



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness
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Same Newsletter: A New Medium

In order to save resources and money in these difficult economic times, the UUA has decided to convert the Congregational Mailing to a 100% electronic form on the web. **The congregational mailing will no longer come to churches in hard copy.** Instead, it will come in .pdf format to email inboxes and be available for download at UUA.org. This decision will not only save hundreds of dollars a month and pounds of paper, it will also open the access of the resources to every one in the congregation. Church administrators will no longer be the gatekeepers to all the information included in the mailing. **To get your very own copy of the Advocacy and Witness News or our Actions of the Month pages, please visit the Leaders Library at UUA.org.**

Even though the medium is different, our content is still the same! We still have our monthly actions including a **call-in day for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, rallies for BGLTQ equality, and a postcard campaign to President Obama on Darfur.** Our Action of the Month for March is **Comprehensive Sexuality Education Advocacy.** April's Action of the Month is **Environmental Justice.** And, as always, we have our wonderful **Stand On the Side of Love T-shirts.** Order yours for the warm weather.

BGLTQ Equality Actions- Calling All Ministers!

Ministers and other clergy members have two exciting opportunities this spring to come to Washington, DC and raise their voices for BGLT Equality.

Join clergy and laypeople at the **National Center for Transgender Equality Lobby Day April 26-28.** The **2009 Human Rights Campaign Clergy Call** also takes place **May 4-5.**

Both events prepare faith leaders to speak about transgender rights and include lobby days in support of including gender identity and sexual orientation in the categories protected by the new Employment Non-Discrimination Act soon to be reintroduced into Congress. Write or call Orelia Busch (obusch@uua.org or ext. 12) at the UUA Washington Office for details.

March Action: Sexuality Education Call-In Days

Join us for Sexuality Education Call-In Days. **Call your elected officials and ask them to support the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act** soon to be reintroduced into both houses of Congress. REAL creates funding for comprehensive, medically accurate sexuality education in public schools and community organizations. Create a buzz about sexuality education by calling Capitol Hill while participants in the 5th annual Sexuality Education Advocacy Training are lobbying for REAL!
Sample script available now in the March Action of the Month Mailing.



I am not very keen for hawks or doves. I think we need more owls.
-George Aiken

Calendar

March 8	International Women's Day
March 13-16	Ecumenical Advocacy Days Washington DC
March 19	Anniversary of Iraq War
March 21-24	Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (SEAT)
March 22	World Water Day
March 29	UUSC Justice Sunday: 60 Years of UNDHR

Action of the Month: Sexuality Education

Please note and post our companion newsletter on the March Action for **Sexuality Education.**

April is **Environmental Justice and Green Jobs.**

Join our Newsletters

The UUA A&W Team has three newsletters to help you keep updated on important social justice opportunities. We would like to invite you to join our newsletters.

- **Advocacy News (A*News)**- Track legislation moving in Congress
- **Social Action Chair News (SAC News)**- Learn opportunities for congregation social justice
- **International News (iNews)**- Receive announcements on UU international justice issues and resources.

To join our newsletters, please visit uua.org/socialjustice

Legislative Ministries and State Networks

Did you know that there are over a dozen statewide UU advocacy networks working for social change throughout the country?

Whether it is the **UU Legislative Ministries of California** working for civil marriage equality, **UU Mass Action Network's** campaign for a living wage in Massachusetts, or **Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance** advocating for sustainable energy programs, there are UUs all over the country united for social justice on local and state levels.



To find out if there is a UU State Advocacy Network nearby, or how to start one, please visit:

<http://www.uustatenetworks.org/>

UUA Social Justice Calendar

The UUA Advocacy and Witness staff group has created an on-line calendar of holidays and events for social justice work.

Including history, resources and ideas for lifespan religious education, we have everything you need to make your calendar year full of activism and witness for social justice.

Our calendar also lists the actions of the month for the coming year. Find the month for your community's social justice work and join the movement for UU social justice.

Available at:
uua.org/socialjustice/calendar

Stand on the Side of Love With UUA T-Shirts

Spring is slowly peaking its head out from behind Winter. The Vernal Equinox is this month. Quickly approaching are protests and picnics. Be prepared for the warm months with our exclusive Stand on the Side of Love shirts.

Our handsome shirts come in both **adult and children's sizes**. And are made from pre-shrunk, 100% cotton materials. **Available in all sizes**. Sweatshop free and union made.

There is a **\$3/shirt discount for bulk orders**, so order as a congregation! Contact Kat Liu at Kliu@uua.org. If you'd rather place an order by phone, please call at (202) 393-2255 x13.



“The People of the United States want peace. The people of China want peace... Why can't we have peace? We don't realize the proliferation of these weapons and arms race of \$400 Billion that we are spending on arms around the world— Insanity! Madness!”

-Rev. Billy Graham, 1979

Darfur Postcard to President Obama Campaign Begins

During his Presidential Campaign, President Obama made strong statements concerning the future of Darfur in Sudan. He said the United States must have “unstinting resolve” to solve the crisis there. So far, we have seen no movement on his part to act. The UUA, a member of the Save Darfur Coalition, is asking you to **send a postcard to President Obama to help end the violence in Darfur**. You can find electronic notes and request hard copies for your congregation by visiting the Darfur Action Center at uua.org/socialjustice.

Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the UUA, encourages every UU to sign their postcard to President Obama. He believes this is an issue that all Americans, especially UUs, should learn more about. President Sinkford says, **“We felt called to speak out, to shine the light of truth into a region overshadowed by the worst form of government oppression... Neither innocence nor ignorance can excuse us from acting, but despite the outcries from the United Nations and much of the world community, the killing continues. We must do more.”**

See his complete remarks at uua.org/socialjustice.

To receive hard copies of postcards to use at your congregation, please email postcards@savedarfur.org