



Dear Envoy,

As we wrap up 2021, I want to share with you a message from my dear colleague Rob Kipp, Administrator for the UUA International Office, who's behind the scenes making everything our team does possible. Please read Rob's words below and I hope you'll be as inspired as I am.

(There was no Envoy meeting in December. You can [RSVP now](#) for the next one on Tuesday, January 18. Looking forward to seeing you then!)

In faith, love, hope, and justice,



Allison Hess

International Engagement Associate

Email Allison

Dear Envoys,

I've never been much of one for New Year's resolutions. Too often they felt like promises I knew I wouldn't keep. But a few years ago I heard about the practice of picking a Word of the Year: a theme or value that you hope can anchor the year ahead. I like the simultaneous simplicity and depth that one single word can bring, and how a particular year can feel all the more personal for having had a name—not just a number.

2020 was the first year I chose a word, and it was Gratitude. What a perfect word it turned out to be. Amidst *everything* that was going on, how good it felt to remind myself of everything I was thankful for.

In 2021 I chose Imperfection. This theme felt important for me to embrace, as someone who struggles with such symptoms of white supremacy culture as Perfectionism, One Right Way, and Only I Can Fix It. I tried to accept (not scorn) the messiness of life, to nurture what felt vibrant and true—and to do so in community, even when it seemed easier to disconnect.

As my year of Imperfection draws to a close, here's what I'm thinking about: It's clear that so many of our systems were broken long before the pandemic laid them bare, but simply knowing that fact won't help anything. When I look back on these years—with the looming terrors of climate change and authoritarianism—how will I wish I'd spent my time?

From Imperfection, I could turn to Comfort or Acceptance: focus only on what brings me joy and do my best to ignore my fears. But that's not what I really need right now, and it's definitely not how to reciprocate all that I'm grateful for. What I need now is **Courage**. Courage to face my fears, to fight for what I love. To show up. To engage in direct action. To organize. I need courage to accept that it won't be perfect—that I might feel foolish or afraid—but that this is worth it. A safe and habitable planet is worth it, worth everything, not least worth showing up for.

I hope that this holiday season you can celebrate lots of reasons to be grateful, and that you can experience some of this imperfect life's immeasurable beauty. And in 2022 I hope that you'll join us, courageously, in fighting for change.

With more love than words alone can say,



Rob Kipp

International Programs Administrator

FOR YOUR CONGREGATION'S NEWSLETTER

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

With the emergence of the omicron variant, the UN health agency's warnings have been realized: The coronavirus's mutations do not recognize national borders and we cannot overcome this pandemic by only vaccinating the residents of wealthy countries. Similarly, climate change has continued to follow through this year on its threats to wreak havoc upon ecosystems all around the world, and yet wealthy nations continue to withhold full support of the Green Climate Fund. This second year of pandemic has reaffirmed a message we are all taught as children and that the Secretary-General of the UN has reiterated time and time again: Sharing is essential. Our interdependence has never been more clear both on an interpersonal and international level. This month's message from the UUA Office at the United Nations is to please keep leaning into that interdependence. Show up for one another however you can, including organizing in your community for policy changes that will create more equity and justice in the world.

EVENTS

A look behind, a look ahead

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

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 15: UU@UN Director Bruce Knotts addresses "Earth Speaks" forum at First UU Congregation of Ottawa.

December 20-31: UUA offices closed for winter holidays

Mid-January: Registration opens for Intergenerational Spring Seminar.

January 11: Ethical Eating Day

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 December 2021 will be related to the [Tenth Sustainable Development Goal: Reduce inequalities within and among countries](#) - focusing on target 10.2 (*By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status*).

Democracy is under grave threat in many countries, and according to a new report from the think tank International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, the U.S. is now considered a backsliding democracy. As they attempt to recover from pandemic, our communities need protection and investment. Unitarian Universalists can take action for SDG 10 by mobilizing now to urge senators to support bills to defend democracy and voting rights; and also to support the Build Back Better plan, which will ensure social and economic protections for those most at-risk in our communities. Please call your senators to tell them that human rights and human dignity are at stake. They must pass the Build Back Better Act **before the new year**. Side with Love has help for you to make these calls:

Call Now via Side with Love

TARGET 10-2

**10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES**



**PROMOTE UNIVERSAL SOCIAL,
ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL INCLUSION**

SLACK WORKSPACE FOR ENVOYS

A new platform for communication and sharing

There is a new workspace for UU@UN Envoys on Slack! This platform will give those who wish to be connected a chance to share with one another, get ideas, and recommend resources. When you request an invitation I'll share with you an instructions document (including community guidelines for the workspace) and a brief tutorial video. Click below to contact me to request an invitation to join the Slack workspace!

[Request a Slack invite](#)

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

FROM THE INTERNATIONAL BLOG

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

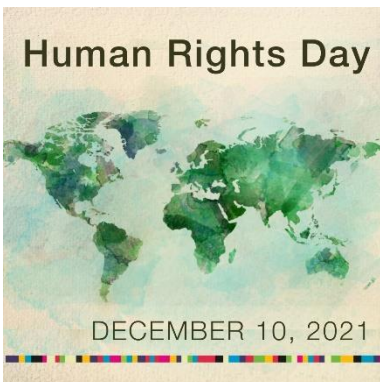


Protecting Migrants' Fundamental Rights with the UU@UN

By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director

In honor of Human Rights Day, UU@UN Director reflects on the human rights priorities of the UUA Office at the UN, expressing gratitude for the generosity of supporters which sustains the office's work.....

Read the post

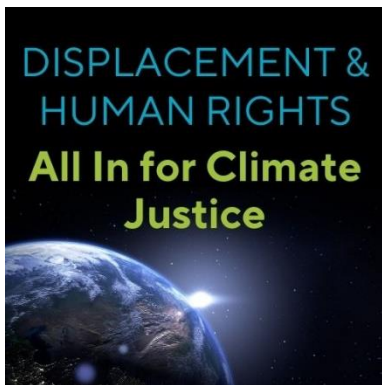


Engaging Attention and Action at the United Nations

By Bruce Knotts, UU@UN Director

In honor of Human Rights Day, UU@UN Director reflects on the human rights priorities of the UUA Office at the UN, expressing gratitude for the generosity of supporters which sustains the office's work.....

Read the post



Save the Date: 2022 Intergenerational Spring Seminar

By the UU@UN Team

We are excited to share an update about the UUA Office at the UN's upcoming Intergenerational Spring Seminar, "Displacement and Human Rights: All In for Climate Justice." Programming for the 2022 Intergenerational Seminar will be offered fully online, April 22 – May 1.....

[Read the post](#)

NEWS: UNITED NATIONS

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

Human rights - After one of the busiest years in the history of the Human Rights Council, the UN forum remains more relevant than ever. Of particular note is its [action on COVID-19 vaccine inequity and climate change](#). Speaking as she prepares to step down from her one-year term as President of the Council at the end of the month, Ambassador Nashat Shameem Khan also looked ahead to her new role at the International Criminal Court (ICC), where her appointment as Deputy Prosecutor was announced recently.

Pandemic - Arguing that the world "cannot defeat a pandemic in an uncoordinated way," the UN Secretary-General said that countries "must take concrete action in the coming days" to vaccinate 40 per cent of the world's population by the end of the year. "Vaccine inequity is giving variants a free pass to run wild - ravaging the health of people and economies in every corner of the globe," António Guterres said. "It is becoming clear that vaccines alone will not eradicate the pandemic. Vaccines are averting hospitalization and death for the majority who get them and slowing the spread. But [transmissions show no sign of letting up. This is driven by vaccine inequity, hesitancy and complacency.](#)"

Uyghur rights defender - Four UN independent human rights experts [called for Morocco to reverse its decision to extradite a Uyghur Muslim to China](#) as his return would place him under threat of serious human rights violations. If he is made to return, human rights defender

Yidiresi Aishan risks detention, enforced disappearance, or torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the experts argue.

Climate, conflict, displacement - A flare-up in intercommunal fighting in northern Cameroon has forced [tens of thousands of people to flee their homes and brought a halt to aid operations there](#), said the UN refugee agency, UNHCR. The development is just the latest episode in the difficult relationship between the region's herders, fishermen and farmers, who have seen the waters and tributaries of Lake Chad shrink dramatically, because of climate change-induced drought.

[More UN News](#)



Office at the
United Nations

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