

SPEAK OUT ON MORAL AND SOCIAL ISSUES

SERIES: TAKING A STAND

INTRODUCTION

In early 2008, General Shaw Clifton established the International Moral and Social Issues Council (IMASIC), as part of the International Social Justice Commission. IMASIC exists to advise the General on issues of personal, organisational, social and international morality and ethics on which The Salvation Army may have a responsibility to express an opinion.

Members of IMASIC are appointed by the Chief of the Staff and membership regularly rotates. The council currently comprises seven women and eight men; ten officers and five soldiers from 15 territories and commands – from Rwanda to Australia, Bolivia to Norway. Dr James E. Read (Chair) and Lieut-Colonel Dean Pallant (Secretary) have been on the council since 2008. Commissioner Marie Willermark (Vice-chair) joined in 2017. Dr Roland Stettler, Corps Sergeant-Major at Basel Corps, Switzerland, is also a founding member.

During the past 10 years, IMASIC has met twice a year. The main output has been 15 International Positional Statements (IPSs), with more in the process of development. All currently approved IPSs can be downloaded from salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips or salvationarmy.org/ihq/positionalstatements.

Each statement is crafted upon principles derived from The Salvation Army's understanding of Scripture, Christian wisdom and

experience gathered throughout history, as well as its own social and evangelistic ministry. IPSs provide Army leaders and Salvationists with a coherent knowledge base and The Salvation Army's official view that can be used in their engagement with global social and moral issues. Over the next couple of years, *The Officer* will feature the work of IMASIC and engage readers with the realities of 'taking a stand' for Christ in a complex, changing and challenging world. In each article three people (mainly IMASIC members) will consider an IPS in the light of the realities and challenges they face in their culture, both within The Salvation Army and in society at large.

The General has approved the following International Positional Statements:

- Abortion
- Alcohol in Society
- Ancestral Worship
- Caring for the Environment
- Corruption
- Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide
- Gambling
- Human Trafficking
- Peacemaking
- Pornography
- Racism
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Sabbath Observance
- The Salvation Army and the State
- Suicide Prevention
- The Use of Power

International Positional Statements can be downloaded from salvationarmy.org/isjc/ips in English, Spanish and French. Other language versions are uploaded when translations are completed.



IMASIC at Sunbury
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