a three-person taskforce which developed the following mission and goals and made the following achievements:

**Mission**

With God’s help, to combat the trafficking of human beings to the best of our ability through education, prevention, and fostering the protection and healing of survivors

**Goals**

1. To gather and organize materials with the purpose of education about human trafficking beginning with ourselves, Diocesan Council, Deaneries and encourage education of parishes
2. To work with other organizations, governmental and non-governmental to spread awareness to schools, law-enforcement, civic and neighborhood organizations and social media
3. To work with appropriate agencies to establish processes for healing of survivors

# **What AHTAC Has Done So Far**

1. Anti-Human Trafficking Action Committee grew from a three-member task force to a committee with 18 members. Three new members, The Very Reverend Koshy Matthews, Gary Russell, and Cindy Hammaker work with their parish, St. Peter’s in Phoenixville, in El Salvador to develop a mission. Two other new members, Joan Wylie and Liz Hulse joined the committee with experience as members of the Chester County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition which works fund-raising and hosting conferences on Anti-Human Trafficking. The Reverend Michael Ruk works with the Save the Girls Project.
2. The Anti\_Human Trafficking Action Committee has been invited to join The Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition and the Diocesan Convention voted that we accept the invitation. Joe Madison and Muriel Rains attended to represent the Diocese of Pennsylvania as was accepted by the Fall, 2014 Diocesan Convention .
3. The committee set a mission and goals as seen above.
4. An immense amount of materials on Human Trafficking including videos, leaflets and posters was gathered and will be stored in the Diocese Resource and Media Center at Christ Church and St. Michael’s, Germantown.
5. A spreadsheet of governmental and non-governmental organizations, listing their contacts, materials and available resources has been put together and is growing.
6. A question and answer Power Point we built is to be used for awareness presentations to deaneries, parishes law-enforcement, schools and other groups.
7. The committee produced an AHTAC display for the Celebration of the Ordination of Women.
8. We hosted a guest speaker at our August, 2014 meeting, Daniel Papa, public school history teacher and witness to the US Senate on award-winning work his students did against Human Trafficking.
9. We planned a Human Trafficking Conference with The Reverend Becca Stevens as keynote speaker and a panel consisting of Victoria Bennett, Executive Director of St. Barnabas Mission of Episcopal Community Services; Hugh Organ, Director of Covenant House and Chairperson of The Philadelphia Anti-Trafficking Coalition; Sister Michelle Loisel, Executive Director of Dawn’s Place and member of PATC; and Mary Defusco, Attorney and trainer of law-enforcement as well as in association of several national projects in the Office of the Public Defender and also a member of PATC.
10. The deaneries were sent cards announcing our desire to make presentations about anti-human trafficking. Four such presentations were made: Wissahicken, Southwark, Brandywine and Bucks Deaneries. Others are currently being scheduled.

Submitted by:

R. Muriel Rains- Chairperson