



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## **What topics does the *Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality* address?**

“Children and the poor are especially vulnerable to sexual exploitation for profit...This church must confess its own complicity and find its voice to oppose all forms of exploitation” (pg. 42).

This social statement highlights the protection of children

“Sexual safety is of overriding importance because the damage done to children and youth through sexual abuse or molestation can be remarkably deep and lasting” (pg. 24).

“This church also recognizes that congregations and other ministry sites must continue in their efforts to be safe places for all persons...The church calls for the adoption of preventive measures including educational programs, appropriate policies, and screening of persons who care for, supervise, or work with children” (pg. 25).

“The education of children and teens, including their sexual education, must be supported as a priority by this church” (pg. 27).

“Children and youth today live in a highly sexualized world. They are exposed early to patterns of adult sexuality and are pressured to think of themselves as sexual objects. Examples include child beauty contests, sexually suggestive clothing for children, and sexually charged prime time and cable television programs, which are watched by all ages” (pgs. 25-26).

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Social Statements guide policy in the ELCA and the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality is looking for your feedback on the draft. To read more of the *Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality* and to respond to the task force please visit:

<http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney>