

Resolution 015

A Resolution in support of the recognition of an official student organization that provides resources for LGBT+ students

Sponsored by: Senator Marjan Koffa

Cosponsored by: Senator Matt Finley

Whereas,

The University's mission statement upholds that "The Catholic University of America is committed to being a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ as handed on by the Church. Dedicated to advancing the dialogue between faith and reason, The Catholic University of America seeks to discover and impart the truth through excellence in teaching and research, all in service to the Church, the nation, and the world." The recognition of the dignity of all human lives is intrinsic to this mission and necessary in order for members of the CUA community to engage in dialogue and seek truth.

Whereas,

The Catholic Church states in the Catechism of the Catholic Church "The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. This inclination, which is objectively disordered, constitutes for most of them a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided. These persons are called to fulfill God's will in their lives and, if they are Christians, to unite to the sacrifice of the Lord's Cross the difficulties they may encounter..." [2358]

Whereas,

Pope Francis has acknowledged The Church's past neglect of Her pastoral duty by saying, "'I believe that the church not only should apologize to the person who is gay whom it has offended," he added, "but has to apologize to the poor, to exploited women, to children exploited for labor; it has to ask forgiveness for having blessed many weapons."

Whereas,

Catholic Social Teaching highlights: the life and dignity of every human person, a call to community and participation, solidarity, a requirement to protect the poor and vulnerable, and the rights and responsibilities of the Catholic Church to stand against discrimination and injustice against any person.

Whereas,

The USCCB in their statement, *To Live in Christ Jesus*, wrote, "Some persons find themselves through no fault of their own to have a homosexual orientation. Homosexuals, like everyone else, should not suffer from prejudice against their basic human rights. They have a right to respect, friendship, and justice. They should have an active role in the Christian Community ..."

Whereas,

Students on our campus have been bullied, made to feel unwelcome, and have even decided to leave the University due to their sexual orientation and gender identity.

Whereas,

There are a several Catholic universities that have on their respective campuses LGBT+ groups, resource centers, and pastoral plans that work within the frame of the Catholic Social Teaching and are used as an instrument to break down stigma and stereotypes on their University's campus.

Be it enacted that,

The Student Senate, acting in their capacity as representatives of the student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby resolves that an organization endowed with the following purposes:

To facilitate compassion, respect, and understanding of and towards LGBT+ students; to act, in a non-political capacity that is in keeping with existing campus policy and federal law and is in unity with the Catholic Church's teaching on human dignity, as an advocate for the proper representation and equal treatment of LGBT+ students on campus; to participate in and help facilitate dialogue at the intersection of Catholic teaching and the issues of sexuality and gender,

should be recognized as an official student organization at The Catholic University of America

