

**COMMITMENT TO THE THURSDAYS IN BLACKCAMPAIGN; A GLOBAL
MOVEMENT FOR A WORLD WITHOUT GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.**

(Sense-of-the-Assembly)

WHEREAS scripture reminds that we are one body in Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13) and “If one member suffers, all suffer together with it...” (1Corinthians 12:26); and

WHEREAS, one in three women worldwide will face sexual or gender-based violence in their lifetime¹; and

WHEREAS, transgender, non-binary, and gender-diverse people experience high rates of sexual and gender-based violence² (GA-1929, adopted in 2019); and

WHEREAS, approximately twenty-five percent of men in the United States reported some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime³; and

WHEREAS, the World Council of Churches, a global body with which the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is a member, has long been advocating for a world without sexual or gender-based violence through the Thursdays in Black Campaign⁴; and

WHEREAS, “Often black has been used with negative racial connotations. In this campaign Black is used as a color of resistance and resilience;”⁴ and

WHEREAS, several Disciples ministries and global partners are already deeply engaged in the Thursdays in Black Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has already committed to, “encouraging the Church across all its expressions to recognize its responsibility to help prevent domestic violence as it concerns the elderly, spouses, intimate partners, children, and others in the household and the church” (GA-1928, adopted in 2019); and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) resolved in 2019, “that the General Assembly recognizes that all barriers to full equality contribute to a global culture that tolerates violence against women and gender minorities and diminishes their participation in shaping a more just world, and call on all leaders, within the church and within society, to help eliminate those barriers...” (GA-1930, adopted in 2019); and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) meeting in Memphis, Tennessee, July 12-15, 2025, affirms our full commitment to the Thursdays in Black Campaign and advocating for a world without sexual and gender-based violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly commits to education around issues relating to sexual and gender-based violence throughout all the expressions of the life of the church and to have resources available in multiple languages on a website shared by all members of the General Church Thursdays in Black Working Group within disciples.org⁵; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly encourages wearing black on Thursdays as a symbol and reminder of the commitment to further education and engagement in eradicating sexual and gender-based violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly engages the root causes of sexual and gender-based violence by offering educational opportunities on the sociocultural, economic, institutional, legislative, and religious systems that give birth to this violence and/or allow it to persist and helping perpetrators and those complicit confront and deconstruct the patterns that lead to harmful actions and create unsafe environments that foster violence; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly encourages prayer and other meaningful accompaniment with those experiencing sexual and gender-based violence in local communities and around the world, to include partnerships with ministries that help people escape from human trafficking and empower them through rescue, refuge, and rehabilitation.

Disciples Overseas Ministries
Disciples Women's Ministries
Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>

² <https://www.nsvrc.org/blogs/resource-online-magazine/areas-improvement-sexual-assault-service-providers-when-working>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/intimate-partner-violence-sexual-violence-and-stalking-among-men.html>

⁴ <https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black>

⁵ <https://disciples.org/>; <https://www.globalministries.org/>