



Dear Envoy,

All attention at the United Nations right now is focused on the climate change conference that begins next week in Glasgow. COP26 comes at a critical moment for our planet, requiring countries to accelerate action for climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency. Unitarian Universalists have been engaged throughout the process, at the UN level through our UUA Office at the UN, and at national and local levels through advocacy to shift policies. No matter what happens in Glasgow, this action and pressure will continue to be important to ensure that commitments are fulfilled. You're welcome and encouraged to [follow along online with UUs throughout COP26](#).

[Here are the minutes](#) from the October Envoy meetings. During that meeting there was some conversation about setting up a platform for Envoys to exchange ideas and resources and to be in touch with one another around shared interests. Soon I will set up a Slack workspace for Envoys to use, but before we all delve in, we need some guidelines for interacting in that space. We'll discuss this and include a demonstration of how to use Slack during the upcoming Envoy meetings on November 16. [Please RSVP here to attend that meeting](#).

In faith, love, hope, and justice,



*Allison Hess*  
International Engagement Associate

[Email Allison](#)



## FOR YOUR CONGREGATION'S NEWSLETTER

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

As the world celebrated United Nations Day on Sunday, October 24, many congregations held a special UN Sunday worship service focused on the UUA Office at the UN's (UU@UN) theme "All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability." As it begins its 77th year, the UN is gearing up to host a pivotal climate conference, known as COP26, in Glasgow from October 31 - November 14. The new "Code Red" report from the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) in August showed us how urgently action must be undertaken to avert the most dire of apocalypse scenarios. Several people will be present at COP26 representing Unitarian Universalists. UU@UN-credentialed representatives at the climate summit will be pushing delegates and others to advance human rights for those most affected by the changing climate. In 2015, the Paris Agreement set a goal of limiting global warming to an increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and yet the commitments countries made six years ago were nowhere close to sufficient to meet that 1.5 degree goal. This year, countries must come with renewed commitments that will get us closer to a livable future for our planet. Our delegates will also be advocating for wealthy countries to increase their contributions to the "Green Climate Fund," another unmet promise in the Paris Agreement that was created to support adaptation and resiliency measures in developing countries. [Follow along online with UUs throughout COP26.](#)

### EVENTS

*A look behind, a look ahead*

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

**October 6:** "Strengthening Local Climate Commitments: Take Action for Global Impact"

Panel hosted by UUMFE and UU@UN

**October 16:** World Food Day

**October 19:** October Envoy Conference Call

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

**October 28:** "Preparing for the COP: Your Actions and the UN Climate Summit" Panel

hosted by UUMFE and UU@UN

**October 31-November 14:** COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow

**November 2-14:** Daily briefings re: COP26 for UUs

**November 16:** November Envoy Conference Call

**November 25-26:** UUA Offices closed for U.S. Thanksgiving holiday

**December 10:** Human Rights Day

Calendar

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## TIME TO ACT

The following "Time to Act" suggestions for October 2021 will be related to the [Eighth Sustainable Development Goal](#): **Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all** - focusing on target 8.5 (*By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value*).

Support restaurants and companies that treat their workers ethically with fair wages and benefits. (Download [ROC Diner's Guide Free App](#) for Android or iPhone to see full write-ups of the wages, benefits, and promotion practices of 150 of the most popular restaurant chains in the U.S.) Check out [MIT's Living Wage Calculator](#) to see whether your county provides a living wage to workers in various fields based on family size and type. Use this as a basis for discussion in your congregation or for planning to boycott or petition companies that don't respect the right to a living wage. Support small businesses in accordance with the Goal 8 target 8.5 by sourcing the goods for coffee hour, events, and fundraisers from small businesses in your area instead of large chain stores.

**TARGET 8-5**

**8 DECENT WORK AND  
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



**FULL EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK WITH EQUAL PAY**

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## **UNITED NATIONS SUNDAY**

*Resources available for worship, RE, and taking action*

This year's UN Sunday theme is "All In for Climate Justice: Food Equity and Sustainability." Many congregations have already held their UN Sunday service. If you haven't yet, click below to check out the UN Sunday resources, which include materials for planning a service and related congregational action along this theme. Below is a list of the congregations I know of that have a UN Sunday service or event scheduled (and if either Bruce or I make a virtual appearance):

**October 3:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Huntington, NY (Bruce)

**October 17:** Kingston Unitarian Fellowship, Kingston, ON (Bruce)

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Sunnyvale, CA (Bruce)

First Unitarian Church of Staten Island, NY (Allison)

Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock, NY

Glacier UU Fellowship, Kalispell, MT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, VA

**October 24:** Pathways UU Church, Hurst, TX (Bruce)

Inland Northwest UU Community, Spokane, WA (Bruce)

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, Watertown, NY (Allison)

Chalice UU Fellowship of the Conejo Valley, CA (Allison)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Long Beach, CA

Cedar Lane UU Church, Bethesda, MD

Towson UU Church, Towson, MD

All Souls Community Church of West Michigan, Grand Rapids, MI

Universalist Unitarian Church of Halifax, NS

First Unitarian Congregation of Ottawa, ON

Don Heights Unitarian Congregation, Toronto, ON

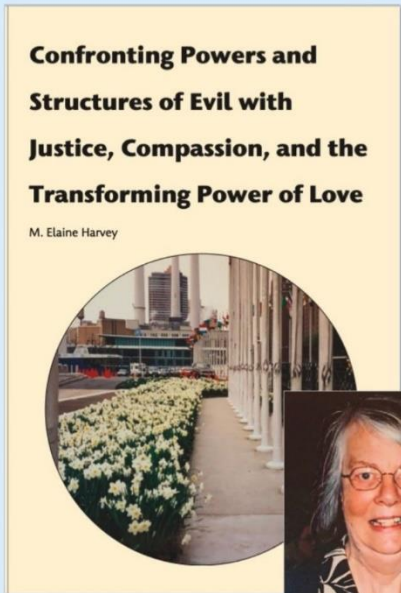
UU Community Church of Washington County, Hillsboro, OR

San Marcos Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, TX

**October 31:** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Central Nassau, NY (Bruce)

If your congregation's service is scheduled but it's not on my list, please send a note so that I can add it! (Apologies if you already let me know and I've lost track.)

UN Sunday Resources



**Confronting Powers and Structures of Evil with Justice, Compassion, and the Transforming Power of Love**  
M. Elaine Harvey

A Unitarian Universalist's involvement in the  
**Establishment of the International Criminal Court**  
from 1998-2003

*A new book by Elaine Harvey  
Member of Kingston Unitarian Fellowship  
in Kingston, ON*

## **CONFRONTING POWERS AND STRUCTURES OF EVIL**

*A new book by Elaine Harvey, UU from Kingston, ON who was involved in establishing the International Criminal Court*

Familiarize yourself with the events that led to the establishment of the International Criminal Court, through the eyes of M. Elaine Harvey, a Unitarian Universalist Association representative at the United Nations during these historic moments. As a compilation of writings by M. Elaine

Harvey, this book transports you back in time to the actions, thoughts, and emotions of 1998 during which it was unknown if the Diplomatic Conference to Establish the Court would be successful. As a result of the hard work of many representatives, States, and NGOs, the International Criminal Court is now established and operational.

There are a couple of ways to get a copy of this book:

- Get a free digital copy of the book by emailing Elaine's granddaughter Tara Bauer ([bauer.tara.m@gmail.com](mailto:bauer.tara.m@gmail.com))
- Purchase a hard copy of the book for \$11.59 plus shipping (click below!)

Purchase the Book

## FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BLOG

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



### Happy 76th Birthday to the United Nations

*By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director*

As a child, I could not tell that day by day, I was growing. Instead, my father marked my height every year so we could see how much I had grown. October 24, 2021 is the 76th birthday of the United Nations. The UN Charter was signed in 1945 by the representatives of 51.....

Read the post



## National Profiles of Global Police Militarization and Violence: Part 3

By Halley Mistry & Rose Singleton, UU@UN Interns

This piece is part of a series on Global Police Militarization and Violence. This installment explores how domestic security forces block migrants and asylum seekers from legal representation and access to human rights protection.....

[Read the post](#)

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### NEWS: UNITED NATIONS

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

**Syria** - Although the outcome of the latest [meeting of the Syrian Constitutional Committee](#) was “a [disappointment](#),” members must continue their vital work, the UN Special Envoy for the country said in a briefing to the Security Council on Wednesday. In parallel with the Constitutional Committee meeting, the Envoy Geir Pedersen also convened a meeting of the Syrian Women’s Advisory Board at a location near Geneva.

**South Sudan & Sudan** - The Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations told the Security Council that he was [encouraged by a thaw in relations between South Sudan and Sudan](#), now that both have established national committees on the question of Abyei, the disputed oil-rich border territory claimed by both countries. Referring to this week’s military coup in Sudan, he said that “it is too early to know what the impact of this week’s developments in Khartoum will mean” for the region and the UN mission there. “But I am hopeful as I know that all parties in Sudan are, and have been, strong supporters of the Mission”, he added.

**"Edutainment"** - Young people in South Africa [changed their attitudes significantly and adopted safer sexual behaviour](#) after watching a TV show called Down South – which the UN initiative behind it describes as a tribute to the power of “edutainment.” A new report indicates that after watching the episodes young people were twice as likely to get tested for HIV, and twice as likely to know their status and to be aware of oral pre-exposure prophylaxis, known as PrEP, a drug taken by HIV-negative people before sex, that reduces the risk of getting HIV.

**COP26 Vocab** - If you've been following the UN for any period of time, you will quickly notice the plethora of acronyms, initializations and jargon that abound across the Organization. There will be plenty more to confuse you at COP26 (a classic example in itself), so here's the UN's handy [guide to help you make sense of some of the key buzz words](#) you'll be hearing, as the landmark climate change conference gets going. You can also take a [UN News climate quiz](#) to test your knowledge ahead of COP26.

[More UN News](#)



Office at the  
United Nations

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Allison Hess, UU@UN  
24 Farnsworth St, Boston, MA 02210  
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