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1 **Resolution in Support of the Episcopal Diocese of New York India Network Resolution 2017**

2 **Submitted by Dr. Rojah Singh and The Very Rev. Dahn Gandell**

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4 **Resolved, That** the 86th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester is in full support of the
5 Episcopal Diocese of New York’s India Network Resolution; and be it further

6 **Resolved,** That, The Episcopal Diocese of Rochester join with Episcopal Diocese of New York in sending a
7 Memorial with respect to caste and descent-based discrimination (as in the Adopted Resolution of the
8 Diocese of New York) to the Deputies and Bishops of the Episcopal Church to be assembled at the 79th
9 General Convention; and be it further

10 **Resolved:** The 86th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester directs the Secretary of Convention
11 to forward copies of this resolution to both the Secretaries of both the Episcopal Diocese of New York
12 and the General Convention of the Episcopal Church.

13 **Explanation**

14 We have been blessed by the witness of both Roja and Prince Singh and their work for those who are
15 victimized by the caste system of India. We have been further blessed by a year of conversation and
16 reading under the rubric of *Seeing the Face of God in Every Person*.

17 We welcome the leadership of the Diocese of New York in their resolution: **Against Caste-and Descent-**
18 **Based Discrimination 2017**

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20 **TEXT OF THE RESOLUTION:**

21 Resolved: that the 241st Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York send the following
22 Memorial
23 to the Deputies and Bishops of the Episcopal Church to be assembled at the 79th General
24 Convention:

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26 “Resolved: that the 239th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York condemn the human
27 rights violation of discrimination based on caste and descent wherever it occurs and support its
28 elimination particularly as it occurs within the United States both within and outside the Church;
29 and further

30 Resolved: that the 239th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York call on congregations
31 in the Diocese of New York to acknowledge the fundamental injustice of caste-and descent-
32 based discrimination, a clear human rights violation; and further

33 Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York engage in legislative advocacy and education
34 to raise awareness of the pervasive nature of this human rights violation; and further

35 Resolved: that the Episcopal Diocese of New York charge the India Network with the preparation
36 of an e-mail document outlining caste-and descent-based discrimination and the atrocities
37 associated with it, such document to be distributed to all Diocesan parishes before the next
38 Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

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40 **Explanation**

41 Many of our sisters and brothers in this Diocese have come to us from India. They bring us
42 personal witness to an issue currently prominent in our news media: Many of God’s children,

43 especially women and bearers of alternative identity and preference, are subjected to horrific
44 violence. Among the victimized are people who have for millennia lived under caste-and
45 descent-based discrimination. These people have chosen the name Dalit for themselves. The
46 Dalit population worldwide is estimated to number more than 260 million people.
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48 Ours is a concern shared increasingly on an interfaith level especially by those in our churches,
49 mosques, and temples who advocate for oppressed minorities everywhere. Because of our long-
50 term relationship with our Christian partners in India, members of the India Network have
51 represented our Diocese at two events in our Nation's capital in support of the International
52 Commission for Dalit Rights. The first was a march to the White House in the spring of 2014 and
53 the second was an anti -caste-and descent-based conference in March 2015.”