



## LGBTI/SOGI Human Rights Program

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office is committed to bringing you accurate and up-to-date information on international human rights issues that affect individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). We are bringing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) human rights to the forefront of the UN agenda.

The UU-UNO demonstrated its unwavering commitment to international LGBTI rights at the September 2008 61st Annual UN DPI-NGO Conference in Paris, to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the signing in Paris of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Director, Bruce Knotts hosted the first ever LGBTI workshop, opening a dialogue and giving voice to a movement developing in human rights: universal human rights apply to all human beings irrespective of sexual orientation and/or gender identity (SOGI). On December 18th, 2008, 66 UN Member States called for an end to laws that discriminate or criminalize based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

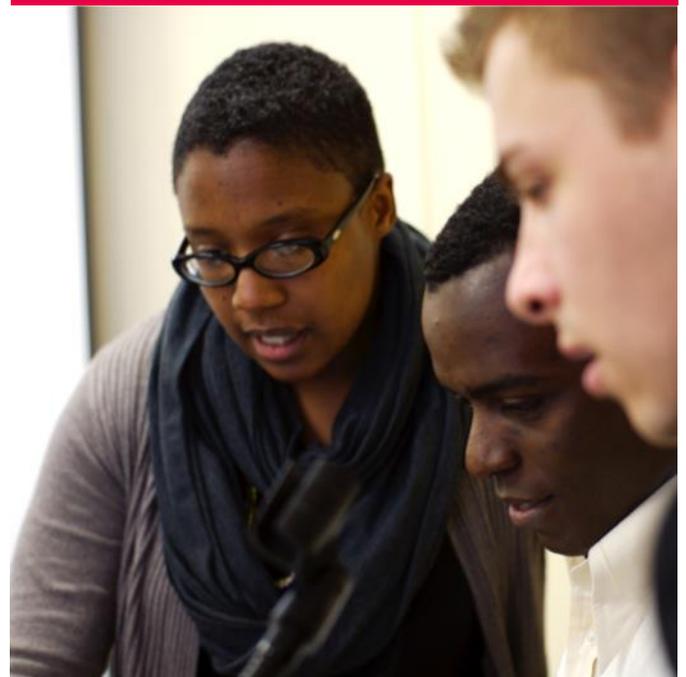
The UU-UNO is one of the only faith-based organizations at the United Nations strongly advocating for LGBTI rights at this critical moment in history.

### FIGHTING THE EXPORTATION OF HOMOPHOBIA

The UU-UNO supports global efforts, including grassroots campaigns, to combat the spread of homophobia and the incitement to genocide by local, foreign, state and non-state actors.

This consists of supporting efforts of our friends in Uganda working to fight the "Anti-Homosexuality Bill," which would impose harsh penalties for LGBT people and their friends and family.

We are working hard to collaborate with leaders from other faiths to find a common ground under which we can work to preserve life and dignity for all.



**Learn more at**

[www.uua.org/lgbtq/witness/international](http://www.uua.org/lgbtq/witness/international)



United Nations  
Office

## LGBTQI Refugees & Asylum Seekers

Approximately 80 nations criminalize same-sex relations; 7 apply the death penalty for homosexual acts.

These human rights violations propel thousands to flee their countries. Asylum, refuge, and resettlement procedures for LGBTQI people can endanger their well-being, even *after* they flee.

The United Nations Office (UU-UNO) is committed to bringing lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) human rights to the forefront of the UN agenda by:

- Advocating for LGBTQI/SOGI (sexual orientation & gender identity) rights at the United Nations
- Providing support and community to those forced to flee their homes
- Compiling resources to help those seeking assistance
- Partnering with LGBT Freedom & Asylum Network (LGBT-FAN), a network comprised of faith leaders, asylum-seekers, asylees, activists, LGBT community center staff, policy experts, and refugee resettlement workers dedicated to providing support to people who flee to North America due to persecution in their home country based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Visit [www.uua.org/un](http://www.uua.org/un) and click on LGBTQI/SOGI Human Rights to learn more

### TAKE ACTION

Guided by our principles, Unitarian Universalists are called to advocate for international human rights, to be a voice for the voiceless by promoting the inherent worth and dignity of all living things.

You can:

- Read our LGBT Global Action Guide at [www.bit.ly/LGBTGlobalActionGuide](http://www.bit.ly/LGBTGlobalActionGuide)
- Learn more about these issues and our work with other LGBT-FAN at [www.lgbt-fan.org](http://www.lgbt-fan.org)
- Provide support and community to those seeking safety and a home.; forming a **Guardian Group** is one way to do this.

Contact [unitednations@uua.org](mailto:unitednations@uua.org) to get started!

