



Dear Envoy,

I'm reaching the point in the pandemic - and on this rainy Thursday in Rochester, NY - where I need some extra motivation. (Fortunately, the New York Times has pulled through with a guide that I'll share here in case you need it as well: "[How to Get Things Done When You Don't Want to Do Anything.](#)") It's important to remember why we're all here doing this work. I am inspired by the opportunity we have through connections to collaboratively make changes for good in our congregations, communities, and the world. What about serving as your congregation's Envoy is motivating to you? (I'd be curious to hear your response!)

A little while ago you got an email from me asking for your help spreading the word about a Spring Seminar leadership opportunity for youth. We still have not received any Youth Dean applications, so let this be an extra word of encouragement to you in case you know anyone who would be interested. Meanwhile, we're also still accepting applications (through August 9) for youth and adult Chaplains and Planning Committee volunteers. Additional details are below, including a link to messages you can copy-paste to share the announcement!

We did not have Envoy meetings in June or July, and I have very much missed talking with you! The next regular Envoy meeting will be Tuesday, August 17. I hope you can make it. [Please RSVP here.](#)

In faith, love, hope, and justice,



*Allison Hess*

International Engagement Associate

Email Allison

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## FOR YOUR CONGREGATION'S NEWSLETTER

*A monthly message from the UUA Office at the United Nations.*

The United Nations recently wrapped up its annual High-Level Political Forum, an opportunity each year to check in on global progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year of course, the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted many local and global initiatives to advance development and equality. Meanwhile, the effects of climate change are becoming more and more conspicuous. At this point, the UN's ambition to achieve the SDGs by 2030 feels almost insurmountable. We deplore the stark disparities globally between wealthy countries with abundant access to Covid vaccines, and those who may be years from getting enough shots to inoculate their residents - leaving the entire planet at risk from increasingly infectious variants. And yet: There is so much potential to harness the fluidity of this time of transition to implement new, sustainable systems that prioritize equity, collaboration, and inclusivity. The UUA Office at the UN is active in conversations at the United Nations to push for global cooperation to respect human rights for all in this work to achieve peace and prosperity for people and planet through the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes Goal 3, to ensure good health and well-being for all (accelerating equitable access to Covid vaccines), as well as Goal 13, to act urgently against climate change and its impacts.

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## EVENTS

*A look behind, a look ahead*

*All events are virtual. Click Calendar below to view details about any of these events.*

**July 5:** UUA offices closed for Independence Day

**July 7:** Application deadline for Seminar Youth Dean

**July 6-15:** High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations

**July 14:** International Office Reception "Circle Round for Global Justice & Solidarity"

**July 20:** UU@UN hosts webinar on demilitarizing the police: "Right to a Fair Trial"

**August 3:** UU@UN Director Bruce Knotts speaks at Disarmament Event hosted by UNA-NCA and All Souls DC

**August 9:** International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

**August 9:** Application deadline for Seminar Planning Committee (incl. Chaplains)

**August 12:** International Youth Day

**August 17:** August Envoy Conference Call

**September:** 2022 Seminar Planning Committee convenes

**September 6:** UUA offices closed for Labor Day

**September 21:** International Day of Peace

**October 16:** World Food Day

**October 24:** United Nations Day (and United Nations Sunday!)

Calendar

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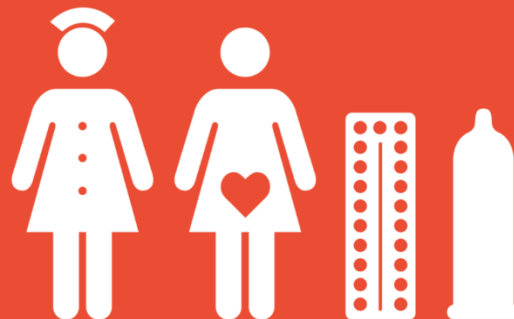
## TIME TO ACT

The following "Time to Act" suggestions for July 2021 will be related to the [Fifth Sustainable Development Goal: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls\\*](#) - focusing on target 5.6 (*Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights...*)

According to Guttmacher Institute, in the United States "More abortion restrictions—90—have already been enacted in 2021 than in any year since the Roe v. Wade decision was handed down in 1973." And in addition to attacks on abortion, "several state legislatures have focused on measures that target transgender youth by banning gender-affirming care or restricting their participation in sports." Their [July 2021 report on state policy trends](#) notes: "Attacks on transgender rights and on reproductive rights both employ misinformation, prejudice and stigma to restrict bodily autonomy and control individuals' decision-making about their own lives." In order to reverse these trends, Unitarian Universalists must be actively engaged in educating our communities against misinformation and contacting our elected leaders to combat these measures.

**TARGET 5-6**

**5 GENDER  
EQUALITY**



**UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS**

\*The UUA understands this goal with as broad a definition of "women and girls" as possible - looking towards equity for people of all genders.

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## **HELP RECRUIT SEMINAR LEADERS**

*Applications due this summer!*

The UU@UN is currently [recruiting Youth Deans and other leaders](#) for the 2022 Intergenerational Seminar, and we need help from Envoys and congregations!

The 2022 Seminar will continue the last two years' theme of action for climate justice, this time with a focus on climate-forced displacement. Are you or do you have a fellow congregant who is passionate about climate action? Be part of an incredible (and fun!) intergenerational team putting together an engaging conference next April 22-24 - expected to take place in New York City! Please encourage youth and adults you know to apply. (Click "Share this announcement" for sharing resources to spread the word. Thanks in advance for your help!) Youth Dean applications are still being accepted. Youth and Adult Chaplain and Planning Committee Member applications are due on August 9.

[Apply here](#)

[Share this announcement](#)

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## UNITED NATIONS SUNDAY

*Recommended Date: October 24, 2021*

United Nations Sunday celebrates the work of the United Nations and the Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the UN (UU@UN). Each year, the UU@UN encourages congregations to dedicate one service, around United Nations Day on October 24, to celebrate our interdependent world community. The 2021 UN Sunday theme is "All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability." A collection of UN Sunday resources is now available online – and additional materials will be added throughout the summer – highlighting the suggested theme and providing reflections, a sample order of service, and more. Save the date on your congregation's worship calendar and consider holding a special collection on that day to support the UU@UN.

United Nations Sunday

### FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BLOG

Find more at [www.UUA.org/international/blog](http://www.UUA.org/international/blog)



#### **Faced With a False Dilemma**

*By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director*

We are faced with what looks like a dilemma but isn't really. Calls to defund and demilitarize police forces are increasingly prominent in police reform conversations. Meanwhile, we are also seeing are rising violent crime rates. Some argue that in order to address the rising.....

Read the post



## At the High-Level Political Forum, More Work Ahead for Progress on the SDGs

By Joel Wheeler, UU@UN Summer Program Intern

Have you completed your annual checkup with your primary care physician this year? In addition to the daily ways you take care of your body, it's important to regularly monitor your progress with a doctor toward....

[Read the post](#)



## National Profiles of Global Police Militarization and Violence: Part 2

By Andrew Mickle, UU@UN Summer Program Intern

In September of 1990, the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders adopted the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials.....

[Read the post](#)

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## NEWS: UNITED NATIONS

*Keep yourself and your congregation informed about important news coming from the UN*

**Food Systems Pre-Summit** - UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said at the Food Systems Pre-Summit that a sustainable and prosperous planet can only be achieved through working together and in solidarity. "The Pre-Summit has shown me that [we can deliver on the right to food, while securing the future of our planet.](#)" said Ms. Mohammed. Earlier in the week, Secretary-General Guterres noted that inefficient [global food production is at the root of a huge rise in hunger as well as one-third of all emissions and 80 per cent of biodiversity loss](#), in a call to all countries to transform food systems to speed up sustainable development.

**Rohingya refugees** - Three days of strong winds and [heavy monsoon rain on sprawling refugee sites in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar](#) have taken Rohingya refugee lives and wreaked havoc and

destruction. The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said that nearly a foot of rain fell on camps hosting more than 800,000 Rohingya refugees. And with the monsoon season stretching over the next three months, UNHCR warned that more heavy downpours are expected, threatening further casualties.

**Gaza** - Although the international community is providing urgent assistance to Gaza in the wake of the most recent round of hostilities, [a political solution is still needed to end the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians](#). “Urgent efforts to improve the situation in Gaza must move forward swiftly, but let us not lose sight of the broader goal: resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, ending the occupation and realizing a two-State solution on the basis of UN resolutions, international law and bilateral agreements,” said Lynn Hastings, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process.

**COVID & education** - A culture of “safety, friends, and food” at school has been replaced by “anxiety, violence, and teenage pregnancy”, with [remote learning “simply out of reach” for at least a third of the world’s schoolchildren](#), according to the UN Children’s Fund, UNICEF.

[More UN News](#)



Office at the  
United Nations

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