



Dear Envoy,

A highlight of each month for me is the third Tuesday, when I get to jump on Zoom with Envoys to share news from the UN and hear about what Envoys are working on in their congregations. It's also an opportunity for Envoys to share with one another, get ideas, and recommend resources.

Over the years, Envoys have wished for more chances to do just that. We've had a Facebook group for many years, but it's rarely used. We now have a platform that will be useful for more regular communication between those Envoys who wish to be connected.

There is now a new workspace for UU@UN Envoys on Slack!

Slack is an online communication tool for groups. You may have already used it if you participated in the 2021 Intergenerational Spring Seminar or any UU the Vote organizing in the last year or two.

Contact me now to request an invitation to join the UU@UN Envoys Slack workspace!

At the November Envoy meetings a couple of weeks ago, I shared a brief tutorial on how to use the new Slack workspace. (Here are the [November Envoy meeting minutes](#).) When you request an invitation I'll share with you an instructions document (including community guidelines for the workspace!) and a brief tutorial video in case you need it. Once you've joined, you can use Slack to ask questions and exchange ideas with other Envoys!

Note: The UUA will be closed from December 20-31 for an extra long winter holiday break. There will be no Envoy Meetings in December. Please enjoy some extra time to relax. If you need anything or have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me by email or phone (or

Slack!). The next monthly Envoy meeting will be January 18, 2022. [Please RSVP here to attend that meeting.](#)

You'll hear from me again before the end of 2021 with the December Envoy News, so for now I'll just say: If you're in a cold place: Stay warm! If you're in a warm place: Stay cool! And no matter where you are: Stay safe!

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.

Human Rights Day takes place on December 10 each year, inviting us all to reflect on the state of human rights in the world. It marks the anniversary of the UN's adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, written in 1948 (in part by Canadian Unitarian John Peters Humphrey) to acknowledge the set of rights that every human being possesses no matter their place or status of birth, in order that those rights be respected, protected, and fulfilled. The Unitarian Universalist Association Office at the United Nations is part of an important network of non-governmental organizations working on human rights issues at the UN: the NGO Committee on Human Rights, of which UU@UN Director Bruce Knotts is co-chair. In honor of Human Rights Day this year, the UU@UN is hosting an event on December 15 looking into police policies through a global human rights lens that considers race, gender, age, and ability. Congregations are invited to celebrate Human Rights Day by holding a conversation using the UUA International Office's Human Rights Discussion guide. Check out these opportunities and more at bit.ly/UUAHRDayEvents.

EVENTS

A look behind, a look ahead

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

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 17: "Beyond COP26: Takeaways from the UN Climate Summit" Panel hosted by UUMFE and UU@UN

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

December 10: Human Rights Day

December 11-12: "Compass: Navigating the Paths to Liberation Together" hosted by the UUA Congregational Life

December 15: "Human Rights and Policing Through a Global Lens" Panel hosted by UU@UN

December 20-31: UUA offices closed for winter holidays

Mid-January: Registration opens for Intergenerational Spring Seminar.

January 17: UUA offices closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 18: January Envoy Conference Call

April 22-May 1: UU@UN Intergenerational Spring Seminar

Calendar

TIME TO ACT

The following "Time to Act" suggestions for November 2021 will be related to the [Ninth Sustainable Development Goal](#): **Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation** - focusing on target 9.a (*Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological, and technical support...*).

Creating climate justice globally demands that wealthy countries fulfill their promise of funding to support less wealthy countries' adaptation of their infrastructure to make it resilient and sustainable. The United States has still not finalized its 2021/22 Finance Commitments supporting the Paris Climate Agreement obligations to developing countries. You can take action now through a UUs for Social Justice writing campaign: Call on leaders to commit to

and fund the U.S. fair share of the Green Climate Fund and our full financing and technology transfer responsibilities.

Write Now: Green Climate Fund

TARGET 9-A

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



FACILITATE SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

CUC APPROVES 8TH PRINCIPLE

Dismantling Racism and Systemic Barriers to Full Inclusion

At a Special Meeting on November 27, member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council voted to approve adding an 8th Principle to the current seven Principles:

“We, the member congregations of the Canadian Unitarian Council, covenant to affirm and promote:

Individual and communal action that accountably dismantles racism and systemic barriers to full inclusion in ourselves and our institutions.”

Canadian Unitarian Universalists celebrated this significant commitment by their faith community and look forward to the work of making it a reality. Click below to read more about the vote and this new Canadian UU Principle.

[CUC 8th Principle](#)

INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR

Online | April 22 - May 1, 2022

Next spring, the UU@UN will host its 2022 Intergenerational Spring Seminar, "Displacement and Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice," in partnership with [UU Ministry for Earth](#) and [UUSC](#). The Seminar will include online virtual programming as well as local gatherings, hosted by congregations, where attendees can connect in person with others nearby and engage with action in their local context. **Registration will open in January**; stay tuned for further details!

Seminar Details

COMPASS

Online | December 11-12, 2021

This extended time of social distancing has taught us just how much we need each other as individuals and collectives; in many ways, our interdependence has never been clearer. UUA Congregational Life staff have developed a conference to help UUs navigate this time and join with each other in charting a path toward a deeper connection with their faith. Join "Compass: Navigating the Paths of Liberation Together," an online conference being held on December 11 and 12.

Compass Details

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BLOG

Find more at www.UUA.org/international/blog



Indigenous Heritage Month and COP26

By Amanda Newlove, UU@UN Program Intern

In honor of those whose land and lives have been stolen, the UUA holds space to reflect on the atrocities of colonization, and affirms our solidarity with those who continue to fight for Indigenous sovereignty. We honor the missing and murdered Indigenous women and children. We uplift Indigenous.....

[Read the post](#)



Fulfilling Promises for Climate Justice

By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director

Was COP26 a success? Or a failure? I believe it's most accurate, if unsatisfying, to answer "both" – and "neither." Each year since the Convention was adopted in 1994, the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has convened a Conference of Parties (COP).....

[Read the post](#)



Direct from the UN Climate Summit: Loss and Damage

By Pierre Candelon, UUA rep at COP26

Hello to the UUA Community! I am Pierre Candelon, and here at COP26 I co-coordinate a network of stakeholders (practitioners, activists, decision-makers, academics) called the Loss and Damage Collaboration. At this COP, there is momentum on this topic of Loss and.....

[Read the post](#)

NEWS: UNITED NATIONS

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

Omicron - The emergence of the threatening new Omicron variant shows how important it is for the world to end the current “cycle of panic and neglect” over the COVID-19 pandemic, said the head of the World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday. The World Health Assembly meeting is convened now in Geneva to decide on the issue of a so-called “pandemic treaty.” Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has said that [vaccine inequity, among other challenges, has facilitated the appearance of new highly mutated variants](#) such as Omicron.

COP26 Outcome - Of the many agreements and initiatives announced at the 26th UN Climate Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, the UN Climate Communications Lead at the Department of Global Communications narrowed down the three that she deemed most impactful. In an exclusive interview with UN News, Martina Donlon acknowledged that after two weeks of tough negotiations, the text that serves as the conference's outcome is “a compromise that is [not enough,](#)” [especially for small island States and other vulnerable countries.](#) However, it does provide some “positive steps forward.”

Ethiopia - The number of people in need of humanitarian food assistance across northern Ethiopia has spiked as a direct result of ongoing conflict, according to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP). Of the people across northern Ethiopia in need of assistance, more than 80 per cent - 7.8 million - “are behind battle lines.” Corridors into Tigray had been closed due to the recent Tigrayan advances into Afar and Amhara, as well as severe disruptions linked to federal government approvals. The WFP spokesperson pointed out that this has meant that [less than a third of the supplies needed have entered the region since mid-July.](#)

Trafficking - The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated factors that fuel human trafficking such as poverty, unemployment and gender-based violence, the President of the UN General Assembly said on Monday, urging countries to boost efforts to prevent and respond to this “vile crime”. Abdulla Shahid was speaking at the opening of a two-day high-level meeting to [review progress in implementing the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,](#) adopted by the General Assembly in July 2010.

More UN News



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