

Build the Movement for a Green New Deal

Whereas: The **Green New Deal** manifests key UU values — both “the interdependent web” and “justice, equity, and compassion”— sparking intense interest. However, this vision will require in-depth organizing and generational dedication to overcome powerful interests who disregard the scientific consensus that massive disruption lies ahead if we don’t take rapid action to address the escalating **climate emergency**;

Whereas: Our earth has already warmed approximately 1°C, while **climate catastrophes**, such as flooding, droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, and species die-off, are more frequent and costly, with ballooning waves of refugees, as carbon emissions from fossil fuels are now activating powerful feedback loops in the air, oceans, and on land;

Whereas: Many **natural resources**, such as fisheries, forests, agricultural lands, fresh water, and minerals, are being degraded or wasted by continued global economic and population growth;

Whereas: Social and political **stress** from escalating economic and political failure is undermining popular support for democracy and human rights, especially where short-sighted economic pursuits have prevailed over equity and compassion;

Whereas: **Equity** must replace extravagance in this new gilded age, reeling from two generations of escalating inequality, consumerism, and continued militarization, by transferring dignity and ownership to legions of proud and skilled workers to build a new and sustainable infrastructure;

Be it Resolved that the Unitarian Universalist Association, its congregations, and their members are urged to:

1. Continue **educating** ourselves on the accelerating threats to the ecosystems and natural resources which feed and sustain our global civilization, and promote a compassionate national conversation to head off worst-case scenarios;
2. Prepare our **youth** to confront the future through religious education and other programs grounded in science that inspire hope, courage and practical collective action;
3. Develop a new morality, rebuilding our political and economic structures to prioritize the well-being of **future generations**, grounded in sustainability, while supporting today’s overstressed communities with productive employment, affordable housing and health care, public transportation and education, and other universal benefits;
4. Ready ourselves for the **alarming economic challenges** ahead as nature’s limits-to-growth severely impact vulnerable populations and sectors such as heavy industry, aviation, and global transport, which are ill-suited for renewable energy;
5. Invest in **regenerative** agriculture and research and development in diverse technologies to economically extract carbon from air and water for productive purposes, while phasing out fossil fuels;
6. **Network** with UU state action networks, national groups like UUJEC, UUMFE, and UUSJ, or sign up at www.createclimatejustice.net. Participate in the Sept. 15-17, 2019, conference in Washington, DC, on a Green New Deal” (www.uujec.com/gndconference);
7. Form **alliances** with local groups working on aspects of a Green New Deal or national supporters like The Sunrise Movement, Extinction Rebellion, 350.org, The Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, We Are Still In, Citizens Climate Lobby;
8. Obtain **background** information from groups like The Post Carbon Institute, Data for Progress, Inside Climate News, Peoples Policy Project, Oil Change International;
9. Organize congregational **projects** that align with the Green New Deal;
10. Actively support the development of **federal legislation** to implement the Green New Deal as envisioned in H.Res. 109.

**RESOLUTION
REGARDING IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM
TO THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION
2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON**

WHEREAS:

1. The current administration of the United States Government has systematically and officially prevented immigrants and asylum seekers from crossing our southern border; and
2. Whereas, U.S. Government agents have illegally incarcerated immigrants lawfully seeking asylum, and
3. Whereas, Long term alien residents have been incarcerated without the opportunity of a legal proceeding, and
4. Whereas, Families of U.S. American citizens have been broken up by these unjust actions, and
5. Whereas, children have been forcibly taken from their mothers and detained indefinitely, and
6. Whereas, Parents have been deported without their children

BE IT RESOLVED

That the Unitarian Universalist Association condemn the policies of The U.S. Government regarding the treatment of immigrants and Asylum seekers, and

That the UUA supports its members and others in their actions to Protect and assist immigrants and asylum seekers in their attempts to Lawfully enter and/or remain in the United States, and

That the UUA encourages its members to communicate with their Congressional representatives and condemn the policies of the Administration.

Submitted by: Dianne Dailey and Robert Doupé, Delegates of and unanimously supported by Board of the UU Fellowship of San Miguel de Allende, Guanajuato, Mexico

Support Our First Amendment Right to Boycott

An Action of Immediate Witness at the UUA 2019 General Assembly sponsored by
Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East

This Action of Immediate Witness calls on Unitarian Universalists and UU organizations to support our constitutionally protected right to boycott.

The movement for Palestinian human rights has grown stronger in recent years with student groups, faith groups, unions and academic associations all coming out in support of Palestinian justice, and in many cases calling for boycotts and divestment from corporations complicit in violations of Palestinian human rights.

This growth in support for Palestinian rights has led to a backlash from all those who are threatened by criticism of Israel. The backlash has taken many forms, including a major effort to damage the movement for Palestinian rights with legislation aimed at intimidating or even criminalizing participation in boycotts directed at changing Israeli behavior. Divestment is a kind of boycott and much of the legislation refers to divestment as well as to boycotts.

Since 2014 over 100 measures targeting the use of boycotts in support of Palestinian rights have been introduced at local, state and federal levels. Twenty-seven different states have adopted such laws. Several such bills have also achieved wide support in the US Congress, although no bill has as yet passed both houses to become law. Some of the more extreme federal legislation that has been proposed calls for prison sentences of twenty years and fines of one million dollars. (see <https://palestinelegal.org/righttoboycott>)

This massive effort to pass anti-boycott legislation is disturbing given that the US Supreme Court determined in 1982 that boycotts are a form of free speech protected by the First Amendment (*NAACP vs Claiborne Hardware*), and given that such laws have recently been declared unconstitutional by Federal courts in Kansas, Arizona and Texas. The ACLU takes no position on Palestinian rights but has strongly opposed all of the anti-boycott legislation (see <https://www.aclu.org/letter/aclu-letter-opposing-revised-version-israel-anti-boycott-act>).

The initiators of this anti-boycott legislation are not really concerned about constitutionality. They know that cases on appeal may take years to reach the Supreme Court and in the meantime their legislation will serve to frighten off those wishing to support Palestinian human rights with the time-honored, non-violent and constitutional means of boycotts.

But we must recognize, along with the ACLU, that all of us are threatened by this attack on our fundamental rights. Today it is supporters of Palestinians who are threatened, tomorrow it may be supporters of farm workers, Black Americans, indigenous people, immigrants, LGBTQIA people or prisoners. Broad opposition to these anti-boycott laws should be based on their unconstitutional, anti-democratic character and separate from one's views concerning how to support Palestinians.

This Action of Immediate Witness calls on Unitarian Universalist and UU organizations to oppose these anti-boycott laws by reaching out to their representatives at state and federal levels. We also ask UUs to sign UJME's petition calling on Congress to oppose this legislation (see <https://tinyurl.com/defendrighttoboycott>) or collect signatures via a paper version <https://tinyurl.com/defendrighttoboycott-paper> and mail them to the indicated address.