



LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES (MANDATORY SENTENCING)

NINTH ASSEMBLY, UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

RESOLUTION 00.21.02



The Assembly resolved:

in the spirit of this year of Jubilee:

- a) to record its:
 - (i) opposition to Mandatory Sentencing in any jurisdiction and under any condition;
 - (ii) desire that all Australians have access to fair and discretionary sentencing;
 - (iii) disappointment that Indigenous Australians are often disadvantaged within the criminal justice system;
 - (iv) expectation that sentencing of juveniles occur within the parameters set by the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty;
 - (v) expectation that Australia fulfil its obligations under the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
 - (vi) expectation that Australia will meet the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners 1955;
 - (vii) support for a restorative and rehabilitative justice system within Australia;
- b) to call on the Australian Government to use both advocacy and its legislative authority to outlaw the practice of mandatory sentencing within this nation;
- c) to convey the beliefs outlined in (a) and (b) to the Prime Minister, Leader of the Opposition, the Leaders of other parties in the Senate and House of Representatives;
- d) to convey the beliefs outlined in (a) and (b) to all State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers and Leaders of other parties within these jurisdictions.