



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS

Washington Office for Advocacy

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# Legislative Objectives for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress: 2009-2010

*Based on statements approved by the General Assembly, an analysis of how we can be most effective, and a commitment to be accountable to traditionally marginalized communities, the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations has established the following legislative priorities for the two year session of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress. We call upon the United States Government to:*

## Economic and Racial Justice

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- ⊕ Implement fair and just immigration reforms that facilitate the reunification of families, ensure due process, and create an accessible and timely process to obtain residency and citizenship.
- ⊕ Increase the availability of low income housing and living wage jobs in the Gulf Coast region
- ⊕ Raise the federal minimum wage to \$10 in 2010
- ⊕ Eliminate the federal sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine

## Environmental Justice

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- ⊕ Mandate a reduction of U.S. carbon gas emissions, as recommended by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), while relieving the burden of increased energy costs for low-income households
- ⊕ Create millions of green jobs to transition the U.S. to a green economy and to lift people out of poverty

## Gender and Sexual Justice

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- ⊕ Extend fair employment practices to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community
- ⊕ Grant full and equal access to civil marriage for same-sex couples
- ⊕ Establish a policy of non-discrimination, on the basis of sexual orientation, for the armed forces
- ⊕ Fund comprehensive, evidence-based sexuality education
- ⊕ Increase access to abortion and contraception

## International Justice

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- ⊕ Increase funding for comprehensive, evidence-based HIV prevention programs
- ⊕ Contribute fully to peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, and activities in support of the peace process in Darfur
- ⊕ End the US military occupation of Iraq, and prevent armed conflict with Iran, through multilateral diplomatic engagement

*This list is subject to change. For the latest social justice resources, see:*

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