

Social Statements

“This church shall develop social statements ... that will guide the life of this church as an institution and inform the conscience of its members in the spirit of Christian liberty.” (ELCA social statement, “[The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective](#)”)

ELCA social statements are teaching and policy documents that provide broad frameworks to assist us in thinking about and discussing social issues in the context of faith and life. They are meant to help communities and individuals with moral formation, discernment and thoughtful engagement with current social issues as we participate in God’s work in the world. Social statements also set policy for the ELCA and guide its advocacy and work as a publicly engaged church. They result from an extensive process of participation and deliberation and are adopted by a two-thirds vote of an ELCA churchwide assembly.

The description and procedures for developing and adopting these social teaching and policy documents are established by “[Policies and Procedures of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Addressing Social Concerns](#).”

ELCA Social Statements:

Faith and Society

Social Messages

Social Statements

Abortion

Caring for Creation

Church in Society

Criminal Justice

Death Penalty

Economic Life

Education

Genetics

Health Care

Human Sexuality

Peace

Race, Ethnicity and Culture

Sexism

Addressing Social Concerns

Current Social Writing Projects

Moral Deliberation

Social Policy Resolutions

Study Guide

- [Church in society / Iglesia en la sociedad](#) (1991)
- [The church and criminal justice / La iglesia y la justicia penal](#) (2013)
- [The death penalty / Pena de Muerte](#) (1991)
- [Economic life / Vida economica](#) (1999)
- [Education / Educación](#) (2007)
- [Genetics](#) (2011)
- [Health and health care / Salud y asistencia sanitaria](#) (2003)
- [Human sexuality / La sexualidad humana](#) (2009)
- [Peace / Por la paz](#) (1995)
- [Race, ethnicity and culture / Raza, etnicidad y cultura](#) (1993)
- [Sexism / Sexismo](#) (2019)



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