

KENTUCKY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Policy Statement on Assault Weapons

Adopted at the 42nd Annual Assembly, October, 1989

As Christians we are called by our Lord to be Peacemakers, to settle our personal and interpersonal conflicts by non-violent means.

As Christians we are called by our Lord to respect the rights and opinions of others. However, we are concerned about the easy access to and abuse of those guns whose purpose far exceeds a hunting or sporting use (i.e. AK 47 and MC II).

Assault weapons are being used to commit crimes and to attack police and other citizens. Assault weapons have become instruments by which ordinary people act out their aggressions.

On September 14, 1989, at Standard-Gravure in Louisville, an AK 47 was used to kill 9 people and seriously wound 12 more. We seek to make a healthy and constructive response.

As people of faith we stand with the victims of violence. We seek an end to the senseless suffering and death resulting from the availability of assault weapons. We urge our elected representatives to exert moral leadership by making every effort to protect society from these dangerous weapons.

We seek to challenge the existing situation of easy access to assault weapons in our communities and across state lines.

We recognize that legislation will not solve the underlying moral, social and economic conditions that create a climate where these weapons are used. But such action will promote public safety. Therefore, we call for effective legislation and regulations to ban the production, sale and possession of assault weapons.

The Kentucky Council of Churches urges the United States Congress to adopt legislation which will ban the import, domestic production, sale and possession of such weapons.

The Kentucky Council of Churches urges all church leaders to communicate this resolution in such a way that local churches and governing bodies can more effectively study and address this grave moral issue.

The Kentucky Council of Churches encourages all person who support this resolution to communicate their views to the media and their elected officials.