



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE | 2018 RESOURCE PACKET

United Nations Sunday Service

When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All

IN THIS PACKET:

Part I: Background Information.....	3
About the United Nations	4
United Nations Sunday	5
Part II: 2018 Global Rights Topic	7
Understanding Terminology	7
Migration Issues at the United Nations	8
Migration and Unitarian Universalism	13
Part III: Planning Your UN Sunday Service	22
Brainstorming UN Sunday	22
UN Sunday Checklist	23
Timeline for UN Sunday Service Planning.....	24
Sample Order of Service.....	26
UN Sunday Religious Education.....	29
Part IV: Beyond UN Sunday.....	34
Blue Ribbon Congregation: Requirements	34
Dana Greeley Sermon Competition	34
About the UU United Nations Office	35

Part I: Background Information

This packet provides resources for Unitarian Universalist congregations to plan a worship service that honors the work of the United Nations, particularly addressing this year's theme, *When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All*.

Find yourself in the Global U/U Story! With a UN Sunday Service, your congregation will learn about an important global issue and be inspired to take action in the name of justice. That's what the global U/U story is all about – Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists around the world engaging in liberal spiritual worship, compassionate acts, and doing their part to bend the arc of history toward justice. This packet includes various and plentiful resources for you and your UN Sunday planning team. It will take you through the steps of learning about, planning, and executing a successful and inspirational UN Sunday. Please read through as much as possible – you are encouraged to view each page as a resource for information and knowledge on the topic.

Please be aware of the requirements and deadlines for the Dana Greeley Award, Blue Ribbon Congregation Award, and procedures for collecting and sending donations.

We ask congregations to consider dedicating their UN Sunday offering or collection to the important work of the UU-UNO and to inform fellow UUs of the value of contributing to the UU-UNO. The UU-UNO exists to provide a unique Unitarian Universalist perspective at the United Nations. We depend on individual and congregational support, and we need your involvement, engagement, and enthusiastic contributions to help us bring our UU voice to the UN. Read more about the UU-UNO on page 34. You can help to change the world so that every person enjoys a safe and dignified life. Thank you for participating in UN Sunday!

Lastly, please add a description of your UN Sunday service to the online map! You can find it at www.uua.org/unsunday/services - Sharing about services on the map allows you to see what other congregations have done and gives congregations a chance to describe the events they put together. If you're a UU-UNO Envoy at your congregation, once you have successfully held your UN Sunday, please remember to complete the Envoy Report, which can be found online at <https://goo.gl/DkAczJ>. This report is the pre-qualifier for becoming a Blue Ribbon Congregation and helps us learn more about how we can improve our resources and support of initiatives and events.

Please contact the UU-UNO at unenvoycoordinator@uua.org or 617-948-4366, with any questions or concerns. This complete packet is available for all at uua.org/unsunday.

Good luck and have a fantastic UN Sunday celebration!

About the United Nations

Below is a brief overview of the history of this international organization. You may choose to read the Purposes (below) or the Preamble (see Singing the Living Tradition #475) as opening words or as a reflection.

With the scourge of war heavy on hearts and minds following World War II, 51 countries met in San Francisco to create the United Nations, where they drafted and signed its Charter. When these 51 countries signed the Charter on 24 October 1945, they became *Member States* of the United Nations and committed their governments and peoples to “maintain international peace and security” as well as the Charter’s other purposes and principles. When *states* become *members* of the United Nations, they agreed to accept the many obligations of the [UN Charter](#)¹.

Much of the UN’s work sets normative frameworks which governments must take upon themselves to implement. The fourth purpose listed in the Charter is particularly illustrative of the UN’s mission: “To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.”

A common misunderstanding is that the UN is a director of action or change or that it has power over states. Much like elected or appointed officials in a city or province draft legislation in the interest of their local constituents, UN delegates from different countries deliberate about law and legislation at the international level. Governments draft, debate, and vote for or against treaties, conventions, or action plans discussed at the UN. Then it is necessary for the individual countries that sign these conventions to ensure that they are followed through – and civil society to hold our own countries accountable for the commitments they make.

There are 193 Member States in the United Nations (the newest Member State is the Republic of South Sudan, 14 July 2011). In addition, the Holy See and the State of Palestine have observer status, meaning that they have speaking rights, but no voting rights. Working with such a diversity of peoples requires a large full-time translation team; the UN works in six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, & Spanish.

PURPOSES

Below are the four main purposes for which the UN was created and continues to work:

- To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace,...
- To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;

¹ United Nations Charter: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
- To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

United Nations Sunday

BACKGROUND

The United Nations was founded in 1945 as a global association of governments that facilitates cooperation in international law, security, economic development, and social equality. With aims to protect human rights and achieve world peace, it is a center for governments to communicate and develop strategies to reach these ends. Since 1947, October 24th has been called United Nations Day to commemorate the anniversary of the UN's creation. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending that the day be observed as a public holiday by member states. The history of Unitarian Universalist involvement in the United Nations dates back to its very beginnings. Along with a number of other Unitarian volunteers, Elvira Fradkin was present in San Francisco at the founding of the United Nations on October 24, 1945. Fradkin went on to be a strong supporter and active throughout the UN system, including serving as the UN representative for the American Unitarian Association.

AT YOUR OWN CONGREGATION

In celebration of UN Day, the Unitarian Universalist UN Office invites congregations and individual UUs to engage with the story of our global Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist faith by deepening their understanding of the United Nations and devoting one service in October to reaffirming the connections between our UU principles and the vital issues dealt with at the UN. Usually, congregations organize a UN Sunday for the Sunday closest to UN Day, but any Sunday is better than no Sunday at all. The theme for the UN Sunday service typically follows the theme for that year's UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar; this year's theme is *When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All*. We invite you to focus on the topic of migration for your service, which is the focus of this packet. We also encourage you to collaborate with another faith or interfaith group as part of the action portion of your UN Sunday celebration. Suggestions for potential actions to take are on page 19.

We encourage ministers, lay leaders, and youth and adult Envoys to take advantage of our prepared materials and/or develop their own ideas for a UN Sunday service. Consider enlisting a UU-UNO Envoy or a special UN speaker to present the sermon. We especially encourage a multigenerational service, including children, youth, young adults, adults, and seniors working together in the preparation and execution of UN Sunday. Further, we urge congregations to organize related religious education sessions. Our UN Religious Education curriculum (UN Me) is available on our UN Sunday webpage: www.uua.org/unsunday. Also on our website is a short, insightful history of UN Day and UU history at the UN which can be a great additional resource to use. This downloadable document, entitled, "They called it UN Day," is written by UU lawyer Frank B. Frederick, who was involved in the creation of UN Day and the UU-UNO.

Further Reading on our blog: [The United Nations – It's Your World](#) (written Oct. 2017)

Discusses why the United Nations is important in current times, and particularly, why it should be important to Unitarian Universalists.

Part II: 2018 Global Rights Topic

Use these resources to educate yourself on this year's UN Sunday theme, *When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All*. It's an enormous topic and cannot be covered entirely in this packet so further research is encouraged if you are interested in learning more about any one particular aspect or angle.

Understanding Terminology

Terminology relating to migration is very important as different words can refer to very different groups of people. The following terms have specific meanings in national and international law. The United Nations Refugee Agency, UNHCR, recognizes three different types of politically forced migrants:

A **refugee** is someone who is forced to flee their country due to “a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.” This definition allows people to flee their countries as refugees due to persecution, violence, or war. However, the current legal definition of a “refugee” does not recognize those who are fleeing their countries for economic reasons or because of climate-related circumstances such as drought or flooding.

An **internally displaced person** (IDP) is a forced migrant for similar reasons as a refugee, but has not crossed an international border.

An **asylum seeker** is someone who migrates to another country with hopes of being recognized as a refugee.

Unlike these three terms, there is no universally-agreed-upon definition for **migrant**. It is usually used to refer broadly to someone who lives, either temporarily or permanently, in a country where they were not born.

LEGAL PROTECTION FOR REFUGEES

Refugees are protected under international law. Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights acknowledges in every person the right to seek asylum. The 1951 Convention Related to the Status of Refugees established international standards for the protection and treatment of refugees. “Its most important provision, the principle of non-refoulement (meaning no forced returns) contained in Article 33, is the bedrock of the regime. According to this principle, refugees

must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life or freedom would be under threat.”² However, ensuring that states comply with the responsibilities articulated in the 1951 Convention is a major challenge.

Migration Issues at the United Nations

The United Nations has five overall areas of focus: Peace & Security, Humanitarian Aid, Sustainable Development, Human Rights, and International Law. Every one of these areas relates closely to the topic of migration, and migration issues and themes show up in all aspects of the UN's work.

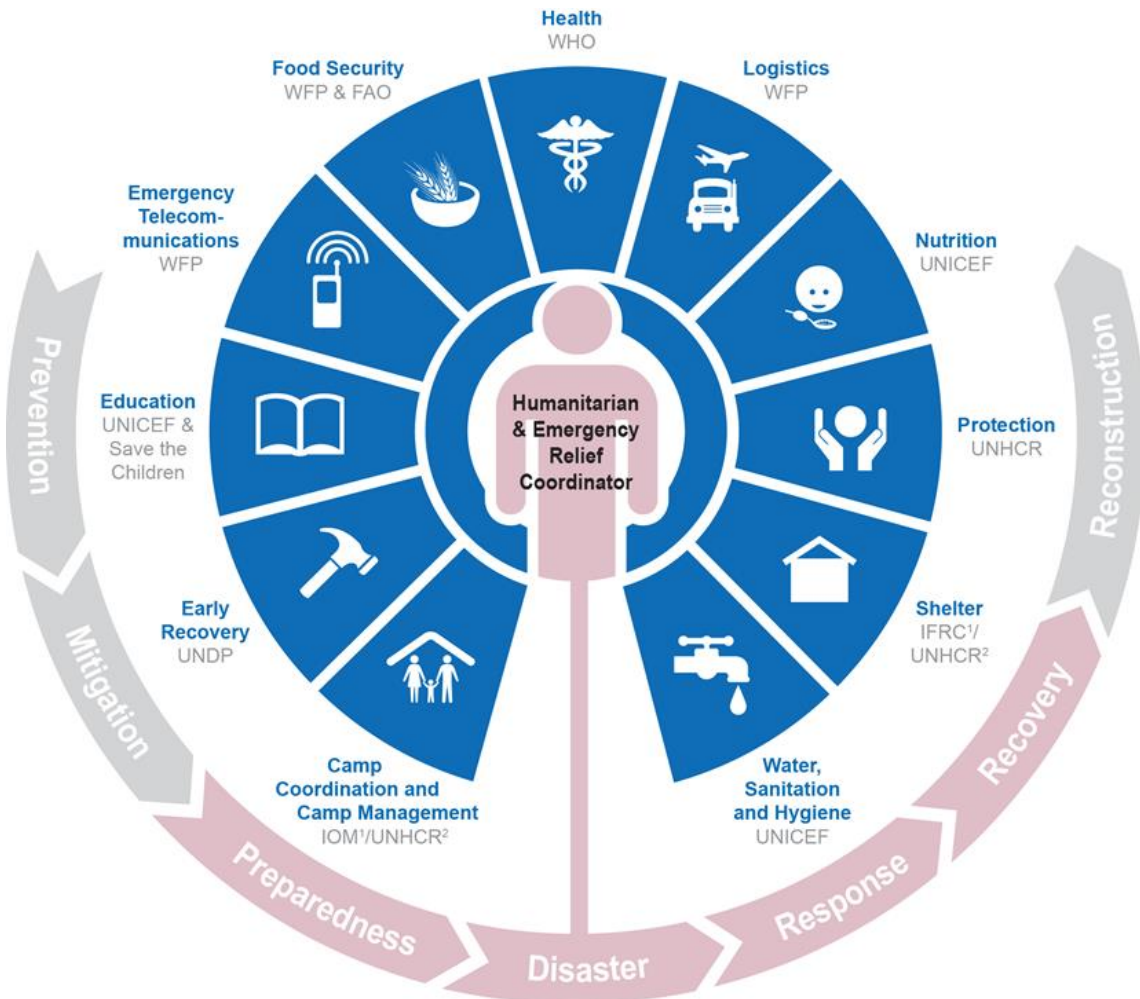
UN AGENCIES RELATING TO MIGRATION

The primary United Nations agency tasked with helping refugees is **UNHCR** (also known as the **UN Refugee Agency**) – the agency is based in Geneva but most of its 9,700 staff-people work in 126 countries around the world providing protection and assistance to nearly 59 million refugees, returnees, internally displaced, and stateless people. Currently, UNHCR's largest operations are in Afghanistan, Colombia, DR Congo, Mali, Pakistan, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq. The **UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees** (UNRWA) contributes specifically to the welfare and human development of Palestinian refugees.

UN Peacekeepers often protect the camps in which refugees live. The **International Organization for Migration** (IOM) is responsible for promoting international cooperation on migration issues and helping to find solutions to ensure orderly & humane migration, as well as being involved with humanitarian assistance to migrants including refugees and IDPs. The IOM coordinates with UNHCR to manage refugee camps. The UN Children's Fund (**UNICEF**) provides long-term humanitarian & development assistance for children, including in crisis zones, as well as in refugee & IDP camps. The **World Food Programme** (WFP) provides food assistance and the **World Health Organization** (WHO) provides health care in emergencies and for UN refugee and IDP camps. The **UN Development Programme** (UNDP) supports countries in addressing the root causes of migration and displacement, as well as facilitating recovery and resettlement.

² “Refugees” and “Migrants” – *Frequently Asked Questions*; UN Refugee Agency, 16 March 2016: <http://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/latest/2016/3/56e95c676/refugees-migrants-frequently-asked-questions-faqs.html>

The graphic below illustrates the involvement of different UN Agencies in supporting refugees along the course of their experience in a refugee camp.



Learn about [all the UN's Agencies and Programs](#).

CLIMATE-FORCED DISPLACEMENT

Natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and mudslides cause people to be internally displaced and some to flee to other countries seeking refuge. Many of the uprooted people in the 21st century are fleeing the effects of climate change, in the form of natural disasters, or draught, desertification, or rising sea levels – yet there are currently no international or regional refugee law instruments that specifically address such situations. It is hoped that the

international community can come together to address such circumstances in the Global Compact for Migration (see page 11).

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS – MIGRATION

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations' adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The human rights articulated there-in are all of relevance to the topic of this UN Sunday because all refugees and migrants possess every single one of the human rights listed in the declaration. The following articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are particularly relevant to migration:

Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act toward one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 13: (1) Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. (2) Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14: (1) Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. (2) This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15: (1) Everyone has the right to a nationality. (2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Further Reading on our blog: [Human Rights Day in an unjust world](#) (written Dec. 2016 – but still extremely relevant) addresses the cognitive dissonance involved with celebrating a human rights holiday as the world draws further away from recognizing and honoring the human rights of all.

UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT & COMPACTS FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

In September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly convened a high-level Summit for Refugees and Migrants in response to the extreme global trends of refugees and others on the move worldwide that often followed dangerous routes and whose numbers overwhelmed countries of arrival. This Summit concluded with the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants which “commits to protecting the rights of all migrants regardless of status and to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for protecting and assisting refugees, and to address all aspects of international migration. It initiated a process to develop two global compacts: one “on refugees” and the other “for safe, orderly and regular migration.” It emphasized that the migration compact should be grounded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”³ At this Summit, the Secretary-General also launched the global “Together” campaign to foster more positive narratives around refugees and other migrants. More on that, including resources for addressing xenophobia, at [Together.UN.org](https://www.un.org/together)

Global Compact for Migration

As stated by the United Nations, “the global compact for migration will be the first, intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.”⁴ The final text of the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration* was approved on July 13, 2018. It articulates a set of nine guiding principles including establishing that the Global Compact is people-centered, rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, prioritizes human rights, is gender-responsive (“...recognizing their independence, agency and leadership in order to move away from addressing migrant women primarily through a lens of victimhood.”), and child-sensitive.⁵

The UN General Assembly will convene an intergovernmental conference in Morocco in December 2018 with the goal to adopt the global compact. This is an incredible opportunity to address the many challenges associated with migration in the 21st century, as well as strengthening international cooperation and support for migrants to contribute to sustainable development. The Unitarian Universalist UN Office worked alongside partners at the UN to ensure that the global compact addresses human rights for all, including those who are uprooted by the changing climate. Whether or not our individual governments officially sign onto this Global Compact, UUs can use it to put pressure on elected representatives, local businesses, and other

³ UN DESA/Population Division - *International Migration Report 2017* – Pg. 25
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017.pdf>

⁴ United Nations “Compact for Migration” <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>

⁵ Global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration; <https://www.un.org/pga/72/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2018/07/migration.pdf>

leaders to ensure that the guidelines are being followed that have been recognized by the United Nations for how migrants must be treated at every stage of their journeys, whether they have the legal protection of refugees or not.

Further Reading on our blog: [The Plan We Need: United Nations Global Compact for Migration](#) (written July 2018) discusses the finalized text for the Global Compact.

Global Compact on Refugees

Continuing the work of the UN Summit, the High Commissioner for Refugees will propose a Global Compact on Refugees as part of his annual report to the 73rd session of the General Assembly which opens in September 2018. The goals of the compact include making global reactions to refugee crises “more responsive, more predictable, and more inclusive of relevant stakeholders.”⁶ The Compact will have two main parts: the first is the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (as established in the New York Declaration), and the second is a Programme of Action which will detail specific steps Member States and other stakeholders can take to fully implement the response framework. The Global Compact on Refugees is currently being drafted using the “whole-of-society” approach which takes into account input from many different stakeholders, civil-society organizations, and institutions – not just national governments.⁷

MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – which includes the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets – seeks to ensure that all nations and all people everywhere are reached and included in achieving the SDGs. It is the responsibility of governments as well as the citizens of the world to ensure, even by direct action, that by 2030 all refugees, migrants, and other displaced people can access all of these goals, such as good health (SDG 3), gender equality (SDG 5), clean water (SDG 6), and decent work (SDG 8).

This [matrix of SDGs & Migration](#) was prepared for the Fourteenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration in 2016 by Global Migration Policy Associates as a resource guide to ensure attention to migrants, refugees, and displaced persons in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda – it contains notes for how each of the SDGs and their associated targets and indicators pertain to migrants/migration.

⁶ Jessica Brandt and Lucy Earle. “The Global Compact for Refugees: Bringing Mayors to the Table: Why and How.” Brookings Institute, Jan 2018. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/fp_20180125_global_compact_refugees-final.pdf

⁷ “Global Compact on Refugees” UN: Refugees and Migrants, n.d. <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/refugees-compact>

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ACTION FOR MIGRATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office has been a member for many years of the UN non-governmental organization (NGO) Committee on Migration which serves as a venue for NGOs to strategize together and coordinate their advocacy at the UN on the issue of migration. A primary focus for the UU-UNO in these efforts pertains to the specific needs of LGBTQ asylum-seekers and refugees. Some LGBTQ asylum seekers fleeing persecution and violence arrive in nearby countries that also have discriminatory laws, or are placed in refugee camps where they continue to face the discrimination they were trying to escape. These individuals also have particular needs when arriving in a host country. The UU-UNO's work addresses these various challenges, and includes advocating at the UN for policies and practices to support LGBTQ refugees in transit and working with Unitarian Universalist congregations to support LGBTQ refugees in their new host country.

More on the UU-UNO's [LGBTQ Refuge & Asylum Program](#)

Migration and Unitarian Universalism

In the current political moment in the world, Unitarian Universalists must fulfil the call to advance just migration for all. As noted below, every one of our UU principles affirms welcome and acceptance of those fleeing crisis or those who are marginalized in society. 2018 is the 450th anniversary of the Edict of Torda in which Unitarianism was first recognized as a religion; it was also one of the first official affirmations of religious freedom. The principle of religious freedom is not simply about giving each individual the liberty to follow their own spiritual calling in terms of how, where, and what they worship, but more critically, it forms a basis in society for acceptance, tolerance, and inclusion of difference. Just like the United Nations affirms that every country has a valuable perspective to bring to the table, the Edict of Torda teaches us to practice empathy, to understand that what calls to one person's heart may not call to another's, yet these people can remain in relationship.

Religious persecution has long been a cause of forced migration, and very much continues to this day. A clear example is the persecution & systematic violence against hundreds of thousands of Rohingya, an ethnic Muslim minority group, forced to flee Buddhist-dominant Burma.

A Statement of Conscience affirmed by the 2013 Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly affirmed "Immigration as a Moral Issue." The Statement of Conscience begins by presenting the Unitarian Universalist theological and moral grounding for this position:

A belief in “the inherent worth and dignity of every person” is core to Unitarian Universalism: every person, no exceptions. As religious people, our Principles call us to acknowledge the immigrant experience and to affirm and promote the flourishing of the human family.

Our Sources “challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love.” Hebrew scripture teaches love for the foreigner because “you were foreigners in the land of Egypt” (Leviticus 19:33-34). Christian scripture reports that Jesus and his disciples were itinerants. When asked “Who is my neighbor?” Jesus responded with the parable of the Good Samaritan, a foreigner who treated a badly beaten man as the foreigner would have wished to be treated (Luke 10:25-37). The Qur’an teaches doing “good to...those in need, neighbors who are near, neighbors who are strangers, the companion by your side, the wayfarer that you meet” (4:36). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts that “everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country” (article 13.2). Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources call us to recognize the opportunities and challenges of human migration—caring for ourselves and our families, interacting with strangers, valuing diversity, and dealing with immigration systems.

Faith, Race, and Migration

Not just in the United States but in so many parts of the world, we see disturbing trends of individuals treating immigrants, and especially refugees, as if they were criminals. As noted above, one of the most essential human rights established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that all people have the right to seek asylum in another country. There is nothing illegal about being a refugee, there is nothing illegal about seeking asylum. Yet so many sections of society, including its media outlets, cultural institutions, and especially governmental systems, treat these people as if they are criminals. Asylum seekers are deprived of their humanity as they can be locked up for months at prison-like detention centers (all at the cost of U.S. taxpayers). In addition to the criminalization of refugees and asylum seekers, a broader criminalization is taking place as all immigrants, people of color, Muslims, and people with other marginalized identities are not just neglected by society but are targeted outright by policies and institutions as if they were criminals. Unitarian Universalists are responding to these trends of criminalization through the joint Love Resists campaign, a collaboration between the Unitarian Universalist Association and UU Service Committee. Love Resists programs include building partnerships, expanding sanctuary and community protection, and accompaniment for those facing ICE and immigration courts.

MIGRATION AND THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

Here is a brief breakdown of UU Principles and their connection to migration:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person:

Understood within the first principle is a core philosophy within Unitarian Universalism of the importance of treating every human being with equal respect. Human rights violations around migration stem from not recognizing immigrants as human equals, which can be due to intersecting, sometimes unconscious, biases around nationality, race, ethnicity, religion, class, gender, and so forth. The worth and dignity of every person is *inherent*, not socially constructed. In order to combat systemic prejudice against immigrants, the society as a whole must recognize the humanity of all humans.

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations:

Our belief in equal human rights upholds compassion in human relations. Inhumane and unequal treatment of migrants of all kinds does injustice to their inherent dignity. Advocating justice, equity, and compassion, Unitarian Universalist theology calls us to hold ourselves and our societies to a higher standard, becoming truly welcoming and inclusive through our actions not simply our words.

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations:

Prejudice comes from a lack of understanding of and knowledge about other people. Spiritual growth comes from learning about different cultures and ways of viewing the world. By providing space within congregations to interact with people from different backgrounds and forming partnerships with immigrant groups beyond the congregation's walls, individuals can bridge mental or psychological distance from one another.

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning:

The Unitarian Universalist commitment to a free and responsible search for truth and meaning compels us to empathize with those who are persecuted on the basis of their religion and forced to migrate. Within this commitment is the understanding that people look at issues differently. We understand that each individual will experience the world differently and will have differing opinions about how to solve the problems that are presented by society – such as the question of immigration and welcoming of refugees. The responsible side of this Principle means that, though we accept people's differing ideas for solutions, those solutions must be grounded in morality and respect. This Principle also calls us to pursue *truth* and work to counter false and harmful narratives surrounding migrants and refugees.

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large:

The democratic process is a tool that we must use to make change and promote our values in the broader society. Our governments both local and national are led by elected representatives who are supposed to represent their constituents – therefore Unitarian Universalists must be active in contacting their representatives to voice their concerns and promote inclusive policies. We must work to ensure that voting rights are not inhibited and that all people, no matter their ethnicity or immigration status, are able to live free from fear of state-sponsored violence.

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all:

The world community that our Sixth Principle compels us to work towards is filled with people who take care of and respect one another. Building that community starts with us understanding the plight of our fellow humans, especially those most vulnerable such as refugees and other migrants. The United Nations 17th Sustainable Development Goal notes that, “increasing international cooperation” is vital to ensuring successful implementations of all previous goals. To achieve a world with peace, liberty, and justice for all we must work to build a world community where people and organizations work together to solve issues and support one another.

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part:

Our world is ever more increasingly interdependent. All human lives depend on an intricate network of environmental, social, political, economic, and cultural factors to be sustained; when any of these factors is upset (or more often, many of them together), a person’s life is endangered and they must react. When flooding disrupts a family’s ability to earn a living or violence makes their home unsafe, they are forced to flee. Understanding the interdependence of the countless lives, both human and not human, with which we share a planet, we must demand greater empathy for all people and the planet. This Principle also calls us to support, and seek solutions for, climate migrants who currently cannot claim refugee status under international law.

UU UNITED NATIONS OFFICE INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR

The UU-UNO’s annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar offers a starting point for engagement with the global topic of United Nations Sunday for that year. This year, the Seminar, *When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All*, brought 140 Unitarian Universalists from around the U.S. and Canada to New York City to learn about and discuss action steps to advance just migration for all. The primary objectives for the 2018 seminar were as follows:

1. Understand the causes and scale of the global refugee crisis (including those who migrate outside of their countries and internally displaced persons)
2. Explore the interconnections between faith and migration in today's political climate and across history.
3. Examine how societies work within seemingly legal frameworks to criminalize aspects of a person's identity (such as their religion, their race, their immigration status, their country of origin, their sexual orientation, etc.)
4. Understand the impact of the migration crisis on the lives of individual refugees and internally displaced people, as well as on the communities and countries that receive refugees
5. Examine the response of the media to the refugee crisis (including the lack of response)
6. Learn about initiatives to address the global migration crisis at the local, national, and global level (e.g. learn about the UN Compact, work of NGOs, private industry, governments, faith-based groups, and others)
7. Explore the intersection of spirituality and social justice and the importance of spiritual sustenance to support individuals engaged in social justice work
8. Identify ways that individuals can take action to support refugees and address the global migration crisis

Many resources for further engagement and education about these issues were compiled following the Seminar and can be found on our [website](#).⁸ This includes a video of the Theme Panel which was live streamed from the United Nations ECOSOC Chamber in the NYC Headquarters building. Congregations may wish to hold a screening and discussion of this panel as an afternoon session following the UN Sunday worship service.

At the end of the Intergenerational Seminar, all participants contributed to writing a statement that reflects what was learned during the event and what we as Unitarian Universalists commit to doing moving forward. Read the 2018 Seminar Statement below or [print a copy](#) to display at your congregation.

2017 Intergenerational Spring Seminar Statement

When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All

Whereas...

- 68 million refugees in the world right now is an immense statistic, yet each of these refugees is an individual human person

⁸ Resources for further engagement to advance just migration for all:

<https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar/past/advancing-just-migration-all/resources-further>

- People of color are disproportionately represented among refugees
- LGBTQ+ people are persecuted in 72 countries leading them to seek refuge in safer places
- Language and narratives used in the media to describe migrants and refugees disrespect and dehumanize displaced persons
- Dehumanizing situations force people from their homes and families to take desperate measures and risk their lives for any hope of safety
- Environmental destruction is a significant factor for people fleeing their home countries
- Government institutions and policies around the world are often oppressive and unfair to migrants and refugees
- Many internally displaced people and other displaced people are unable to receive aid from non-governmental organizations
- Much of our news about the global migration crisis comes from social media, pre-tailored to our own political and ethical biases, which can lead to lack of understanding of differing viewpoints
- Forced migration is a huge global issue that requires local efforts and solutions

And recognizing that...

- As people of faith, we Unitarian Universalists have a responsibility to uphold the inherent worth and dignity of all people; strive for justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; affirm global community with peace, liberty, and justice for all; and respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part
- Our privilege calls us to work in partnership with displaced persons to assist them to find what we all need: a safe home, enough to eat, good healthcare, and an education

We therefore resolve to...

- Stand in solidarity with refugees and all displaced persons
- Speak as a people of faith, making sure the help we offer is the help that is needed
- Resist false information and propaganda regarding refugees and migrants
- Use positive language to counter misleading popular narratives about displaced persons and teach others to do the same
- Hear and share their personal stories to put a face on the migration crisis
- Cultivate empathy to better understand the crisis and find ways to work actively to help all those affected, acknowledging that inaction is not an option.
- Take social action to inform new national and local policies and elect those who would put them in place
- Act from our values through initiatives like Side With Love and Love Resists
- Encourage sustained funding of the World Food Programme, the United Nations and its agencies, and other organizations who support refugees and migrants

- Educate our communities about the various reasons for migration, to understand that this is a humanitarian issue, not just a political concern
- Promote more school programs that address refugees and the global migration crisis
- Continue learning about these complex issues, sharing the statistical and empirical evidence of the true scope and scale of the migration crisis with lawmakers
- Use our social, economic, and political leverage to influence change, using our words and our bodies as our tools to show up for people who cannot represent themselves
- Demand that leaders be held accountable for their words and deeds towards refugees, immigrants, and humanitarian abuses
- Dismantle white supremacy in all its forms and resist totalitarianism in our communities
- Work actively to expand the definition of what makes a person a refugee by contacting legislators, and advocate support for the human rights of those not recognized as refugees to be included in the UN Global Compact for Migration, such as those who are displaced by climate change
- Form partnerships with refugee groups and hold community activities to support inclusion and welcome
- Reach out with love through social media to those whose opinions differ from ours
- Urge UU congregations to sponsor refugees, become sanctuary congregations, and encourage our cities, communities, and countries to do the same
- Work actively to raise awareness of the UU United Nations Office and its efforts as the Unitarian Universalist voice at the United Nations, encouraging congregations to become Blue Ribbon congregations.

Affirmed by the participants of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar, New York City, 7 April, 2018.

THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY

As part of the Global U/U Story, Unitarians and Universalists around the world work for social justice causes they care about. Here are just a few examples of the many issues related to migration that you can incorporate into your congregation's celebration of UN Sunday to advance just migration for all.

Addressing Misinformation

It is important to engage in honest dialogue about refugees and immigration. While there are certainly legitimate reasons for people to be concerned about open policies towards immigration and welcoming refugees, much of the resistance within society at large is a result of incorrect information that is spread through the news media and other social networks. It is critical that people of faith work to address misinformation and reverse the existing false narratives about the

threats that migrants pose to communities. Organize activities in the congregation such as an event incorporating the Immigration Quiz (in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)) from the National Network on Immigrant and Refugee Rights, or share [tools from the Anti-Defamation League](#) for challenging bigoted, offensive, and just incorrect remarks.

Expanding Sanctuary & Accompaniment

Today, Unitarian Universalists and other people of faith and conscience are expanding what it means to offer “sanctuary” to include not only physical sanctuary, but also sanctuary policies, sanctuary campuses, and sanctuary community support networks. Find resources through the joint UUA & UUSC Love Resists campaign to expand congregational action for sanctuary and to support local accompaniment programs. Accompaniment for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and court visits can make a huge difference in whether families can stay together, bond fees can be reduced, and deportations can be stopped. This type of accompaniment is centered around the dignity and choices of the people who are going through these systems.

Action to End Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is only one of the many elements relating to migration and refugees – so often those who are uprooted and on the move fall into the hands of traffickers and lose control of their own destinies. The Interfaith Toolkit to End Human Trafficking was created by the US Fund for UNICEF and several interfaith contributors (including UU) and can be used by congregations to take action and make a difference. The Toolkit has a [USA Version](#) and a [Global Version](#). Note in particular the section on page 11: “In Focus: The Migrant Crisis & Child Trafficking.”

Intergenerational Congregational Action: Walk for Kid Power

Around the world, UNICEF empowers young people to create solutions to challenges in their community. UNICEF Kid Power app provides the same opportunity to kids in thousands of communities across the United States. With UNICEF Kid Power, kids (and adults!) can run, jump, and dance to unlock funding from partners which UNICEF uses to deliver lifesaving nutrition to severely malnourished children. The more kids move, the more they save lives! Make UN Sunday a Kid Power Day – after the service, host an athletic competition or field day with a picnic to get people moving. Contact Emma Pfister at epfister@unicefusa.org to set up your congregation as a Team on the Kid Power app! Your action can have a real impact for refugee children: just by tracking your movement, your congregation can unlock funding for Rohingya refugee children arriving in refugee camps in Bangladesh to receive Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) packets from UNICEF. [Learn more about community engagement with Kid Power.](#)

SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL LEARNING

Documentaries, Films, and Videos on Migration

- Steph Ching, Ellen Martinez, Jon Stewart: *After Spring* (2016, documentary)
- Gianfranco Rosi: *Fire at Sea* (2016, documentary)
- Chris Temple, Zach Ingrasci, Salam Darwaza, Mohab Khattab: *Salam Neighbor* (2015, documentary)
- Michael P. Nash: *Climate Refugees* (2010, documentary)
- Philippe Falardeau: *The Good Lie* (2014, feature film)
- TED Talks:
 - Robert Hakiza: *Refugees want empowerment, not handouts*
 - Barat Ali Batoor: *My desperate journey with a human smuggler*
 - David Miliband: *The refugee crisis is a test of our character*
- YouTube Videos from: (check out their YouTube pages for more incredible videos)
 - UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency
 - “What They Took With Them”
 - “Imagine a world more open to refugees”
 - UNICEF, the UN Children’s Fund
 - “The labels we put on refugee & migrant children matter”
 - “Life in limbo for refugee family”

Books, Websites, and Articles on Migration

- Barbara Demick: *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*
- Melissa Fleming: *A Hope More Powerful than the Sea*
- Aviva Chomsky: “*They Take Our Jobs!*” and 20 Other Myths About Immigration ([Beacon Press](#) Expanded Edition published April 2018)
- David Bacon: *Illegal People: How Globalization Creates Migration and Criminalizes Immigrants* ([Beacon Press](#))
- UNICEF Report: [Education Uprooted](#)
- UNICEF [Child Refugee Crisis](#)
- UNICEF Children on the Move - <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/childrenonthemove/>
- Amnesty International Canada: [“14 Facts about refugees”](#)
- Yascha Mounk: [“European Disunion: What the rise of populist movements means for democracy.”](#)
- Mawuna Remarque Koutonin: [“Why are white people expats when the rest of us are immigrants?”](#)
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres: [“Migration can benefit the world. This is how we at the UN plan to help”](#)

Part III: Planning Your UN Sunday Service

Brainstorming UN Sunday

The following guide to planning a United Nations Sunday at your congregation is adapted from the work of Sylvia Heap (longtime Envoy at All Souls UU Church in Watertown, NY), who has been planning these services for over 40 years. The UN Sunday theme follows our Spring Seminar theme which this year is global disarmament.

UN Day every year is October 24th. UN Day also kicks off Disarmament Week, October 24th through October 30th. First you'll need to set a date for your service with the church, preferably around October 24th. The 2018 suggested date is October 21st. If you are unable to book this date for a service, consider having a post-service event in October and hosting the service on another date*. Alternate dates connect with UN international observance days; the bold dates are Sundays:

- June 20th is World Refugee Day (likely too soon for UN Sunday but could do an event)
- July 30th is World Day Against Trafficking in Persons & International Day of Friendship
- **August 12th** is International Youth Day
- **August 19th** is World Humanitarian Day
- September 21st is International Day of Peace
- October 2nd is International Day of Non-Violence
- October 11th is International Day of the Girl Child
- October 16th is World Food Day
- October 24th is United Nations Day
- November 16th is International Day for Tolerance
- **November 25th** is International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- November 30th is Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare
- December 10th is Human Rights Day
- December 18th is International Migrants Day
- December 20th is International Human Solidarity Day
- February 20th is World Day of Social Justice
- March 8th is International Women's Day
- March 20th is International Day of Happiness
- March 22nd is World Water Day
- May 15th is International Day of Families*

*If aiming for Blue Ribbon status, be sure to have your UN Sunday service prior to March 31st which is the deadline for meeting all the requirements to become a Blue Ribbon Congregation.

DEVELOP THE THEME AROUND MIGRATION ISSUES

See Part II: 2018 Global Rights Topic

- Decide on Guest speaker(s) - consider someone from the UU-UNO, Envoys, representatives of your local UN Association, congregants, yourself etc.
- Pick out some options for readings, hymns, opening and closing. (Keep in mind the connection that migration issues have with our UU principles)
- Consider including a presentation of some kind (i.e. show a video, give more information about migration, have a discussion on local action, etc.)
- Plan on further organizing a reception for after the service (perhaps an international potluck) with special decorations, celebratory cake/food, more information on the theme (try to connect it to migration issues)

UN Sunday Checklist

What you'll need to pull off your UN Sunday service with success! Keep track of this checklist throughout the planning process.

- People to speak/perform during the service:
 - Worship associate
 - Music
 - Sermon (discuss ahead of time what you'd like them to specifically speak about)
 - Additional performance (Music? Skit?), Photographer?
 - Story for All Ages
- Order of Service:
 - Finalize readings, hymns, other music, etc.
 - Design Order of Service
 - UU-UNO Donation Envelopes
 - Print, fold, and stuff Order of Service
- Worship script (how will Worship Associate introduce each section?)
- UN flag, any other special décor for the UN Sunday service
- Food/drinks for coffee hour
- Display table with UU-UNO promotional materials
- Follow up with UU-UNO about how your service went

Timeline for UN Sunday Service Planning

This is a general timeline to help you plan and prepare for your UN Sunday service. (Guidelines are for an October service – if your service is at another time, just adjust the month!)

JUNE-JULY

- (ASAP) Settle on a date for your UN Sunday service. Inform UU-UNO of the date you've selected.
- Read thoroughly over the UN Sunday packet and educate yourself on the UN and this year's theme.
- If you don't already have youth in your Envoy team, reach out to your congregation's youth group and invite them to help you plan a multigenerational service.
- If you plan to invite a guest speaker to give the sermon, reach out to potential speakers to check their availability. (UU-UNO staff members are available to speak at your congregation. Invite them ASAP, as their schedules fill up quickly!)
- See if your congregation can have a special collection for the UU-UNO during the UN Sunday service (or during October if your congregation has month-long plate recipients).

AUGUST

- Reconvene your UN Sunday Service planning team and check in on progress.
- If speakers/musicians haven't confirmed yet, follow up or find an alternative.
- Brainstorm music and a story for all ages for your service.
- Develop a plan to advertise the UN Sunday service so you can get good attendance. *(e.g. post on social media/congregation's website; tabling during coffee hour; mention in announcements prior to services; place a notice in newsletter, local newspaper)*
- Talk with Director of Religious Education about using UN Me curriculum to help the children learn about the UN in lead-up to UN Sunday. Suggest the RE curriculum for UN Sunday as recommended on page 29.

SEPTEMBER

- Finalize order of service, special collection for UU-UNO, and list of people to speak/perform during the service.
- See if you can get a photographer to take pictures of your service and check with your congregation's administrator if the photos may be shared and used by the UU-UNO.
- Begin advertising UN Sunday service so you can get good attendance.

- Prepare for a table during coffee hour following the UN Sunday service (or during the whole month!) to educate congregants about the UU-UNO. Flyers to display can be downloaded and printed from www.uua.org/un/envoys.
 - Ask UU-UNO to send you donation envelopes for Order of service/display table.
- Follow up with whoever will give the sermon to make sure they're familiar with the UU-UNO and will talk about the topics you'd like them to address
- Talk with treasurer or church admin about check processing protocol
 - Can they provide you and/or the UN Office with a list of the names of donors?
 - Should checks be made out to UU-UNO or to the congregation who will send a composite check?
 - Review donation protocol for congregations. (Instructions available for download from www.uua.org/un/envoys)

OCTOBER

- Finalize the worship script for the worship associate.
- Meet up with your UN Sunday Service planning team to run through the service.
- Make sure donation envelopes for the service have been procured a week ahead of time
- Continue advertising UN Sunday service so you can get good attendance!
- After the service, make sure to follow up to thank your guest speaker(s) and check in with the UU-UNO to report how it went!

UN SUNDAY: THE DAY OF

- Be there early to:
 - Get water for the speaker(s)
 - Test microphones; (if recording) Set up tape recorder and/or video camera
 - Ensure the camera(s) are fully charged and have memory available
 - Make sure the Religious Education participation is ready
 - Greet guests as they arrive
 - Help stuff donation envelopes into the orders of service (if applicable)
- If a collection is being taken for the UU-UNO, encourage people to write their information on the donation envelopes included in the orders of service so that you can get the Supporters needed to become a Blue Ribbon Congregation (See sample language on page 28!)
- After the service, enjoy coffee hour; Introduce speaker(s) to members of the congregation
- Collect checks made out to the "UU-UNO"
 - Mark checks from donors who want to be sustaining friends of the UU-UNO
 - Make a list of individuals who made donations, to qualify for Blue Ribbon Award

- Use the UU-UNO's [Donation Instructions sheet](#).
- Work with treasurer to add up the cash from the collection plate (if the collection plate isn't for the UU-UNO, be sure to remind people we are supported by their donations).
- Email the office (unenvoycoordinator@uua.org) with your total money count and how many individuals donated.

UN SUNDAY: FOLLOW-UP

- Please send (email is fine) the following to the UU UN Office:
 - A few photos (if you can, get permission from the congregation for photos from the service to be used by the UU-UNO)
 - The number of individual checks (include names, if you have permission)
 - Total amount donated from collection plate (if applicable)
 - The Order of Service/ Program & any additional information you'd like to share (or, share this online – see below)
 - The UN Sunday Envoy Report (online!)
- Complete the UN Sunday report online (<https://goo.gl/DkAczJ>) in order to qualify for the 2017-2018 Blue Ribbon Congregation Award
- Head to www.UUA.org/UNSunday/Services and post an action share about your UN Sunday so others can read about it and be inspired. Include pictures if you want! While you're there, take a look at what other congregations have done.
- Upload /develop pictures of the service – if on Facebook, tag the UU-UNO!
- Write thank you notes to speaker(s), committee chairs, and others who contributed to the service. You can also enclose copies of photos of participants in the service
- Confirm with the Board about donating the offering to the UU-UNO
- Submit the sermon to the 2018 Dana Greeley Award by Feb. 1, 2019 (www.uua.org/justice-programs/awards/greeley)

Celebrate! You did a wonderful job.

Sample Order of Service

We recognize that each congregation has its own routine for Sunday morning gatherings, and we encourage you to use and modify the resources in this packet to fit your own congregation's needs. If your congregation is unable to hold a service, hold an event and/or fundraiser about the work of the UU-UNO on UN Sunday. For further inspiration, throughout September and leading up to UN Sunday keep an eye on the UN Sunday portion of our website: www.uua.org/unsunday.

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements: Use this time to introduce UN Sunday and the UU-UNO. Possibly have an Envoy introduce the service.

Call to Worship: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #418 or #435

Opening Words/Chalice Lighting: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #455 by UN Secretary-General (1953-1961) Dag Hammarskjöld, or [A Spark of Hope](#) by Melanie Davis

Opening Hymn: Singing the Journey #1023 (Building Bridges) or Singing the Living Tradition #347 (Gather the Spirit) or #402 (From You I Receive)

Time for All Ages: Choose a book from the list on page 30, or do the suggested Time for All Ages Activity described on page 28.

Joys and Concerns: (if your congregation normally has them)

Meditation: Use the suggested "[Lovingkindness Meditation for Refugees](#)" on the UN Sunday webpage

Meditative Hymn: Singing the Living Tradition #402 (From You I Receive) or Singing the Journey #1031 (Filled with Loving Kindness)

Reading: [Kindness](#) by Naomi Shihab Nye or #475 (UN Charter preamble)

Sermon/Homily: Some congregations choose to invite a guest speaker from a local university or local United Nations Association (UNA) Chapter, show a short film or clip, or have an Envoy or the Minister deliver a sermon about the UN Sunday theme. Many invite UU-UNO staff to speak. This is where to go into further detail about migration.

Offering: The UU-UNO is supported financially by individual, family, and congregational contributions. We suggest holding the offering after the sermon so people will be excited about helping the UU-UNO. (see below for sample language)

Closing Hymn: Singing the Living Tradition or Singing the Journey #1074 (Turn the World Around), #1017 (Building a New Way), or #1018 (Come and Go With Me)

Chalice Extinguishing [Daring Vision](#) by Maureen Killoran

Closing Words: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #694 or #693

Postlude: "Peace Salaam Shalom" by Emma's Revolution

SUGGESTED TIME FOR ALL AGES ACTIVITY

To help people of all ages connect with concepts relating to immigration try this blanket activity:

Spread three different colored blankets on the floor. In the center of each blanket, place a jar with crumpled up blue bits of paper (these blue paper bits represent water resources). Each blanket should have a different amount of “water.” Ask the children to come forward and stand on the blankets. Once everyone is standing on a blanket, tell them that the blue paper represents water. Tell the children on the blanket with the smallest amount of water to distribute the water so that everyone gets at least one ball of water. Not everyone will get one – when they try to cross into another blanket to get some of their water, stop them! Say NO! you can’t cross this border until you fill out an application form and wait a few years. Discuss with the children how they feel about being stopped from accessing important resources and being with their friends.

COLLECTION TO SUPPORT THE UU-UNO

The UU-UNO is supported financially by individual, family, and congregational contributions. Some congregations choose to dedicate their offering on UN Sunday to support our vital mission, while others choose to contribute in their annual budget. We encourage you to decide the best way for you congregation to support the UU-UNO. See below for sample language to introduce a collection. There is also an option for people to text “UNO” to 51555 to donate via mobile phone. It’s easy to include that information as a small note in the Order of Service.

Sample Language for a Collection to Support the UU-UNO:

“Today’s collection is for the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office. The UU-UNO has held a prominent place at the UN since 1962, advocating for UU values on the global stage. Within our lifelong quest for a world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, the UU United Nations Office is one way that we are getting closer to that goal. By engaging every day with Member States, organizations, and agencies and speaking out in defense of human rights for those who are oppressed, the UU United Nations Office’s advocacy made LGBTQ human rights become a priority throughout the United Nations system. Recently, the UU-UNO was instrumental in bringing the Movement for Black Lives to the international arena as the UN engages more closely to combat worldwide systems of institutional racism. With discrimination on the rise around the world, having our UU voice represented at the UN is more critical than ever, and the UU-UNO relies on congregations and individual donations to continue their work.

We are hoping to become [or “to retain our status as”] one of a few Blue Ribbon Congregations that help to sustain this crucial work into the future. There are Supporter envelopes included in your order of service with details on Supporter levels - to qualify as a Blue Ribbon Congregation we need at least 15 individuals to become Supporters through a gift of \$60 or more. Please write your information on the envelopes so that we

can qualify [again] this year. You can also text UNO to 51555 to donate via mobile phone. I ask that you please be generous and consider the global impact your support of the UU-UNO can have. Thank you so much.”

UN Sunday Religious Education

Please work with the Religious Educator in your congregation to craft a lesson that will work well:

MEET WITH THE RE COMMITTEE

- Discuss ways to get the children involved in the service
- Processional – for example use “Let There Be Peace on Earth” banners, or flags representing different countries in the UN
 - Include a Children’s Story or activity during Time for All Ages
 - Other involvement: passing out pencils, etc.; taking collection
- Email the parents about what the children are doing and when
- Invite teachers to incorporate sections from our “UN Me Religious Education Curriculum” into their classes a Sunday or two prior as well as on UN Sunday
- Contact the Youth Group advisors to ensure Youth are aware of their opportunity to participate in the planning and execution of this event.

CONSTRUCTING A LESSON INVOLVING MIGRATION ISSUES

We encourage all congregations to fully engage all of their members in UN Sunday. Please refer to our Religious Education Packet, “UN Me” available on our website. Below, we have some suggestions specifically based around our 2018 theme of Advancing Just Migration for All.

RE teachers should start by educating themselves through our resource section on current work of the UN on migration. Use some of the text or resources to draft a brief lesson that will work for your class. After the lesson, engage the children in an activity/ craft. A few activities to connect children with migration issues are suggested below. Possible craft suggestions are in the UU-UNO RE packet (UN Me – see www.uua.org/un to download). Additionally, links to further lesson possibilities from the Tapestry of Faith program are listed below.

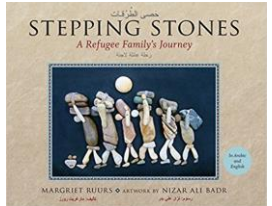
Following the craft, we suggest reading a book; please feel free to choose from the list below. (This is often a good time for a snack). A powerful way to end the class is to prompt the children to connect what they have learned to the seven UU Principles. With the UU Principles, children can identify which ones are directly related to the issues that different groups of people are facing today in the country and throughout the world. Perhaps you can have guest speakers in October

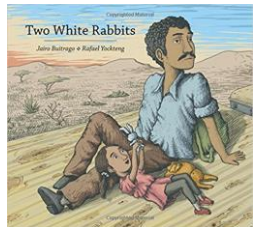
from the congregation (consider youth, young adults, adults, and seniors). See Part II: 2018 Global Rights Topic for more ideas about the topic.

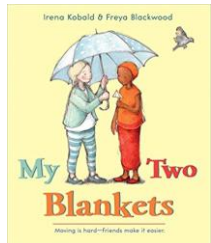
SUGGESTED BOOKS

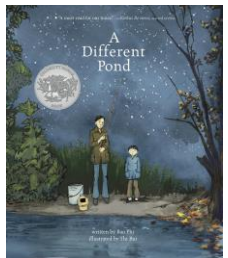
A few children's books related to the subject of migration or the UN:

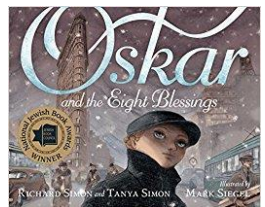
- *Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey* by Margriet Ruurs, translated by Falah Raheem, illustrations by Nizar Ali Badr, Orca Book Publishers, 2016: Written in both English and Arabic, this book tells the story of a Syrian family that is forced to flee towards Europe when violence from the civil war reaches close to their village. The story was inspired by, and the book includes, the stone artwork of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr.


- *Two White Rabbits*, by Jairo Buitrago, Illustrated by Rafael Yockteng, Groundwork Books, 2015: Told from the perspective of a young girl traveling with her father, this book describes the dangerous journey many Central American and Mexican migrants take to the US.


- *My Two Blankets*, by Irena Kobald, Illustrated by Freya Blackwood, HMH Books for Young Readers, 2015: This book tells the story of a young girl, nicknamed Cartwheel by her auntie, who has to leave her home for a new country because of war. Cartwheel comforts herself by weaving a blanket out of memories and words from home. When she makes a friend in the park, she starts learning new words, and begins to weave a new blanket.

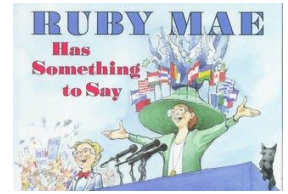

- *A Different Pond*, by Bao Phi, Illustrated by Thi Bui, Capstone Young Readers, 2017: This book tells the story of a Vietnamese family living in Minnesota. During a fishing trip (for sustenance not sport) the father tells his young son about fishing back in Vietnam, and, through the story, readers learn about "family, memory, and the costs of becoming a refugee" (Kirkus Review).


- *Oskar and the Eight Blessings*, by Tanya Simon and Richard Simon, Illustrated by Mark Siegel, Roaring Brook Press, 2015: This book tells the story of Oskar, a Jewish refugee who arrives in New York on the 7th day of Hanukkah, which is also Christmas Eve, in 1938. He arrives with only a photograph and address for his aunt's house. While he walks the length of Manhattan to his new home he is welcomed by different people who each show him an act of kindness. Throughout this walk he is reminded of his father's parting



words, “Oskar even in bad times, people can be good. You have to look for the blessings.”

- **(Book related to the UN, but not Refugees/Forced Migration)** - *Ruby Mae Has Something to Say* by David Small, Knopf Books for Young Readers, 1992: In this book, Miss Ruby Mae Foote, governor of Nada, Texas, has a big ambition: to deliver a message of universal peace and understanding at the United Nations. Problem is, she's tongue-tied. To help her out, her nephew Billy Bob invents the "Bobatron." When Ruby Mae puts it on she becomes eloquent – and successful.



ACTIVITIES/CURRICULUM

For Grades K-5 RE Classes:

Activity 1: Definitions: Start class by asking the group what they think the words “refugee” and “migrant” mean; you may choose to add more words like “asylum seeker” and “internally displaces person” depending on the grade level of the class. Write the children’s suggestions on the board. Once you have heard from the children tweak the definitions as needed so they are accurate.

Activity 2: Understanding Language Barriers: This activity is adapted from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)’s Teaching about Refugees curriculum (you can find the full curriculum [here](#)). Begin by gathering the group together and start to speak in nonsense/pretend words for brief period. Next hand each child a card with a nonsense word written on it; have each child draw what they think the word might mean. Next, facilitate a discussion about the activity; consider using the following questions:

- What did it feel like to not understand the language?
- What are some activities that require you to understand the language?
- What are some ways to communicate without language?
- What are some different words that describe how a refugee/migrant student might feel on their first day of school in a new country if they do not yet know the language?

Activity 3: Craft Project: Start with paper cut-outs in the shape of suitcases. Have students draw, paint, and/or collage the items they would choose to take if they had to quickly leave home. When everyone is finished, go around and have each child share their artwork. After the activity, facilitate a discussion; consider using the following questions:

- How did you choose which items to draw/paint/collage?
- How do you think it would feel to have to leave most of your belongings behind?
- How can we help people who have been forced to leave their homes with few belongings?

For Grades 6-8 RE Classes:

Activity 1: Definitions: Similarly to the first activity for the younger groups, begin the RE lesson by defining key vocabulary. For this age-group include all key vocab words: refugee, internally displaced person, asylum seeker, and migrant. Have students make suggestions and agree upon a group definition. Next read/write on the board the UNHRC/international law definitions (they can be found on page 7 of this packet), and ask the students to compare and contrast their definitions to the “official” definitions. Conclude by asking students what they think about the “official” definitions: Do they think they are quality definitions? Would they change anything? Ask them to consider the facts that climate migrants cannot get refugee status and that there is not a standard definition for migrant.

Activity 2: Personal Stories: For this activity print out stories and photos that refugees have shared about their experiences (you can find stories on the UNHCR website stories.unhcr.org/refugees). Post the stories around the room and give students time to walk around and read the different stories. After everyone has had a chance to read, facilitate a discussion about the activity; consider using the following questions:

- How did reading these stories make you feel?
- Why do you think it's important to learn about refugees' personal experiences?
- What were some similarities and differences between the stories?
- How would you feel if you had to suddenly leave your home because of violence or disaster?

Activity 3: Letters: Begin this activity with a discussion about the current harmful rhetoric around migrants and refugees from political leaders and in the media. Explain to students that they can oppose this rhetoric by telling their representatives in the government that they support welcoming refugees. Next, have students write letters to their representatives (local, state, or national). You could choose to compose one letter as a group or write individual letters. Example letters can be found on the websites of the [US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants](https://www.uscra.org/) and [Amnesty International](https://www.amnesty.org/) (a sample letter is on page 5 of the “I Welcome” packet).

Lesson plans from Tapestry of Faith program related to migration:

For grades K-2: “The Gift of Invitation” from the *Wonderful Welcome* program. This lesson plan does not directly address migration, but its themes can be applied to this topic.

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/welcome/session5>

For grades 2-3: “Give Love” from the *Love Will Guide Us* program. This lesson plan does not directly address migration, but its themes can be applied to this topic.

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/loveguide/session7>

For grades 4-5: “The Power of Reaching Out” from the *Sing to the Power* Program. This lesson plan is centered around the story of a UU congregation that connected with UUs around the country to prevent the deportation of their member Raúl Cardenas.

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/sing/session12/introduction>

For grades 6-8 (and older): “The Call for Empathy” from the *Heeding the Call: Qualities of a Justice Maker* program. This lesson plan explores the importance of empathy in justice work through discussing issues of migration.

<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/call/workshop4>.

Part IV: Beyond UN Sunday

Blue Ribbon Congregation: Requirements

Each year we celebrate Envoys and their congregations with our Blue Ribbon Awards. The following is needed for a congregation to qualify for this honor:

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Have an Envoy or Envoy Team
2. Host a United Nations Sunday service
3. Submit a donation from the congregation (such as collection plate) or have an annual budget line dedicated to the UU-UNO
4. Have 5% of the congregation's members become individual Supporters of the UU-UNO (or 15 members for large congregations). Supporter levels are as follows:
 - a. Global Equality Supporter* = \$250
 - b. Family/Household Supporter* = \$150
 - c. Individual Supporter = \$60
 - d. Retired/Student Supporter = \$30

*Global Equality and Family/Household Supporter levels can count as two individuals towards your Blue Ribbon status.

The 2018-19 **deadline is March 31, 2019** for Blue Ribbon qualification (including donations!). It is the responsibility of the Envoy, when submitting the donation, to have a record list of names, emails, and amount. If the Envoy is not allowed to see or share the amount, they must still send the list of names and include the total number of donations (the amount is important because our office needs to be able to cross reference data in the database despite anonymous donations). Donation instructions are available at UUA.org/UNSunday. In order to track Supporters, it can be helpful to include UU-UNO donation envelopes as an insert in your UN Sunday order of service. Please contact unenvoycoordinator@uua.org for envelopes!

Dana Greeley Sermon Competition

All UUs are invited to submit a sermon (or address) to the UU-UNO. The purpose of this annual award program is to encourage and to recognize UU principles, thought and action on a wide range of global issues as well as the role of the UN and our own UU-UNO. Each year, the Greeley Award's theme pertains to the theme of that year's Intergenerational Spring Seminar,

which for 2018 is *When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All*. (Hint: a sermon given during your UN Sunday Service would be perfect!) While all submissions will be considered, those highlighting the work of the UN and the UU-UNO will be given priority consideration.

The winner will be recognized at the next CUC National Conference or UUA General Assembly and a video of the sermon will be published on our webpage. See the website for more information about the guidelines for submission. www.uua.org/justice-programs/awards/greeley

Deadline for submission is February 1st, 2018.

About the UU United Nations Office

The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) is engaged in international advocacy work at the UN based on Unitarian Universalist (UU) values.

From involvement in the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to leading the faith caucus to establish the International Criminal Court, to overcoming UN apathy about sexual orientation & gender identity issues, the UU-UNO has a long history of providing strong leadership in all aspects of human rights at a policy level through UN consultative status.

The UU-UNO is part of the UUA's International Office. The International Office assists congregations in finding ways of answering our sixth principle call to reach out beyond church walls and borders by providing resources and guidance within the wide milieu of international UU programs and causes. www.uua.org/international

Through close coordination with a UU International Joint Working Group (JWG) involved in international engagement and maintaining and developing linkages with historic and new U/U communities around the world, we share the Global U/U story and help you find your place within it. The JWG is a partnership between the UUA's International Office, the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) and the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC).

The Global U/U Story: Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian Universalists (U/U) around the world are connected through a story of bold, compassionate faith that we've been creating together for centuries. Struggling for human rights alongside those that demand it, influencing governmental policy in the name of justice, passionately promoting a message of interfaith peace and solidarity, and building faithful worshipping communities—each of us has a part, and a stake, in the story we share.

Also part of the International Office is the UUA's Holdeen India Program (UUHIP) which has been advancing justice and equity in India since 1984. UUHIP partners with organizations that stand with the country's most vulnerable citizens as they seek dignity and empowerment. Translating UU values into bold action, UUHIP supports long-term organizational partnerships in a spirit of solidarity and global community.

Here are some of the program areas the UU United Nations Office works on year round:

EVERY CHILD IS OUR CHILD

The Every Child is Our Child (ECOC) Program is an initiative begun in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established by world leaders in 2000. ECOC directly contributes to the Millennium Development Goals of achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, and combating HIV/AIDS. The UU-UNO provides grant funding to the Manye Krobo Queen Mothers' Association in Ghana in support of ECOC which works to empower this local women's organization to care for children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS. The program offers essential resources and health care assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, enabling them to attend primary school in the Manye Krobo District in Ghana. Our partnership with the Queen Mothers Association and Queen Mothers of the district is essential to our success. Additionally, ECOC gives priority to girls in order to help promote gender equality. Finally, the program contributes to the fight against AIDS, since children are taught about HIV/AIDS prevention in school, starting in Grade 2. www.UUA.org/ECOC

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER (LGBTQ) AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION/GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI) HUMAN RIGHTS

Over the past 40 years, UU congregations have become more aware and supportive of LGBTQ constituents. However, even members of the North American LGBTQ community and their allies are largely unaware of the dangers faced by LGBTQ individuals outside of North America. In over 80 countries, people can face criminal prosecution based on presumed sexual orientation or gender identity – sometimes with fatal consequences. Our program is dedicated to advocating at the UN for decriminalizing homosexuality around the world. Using its unique position at the UN as a leader within the ecumenical community, the UU-UNO works to garner support among the Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs), especially the faith-based community, to end criminal sanctions based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, the UU-UNO holds UN ECOSOC consultative status, allowing it to build consensus and coalition among other NGOs with consultative status to support decriminalization. www.uua.org/lgbtq/witness/international

WOMEN'S RIGHTS INITIATIVE

The UU-United Nations Office supports and advocates for the global implementation of key international agreements such as Security Council Resolution 1325 and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Our Women's Rights Initiative promotes awareness and action through education and advocacy in key areas of women's rights especially in relation to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) including:

- Ensuring access to safe, effective family planning methods.
- Promoting a woman's right to decide if, when, and how often to give birth.
- Preventing sexual violence, child marriage, and unsafe pregnancies.

Commission on the Status of Women: Every year, representatives gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to promote women's empowerment worldwide. The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is a global policy-making body dedicated to the advancement of women. The UU-UNO hosted an event this year that examined how reproductive justice affects economic empowerment for women. We hope to continue these important conversations throughout the year and leading up to next year's CSW Forum.

www.uua.org/reproductive/international

CLIMATE JUSTICE INITIATIVE

As part of Commit2Respond (a UU-led coalition of people of faith and conscience for climate justice) the UU-UNO advocates for change on a global scale by raising awareness and inspiring climate change mitigation initiatives at the community & congregational levels. As stewards of the planet, we must act to avoid the worst impacts of climate change and heed the call to respect and promote the interdependent web of existence. Each of us has the potential to be leaders, inspiring action to keep our earth sustainable for all people now and in future generations. The Unitarian Universalist UN Office supports the landmark Paris Agreement adopted at the COP21 UN Climate Change Conference and feels an even more ambitious agenda is a moral, ethical, and survival imperative to ensure ecosystem health, livelihood, peace, and justice for us and for future generations. www.uua.org/environment/climate/initiative

RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

In light of the United Nations declaring 2015-2024 the International Decade for People of African Descent, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office's (UU-UNO's) racial justice program is committed to expanding the United States' Movement for Black Lives to address anti-black

racism on an international level. People of African descent worldwide experience racist oppression at alarming rates. It is crucial that we begin the conversation to build international awareness, specifically surrounding the impact of structural anti-black racism. The UU-UNO is committed to addressing this issue by engaging with the UN community regarding countries and the state of their race relations, developing respectful and fair communities, and partnering with domestic and international organizations to dismantle structural racism in favor of justice and equity. www.uua.org/racial-justice/history/un

FURTHER INTEREST IN THE UU UN OFFICE

Here are some ways to stay involved with our office in NYC:

Include an International Perspective in your Congregation:

Does your congregation currently have a group focused on climate change? How about one working for immigrant justice? Between our advocacy programs and UN Non-Governmental Organizations committees, chances are that whatever your congregation's passion is, the United Nations Office is engaged with these issues as well. Throughout the research, education, and advocacy that your social action/ justice group engages in, keep track of action being taken at the UN related to those issues. www.uua.org/un unitednations@uua.org

Become a UU-UNO Envoy for your Congregation:

Envoys are extremely valuable to the UU-UNO because they are the link between the Office and the UU community. As an Envoy, you represent the UU-UNO within your local congregation while also letting us know what global issues your congregation is most passionate about and wants us to focus on. You connect your congregation to the UU-UNO and relay important information on current UN activities. You engage your congregation members in UU-UNO program initiatives and then plan events such as UN Sunday to promote UN education. www.uua.org/un/envoys

Embrace Leadership as a Youth Envoy:

The Youth Envoy Program is a way for youth around the United States and Canada to incorporate personal, congregational, and UU beliefs in the worldwide efforts of the United Nations. The responsibilities include raising awareness of UN events within your congregation and planning discussions, fundraisers, and other international events to connect your youth group to the UU-UNO. In partnership with adult Envoys, Youth Envoys raise visibility of the UN and our office so we can work together to make the world a safer and more just place. We highly recommend having youth as part of the Envoy Team. www.uua.org/un/envoys

Participate in the Intergenerational Spring Seminar:

Every April, youth and adults gather in New York City for our exciting and educational Spring Seminar. All participants gain a deeper understanding on a topic of global concern and have a lot of fun. Past seminars have focused on poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, race, LGBT rights, indigenous peoples' rights, and criminal justice. The 2018 Seminar topic was *When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All*. Both youth and adults attending the Spring Seminar take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution. Contact our office and download the leadership application for more information on how to participate in the 2019 Seminar on how a broad understanding and pursuit of gender equity can impact society as a whole.

www.uua.org/unspringseminar

Consider the Internship Program:

The Internship Program provides people with an exciting opportunity to learn about the United Nations and to work in support of UN efforts to eradicate injustice, armed conflict, and intolerance around the world. Interns at the UU-UNO conduct research, write blogs, participate in conferences, and much more. Their contributions are invaluable. Contact unitednations@uua.org.



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION

Contact the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office

Mailing Address

777 UN Plaza
Suite 7G
New York, NY 10017

Web & Phone Contact

unitednations@uua.org
(617) 948-4610
www.uua.org/un