



Dear Envoy,

This month, our hearts have broken at the devastating news from Cowessess First Nation in Saskatchewan, Canada of the discovery of the unmarked graves of hundreds of Indigenous victims of residential school genocide. Record-breaking heat in parts of Canada and the U.S. shows climate change's disastrous toll through drought, wildfires, and sweltering temperatures that threaten life, both human and not. The Delta variant has led to Covid-19 surges around the world, reminding us all that vigilance and safety measures cannot be relaxed until the virus is truly contained everywhere. Take a moment to hold the grief for these and so many other things. Injustice and inequity are rampant in our world. As Unitarian Universalists, we know that all of these concerns are linked... what touches one affects us all. Similarly, our efforts to make *more justice* and *more equity* in our communities can have reverberating effects.

A core concept in this year's UN Sunday topic is that work to increase equity, accessibility, and justice in food systems is healing to both people and planet. We can feed everyone with delicious, nutritious, and culturally appropriate foods in a way that harnesses natural processes and that is sustainable. We need collaboration and the collective will to shift power towards those who have been historically excluded from creating and implementing solutions.

Many resources for United Nations Sunday are now available online. Visit the [UN Sunday website](#) for information and spiritual grounding to begin crafting a worship service on this year's UN Sunday theme, *All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability*. Additional materials will be added in the weeks ahead!

The UUA International Office is hosting a virtual reception on July 14 that I hope you will attend and invite fellow congregants and leaders as well. This will be an opportunity to hear from the UU@UN, Holdeen India Program, and other international programs we're involved in, with time

for networking and connections. [Find event details and sign up here!](#) We did not have an Envoy meeting in June. The next regular Envoy meeting will be in August - [please RSVP here](#).

In faith, love, hope, and justice,



*Allison Hess*

International Engagement Associate

Email Allison

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## FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

*Some recommended text to put in your congregation's newsletter.*

Coming up this November is the 26th Conference of Parties (aka COP26) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the UN is particularly attentive to this upcoming conference as it is a critical juncture for countries to make real their 2015 Paris Agreement commitments to keep global warming to less than 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. At COP26 in Glasgow, countries will be submitting revised national contributions to lowering emissions and - hopefully - supporting carbon sinks. In our advocacy in UN forums like this, Unitarian Universalists are grounded in our 7th Principle: We affirm and promote respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. Much of our work at the UN is in the field of human rights, and in the climate venues it's important to promote not just *human* rights, but the rights of all existence to thrive on this beautiful planet: plants, animals, land, water, air, etc. Continue to follow the UU@UN as COP26 approaches for more about UU involvement in that conference.

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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.*

**June 3:** UN webinar: Youth Voices in Food and Sustainability

**June 3:** Film screening and Q&A: *The Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code*

**June 20:** World Refugees Day

**June 23-27:** UUA Virtual General Assembly

**June 26:** UU@UN and UUYACJ host GA workshop: "Intergenerational Action: All In for Climate/Food Justice"

**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 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

Calendar

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## TIME TO ACT

The following "Time to Act" suggestions for June 2021 will be related to the [Fourth Sustainable Development Goal](#): **Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all** - focusing on target 4.5 (*By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.*)

During the school year now ending, some schools held classes in-person, others fully remote, and others were a mix. It is expected that most if not all schools will plan to return for the fall term in August or September with more or less "back to normal" operations for in-person learning.

We have learned so much over this past year about how unacceptable "normal" actually was for so many learners. This summer break presents an opportunity for local advocacy and strategizing to make sure that when the school year starts up again in the fall, we eliminate disparities and ensure truly equitable access according to each student's needs.

Look for ways congregants can support teachers, parents, and students in getting access to the resources they need. Contact school district officials to make sure they are taking action to support the needs of all learners, especially those with disabilities, those whose first language is not English, those who do not have easy access to devices, those whose families are experiencing poverty and/or homelessness, and others.



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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 religious education curriculum, a sample order of service, and more.

United Nations Sunday

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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 climate justice, this time with a focus on climate-forced displacement and migration. 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. Youth Dean applications are due on July 7. Youth and Adult Chaplain and Planning Committee Member applications are due on August 9.

Volunteer Opportunities

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## CIRCLE ROUND FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE AND SOLIDARITY

*International Office Virtual Reception*

In lieu of a gathering during the week of the UUA's 2021 Virtual General Assembly, we invite you to join the UUA's International Office staff for a virtual reception at 7pm Eastern on Wednesday, July 14. Hear about what the International Office (including the Holdeen India Program and Office at the United Nations) has been working on in the last year, and meet others who are passionate about global Unitarian/Universalist work towards justice and solidarity. We hope to see you there!

Event Details

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## FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BLOG

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



## Authoritarian Leaders on Notice

*By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director*

The world seems to be witnessing a growth in authoritarian governments. Especially during difficult times, we must work to hold human rights violators accountable.....

[Read the post](#)



## Update International Law to Protect Climate Refugees

*By Joel Wheeler, UU@UN Summer Program Intern*

Climate change will drastically increase the number of displaced people in the world. In honor of World Refugee Day, we must update international legal protections for climate refugees....

[Read the post](#)



## United in Grief: The Second Surge of COVID-19 in India

*By UU Holdeen India Program*

As India has endured the pandemic's deadly second wave, loss and trauma have been palpable in every household. Unlike the first wave, this time Covid has made no distinction between rich or poor.....

[Read the post](#)





## Questions of Justice and Inclusion in Preparing for the UN Food Systems Summit

By Andrew Mickle, UU@UN Summer Program Intern

Food security is a pressing issue around the globe, and it's on the rise. The United Nations estimated that nearly 9% of the world's population suffered from chronic....

[Read the post](#)

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### NEWS: UNITED NATIONS

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

**Cryptocurrencies** - The [negative environmental impact of cryptocurrencies](#) such as Bitcoin has been widely covered in the press in recent weeks and months, and their volatility has also been flagged as a cause for concern. Nevertheless, the UN believes that blockchain, the technology lying behind these online currencies, could be of great benefit to those fighting the climate crisis, and help bring about a more sustainable global economy.

**Gender-based violence** - As the world grapples unevenly with the effects of COVID-19, “[a parallel and equally horrific pandemic](#)” has threatened half the world's population, the UN chief said in the lead up to the Generation Equality Forum in France.

**Drug use** - Around 275 million people used drugs worldwide in the last year of unprecedented upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, [up by 22 per cent from 2010](#). That's among the key findings of the latest annual report released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), which also provides an overview of global drug markets, as well as their impact on people's health and livelihoods.

**Mali** - [Rampant impunity for human rights violations in Mali](#) is posing serious risks for the protection of civilians in the West African country, UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet said. Repeated attacks over the past six months by groups such as the Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal Muslimin (JNIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS), as well as inter-communal

violence, have resulted in numerous casualties. At the same time, there has been a sharp increase in violations committed by national forces.

[More UN News](#)



**Office at the  
United Nations**

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