

**ITEM H.111
FOR ACTION**

<i>FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>					
	A. Finance		E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance		J. Board Nominating & Governance Subcommittee
	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation		P. Plenary
	C. Leadership		G. Audit		
	D. Worshiping Communities	X	H. Executive Committee		

Subject: Comment on Recommendations 3 and 4 of the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy “Resolution on Sexual Violence within the U.S. Military Services: A 2014 Human Rights Update”

“Direct the Office of Public Witness and encourage Presbyterians generally to support the development of preventive, restorative, and where necessary punitive measures to end the problem of sexual abuse in the U.S. military; and

Direct the Office of Public Witness and the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, and encourage Presbyterians generally, to support the implementation of policies to prevent sexual violence by U.S. and other military personnel engaged in joint jurisdictions such as United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping and North American Treaty Organization (NATO), both within these forces and among vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeking civilian populations.”

Recommendation: That the Executive Committee forward the following comment on Recommendations 3 and 4 of the “Resolution on Sexual Violence within the U.S. Military Services: A 2014 Human Rights Update,” to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board with a recommendation to approve and forward to the 221st General Assembly (2014).

Comment:

The Office of Public Witness has engaged in advocacy that seeks to reduce violence against women and girls, provide increased support and services for victims of relationship violence, and various other measures that will primarily benefit civilian victims of crime. In particular, the Office of Public Witness has been active in advocating for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWAA). In the context of recent Congressional debates, PC(USA) General Assembly did not have policy that adequately speaks to the role of the military chain of command in the prosecution of military sexual assault. Consequently, the Office of Public Witness remained silent on the bill. If approved, this Resolution would speak to that gap in policy.