

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE | 2017 RESOURCE PACKET



United Nations Sunday Service

Arm in Arm: Interfaith Action to Disarm
Our Planet

Part IV

uua.org/unsunday

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Visit www.uua.org/UNSunday to download complete packet

About the UU United Nations Office

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) is engaged in international advocacy work at the UN based on Unitarian Universalist (UU) values.

From involvement in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation & gender identity issues, the UU-UNO has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level through UN consultative status.

The UU-UNO is part of the UUA's International Office. The International Office assists congregations in finding ways of answering our sixth principle call to reach out beyond church walls and borders by providing resources and guidance within the wide milieu of international UU programs and causes. www.uua.org/international

Through close coordination with a UU International Joint Working Group (JWG) involved in international engagement and maintaining and developing linkages with historic and new U/U communities around the world, we share the Global U/U story and help you find your place within it. The JWG is a partnership between the UUA's International Office, the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) and the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC).

The Global U/U Story: Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists (U/U) around the world are connected through a story of bold, compassionate faith that we've been creating together for centuries. Struggling for human rights alongside those that demand it, influencing governmental policy in the name of justice, passionately promoting a message of interfaith peace and solidarity, and building faithful worshipping communities—each of us has a part, and a stake, in the story we share.

Also part of the International Office is the UUA's Holdeen India Program (UUHIP) which has been advancing justice and equity in India since 1984. UUHIP partners with organizations that stand with the country's most vulnerable citizens as they seek dignity and empowerment. Translating UU values into bold action, UUHIP supports long-term organizational partnerships in a spirit of solidarity and global community.

Here are some of the program areas the UU United Nations Office works on year round:

Every Child is Our Child

The Every Child is Our Child (ECOC) Program is an initiative begun in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established by world leaders in 2000. ECOC directly contributes to the Millennium Development Goals of achieving universal primary education,

promoting gender equality, and combating HIV/AIDS. The UU-UNO provides grant funding to the Manye Krobo Queen Mothers' Association in Ghana in support of ECOC which works to empower this local women's organization to care for children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. The program offers essential resources and health care assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, enabling them to attend primary school in the Manye Krobo District in Ghana. Our partnership with the Queen Mothers Association and Queen Mothers of the district is essential to our success. Additionally, ECOC gives priority to girls, in order to help promote gender equality. Finally, the program contributes to the fight against AIDS, since children are taught about HIV/AIDS prevention in school, starting in Grade 2. www.UUA.org/ECOC

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) and Sexual Orientation/Gender Identity (SOGI) Human Rights

Over the past 40 years, UU congregations have become more aware and supportive of LGBTQ constituents. However, even members of the North American LGBTQ community and their allies are largely unaware of the dangers faced by LGBTQ individuals outside of North America. In over 80 countries, people can face criminal prosecution based on presumed sexual orientation or gender identity – sometimes with fatal consequences. Our program is dedicated to advocating at the UN for decriminalizing homosexuality around the world. Using its unique position at the UN as a leader within the ecumenical community, the UU-UNO works to garner support among the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), especially the faith-based community, to end criminal sanctions based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, the UU-UNO holds UN ECOSOC consultative status, allowing it to build consensus and coalition among other NGOs with consultative status to support decriminalization. www.uua.org/lgbtq/witness/international

Women's Rights Initiative

The UU-United Nations Office supports and advocates for the global implementation of key international agreements such as Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Our Women's Rights Initiative promotes awareness and action through education and advocacy in key areas of women's rights especially in relation to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including:

- Ensuring access to safe, effective family planning methods.
- Promoting a woman's right to decide if, when, and how often to give birth.
- Preventing sexual violence, child marriage, and unsafe pregnancies.

Commission on the Status of Women: Every year, representatives gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to promote women's empowerment worldwide. The Commission on

the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is a global policy-making body dedicated to the advancement of women. The UU-UNO hosted an event this year that examined how reproductive justice affects economic empowerment for women. We hope to continue these important conversations throughout the year and leading up to next year's CSW Forum.

www.uua.org/reproductive/international

Climate Justice Initiative

As part of Commit2Respond (a UU-led coalition of people of faith and conscience for climate justice) the UU-UNO advocates for change on a global scale by raising awareness and inspiring climate change mitigation initiatives at the community & congregational levels. As stewards of the planet, we must act to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and heed the call to respect and promote the interdependent web of existence. Each of us has the potential to be leaders, inspiring action to keep our earth sustainable for all people now and in future generations. The Unitarian Universalist UN Office supports the landmark Paris Agreement adopted at the COP21 UN Climate Change Conference and feels an even more ambitious agenda is a moral, ethical, and survival imperative to ensure ecosystem health, livelihood, peace, and justice for us and for future generations. www.uua.org/environment/climate/initiative

Racial Justice Initiative

In light of the United Nations declaring 2015-2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office's (UU-UNO's) racial justice program is committed to expanding the United States' Movement for Black Lives to address anti-black racism on an international level. People of African descent worldwide experience racist oppression at alarming rates. It is crucial that we begin the conversation to build international awareness, specifically surrounding the impact of structural anti-black racism. The UU-UNO is committed to addressing this issue by engaging with the UN community regarding countries and the state of their race relations, developing respectful and fair communities, and partnering with domestic and international organizations to dismantle structural racism in favor of justice and equity. www.uua.org/racial-justice/history/un

Further Interest in the UU UN Office

Here are some ways to stay involved with our office in NYC:

Include an International Perspective in your Congregation:

Does your congregation currently have a group focused on climate change? How about one

working for immigrant justice? Between our advocacy programs and UN Non-Governmental Organizations committees, chances are that whatever your congregation's passion is, the United Nations Office is engaged with these issues as well. Throughout the research, education, and advocacy that your social action/ justice group engages in, keep track of action being taken at the UN related to those issues. www.uua.org/un unitednations@uua.org

Become a UU-UNO Envoy for your Congregation:

Envoys are extremely valuable to the UU-UNO because they are the link between the Office and the UU community. As an Envoy, you represent the UU-UNO within your local congregation while also letting us know what global issues your congregation is most passionate about and wants us to focus on. You connect your congregation to the UU-UNO and relay important information on current UN activities. You engage your congregation members in UU-UNO program initiatives and then plan events such as UN Sunday to promote UN education. www.uua.org/un/envoys

Embrace Leadership as a Youth Envoy:

The Youth Envoy Program is a way for youth around the United States and Canada to incorporate personal, congregational, and UU beliefs in the worldwide efforts of the United Nations. The responsibilities include raising awareness of UN events within your congregation and planning discussions, fundraisers, and other international events to connect your youth group to the UU-UNO. In partnership with adult Envoys, Youth Envoys raise visibility of the UN and our office so we can work together to make the world a safer and more just place. We highly recommend having youth as part of the Envoy Team. www.uua.org/un/envoys

Participate in the Intergenerational Spring Seminar:

Every April, youth and adults gather in New York City for our exciting and educational Spring Seminar. All participants gain a deeper understanding on a topic of global concern and have a lot of fun. Past seminars have focused on poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, race, LGBT rights, indigenous peoples' rights, and criminal justice. The 2016 Seminar topic was economic inequality. Both youth and adults attending the Spring Seminar take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution. Contact our office and download the leadership application for more information on how to participate in the 2018 Seminar on refugees and the global migration crisis. www.uua.org/unspringseminar

Consider the Internship Program:

The Internship Program provides people with an exciting opportunity to learn about the United Nations and to work in support of UN efforts to eradicate injustice, armed conflict, and intolerance around the world. Interns at the UU-UNO conduct research, write blogs, participate in conferences, and much more. Their contributions are invaluable. Contact unitednations@uua.org.

UU Community Involvement

Listed below are ways to get your UU congregation more involved with our UN Office:

ENTER THE ANNUAL GREELEY SERMON COMPETITION:

All UUs are invited to submit a sermon (or address) to the UU-UNO. The purpose of this annual award program is to encourage and to recognize UU principles, thought and action on a wide range of global issues as well as the role of the UN and our own UU-UNO. While all submissions will be considered, those highlighting the work of the UN and the UU-UNO will be given priority consideration. The winner will be recognized at the next CUC National Conference or UUA General Assembly and a video of the sermon will be published on our webpage. See the website for more information about the guidelines for submission. www.uua.org/justice-programs/awards/greeley

HOLD AN INTERGENERATIONAL UU-UNO FUNDRAISER:

The UU-UNO exists to provide a unique UU perspective at the United Nations. We depend on individual and congregational support. We ask for your involvement, your engagement and your enthusiastic financial support to help us change the world so that every person can enjoy a safe and dignified life. Consider holding a coffee house, dance, spaghetti dinner, international food fair, or craft sale to support our work. We also have our “FUNdraising Packet” we can send you per request or you can download on our website (www.uua.org/un/envoys). This can be a fun opportunity to learn about an issue, build intergenerational community and raise necessary funds.

BECOME A BLUE RIBBON CONGREGATION

United Nations Sunday is a great opportunity to increase support for the UU-UNO by helping your congregation achieve Blue Ribbon status. In order to do this, a congregation needs these qualifications by March 31st:

1. An Envoy or Envoy Team
2. Host a United Nations Sunday service
3. Submit a donation from the congregation (such as collection plate) or have an annual budget line dedicated to the UU-UNO
4. 5% of the congregation’s members become Individual Supporters of the UU-UNO (or 15 members for large congregations). Supporter levels are as follows:
 - a. Global Equality Supporter* = \$250
 - b. Family/Household Supporter* = \$150
 - c. Individual Supporter = \$60
 - d. Retired/Student Supporter = \$30

*Global Equality and Family/Household Supporter levels can count as two individuals towards your Blue Ribbon status.