



Social Witness Statements of the UUA –  
A Comparison

Currently delegates at the Unitarian Universalist Association’s General Assembly adopt two types of statements for witnessing about social justice issues. Below is a comparison of the two.

	<b>Statement of Conscience</b>	<b>Action of Immediate Witness</b>
Level of Influence	An official position of the UUA. It shapes the meaning of contemporary UUism and empowers the UUA staff to lobby on pending legislation.	Expresses the conscience and carries the authority of the delegates at the GA during which it is passed.
Who May Propose	A congregation	A delegate to GA
When are Proposals submitted for consideration	In October 3 years prior to consideration of a Statement – through the congregational study action issue (CSAI) process	By Thursday at 5 p.m. at the same GA where consideration will occur
How many may be adopted how often	1 every 2 years	3 per year
Opportunities for congregational study	UUA publishes a study guide for congregational use	None
Opportunities for congregational input	By Feb, feedback forms accepted on CSAIs for two successive years, then in the third year on the draft Statement written by the CSW	None
Opportunities for delegate input	Delegates select the issue (CSAI) and 3 years later, they may propose changes during a mini-assembly	During a mini-assembly
Types of issues addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complex enough to merit three years of study and action</li> <li>• Appropriate for study and action that would enable UUs to put Principles into practice</li> <li>• Congregational study and action projects practically possible</li> <li>• Does not duplicate a recently adopted UUA position unless further study would substantially change the UUA’s position</li> <li>• Not urgent enough to be appropriate for an Action of Immediate Witness</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requires immediate action to make an impact</li> <li>• Specific and too narrow to merit three years of study and action</li> <li>• Does not duplicate a recent AIW</li> <li>• Fits with member congregations’ capacity to take meaningful action</li> <li>• Opportunity for congregations to become respected participants in public dialogue</li> </ul>