

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE | 2015 RESOURCE PACKET



United Nations Sunday Service

International Criminal Justice: From
Punitive to Restorative

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Background Information

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 and see 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. The UU-UNO is able to keep our doors open thanks to you! Our funding comes from the generous contributions of congregations and individual donors and we truly appreciate all your support!

Lastly, once you have successfully held your UN Sunday, please remember to complete and mail/email us the Envoy Report, which is included in the packet on page 20. 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 Envoy Coordinator at unenvoycoordinator@uua.org or 617-948-4610, ext. 3, with any questions or concerns. This complete packet is available for all at uua.org/unsunday

Good luck and remember to remain confident in your ability to host this UN Sunday celebration!

About the United Nations

Here is a brief overview of the history of this international organization. You may choose to read the Purposes 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](http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml)¹.

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

Much of the UN's work sets normative frameworks which governments must take upon themselves to implement. One of the most important purposes in the Charter to remember when thinking about the purpose of the United Nations is the fourth: "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 law and legislation at the international level. Governments draft, debate, and vote for or against treaties, conventions, or action plans discussed at the UN.

The entirety of the budget for the United Nations is financed by dues and voluntary contributions from member states. 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 Palestinian Authority 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

Here are four of the main tenants of the UN, which are similar to our Seven Principles.

- 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;
- 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, 24 October 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.

AT YOUR OWN CONGREGATION

In celebration of this annual event, the Unitarian Universalist UN Office invites congregations and individual UUs to engage with the Global U/U Story 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 follows the theme for that year's UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar. This year's theme is *International Criminal Justice: From Punitive to Restorative*.

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.

Finally, 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 benefits 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. We can help to change the world so that every person enjoys a safe and dignified life. Thank you for participating in UN Sunday!

2015 Global Rights Topic

Use these resources to educate yourself on this year's UN Sunday theme, International Criminal Justice: From Punitive to Restorative.

Criminal Justice Issues at the United Nations

One important function of the United Nations is that it sets standards for the protection of human rights and the responsibilities of governments that individual nations agree to uphold. Right after the UU-UNO's Intergenerational Spring Seminar *International Criminal Justice: From Punitive to Restorative*, the United Nations held its 13th quinquennial (every 5 years) conference on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention from April 12th to April 19th in Doha, Qatar.



Every 5 years, countries send delegates and criminal justice experts to discuss topics related to criminal justice and share crime prevention best practices. Member states at the conference reaffirmed their commitment to justice for all, especially in light of the post-2015 development agenda as they acknowledged that “sustainable development and the rule of law are strongly interrelated and mutually reinforcing.” The declaration they adopted, “The Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,” called for action on issues including reducing recidivism, prison overcrowding, violence against women, and human trafficking.²

The Death Penalty: During debates at the Doha Conference on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention, some delegates called for a moratorium (temporary prohibition of the death penalty), while others upheld individual states' rights to decide on the issue. Since 2007, the UN General Assembly has adopted five resolutions of Moratorium on the use of the death penalty, the most recent in December 2014. With increasing numbers of votes in favor, these resolutions encourage Member States to abolish the death penalty, while not constraining them to do so. As of 2015, over 160 UN Member States have either abolished the death penalty or do not practice it. The UN Human Rights Office continues to advocate for the universal abolition of the death penalty on the basis that it violates the fundamental nature of the right to life, as well as the very real risk of executing innocent people and the absence of proof that the death penalty serves as a deterrent to crime.

² http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.222/L.6

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) operates in all regions of the world, assisting UN member states with field-based technical cooperation projects, research, and analytical work to enhance each state's capacity to reduce illicit drugs, crime, and terrorism within and across their borders. The UNODC issued in 2006 a "Compendium of UN standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice." By compiling in one place all of the UN's standards and norms pertaining to crime prevention and criminal justice, this compendium is a resource for nations and will "reinforce respect for the rule of law and human rights in the administration of justice."³

UN & Treatment of Prisoners: Included in the Compendium is a set of "Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners" – these were approved by the Economic & Social Council in 1977. The Standard Minimum Rules lay out generally accepted "good principles and practices" for the treatment of prisoners and management of institutions.⁴ Member States should use these as guidelines for their own justice systems. Importantly, the document states, that "As a rule, such young persons [who come within the jurisdiction of juvenile courts] should not be sentenced to imprisonment." These Standard Minimum Rules also lay out guidelines for personal hygiene, medical services, discipline and punishment, among other categories, in order to uphold prisoners' human rights.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS - CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The following articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are particularly relevant to criminal justice issues.

- Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights...
- Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.
- Article 4: No one shall be held in slavery or servitude...
- Article 5: No one shall be subject to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.
- Article 6: Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.
- Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law...
- Article 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention, or exile.
- Article 10: Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.
- Article 11: Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty...

³ http://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice/Compendium_UN_Standards_and_Norms_CP_and_CJ_English.pdf

⁴ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/TreatmentOfPrisoners.aspx>

International Criminal Justice and the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

Here is a brief breakdown of UU principles and their connection to Criminal Justice issues mentioned in this year's UN seminar:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person:

People who are or have been incarcerated deserve to be treated with respect and recognized as human beings with inalienable rights. We must all work to heal and empower these people, giving them a chance to change themselves and their lives for the betterment of society.

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations:

We must create a world where innocent people are not incarcerated, tortured, or executed and the convicted are not treated inhumanely. People who are or have been incarcerated deserve to be treated with kindness and compassion despite their prior mistakes.

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

People who are or have been connected to the criminal justice system are all members of our communities. We must remember that victims of crime, those who have been accused or convicted of a crime, and all their families and friends are in need of spiritual healing and community. We must look beyond whatever may have happened in their pasts and welcome them into our congregations.

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning:

When individuals are imprisoned and told what they did was wrong but not why, they often spend their time in prison simply dwelling on their own misfortune and misery. Giving incarcerated individuals the opportunity to interact with their victims or victims' families allows them to discover for themselves why what they did is wrong, and how others were affected by it. This sort of restorative justice, as well as education programs within prisons, allows prisoners to actively seek their own truth and meaning from the world. Victims are also given the opportunity to come to peace with the situation, which does not happen when prisoners are punished.

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

All citizens of a democratic country are entitled to a voice in government and society. In some countries, people are permitted to vote from prison; however most countries

(including most US states) forbid prisoners from voting. Even upon release, structural barriers in society often prevent them from voting and keep them from equal access to education and careers.

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

We must look to restorative justice as a way for victims of crime, those who have been accused or convicted of a crime, and all their families and friends to find peace. The punishment paradigm typical of most of our world's prison systems is not a humane one. A world community is built upon trust and sympathy between neighbors; this cannot exist when immigrants experience racism and discrimination within their host countries, constantly living in fear of abuse by law enforcement officers or the threat of deportation.

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

Even though we each might not personally know someone who has been through the criminal justice system, we are all affected by it. When people are incarcerated, locked away and forgotten about until their release, at the end of their sentence they rejoin society just as troubled as when they left it, if not more so. Education and therapy programs within prisons and re-entry programs allow formerly incarcerated individuals to return to society as productive citizens, allowing their neighborhoods to develop, to become safe, and to thrive economically.

UU United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar International Criminal Justice: From Punitive to Restorative

What we discussed at this year's Spring Seminar

The United States of America has 4% of the world's population, but 25% of the world's incarcerated population. Many people throughout the world have either been involved in the criminal justice system themselves, or know someone who has. It is a privilege not to know anyone who has been involved in the criminal justice system.

The UU-UNO's 2015 Spring Seminar on International Criminal Justice presented an opportunity for our participants to deepen their understanding of privilege, oppression, racism, diversity, equality, and human rights. Youth and adult participants contributed to the seminar by serving on the planning committee, taking leadership roles during the



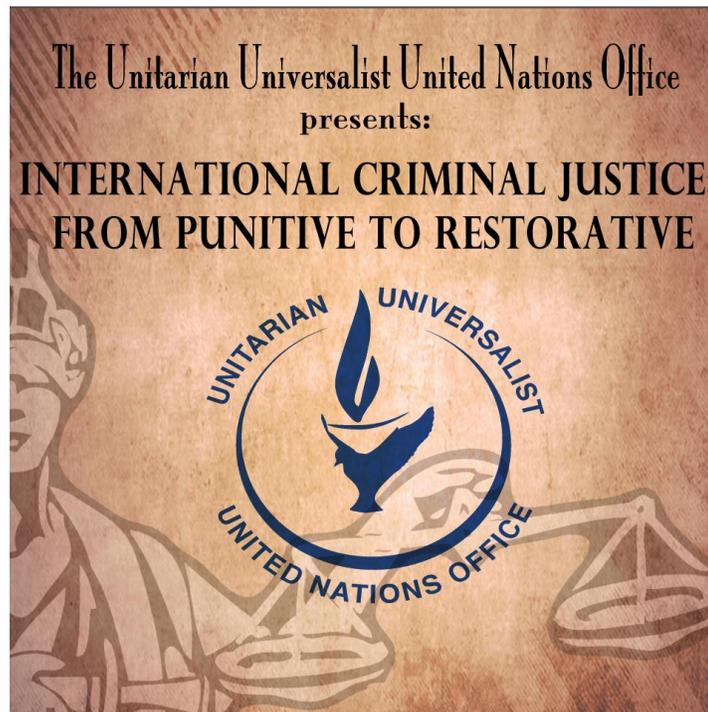
seminar, asking thought-provoking questions, and participating in the talent show. They took the positive experience, knowledge, friendships, and ideas for social justice activism back to their communities. Participants were inspired to become better advocates for human rights issues on a local and a global scale.

Our first panel was an overview of the relationship between racism and mass incarceration. The panel focused on the maltreatment of incarcerated people. This provided foundational knowledge for those of our participants who have had limited experience with the topic. Our second panel looked at life in prison, human trafficking, and torture. On that panel, an Iranian musician described his experience being detained in prison in his home country.

Our third panel was on crime prevention, and the lives of incarcerated people. This panel debunked some negative stereotypes that exist regarding incarcerated people. Our fourth and last panel, which spoke to the death penalty and solitary confinement, was held at the United Nations Headquarters. Rick Halperin, Director of the Southern Methodist University Embrey Human Rights Program, argued that "No one deserves death sentence for a wrong decision they had made at the worst moment of their life." Dr. Cornel West, a prominent and provocative democratic intellectual, addressed the participants virtually, focusing on various criminal justice issues around the world, including the maltreatment of indigenous people in Canada.

Other issues that arose at the seminar included torture, human trafficking, solitary confinement. Participants' comments on the seminar include, "I was not exposed to all these issues before, so this seminar was very eye-opening", and "I am motivated to go back to my community and be an advocate on international criminal justice issues".

At the end of the seminar, participants worked together to draft a statement that was presented to the United Nations and to Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. In the statement, the participants called on each other and on their fellow Unitarian-Universalists to fight for change in the international and domestic criminal justice systems through education, empowerment, advocacy, and coalition building.



For more information on this year's spring seminar, check out our blog:

<http://international.blogs.uua.org/international-uu-organizations/uu-uno/2015-spring-seminar-recap/>

2015 Intergenerational Spring Seminar Statement

International Criminal Justice: From Punitive to Restorative

Whereas:

Unitarian Universalism is a faith that champions compassion and justice in human relations, principles which many judicial systems do not uphold for all people, especially those in marginalized groups,

Unitarian Universalists affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people and recognize that there are negative stereotypes surrounding incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people,

Everyone is entitled to due process under the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, yet many people are convicted of crimes without sufficient evidence,

People should be defined by their humanity, and not by a single bad choice made in their worst moment,

Each human being's inherent capacity for good and positive growth is not acknowledged in the current punishment paradigm,

Racial bias is rampant in criminal justice systems around the world, and prison systems stunt growth and change,

Solitary confinement is an inhumane punishment and form of torture that removes an individual from the interconnected web of life,

There is no evidence that the death penalty deters violent crime,

The rate of recidivism is higher for incarcerated people who do not receive education in prison than for those who do,

Human trafficking is illegal everywhere, but practiced in all countries, affecting people of all classes, nationalities, ethnicities, races, and genders,

Ignorance of human trafficking in our own communities helps perpetuate the system,

All sides of a story need to be considered with an open mind, rather than passing automatic judgment on others,

Unitarian Universalists believe in the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all,

We Therefore Resolve To:

Acknowledge the humanity of those incarcerated.

Educate our peers and congregations, raise awareness, and demand comprehensive reform of prison conditions.

Create and implement measures to promote rehabilitation not punishment.

Combat the rise of for-profit prisons that thrive on disproportionate sentencing.

Work to establish a system where inmates have the right to equal education and the ability to access it.

Advocate for elimination of solitary confinement as a means of punishment.

Dedicate ourselves to ending the death penalty.

Stand in solidarity with former convicts, and help create a supportive environment for their rehabilitation and new life.

Work to increase the self-esteem and self-worth of incarcerated people upon their integration back into society.

Focus on community building as an advocacy and crime prevention tool.

Educate local and global societies about the threat and signs of human trafficking, as a means of prevention.

Engage our Unitarian Universalist congregations with the United Nations in support for more just and humane criminal justice systems throughout the world.

Affirmed by the participants of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar, New York City, 11 April, 2015.

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 important issues in the field of criminal justice that you can get involved with. How is your congregation already involved in these human rights issues? During your UN Sunday service or event, share an issue that your congregation can connect with.

PRISON VISITS

Those incarcerated are isolated to an extent that is hard to imagine and the few social interactions they do have are laced with latent hostility or outright violence. Prison visits provide a chance for them to have non-threatening face-to-face interactions, as to increase the chance that they will make a successful re-entry to society. If possible, consider looking into programs that would allow members to make visits to prisons or send supportive material to those imprisoned.

VOTING RIGHTS

Millions of people are disenfranchised as a result of felony convictions. This is not only blatantly discriminatory, it also violates the idea that prisoners should be brought back into regular society. By denying them one of the most basic human rights years or even decades after a crime was committed these laws help promote recidivism. As of now, only two states in America allow those in prison to vote and many states have extremely strict limitations on voting for ex-felons.

POLICE BRUTALITY

Apathy is one of the established order's strongest tools here. Many people think that they will never have violence or discrimination inflicted on them by the police and thus have little interest in bringing about change. However, here you can make your voice heard at many levels. Individuals can bring about change on the level of their town, district, or precinct by appealing to local politicians, while working alongside community leaders. In the event that you see or hear about such events happening, helping to get out the word is crucial. The more people know, the less they can excuse looking away.

REHABILITATION

Throughout the world, politicians face pressure to be “tough on crime,” by inflicting harsh punishments on criminals. This leads to overly harsh punishments that increase the rate of recidivism and help create a cycle of helplessness and criminality that leads to more victims. Many criminal policies are formulated at the state level, so appealing to local state legislators is an important step towards meaningful change.

Documentaries, Films, and Videos on Criminal Justice

- HBO. *University of Sing Sing* (documentary)
- Hudson Link. *Zero Percent* (documentary)
- Human Rights Watch. *US: Teens in Solitary Confinement* (report on YouTube)
- Matthew Pillischer. *Broken on All Sides: Race, Mass Incarceration & New Visions for Criminal Justice in the US* (documentary)
- TED Talk. *Karen Tse: How to stop torture*. (TED Talk video)

Books, Websites, and Articles on Criminal Justice

- Alexander, Michelle. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness*
- Blackmon, Douglas. *Slavery by another name: The re-enslavement of Black people in America from the Civil War to World War II*
- Boctor, Audrey. Human Rights Review. "[The Abolition of the Death Penalty in Rwanda](#)"
- The Economist (from the print edition). "Prisons in Latin America: A journey into hell"
- Gilmore, Ruth Wilson. *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California*
- Schenwar, Maya. *Locked Down, Locked Out: Why Prison Doesn't Work and How We Can Do Better*
- Waller, Irvin. *Smarter Crime Control: A Guide to a Safer Future for Citizens, Communities, and Politicians*
- Zehr, Howard. *The Little Book of Restorative Justice*

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 around 40 years. The UN Sunday theme follows our Spring Seminar theme which this year is International Criminal Justice.

UN Day every year is October 24th. First you'll need to set a date for your service with the church, preferably around October 24th. The 2015 suggested date is October 25th. 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:

- July 30th is World Day Against Trafficking in Persons
- September 21st is International Day of Peace
- October 2nd is International Day of Non-Violence
- October 10th is World Mental Health Day and World Day Against Death Penalty
- November 2nd is International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists
- December 10th is Human Rights Day
- December 20th is International Human Solidarity Day
- February 20th is World Day of Social Justice
- March 21st is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- March 24th is International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims

DEVELOP THE THEME AROUND CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

(See section on Spring Seminar or Think Globally, Act Locally for some assistance)

- Decide on Guest speaker(s) - consider someone from the UU-UNO, Envoys, local representatives of criminal justice/rehabilitation group, congregants, yourself etc.
- Pick out some options for readings, hymns, opening and closing. (Keep in mind the connection that criminal justice issues have with our UU principles)
- Consider including a presentation of some kind (i.e. show a video, give more information about criminal justice issues, 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 local or international criminal justice issues)

Consulting for UN Sunday

How to solicit help and delegate responsibilities among members involved:

MEET WITH THE CHURCH WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- Develop/discuss an overview of the service you outline from the section above
- Discuss publicity
 - Utilize church newsletter, newspaper, etc. (designate someone to speak about UN Sunday during morning announcements in the weeks prior and write up a blurb to post in print and online)
- Designate someone to decorate the altar
 - Photographs, audiotape, videotape
- Contact the organist and/or the Music Director
 - Discuss prelude, hymns, postlude, other music (make it a collective decision)

*If your congregation does not have a Worship Committee, delegate the above tasks to Planning team members, or other congregation members interested in helping you plan and execute UN Sunday.

MAKE THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- Plan the cover – contact us to get a digital copy of the UU-UNO Logo
- Work with your congregation’s administrator on production
- Thank participants in the “Order of Service”
- Rehearse the Service
- “Choreograph” the service; practice moving from one segment to another
- If relevant and possible, have the guest speaker visit the church building
- Check on altar, microphones, video camera, and other audio equipment
- Rehearse the Service a second time if you can! You may find that there is something you want to change or add.

PREPARE FOR FOLLOW-UP

- Email Envoy Coordinator for UU-UNO Donation Envelopes
- Talk with treasurer or church admin about check processing protocol
 - Can they provide you with a list of names of donors? Can they provide the UN Office with the list?
 - Can they share the number of donors?
 - Can they send the UU-UNO donation envelopes to the office for our records?
- Review donation protocol (see document on www.uua.org/un/envoys)

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 we will post words and prayers from UU ministers 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 #475 (UN Charter) or #442 (We Bid You Welcome)

Opening Words/Chalice Lighting: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #447

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

Opening Hymn: Singing the Living Tradition #325 (Love Makes a Bridge) or #148 (Let Freedom Span Both East and West)

Reading/Story: The tale of "Two Kinds of Justice" [http://freestoriesforkids.com/children/stories-and-
tales/two-kinds-justice](http://freestoriesforkids.com/children/stories-and-tales/two-kinds-justice)

Reading: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #637 (A Litany of Atonement) or #508

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 Director or Envoy Coordinator to speak. This is where to go into further detail about international human rights specifically pertaining to Indigenous Groups and Rights.

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. 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 to support the UU-UNO.

Closing Hymn: Singing the Living Tradition #413 (Go Now in Peace) or #155 (Circle 'Round for Freedom)

Chalice Extinguishing: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #694 or #602 (If There is to be Peace)

Closing Words: Singing the Living Tradition Reading #709

UN Sunday Religious Education

Please enlist the help or delegate these tasks to the DRE of your congregation:

MEET WITH THE RE COMMITTEE

- To get the children involved
 - Processional – for example use “Let There Be Peace on Earth” banners
 - Include a Children’s Story
 - 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 CRIMINAL JUSTICE 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 2015 theme: International Criminal Justice: From Punitive to Restorative.

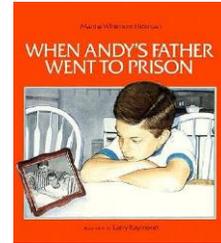
RE teachers should start by educating themselves through our resource section on current work of the UN on criminal justice issues. Use some of the text or resources to draft a brief lesson that will work for your class. After the lesson, engage the children in an activity/ craft. An activity to connect children with criminal justice issues is suggested below. Possible suggestions for the craft are in the UU-UNO RE packet (*UN Me* – see uua.org/un to download).

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 incarcerated or formerly incarcerated people are facing today in America 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: 2015 Global Rights Topic for more ideas and suggestions.

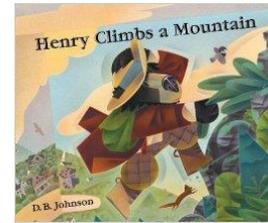
SUGGESTED BOOKS:

A few children’s books related to the subject of criminal justice.

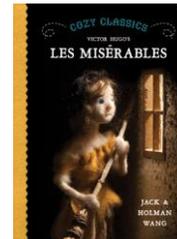
- *When Andy's Father Went to Prison* by Martha Whitmore Hickman / Illustrated by Larry Raymond, Albert Whitman & Company, 1990: When Andy's father is sent to prison for robbery and the family moves to be near him, Andy is afraid of what the kids at his new school will think.



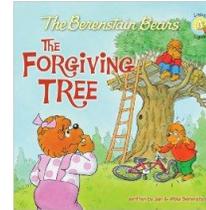
- *Henry Climbs a Mountain* by D.B. Johnson, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2003: Henry wants to climb a mountain, and nothing is going to stop him. Then Sam, the tax collector, puts him in jail for not paying his taxes. Henry refuses to pay to a state that allows slavery. But being locked up doesn't stop Henry. He still gets to splash in rivers, swing from trees, and meet a stranger. This bear, modeled on the real Henry David Thoreau, roams free.



- *Cozy Classics: Les Misérables* by Jack and Holman Wang, Simply Read Books, 2013: *Les Misérables* tells the story of Jean Valjean who was imprisoned for 19 years for stealing a loaf of bread, and his search for redemption in a world of hardship and misery.



- *The Berenstain Bears and the Forgiving Tree* by Jan and Michael Berenstain, Zonderkidz, 2011: When Cousin Fred accidentally damages Brother's brand-new bike, Brother Bear is angry. Can Sister Bear help him see that forgiving his friend is the right thing to do?



ACTIVITIES/CURRICULUM:

For Grades K-5 (or younger) RE classes: Select several children from the group to act out roles in the skit in front of the whole class. Alternatively, the RE teachers may perform the skit themselves, depending on time constraints or level of maturity of the class.

Situation: One day on the playground at recess, Sally pushes Jennie and she gets a cut on her elbow. Jennie begins crying and tells her teacher, and Sally gets in trouble.

In the first scenario, Sally has all of her recesses for the following week taken from her, and she is required to stay inside with the teacher with her head on the desk, not doing anything. She is not allowed to read, play, or color. The following week, when Sally is finally allowed to go back to recess, she becomes angry once again, and hits another student who takes her swing from her. She is once again punished and has another week's worth of recesses taken from her.

In the second scenario, Sally has only one day of recess taken from her, and she goes through a different process. The next day at recess, she is required to go into her teacher's room for a discussion. While she is there, her teacher asks her some questions about why she pushed Sally, what made her angry, and whether she felt that what she had done was wrong. Her teacher lets her know that anger is a common response, but that there are other ways to channel this feeling without hurting any other students. Her teacher then does an exercise in which Sally learns about other ways to act when someone makes her angry. The next day, Sally is allowed to go back to recess, and she doesn't harm any other students for the rest of the year.

Discussion Questions:

- Which of these scenarios did you like better? (If you got in trouble, which of these punishments would you rather have?)
- Which of these methods was more effective for teaching Sally how to change in the future?
- When someone gets in trouble, do you think they should be punished, or taught why their behavior was wrong?
- What happens when adults do bad things out of anger? Where do they go?
- Do you think that it is any different when an adult does something bad--should they be punished, or taught how to change their behavior in the future?

Tie these discussion questions into the theme of punitive vs. restorative justice.

For Grades 6-8 (or older) RE classes: Divide the class into two groups. Explain that there has been an issue with a classmate of theirs. Sally cheated off of Jennie's US History test and she got caught by the teacher. Both groups will be in charge of creating a skit to work out the best way for Sally to be punished. One group will act out that Sally is punished harshly for her actions, while the other will focus on restorative justice and education through her punishment. Allow both groups to create a skit to be performed in front of the class.

After the skits are performed, discuss amongst the class how both forms of punishment were either effective or ineffective. Relate this to the overall theme of education in punishment and how that can better the outcome in the future.

Discussion Questions:

- Which of the 7 UU principles best apply to these situations?
- Why, as UUs, are we called to aim for restorative justice rather than harsh punishment?
- How does this theme relate to current events that are going on in our world today?

UN Sunday: The Day Of

- Be there early to:
 - Get water for the speaker(s)
 - Set up tape recorder, video camera; test microphones
 - Make sure the Religious Education participation is ready
 - Greet guests as they arrive
 - Ensure the camera(s) are fully charged and have memory available
- After the service, enjoy coffee hour/luncheon
- 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
- 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 Envoy Coordinator (unenvoycoordinator@uua.org) with your total money count and how many individuals donated.

UN Sunday: Follow-up

Here are some things to make sure you accomplish after UN Sunday:

- **Please send the following to the UU UN Office:**
 - **A few photos**
 - **The number of individual checks (include names, if you have permission)**
 - **Total amount donated from collection plate (if applicable)**
 - **The Order of Service/ Event Program**
 - **A letter with any additional information you would like to share**
 - **THE REPORT ON THE NEXT PAGE**
- Email or mail the UU-UNO the UN Sunday report on the next page in order to qualify for the 2014-2015 Blue Ribbon Congregation Award
- Upload /develop pictures of the service – if on Facebook, tag the UU-UNO and post on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/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 or address to the 2014 Dana Greeley Award (uua.org/unsunday)
- Use the guide below on pg. 23 to plan a UU UNO fundraiser at your congregation
- Celebrate! You did a wonderful job.

Envoy UN Sunday Report

Please take a few moments to consult with those involved in planning your UN Sunday and fill out this form. Your response will help us learn how congregations celebrate UN Sunday and how we can better support these initiatives. Please snail mail or email as soon as possible following your UN Sunday service and/or event.

Name: _____ Leadership Role: _____
Congregation: _____

How You Celebrate UN Sunday—

Our congregation celebrates UN Sunday annually. (please circle) YES NO

Our congregation supports the UU-UNO financially. (please circle) YES NO

Please provide a description of your UN Sunday celebration.

(Did you have a guest speaker? A video? A sermon by a lay leader or a minister?)

Our congregation takes an intergenerational approach to UN Sunday. YES NO

Please provide examples of what children, youth, and young adults do to celebrate UN Sunday.

PLANNING PROCESS:

When did you set the date for your UN Sunday Service? (MM/DD/YY)

Please comment on the planning process. (Materials used? Other ways we can assist you?)

Additional Activities & Fundraisers—

Have you planned any additional fundraisers or activities around UN issues? If so, elaborate, if now please explain how we can further assist you.

Resources from UU-UNO

Resource Packet overall Great! Okay Needs Improvement

Please comment on the resource packet.

(Was it easy to understand and use? Which section is most helpful?)

Thank you for completing this UN Sunday feedback form and for your ongoing commitment to peace, liberty, and justice for all. Please return this form to us by e-mail, mail or fax. We also encourage you to send us a copy of your Order of Service and photos from UN Sunday. Feel free to add additional comments on this sheet.

This form will also be available online at www.uua.org/un/envoys

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:

The deadline for Blue Ribbon qualification (including donations!) for 2015-2016 is: **MARCH 31ST**

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. 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. 5% of the congregation's members donate to the UU-UNO as individuals (or 15 members for large congregations)

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).

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 2015 is International Criminal Justice. (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 awarded a cash prize of \$500 and will have the opportunity to deliver the sermon or address at the upcoming UUA General Assembly. See the website for more information about the guidelines for submission. www.uua.org/action/awards/greeley

Deadline for submission is February 1st, 2016.

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. <http://www.uua.org/international>

Through close coordination with a Coalition of U/U International Organizations 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. <http://uuinternational.org>

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. 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 consists of offering essential resources and health care assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, enabling them to attend primary school in the Manya Krobo District in Ghana. Our partnership with the Queen Mothers Association and Queen Mothers of the district is essential to our success. ECOC directly contributes to the goals of achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, and combating HIV/AIDS. 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. The ECOC Program provides real life opportunities to practice UU spiritual principles. By providing education to a threatened generation, we further affirm and promote the worth and dignity of every person.

<http://www.uua.org/international/action/children/>



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 Non-Governmental 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. <http://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 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 two parallel events during the 58th session of



the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 2015. One focused on women's health in humanitarian crisis situations and the other on the mental health effects of genocide (the systematic extermination of a specific gender) and "corrective" rape (the attempt to "correct" the sexuality of a lesbian, bisexual, or transgender individual with sexual force). We hope to continue these important conversations throughout the year and leading up to next year's CSW Forum.

Climate Change 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 work of the United Nations Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and feels its long-term vision is very much in tune with our moral, ethical, and survival imperative to ensure ecosystem health, livelihood, peace, and justice for us and for future generations.

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. <http://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 global 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. <http://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 congregational 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. <http://www.uua.org/un/youth>

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 water, poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, race, LGBT rights, and indigenous peoples' rights. The 2015 Seminar topic was international criminal justice. 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 2016 Seminar on Income Inequality. <http://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 Anne Francois, Office and Intern Coordinator, at unitednations@uua.org.

UU Community Involvement

Listed below are ways to get your UU congregation or community more involved with our UN Office:

ENTER THE ANNUAL 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. 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 awarded a cash prize of \$500 and will have the opportunity to deliver the sermon or address at the upcoming UUA General Assembly. See the website for more information about the guidelines for submission. <http://www.uua.org/unsunday>

HOLD AN INTERGENERATIONAL UU-UNO FUNDRAISER:

The UU-UNO exists to provide a unique UU perspective at the United Nations. We depend on individual and congregational support. We ask for your involvement, your engagement and your enthusiastic financial support to help us change the world so that every person can enjoy a safe and dignified life. Consider holding a coffee house, dance, spaghetti dinner, international food fair, or craft sale to support our work. We also have our "FUNdraising Packet" we can send you per request or you can download on our website (www.uua.org/un). This can be a fun opportunity to learn about an issue, build intergenerational community and raise necessary funds.

BECOME A BLUE RIBBON CONGREGATION

United Nations Sunday is a great opportunity to increase support for the UU-UNO by helping your congregation achieve Blue Ribbon status. In order to do this, a congregation needs these qualifications by March 31st:

1. 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. 5% of the congregation's members donate to the UU-UNO as individuals (or 15 members for large congregations)