

Resolved, That the 204th General Assembly (1992) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

1. registers its deepest concern for the suffering of these women and its outrage at this policy of the Japanese government during World War II;

2. lifts our corporate and personal prayers for God's loving arms to comfort and heal the physical, emotional, and psychological wounds suffered by these women;

3. affirms the struggle of the Japanese and Korean women that has resulted in a recent public statement by a Japanese government official of apology for these practices;

4. supports the women of Korea and Japan as they urge the emperor of Japan and the government of Japan to make financial reparations to survivors and all children of "comfort women" to be used for services to them and for education to end sexual violence;

5. monitors this issue while it is being adjudicated in the Japanese courts and pledge solidarity to work with women in Korea and Japan in whatever steps are necessary to gain justice, reconciliation, and healing;

6. supports the women of Korea and Japan as they urge the Japanese government to encourage and assist citizens to testify about this issue without threat of reprisal; to erect an appropriate monument in Japan to honor all "comfort women" and educate future generations; and to revise all textbooks to include reference to this issue as a part of its colonial oppression against the Korean people; and

7. directs the Stated Clerk to communicate this action to partner churches and ecumenical bodies in Korea and Japan; the governments of the United States, Japan, and Korea, including their respective missions to the United Nations; the Korean Council for Women Drafted for Sexual Service for Japan; the World Council of Churches; and the Christian Conference of Asia.

(Mission priority or goal most significantly affected: Doing Justice.)

C. **Overture 92-84. On Supporting the "Peace and Dignity Journeys of 1992"—From the Presbytery of Winnebago.*

That the overture is adopted.

(Mission priority or goal most significantly affected: Being Peacemakers.)

D. *Commissioners' Resolution 92-23. On Supporting Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Policy Against Discrimination.*

That the resolution is adopted.

E. *Commissioners' Resolution 92-48. On Supporting Legal Reforms and Redress for Conscientious Objectors.*

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(Mission priority or goal most significantly affected: Doing Justice.)

A. Narrative

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B. Response

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That the

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Responses to
Overture 92-
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pp. 712-713

That the

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responses to referrals dealing with pornography could be considered in their proper context.

(No action was required by the assembly.)

III. Racism

A. Overture 92-74. On Addressing Racism, Racial Violence, and Racial Justice in the Church—From the Presbytery of National Capital.

That the overture is not adopted, with comment:

The intent of this overture was approved by the 203rd General Assembly (1991) as recommended by the Racial Ethnic Ministry Unit in its report and by its recommendations 35.012-.034. However, all of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presbyteries and synods are strongly urged to reexamine and readdress the approved 1991 Task Force Report on Racial Violence.

(Mission priority or goal most significantly affected: Doing Justice.)

B. Overture 92-85. On Racism Against Asian and Other Immigrants—From the Presbytery of New York City.

That the overture is not adopted, with comment:

The comment is found in the response to *Overture 92-74* (III. A).

(Mission priority or goal most significantly affected: Doing Justice.)

IV. Other Matters

A. *28.001-.003, Special Committee to Document the History and Contributions of All-Black Governing Bodies, I. Narrative, Item A. Assigned Responsibilities, Item B. Accomplishments, II. Recommendation, Special Committee to Continue and Make Final Report in 1993.

That the recommendation is adopted.

(Financial implications: Approval of this recommendation will require provision of \$12,000 and may increase per capita.)

(The proposal addresses ecclesiastical matters and does not relate to mission goals.)

B. Overture 92-86. On Registering Concern of the Japanese Government's Policy of Using Korean Women as "Comfort Women" During World War II—From the Presbytery of New York City.

In response to this resolution, that the 204th General Assembly (1992) adopts the following resolution:

Whereas, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has had more than one-hundred years of relationships with the Presbyterian churches in Korea; and

Whereas, the Presbyterians in Korea are among those who have provided leadership in the struggle for justice and human rights; and

Whereas, the people of Korea suffered under harsh and oppressive Japanese colonial rule from 1910 until the end of World War II in 1945. During that time there were many acts of oppression and subjection of the Korean people. But no single example of repression was more severe, more massive, or more ongoing than the forcible drafting of Korean girls (12-18 years old) for sexual service to Japanese troops throughout the Pacific, where they were known as "Comfort women" (or girls). This policy of the Japanese government lasted from 1937 until the end of the war in 1945 and also included women from other countries occupied by the Japanese military; and

Whereas, from 100,000 to 200,000 Korean girls were taken from their homes and schools and forced to have sexual relations with an average of 30 to 40 military personnel daily. The results of this inhuman treatment were beatings and torture of those who resisted, widespread illness, abortions, death, and massive abandonment of the worn-out women at the time of the Japanese defeat; and

Whereas, this has been hidden from history by the shame of the women and the reluctance of the Japanese government to discuss this issue and grant reparation to the women. However, in recent times, before they die, the women and other eyewitnesses have begun to speak out about this outrage. Court hearings are being held in Japan during June 1992; and

Whereas, Japanese Christian women, through the National Council of Churches of Japan, Women's Committee, have officially condemned this inhuman governmental policy; and we hereby express our gratitude to the concerned women in Japan for their commitment to work for justice, reconciliation, and healing, particularly on this issue; and

Whereas, we approach this issue with humility, acknowledging that we, as United States citizens, are not guiltless in the exploitation of Asian women, including those from Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam. We pledge our solidarity to work with women in Korea and Japan in this struggle for justice, reconciliation, and healing; and

Whereas, "they have healed the wound of my people lightly, saying, 'Peace, peace,' when there is no peace," (Jer. 6:14). The main purpose of this overture is to establish peace that has been absent for fifty years. Only by recognizing the sins in our past history, confessing them before God and to the victims, can true peace and reconciliation be achieved. (See Study Paper on Family Violence, passed by the 203rd General Assembly (1991).); therefore, be it