



ALL SAINTS CHURCH

All Saints Church
Resolution Against the Use of Torture

Adopted by the Vestry of All Saints Church, Pasadena, on March 23, 2010

Whereas, one of our core values as Christians is our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all persons; and

Whereas, as Episcopalians, we affirm in our Baptismal Covenant that we will, with God's help, "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being"; and

Whereas, according to the United Nations Convention Against Torture, the term "torture" means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from that person or a third person information or a confession, punishing that person for an act s/he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing that person or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official or unofficial capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions; and

Whereas, All Saints Church stands for justice for all people; and

Whereas, torture violates the basic dignity of the human person, degrades everyone involved – from policy-makers to perpetrators to victims – and contradicts our nation's most cherished values,

Therefore be it resolved that the Vestry of All Saints Church affirms torture is inherently wrong, immoral, illegal and counterproductive because it is designed to break the human soul and the human body; and stands against the use of torture without exception or condition, by any nation or any group or individual.