



# National Catholic Student Coalition

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45 Lovett Avenue † Newark, DE 19711  
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NCSC/RES/2002[1]

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## RESOLUTION - Solidarity with Africa

### Whereas:

- The National Catholic Student Coalition (NCSC) is committed to participating actively in the Roman Catholic Church and to representing U.S. Catholic students in national and international forums, and
- The NCSC stands firmly against any attack on the dignity and inherent worth of all human life.

### Acknowledging:

- The call of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in the document *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* (November 14th, 2001) to live a "vocation of solidarity with the Church and peoples of Africa"
- The beauty of the peoples and cultures of Africa
- The lasting negative effects of colonialism, racism, and the transatlantic slave trade on the peoples of Africa

### Aware:

- Of the seriousness' of the HIV/AIDS crises in Africa which along with "other communicable diseases threaten to wipe out as much as one-quarter of the populations of some African countries over the next twenty years;" [1] and
- That many of the world's conflicts take place in Africa.

### Deeply Concerned:

- That "45 percent of Africans live in poverty;" and [2]
- That the United States has given less aid to Africa "as a percentage of its total aid budget, than nearly all other donor countries" and that "[c]ontrary to popular opinion, U.S. commitment to development assistance ranks the lowest as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) among the developed nations." [3]

### In the Spirit of:

- St. Paul who reminds us that we are "one body in Christ" (Romans 12:5)

### Recalling:

- The NCSC's position paper calling for the "Cancellation of World Debt" (2001); and
- How we, as the NCSC are challenged by the Church's teaching of a preferential option for the poor.

### Be it resolved that:

- We, the members of the NCSC express our solidarity with the peoples of Africa especially with the members of the Pax Romana (ICMICA and IMCS) and the IYCS. [4]



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## **We call upon the US Government to:**

- Actively participate in the United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development. [5]
- To continue to work for the cancellation of debt especially to countries in Africa; and to
- Strongly increase Official Development Assistance to Africa.

## **Suggestions for action:**

- Collaborate with other organizations such as Catholic Relief Services to reflect and act on issues relating to Africa.
- Work with the IMCSC and IYCS movements in Africa to highlight our similarities.
- Organize events and prayer services that raise awareness and encourage action on Africa issues.

*Sponsored by: Kevin Ahern, 2001 NCSC International Relations & Communications  
Chairperson*

*Presented and accepted by the NCSC at the 18th annual leadership conference, in Minneapolis,  
MN December 2001*

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[1] USCCB, *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* , November 14th, 2001

[2] Catholic Relief Services "What do you know about Africa" from the packet "Africa Rising Hope and Healing" Summer 2001

[3] USCCB, *A Call to Solidarity with Africa* , November 14th, 2001

[4] The NCSC is the US Federation of the International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS-Pax Romana). Through this membership the NCSC is connected to the International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs (ICMICA-Pax Romana) and the International Young Catholic Students (IYCS). All three have strong presences in Africa.

[5] Monterrey, Mexico, March 18-22, 2002

[6] World Development Report 2000/20001: *Attacking Poverty.*” World Bank. Washington D.C. 2000

[7] “A Jubilee Call for Debt Forgiveness: A Statement by the Administrative Board of the United States Catholic Conference.” April 1999.