



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness
Washington Office for Advocacy

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Help Pass the Employment Non Discrimination Act

Contact your House Representative and Senators today, and ask them to support the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA)!

It remains legal in 29 states to discriminate against employees based on sexual orientation, and in 38 states to do so on the basis of gender identity. ENDA would protect bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender Americans from workplace discrimination based on irrational prejudice. The bill includes exemptions for religious organizations, small businesses, and the military, and it does not require employers to provide domestic partnership benefits. ENDA simply makes it illegal to discriminate against workers because of who they are or who they love.

Last June at General Assembly, hundreds of people called their elected officials asking them to co-sponsor and vote for ENDA. We need to keep the pressure on! The House could vote on ENDA as early as this month, and our opponents will inevitably be attacking the bill on the unfounded basis of its hiring implications for religious organizations.

Learn more about ENDA, and educate your congregation! Go to: <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/bgltequality/employment/32253.shtml> for resources on hosting a call-in day or letter-writing table at your congregation. Print copies of our Issue Brief (http://www.uua.org/documents/washingtonoffice/enda/issue_brief.pdf) to distribute. Please contact Orelia Busch (obusch@uua.org) 202-393-2255 x12 for more information or to let us know what your congregation is doing.

As people of faith, we need to take a strong public stand in support of ENDA's measured and just approach to protecting both religious organizations and the LGBT community.

Contact Congress today and tell them it's time to pass ENDA!
(http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1272/p/dia/action/public/?action_KEY=1565)

Climate Change Campaign

Senators Boxer and Kerry introduced the Clean Energy Jobs and American Power Act of 2009 at the end of September. Climate change is a social justice issue, where the most marginalized communities are the first to feel its impacts. As a major contributor of greenhouse gases, the US must do its part to reduce emissions and change behaviors to reduce our environmental impact. If we wait until the wealthier nations are directly affected, it will be too late. Because of the moral urgency, the UUA, UU Ministry for Earth, UU Service Committee, UU United Nations Office, and UU State Advocacy Networks are launching a major climate change campaign, aimed at passing strong and just legislation. Look for information on how you can get involved on our Environmental Justice page (<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/environmentaljustice/index.shtml>).



"We are now faced with the fact, my friends, that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time."

– Martin Luther King

Calendar

Nov. 11	Veteran's Day
Nov. 20	Transgender Day of Remembrance
Nov. 22	UUSC's Guest at Your Table
Dec. 1	World AIDS Day
Dec. 3	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec. 10	Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights
Jan. 8-10	Living Wage Days
Jan. 18	MLK Jr. Day
Jan 22.	Roe v. Wade Day

We're on Twitter!
<http://twitter.com/UUJustice>

UUFPP \$\$ for Community Organizing Training & Dues

Over 130 UU congregations are finding Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO) an excellent fit for raising our profile in our communities and working in interfaith, multiracial, cross-class coalitions that are making a difference locally, at the state level, and now nationally as well.

The UUA and the UU Veatch Program are supporting congregational engagement in interfaith community organizing with staff support, resources, and funding. The UU Funding Program has \$80,000 for matching membership dues and training grants for up to \$5,000.



Whether or not you join a CBCO, the training will help develop leaders in your congregation to be effective, strategic, relational organizers. There are also special trainings for clergy. In addition to attending training events, you could arrange to have the organizer from your local CBCO provide a training for members of your congregation.

Matching grants for trainings are awarded on a rolling basis. The deadline to apply for membership dues is March 15th.

For more information about both grants, see the UU Funding Program's application information sheet and short application: <http://www.uua.org/giving/fundingprogram/>

Questions can be directed to uufp@aol.com or (617) 971-9600.

To find information about training opportunities with the networks, please check their calendars:

- [Direct Action and Research Training](#) (DART)
- [Gamaliel Foundation](#)
- [PICO National Network](#)
- [Industrial Areas Foundation](#) (IAF)
- [The InterValley Project](#)

For more information on CBCO, please see our website: www.uua.org/cbco.

Get Ready for the 2010 Sexuality Education Advocacy Training!

Register today (<http://www.uua.org/SEAT>) for SEAT 2010, the sixth annual Sexuality Education Advocacy Training, which will take place in Washington, D.C. from March 20-23, 2010. SEAT brings together a dynamic, interfaith group of youth, young adults and adult allies to discuss sex education as a religious issue and its impact on young people. The three and a half day training includes interfaith sharing, anti-racism and oppression training, community organizing skill building sessions, a legislative briefing, lobbying training and lobby visits with Congressional staff.

Every year, SEAT creates an inclusive and supportive environment where a diverse group of youth, young adults and adult supporters learn to be effective religious advocates for comprehensive sex education in their congregations, schools and communities. We strongly encourage intergenerational groups from the same area to come to SEAT together. Financial assistance is available for those in need. For more information, email Orelia Busch at obusch@uua.org. Join us for SEAT 2010, Register today! (<http://www.uua.org/SEAT>)

Standing on the Side of Love Friday Calls and Webcasts

These 45 min web-cast conference calls happen every Friday at 1 PM EDT/EST (12PM Central; 11 AM Mountain; 10 AM Pacific)

Each call features a presentation by Campaign Staff and Advisors, Q & A and discussion.

Topics Include:

- How to get your congregation involved.
- How to develop a local campaign.
- How to use new media.
- How to bring SSL to interfaith colleagues and allies.
- And more!

Goto: <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/fridaycalls/>

Social Justice Empowerment Workshop Applications

The UUA Social Justice Empowerment Workshop helps members of a congregation to assess their social justice program and make them more effective. For more information, please email Audra Friend at afriend@uua.org