

### Mentoring at Risk Youth

Purpose: to encourage and provide mentoring to educate and protect vulnerable youth who may be at risk for Human Trafficking

WHEREAS, Human Trafficking is a worldwide issue and a growing problem in the United States;

WHEREAS, Many youths may not have developed a defense mechanism or have a trusted adult interested in them to protect them against the lure of predators; and

WHEREAS, The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) has a presence in most of the dioceses in the United States and has a leadership program including a mentoring component and an Anti Human Trafficking Project that includes mentoring

RESOLVED, That NCCW members become familiar with the Anti Human Trafficking Project of the NCCW and become informed about the potential risk of human trafficking in their local areas;

RESOLVED, That NCCW affiliates consider implementing a program such as, *"Steps to Mentor At-Risk Youths," found on the NCCW website*, to deter vulnerable youth from being trafficked; and

RESOLVED that NCCW members encourage and participate in youth mentoring programs that build trust and establish relationships that reflect our Gospel values.

### Treatment of Those With Mental Disorders

Purpose: To bring public awareness to the difficulties faced by those with mental disorders and their families as they maneuver the legal, medical and social systems seeking help

WHEREAS, The general population is undereducated concerning mental disorders and

WHEREAS, Several mental health facilities have been closed, leaving patients with mental disorders with limited access to care and safe living space;

WHEREAS, A person with a mental disorder accused of a minor crime may be placed in the general population in jail; and some law enforcement agencies may not have officers trained to deal with persons with mental disorders; and

WHEREAS, The National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) lives the Gospel message of love and understanding;

RESOLVED, That NCCW members pray for those with mental disorders and the well-being of all; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NCCW members become informed about the plight of the those with mental disorders and their families by researching and reading books such as *"Crazy : A Father's Search Through America's Mental Health System"* by Pete Earley; and be it further

RESOLVED, That NCCW members invite speakers from local NAMI groups (National Alliance on Mental Illness, [www.NAMI.org](http://www.NAMI.org)) a grassroots advocacy group or Catholic Charities, or a similar group, representing families of persons affected by mental disorders in the United States; and

RESOLVED, That NCCW members encourage law enforcement agencies to participate in a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program, to improve responses to people in crisis.

### Building our Future

Purpose: To build the future of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) by promoting high school and college membership around the country.

WHEREAS, NCCW's Mission states that all Catholic women will be provided spirituality, leadership, and service opportunities through membership in the NCCW, therefore, it is incumbent upon the NCCW to offer membership to young women to ensure their access to the NCCW prayers and programs; and

WHEREAS, the NCCW has a program to enroll young women as members through the NCCW High School and College membership program; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that NCCW will support, empower and educate high school and college women to grow their spirituality and service and become active leaders in our councils; and encourage member participation in the established NCCW High School and College program and its protocol; and  
RESOLVED that our local councils establish and maintain a link between current members and newly formed high school and college affiliates through encouragement and mentoring.

#### THE ENVIRONMENT -PLASTICS

Purpose: Reduce the use of plastic and increase recycling of plastics

WHEREAS, Most of the world has become part of what our Holy Father, Pope Francis calls, “a throwaway culture” and in the last 70 years, this throwaway culture has resulted in the replacement of other materials with plastic that is either difficult or impossible to degrade in nature;

WHEREAS, Despite efforts to get people to recycle plastics, we now face a crisis of plastic waste in our oceans with the addition of nearly 10 million tons per year so as to cause damage to marine life and the creation of “plastic soup” at each of the 5 marine gyres in the world as well as unprecedented addition of plastic refuse to landfills; and

WHEREAS, Less than 50% of the 1 million plastic bottles containing drinking water or sodas bought per minute around the world are recycled; therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the members of the NCCW advocate for reduction in the use of single use plastic items to include drinks bottles and that the members of the NCCW themselves eliminate or reduce their use of single use plastic items;

RESOLVED that the members of the NCCW advocate for an increase in the re-use/recycling of single use plastics;

RESOLVED that the members of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) continue to advocate and work for the provision of safe, clean drinking water that is freely available to all persons in all areas of the world; and

RESOLVED, That the members of the NCCW unite in prayer so that we may be good stewards for the preservation of the environment of the Earth given us by the Creator.

The above resolutions were adopted on 31 August 2018 at the Business Meeting of the 2018 National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA.