



United Nations
Office

Gender Equity & Human Rights Program

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office raises awareness and advocates at the United Nations for equal rights and opportunities for all people regardless of gender identity or expression. Part of this work includes supporting the global implementation of key international agreements such as Security Council Resolution 1325 (on women's role in peace and security) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

CEDAW is considered an international bill of rights for women. As of 2019, 187 countries have ratified it; the six countries that have not are Iran, Palau, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga, and the United States. The UU-UNO works to promote the principles of CEDAW locally in the U.S. and worldwide, with an understanding that CEDAW should apply for not just women but people of all and no genders.

We also mobilize to amplify the work of the United Nations Human Rights Office's Free & Equal campaign. UN Free & Equal is a global campaign against homophobia and transphobia, established in July 2013 by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The campaign works to promote equal rights and fair treatment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people, with efforts focused on:

- decriminalizing same-sex relationships,
- achieving legal recognition for transgender people,
- preventing harmful surgery for intersex children, and
- establishing protections to address discrimination in healthcare, housing, employment, and education.

Learn more at
www.uua.org/un

LGBTQ+ JUSTICE AT THE UN

The UU-UNO brought lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) rights to the forefront of the UN agenda, starting in Paris in September 2008. The 61st annual UN DPI-NGO conference celebrated the 60th anniversary of the signing in Paris of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. There, we hosted the conference's first ever LGBTQ-focused workshop, opening a dialogue and lifting up a movement that was developing in human rights: universal human rights apply to all human beings regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity (SOGI). Since then and the coalition-building that followed that session, the UN human rights community has fully embraced SOGI human rights, though the struggle continues in many countries around the world and within certain circles at the UN.

