

**RESOLUTION OF UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH OF HOPE
TO SUPPORT “THE CONFLICT-FREE INITIATIVE”
& STOP FINANCING GENOCIDE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO¹**

Whereas, the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (“DRC”) has claimed nearly 6 million civilian lives since 1994;

Whereas, 50% of the mines in the eastern DRC, the conflict’s center, are controlled by armed militia groups who use control over the country's rich mineral deposits as a source of funding;

Whereas, the militias in the DRC compete for access to these minerals, exploiting the land and devastating local populations;

Whereas, the DRC is one of the leading producers of tantalum (coltan) which is found in 60% of computers and other electronic applications worldwide;

Whereas, up to 30% of the global supply of tantalum is mined in the DRC;

Whereas, the DRC militias sell coltan and other illicitly obtained minerals to world suppliers;

Whereas, the funding from the minerals contributes directly to the approximately 45,000 deaths per month from violence inflicted by armed groups in order to maintain control of the mines and resources;

Whereas, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act of 2010 mandates that if companies use minerals from the DRC they must file a report with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission describing what they have done to ensure the source of the minerals;

Whereas, *Enough Project*, a campaign to end genocide and crimes against humanity, has rated major electronics companies based on their proactive steps to trace and audit their supply chains, exercise leadership in industry-wide efforts, and help the DNC develop a clean minerals trade;

Whereas, ULCH purchases computers, printers, copiers, and phones, and along with other institutions, can reduce the funding of DNC militias by encouraging companies to implement supply-chain responsibility policies and practices;

Whereas, resolution and action by ULCH will add to the voice of concerned people for conflict-free products and social responsibility of vendors to help resolve the conflict in the DRC;

Therefore, be it resolved that ULCH support the efforts of companies to purchase conflict-free minerals and support transparent supply chains in the DRC;

Before purchasing products with electronic components, ULCH will first consider purchasing from the companies at 70 points or higher listed on the most current *Enough Project* Conflict Minerals Company Rankings², that have taken proactive steps to trace and audit their supply chains, pushed for conflict-free minerals legislation, and exercised leadership in industry-wide efforts to help Congo develop a clean trade.

To help raise public awareness, ULCH will spread the word to our members, our synod, other organizations, associates, friends and family about the human rights violations occurring in Congo and the means for us to reduce our contribution to that genocide by responsible sourcing.

Approved by ULCH Vision and Governance Board on May 14, 2019.

¹ Information based on materials from Enough Project, www.enoughproject.org, and World Without Genocide, <http://worldwithoutgenocide.org/advocacy/conflict-free-campus-initiative>

² See https://enoughproject.org/demandthesupply?utm_source=PR&utm_campaign=Rankings2017