



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness (617) 948-4607 www.uua.org/justice
 Washington Office for Advocacy (202) 296-4672 www.uua.org/uuawo

APRIL 2007

SOCIAL JUSTICE EMPOWERMENT WORKSHOPS

Need help launching or strengthening your congregation's social justice program? We offer a one and a half day training program specifically tailored to the needs of your congregation or district.

PARTICIPANTS LEARN: How effective social justice programs are working in other congregations, how to develop action groups, the role of a coordinating council or social justice committee, involving congregation members in the programs, funding justice programs, choosing issues to work on, using UU social justice resources and programs, and how to evaluate your social justice program.

WHAT PARTICIPANTS CAN EXPECT: Experienced and effective leaders, small group dialogue, time to share in large group, presentations, worship, food, music, printed materials, a post-workshop organizing strategy, and formats that work.

WHAT CONGREGATIONS SAY ABOUT IT: Read a UU WORLD.org article about the program and what UU congregations who have experienced the program have to say at:

<http://www.uuworld.org/news/articles/programstrengthenschurchsocialjusticework4932.shtml>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

To learn more and for specific information about costs, please visit:

www.uua.org/programs/justice/ep

or contact Susan Leslie, Director of the Office for Congregational Advocacy and Witness at sleslie@uua.org or 617-948-4607.

DRUMBEAT FOR DARFUR

Sunday, April 29th will be the third Global Day for Darfur. Organizations and compassionate people around the world will join together to witness the on-going genocide and to demand that world leaders fulfill their commitments to bring an end to the violence. As a congregation, the Washington Office invites you to join the Drumbeat for Darfur, a campaign of continuous increasing activism organized by the UU Service Committee. On their website, www.uusc.org/drumbeatfordarfur, you can access many resources and suggested actions. We also highly recommend that you contact Monika Parikh, the campaign coordinator at 1-800-388-3920, ext. 398, or by e-mail at drumbeatfordarfur@uusc.org. Also, the UUSC will be holding a day-long activist training on Wednesday, June 20th in Portland, Oregon, prior to General Assembly. Groups of two or three congregational activists can register now on the UUSC website.

www.uusc.org/drumbeatfordarfur



*"From the cowardice that dares not face new truth
 From the laziness that is contented with half truth
 From the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth,
 Good Lord, deliver [us]."
 - Kenyan prayer*

Calendar

April 14	National Day of Climate Change
April 16	Day of Action for DC Voting Rights
April 17	Day of Action Against Hate Crimes
April 22	Earth Day
April 29	Global Day for Darfur
May 15	Clock in For Equality: Workplace Fairness for BGLT Workers
June 20-24	General Assembly, Portland, OR

IMMIGRATION: NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

In the early 1980's, the Sanctuary Movement changed national policy and protected tens of thousands of individuals and families, enabling them to start a new life in the U.S. Now, over 25 years later, religious leaders across a broad spectrum of denominations from 10 States are coming together to begin a New Sanctuary Movement to accompany and protect immigrant families facing the violation of their human rights in the form of hatred, workplace discrimination and unjust deportation. We welcome religious leaders, congregations and faith-based organizations of all denominations to join us in this effort.

New Sanctuary Movement Pledge:

The New Sanctuary Movement is a coalition of interfaith religious leaders and participating congregations, called by our faith to respond actively and publicly to the suffering of our immigrant brothers and sisters residing in the United States.

We acknowledge that the large-scale immigration of workers and their families to the United States is a complex historical, global and economic phenomenon that has many causes and does not lend itself to simplistic or purely reactive public policy solutions.

We stand together in our faith that everyone, regardless of national origin, has basic common rights, including but not limited to: 1) livelihood; 2) family unity; and 3) physical and emotional safety. We witness the violation of these rights under current immigration policy, particularly in the separation of children from their parents due to unjust deportations, and in the exploitation of immigrant workers. We are deeply grieved by the violence done to families through immigration raids. We cannot in good conscience ignore such suffering and injustice.

Therefore, We Covenant To:

- Take a public, moral stand for immigrants' rights
- Reveal, through education and advocacy, the actual suffering of immigrant workers and families under current and proposed legislation
- Protect immigrants against hate, workplace discrimination, and unjust deportation.

**Learn More, Get Involved,
Sign the Pledge:
www.newsanctuarymovement.org/**

SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING

Focus on Family Health Worldwide Act (HR 1225)

Every year, over 530,000 women around the world die from causes related to pregnancy and childbirth. Access to voluntary family planning is a highly effective and morally responsible health intervention that saves lives. Because women are often the key to child and family health, increasing access to voluntary family planning has positive significant effects on the whole community.

The UUA Washington Office is proud to launch the "American Families for Family Planning Worldwide" campaign in coalition with several partner organizations. The campaign aims to increase knowledge and mobilize U.S. resources in support of voluntary international family planning programs. Visit www.supportfamilyplanning.org to learn more about the Focus On Family Health Worldwide Act (HR 1225), legislation that increases access to voluntary family planning for women around the world, and to submit your family photo to the campaign demonstrating to Congress that you value family and support voluntary family planning programs.

**For More Information visit:
www.supportfamilyplanning.org**

ENDING GLOBAL HIV/AIDS: PATHWAY POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

The Protection Against Transmission of HIV for Women and Youth (PATHWAY) Act, if passed, would remove Congress's requirement that at least 33% of US global HIV prevention funding be spent on abstinence-until-marriage programs, allowing for comprehensive HIV prevention programs that meet the needs of women and youth. In support of this bill, the UUA Washington Office encourages you to participate in a nationwide grassroots postcard campaign. We would like to identify 20 grassroots leaders willing to commit to getting 50-100 postcards to congress addressed and signed. We will send you the postcards in bulk and an envelope to send them all back to us; we will then sort them and hand deliver them to your Representative's DC office. If you are interested in participating in this campaign contact Adam Gerhardstein, the LA for International Issues, at (202) 296-4672 ext. 21 or at agerhardstein@uua.org.

