

# CSW Alert!



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## SPEAK OUT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE • PORTLAND 2015 Thursday, June 25, 2015

*Welcome to Portland and GA 2015! Hold on to this Summary CSW (Commission on Social Witness) Alert. It's your first of four daily guides to our social witness work at GA. As delegates of member congregations, it's up to you to participate in the workshops and plenaries. There is much at stake, including voting on adopting the Draft Statement of Conscience on Reproductive Justice, learning more about our active Congregational Study/Action Issues on Escalating Inequality, and seeing opportunities to propose and adopt Actions of Immediate Witness. Plan to participate fully, and ask about what you don't understand. You can access CSW members at Booth 206 in the Exhibit Hall and up front, on the right, during the plenary sessions that include CSW business. Let's bear social witness together!*

### **How to navigate our social witness process at GA**

Check your GA Agenda to find additional information on the social witness processes named below. At the CSW booth you'll find a copy of the Delegates' Guide to Social Witness.

Let's first clear up that ornery alphabet soup:

CSAI = Congregational Study Action Issue

SOC = Statement of Conscience

AIW = Action of Immediate Witness

CSW = Commission on Social Witness

The CSAI emerges in a congregation, district, or sponsored organization and moves through a process of congregational and GA selection every two years. The CSW drafts a SOC in the third year and presents it to congregations and delegates for comments, proposed amendments, and final approval. Delegates will vote on the proposed SOC during the **Friday morning General Session**. To learn more about the draft statement or to propose amendments, attend the SOC mini-assembly **Thursday afternoon** from 1:15 – 4:15 in Room B110-112.

You also will have the opportunity at this GA to speak out on specific issues demanding our immediate attention through AIWs. You draft them. You propose them (preference is given to group-originated proposals). Delegates support them by signing sponsors' petitions. At the **Saturday morning General Session**, delegates will hear from the proposers of up to 6 AIWs and vote to admit up to 3 to the GA agenda. At the **Sunday afternoon General Session**, delegates debate and vote on whether they are adopted and carry the authority of this GA.

Each CSW Alert will be organized according to what's happening most immediately for the Draft SOC, Active CSAI, and AIWs. Related events will be highlighted.

**Questions? Visit the CSW at Booth 206 in the Exhibit Hall**

### Draft SOC on Reproductive Justice 2012-2016

**Event 1 -- SOC: Mini-Assembly on Draft SOC, Thursday, June 25, 1:15 – 4:15 p.m., B110-112.** Only opportunity to propose amendments. This is one continuous session. Come at 1:15.

**Event 2 -- Social Justice Sermon Contest winner: “Sex, Religion, Abortion, and Justice,” Thursday, June 25, 4:45 – 6:00 p.m., D135-136** by Rev. Rob Keithan.

**Event 3 -- SOC Implementation Workshop. Friday, June 26, 1:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m., C123-124.** After the vote on adopting a SOC, the CSW offers an implementation workshop on how congregations can work on implementing actions from the statement.

**Related Programming -- Friday, June 26, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m., D133-134.** We Are Brave: Building Reproductive Autonomy & Voices for Equity

### Active CSAI—Escalating Inequality—2014-2018

**Event 1 -- Workshop. Thursday, June 25, 10:15 a.m. -11:30 a.m., D139-140.** What is Escalating Inequality: Economics and Social Justice?

**Event 2 -- Workshop. Friday, June 26, 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m., Oregon Ballroom 204.** Class Conscious: Class and Classism in UU Life- a Curriculum Overview.

#### **Related Programming –**

**Thursday, June 25, 3:00 – 4:15 p.m., E143-144.** Working for Fair Wages – Stories of 2 Communities

**Friday, June 26, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.**

**D135-136.** Expanding the Welcome Table: Get Real About Class

**D133-134.** Think, Feel, Act: Challenging Escalating Inequality

**Friday, June 26, 4:45 – 6:00 p.m., B117-119.** Class Diversity: Exploring Our Past, Building Our Theologies

### AIWs

#### **DEADLINES TO PROPOSE YOUR GROUP'S AIW**

##### **Deadline 1—Thursday, June 25, 5:00 PM – CSW Booth 206, Exhibit Hall**

First, check the CSW booth to determine if anyone else is preparing an AIW on the same topic. We encourage collaboration. To place an AIW on the Agenda, pick up the required cover sheet and petition form for signatures at the CSW booth and draft your statement. Submit a copy of the AIW at the booth by the Thursday deadline. Then begin to collect delegate signatures.

##### **Deadline 2—Friday, June 26, 5:00 PM– GA Office**

Submit the AIW forms with the required delegate signatures to the CSW at the GA Office, by the Friday deadline. Proposed AIWs must be submitted by this deadline to be considered.

**AIW Vote 1—Saturday, June 27, General Session IV.** Delegates select 3 proposed AIWs to admit to the agenda for consideration on Sunday.

**AIW Mini-Assemblies, Saturday June 27, 1:15 – 2:30 p.m., D133-134, D137-138, D139-140.** These are the only opportunities to suggest changes/propose amendments to the 3 proposed AIWs selected for consideration.

**AIW Vote 2—Sunday, June 28, General Session VI.** Delegates vote whether to adopt each of the 3 proposed AIWs.