

YRUU Social Justice Times

Informing and Inspiring Young Religious Unitarian Universalists to change the world

Issue #1 - Fall 2006: International Action & Awareness

Only With Your Voice: The Millennium Development Goals and Youth

www.millenniumcampaign.org

The United Nations' Member States have committed to 8 goals to be completed by 2015 that would eradicate extreme poverty and create a system of sustainable development for years to come.

The goals are:

- 1) Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
- 2) Achieve Universal Primary Education
- 3) Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
- 4) Reduce Child Mortality
- 5) Improve Maternal Health
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases
- 7) Ensure Environmental Sustainability
- 8) Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Youth will be the most affected by the success or failure of the goals, and so have the most responsibility to take action and ensure that our governments and organizations live up to their promises. The Millennium Campaign has recognized that youth are critical to the success of the goals, so there is an excellent website, including a report on youth and the MDGs written by youth leaders around the world.

Take Action:

- 1) Visit the MDG Youth Website and Download the MGD Youth Action Guide



www.millenniumcampaign.org/youth
A great MDG Youth Action Guide has a ton of great information about each goal, ideas and strategies for how youth can get involved, and examples of what's already being done.

Contest! Suggest a name and short slogan for this newsletter.

Deadline December 1st

Send your suggestions to continentalsac@gmail.com. The winner will be announced in the next issue, along with having the winning name and slogan on every successive issue - AND an awesome prize from the Youth Office!

Event Alert

Close the School of the Americas!!

The School of the Americas (SOA), in 2001 renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, is a combat training school for Latin American soldiers, located at Fort Benning, Georgia. Over its 59 years, the SOA has trained over 60,000 Latin American soldiers in counterinsurgency techniques, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence and interrogation tactics. These graduates have consistently used their skills to wage a war against their own people. Among those targeted by SOA graduates are educators, union organizers, religious workers, student leaders, and others who work for the rights of the poor. Every year there is a vigil to commemorate the folks who have died because of the school, and protest its existence.

The vigil will be held this year from November 17-19 at Fort Benning. Please get involved, you can find more information on the SOA Watch website at www.soaw.org

**We Must Be the Change
We Wish to See in the World**
~ Ghandi

Important Dates in November and December:

Nov 16 – International Day of Tolerance

<http://www.unesco.org/tolerance/teneng.htm>

Nov 20 – Transgender Day of Remembrance

<http://www.gender.org/remember/day/>

Nov 25 – Buy Nothing Day <http://www.adbusters.org/metas/eco/bnd/>

Dec 1—World AIDS Day <http://www.worldaidscampaign.info/>

Dec 2 – International Day of Disabled Persons

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/disiddp.htm>

Dec 3 – International Day for Climate Change

http://www.earthday.net/news/Intl_climate_action_day.aspx

Dec 6—National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence

Against Women (CAN) http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/dates/dec6/index_e.html

Important Dates in September and October:

Sept 21 – International Day of Peace <http://www.un.org/events/peaceday/2005/>

Oct 1 – International Day of Older Persons

http://www.who.int/ageing/events/idop_rationale/en/index.html

Oct 11—National Coming Out Day (US) <http://www.hrc.org/>

Oct 12 – Day of 6 Billion <http://www.unfpa.org/6billion/>

Oct 27 – Religious Freedom Day

Oct 28 – Make a Difference Day (US) <http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/>



CSAC: continentalsac@gmail.com YRUU SJ listserv: yrusj@lists.uua.org SACs listserv: yrusacs@lists.uua.org

Don't Forget to look on the Back!

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World AIDS Day December 1, 2006 Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise



According to UNAIDS estimates, there are 38.6 million people living with HIV, including 2.3 million children, and during 2005 some 4.1 million people became newly infected with the virus. Around half of all people who become infected with HIV do so before they are 25 and are killed by AIDS before they are 35. Around 95% of people with [HIV/AIDS](#) live in developing nations. But HIV today is a threat to men, women and children on all continents around the world.

Started in 1988, World AIDS Day is not just about raising money, but also about increasing awareness, education and fighting prejudice. World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done.

Some ideas of things you can do:

- Raise awareness of HIV and AIDS in your area
- Wear a red ribbon and ask others to do the same
- Protect yourself and your partners
- Raise money and donate to www.stephenlewisfoundation.org
- Organize a creative writing/poster campaign
- Organize an event at school, church, youth group, or a con
- Get Action Packs and more info at www.worldaidscampaign.info/




Most of this info is from <http://www.avert.org/worldaid.htm>

YRUU Social Justice Training (YSJT) Registration Opens October 31st!

The Youth Social Justice Training is coming up February 22-26 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme of the training will be Education Reform and Multiculturalism, and a strong focus on accountable relationships rooted in solidarity, particularly with Gulf Coast relief and the rebuilding of New Orleans. There are scholarships available! You can find an application on www.uua.org/YRUU/news.html. Please call Laura Manning with any questions (617)-948-4353.

USC? UUSC? What's the Difference?

 The UUSC is the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which was formed from the merging of the Unitarian Service Committee and the Universalist Services Committee in 1963. The Unitarian Service committee was a standing committee of the AUA, formed in 1940, and the Universalist Service Committee, formed officially in 1945 by the Universalist Board of Trustees. Both were formed in response to the rise of Nazism and World War II. Within months of the Universalist Service Committee forming, it contacted the Unitarian Service committee about doing joint post war relief project in Holland. <http://www.uusc.org>



USC was started by Lotta Hitschmanova in 1945 as the Canadian branch of the Unitarian Service Committee based in Boston. It is now registered simply as USC Canada and no longer has formal ties to the Unitarian Church. <http://www.usc-canada.org/>

Did you know? The Unitarian Service Committee was the first to use the flaming chalice symbol in our denomination.

Is your District or Region Holding a Social Justice Con, or a Con on a Social Justice-related theme?

Tell us about it and your conference could be featured in a future issue of this newsletter!

Email the Continental Social Action Coordinator and tell her about your conference: When and Where it's being held, What it's about, What workshops/topics will be included, and any other information you'd like to share about it.

If it's already taken place, send pictures too (with consent from those in the pictures)!



SAC Profile: C*SAC

Chris Michell was selected as C*SAC for a two-year term in Spring 2006. She is from Calgary AB, Canada, is 19 years old, and is currently studying Biology at the University of Lethbridge. She was brought up UU, and has served on the RRYSC (Western Canada Region's YAC) and on the Youth Advisory Group (National Youth body in Canada.).

Her main passions in social justice are AR/AO (especially GLBPT2QQI rights, and Racial and First Nations Equity), Environmental Sustainability, Democratic Reform, and International Issues such as Poverty and AIDS. She is one of the founders of the Pride Rainbow Project (www.priderainbowproject.com), and is the current National Social Justice Coordinator for Canada.

Nominate a SAC to be Profiled in the Next Issue!

Email a bio of them with a picture to the CSAC: continentalsac@gmail.com

So...what do you think??

This is the first-ever issue of this newsletter, so please let us know what you think: Did you like it? Did you find it useful? Was it a waste of time to read? Was there something (or several somethings) you would have liked to see included? Do you like it being organized by themes for each issue? Are you annoyed or offended by some of the language or content? Would you like to write articles or suggest topics?

Let us know at: continentalsac@gmail.com

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