

**2012 Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc**

Dr. Carroll A. Baltimore, Sr., President

Rev. Kip Bernard Banks, Sr. Interim General Secretary

**RESOLUTION ON EDUCATION AND AWARENESS OF**  
**“STAND YOUR GROUND/SHOOT TO KILL” STATE LAWS AND HONORING**  
**THE LIFE OF TRAYVON BENJAMIN MARTIN**

**Adopted August 9, 2013**

**WHEREAS**, on October 1, 2005, Florida became the first state to pass the “Personal Protection Bill” eliminating the requirement to retreat (duty to retreat) first in case of self-defense, defending ones house against intruders and became known as the “Stand Your Ground” law and in some instances “Shoot To Kill”; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, Florida’s “Stand Your Ground” law includes an “immunity provision” that protects the shooter from arrest unless police can determine that the force used was indeed unlawful; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, the law eliminates the “duty to retreat” and such duty should be an initial action taken to maintain civility and calm in any potential situation that could result in harm or deadly force; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, according to the Legal Community Against Violence and the National District Attorney Generals Association, 24 states have copied parts of, if not all, of the Florida law; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, a 2012 study at Texas University noted significant evidence that the laws increase homicides, and suggestive but inconclusive evidence indicates that castle doctrine laws increase the narrowly defined category of justifiable homicides by private citizens by 17 to 50 percent, which translates into as many as 50 additional justifiable homicides per year nationally. More significantly, we find the laws increase murder and manslaughter by a statistically significant 7 to 9 percent, which translates into an additional 500 to 700 homicides per year nationally across the states that adopted the castle doctrine.”; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence believes these laws promote vigilantism; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, it is understood there is a right to defend yourself and the right to bear arms is protected under the Second Amendment of the US Constitution and is a component of the Bill of Rights; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, on February 26, 2012, 17-year-old Trayvon Benjamin Martin, who was unarmed, was shot to death because he was deemed “suspicious” by a member of the Neighborhood Watch in Sanford, Florida;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED*** the **PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL BAPTIST CONVENTION, INC.:** (1) raise education and awareness about “Stand Your Ground” laws by conducting youth and young adult led forums and advocacy trainings on February 5, the birth date of Trayvon Benjamin Martin to honor his life; (2) partner with other local, state and national faith and civil rights groups to advocate for “safe, sane and sensible gun laws” and “aggressive anti-racial profiling laws; and (3) write a letter to the Department of Justice supporting a federal review and address of “Stand Your Ground” self-defense laws.