United Nations Sunday Service

The Colors of Inequality: Costs and Consequences
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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 – 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. 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 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 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.

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 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 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 The Colors of Inequality: Costs and Consequences.

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!
2016 Global Rights Topic

Use these resources to educate yourself on this year’s UN Sunday theme, The Colors of Inequality: Costs and Consequences.

Economic Inequality Issues at the United Nations

The United Nations has been working against inequality since its founding in 1945. Part of the UN Charter states that “We the peoples of the United Nations [are] determined …to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and for these ends… to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples…” An essential Principle within the Charter is the sovereign equality of all Member States. With the goal of achieving “the economic and social advancement of all peoples,” all the areas in which the UN works are contributing to achievement of reduced global inequality.

The main areas in which the UN works include:

- Maintain International Peace and Security
- Promote Sustainable Development
- Protect Human Rights
- Uphold International Law
- Deliver Humanitarian Aid

In the maintenance of international peace, equality between countries is upheld, rather than dominance of one over another. In the promotion of sustainable development, similar opportunities are available to people regardless of their country of origin. In the protection of human rights, discrimination is not tolerated based on income, gender, sexuality, religion, or other status. In the upholding of international law, justice and equity are required from all people. And in delivering humanitarian aid, the human family lends a helping hand to our siblings in crisis. Certainly, all of these efforts are necessary in order to reduce global economic inequality.

Prior to the creation and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September of 2015, the UN formed a Task Team to assess what the main aims of the 2030 Agenda should be. The UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (which eventually became the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) issued a “thematic think piece”:

**Addressing inequalities: The heart of the post-2015 agenda and the future we want for all.**

It notes that “Income inequality is …on the rise both within and across countries, developed and developing alike. Approximately two thirds of countries with available data experienced an increase in income inequality between 1990 and 2005, despite globally robust economic growth.”
The think piece also provides important insights into the result of income inequality when it intersects with issues of gender and race:

**GENDER**

“Inequalities and discrimination based on income, location, disability and ethnicity intersect with gender and are often mutually reinforcing. For example, there are many countries where the likelihood of having skilled assistance at childbirth, a critical basic service for preventing maternal mortality and morbidity differs by more than 50 percentage points between wealthy, urban women and poor, rural women.”

**RACE**

“A number of countries, both high and low income, have experienced jobless economic growth, with the result that those at the top end of the income distribution have benefited far more than those at the bottom. For example, in the United States, a recent study shows a growing wealth gap between ethnic groups. From 2005 to 2009, inflation-adjusted median wealth fell by 66% among Hispanic households and 53% among African-American households, compared with just 16% among white households.”

**BROAD IMPLICATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF ECONOMIC INEQUALITY:**

When the gap between the wealthiest and poorest members of a society grows larger and larger, all aspects of the society are affected, often in harmful ways.

“…increased inequalities are not just bad for the individuals thereby disadvantaged, but for society as a whole. Highly unequal societies tend to grow more slowly than those with low income inequalities, are less successful in sustaining growth over long periods of time and recover more slowly from economic downturns. High levels of inequalities can jeopardize the well-being of large segments of the population through low earnings/wages and have subsequent effects on health, nutrition and child development… High levels of inequality also reduce the impact of economic growth on poverty reduction. Finally, crime, disease, and environmental problems are also found to be exacerbated by inequality. When inequality and disparities reach extreme levels, they foment discontent that can lead to political instability and in some cases violence and conflict.”

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UUA United Nations Office
In order to reduce inequality globally, the UN is focusing on promoting sustainable development. The 2015 UN General Assembly adopted seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (also called “Global Goals for Sustainable Development”) as an action plan to make the planet more just, equitable, safe, and livable. With the recognition that no one country can achieve success alone, the UN is building on the principle of interdependence. The seventeenth and final Sustainable Development Goal is “Strengthen the means and implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.” The concepts reflected in this goal build off of the principles of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, wherein “All States have the responsibility to co-operate in the economic, social, cultural, scientific and technological fields for the promotion of economic and social progress throughout the world, especially that of the developing countries.”

By energizing nations, communities, and citizens of the world to work together toward the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN is fostering a global community where all people’s rights are respected and equal opportunities are available to them.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS – ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

The following articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are particularly relevant to economic inequality:

- Article 1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights…
- Article 2: Everyone is entitled to all the rights set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status…
- Article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person.
- Article 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.
- Article 23:
  1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.
  2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
  3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.
  4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

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• Article 24: Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

• Article 25: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control…

Economic Inequality and the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism

Here is a brief breakdown of UU principles and their connection to economic inequality:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person:

Every person, regardless of their economic wealth or status, deserves to be treated with respect and recognized as an equal member of society. However, economic inequality often prevents people from having equal opportunity – although each person is born with equal rights, those rights are not respected in the society where they live. We must work to provide all people with the possibilities and opportunities they deserve in life, to promote and ensure their access to the inherent human rights they possess.

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations:

Regardless of our own economic situation, we must work to understand the circumstances of others. Each person must be given the justice they deserve, because justice should never depend on a person’s economic position. As such, our personal interactions must be rooted in kindness and a desire to promote fairness in all facets of society.

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

It is crucial that we allow ourselves to accept all people, regardless of their economic position. In order to give every individual their rightful ability to grow within our congregations, we must each be glad to welcome every person into our community. Spiritual growth and acceptance should never be limited by a person’s wealth, class, income, or other status.

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning:

One of the most crucial rights of all individuals is the right to learn, understand, and search for what is true and right in the world. When all people have equal access to
education and employment opportunities, they can be free to take responsibility for their own lives and their own quest for meaning. We must make our congregations places where these personal quests for understanding can occur by promoting open and accepting discourse for all.

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

Every person has the right to voice their own opinions, and for those opinions to have equal weight as another person’s. Wealth or status should never be a determinant for how much of a say a person has in the political process in their country, their community, or their congregation. The democratic process is not functioning properly when money can buy someone political power and influence.

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

Across the globe, those with limited economic opportunities are more likely to take up arms and become involved in violent conflict. The extreme economic inequality our world faces only exacerbates this issue. In order to achieve a truly peaceful global community, we must work together to alleviate economic inequality in order to guarantee liberty and justice for all.

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

Just as a person’s economic status impacts every aspect of their life, all other social issues are caused and affected by economic inequality. Global inequality between wealthy countries and developing countries is perpetuated by changes to our planet’s climate, by racial and ethnic discrimination, by homophobia and misogyny, by lack of opportunities based on gender identity, and so much more. It is critical to remember that all these issues are interdependent, but also that to solve them, all people must recognize our common humanity and band together. We must rely on each other.
UU United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar
The Colors of Inequality: Costs and Consequences

Summary of what was discussed at this year’s Spring Seminar:

The economic disparity between the human inhabitants of planet Earth is becoming more and more extreme. At this year’s Intergenerational Spring Seminar, participants learned about this topic and the important work that can be done to counter the causes and effects of economic inequality.

This year’s keynote speaker was Dale Jamieson, who discussed trends in inequality across countries and the connection between economic inequality and climate change. He spoke about how the poorest and most powerless communities always suffer much more from extreme climate events. For example: during a heatwave in Chicago, violence outside kept people in certain neighborhoods from opening their windows. Not being able to afford air conditioning, they were forced to suffocate in the heat of their homes. In working to become more resilient in the face of threats from climate change, wealthy developed countries such as the United States are able to spend millions of dollars to protect their coasts from natural disasters and receding coastlines, but such technology and funding is simply not possible in poor and developing countries. On a much smaller scale, throughout the world, protection and social benefits tend to benefit those who are already in the wealthiest and most privileged sections of society.

The first panel at the Spring Seminar was an introduction to global economic inequality. An important distinction exists between wealth inequality and income inequality: since wealth is income accumulated over time and across generations, wealth inequality is more extreme than
Income inequality. Wealth affects voter turnout, campaign contributions, and representation in policymaking and legislative decisions, so inequality is perpetuated across generations as the rich create and endorse policies to make them richer and the poor are powerless to have a say in the conversation and remain in continuous cycles of poverty.

In the second panel, we took a look at how different institutions in society – education, religion, health care, etc. – can either help or hinder efforts to reduce inequality. Overall the conclusion was that these institutions all have the potential to help reduce inequality, but often they are corrupted and end up serving as hindering factors. An example in the context of education was the case of literature class in an inner city. It is impossible for the students to connect with and learn from the stodgy British 19th Century texts they are forced to read, because it has no relevance to their lives. It is important for teaching methods to be adapted to the context in which the students live, so that one student’s rap is just as valid as another student’s sonnet.

In the evening, youth and adults gathered at All Souls Church for an evening spoken word/hip hop performance. The first performer was Unitarian Universalist poet and activist Christopher Sims who shared his spoken word pieces which were very inspiring for attendees, speaking about Black Lives Matter and women’s empowerment. The next performance was by a group called Truthworker. They are a social justice based hip-hop theatre company for youth in Brooklyn. The performers rapped, sang, and danced in an emotional piece about the justice system and the school-to-prison pipeline. This was an especially powerful performance since many of the performers had some personal connection to the prison system.

The next day, the third panel was held at the United Nations Headquarters; it focused on the influence of bias on economic opportunity. Whether in employment, courts of law, or in everyday interactions, people face discrimination based on their race, national origin, gender, criminal record, and so much more. These forms of discrimination, whether subconscious or overt, inhibit their ability to succeed economically by presenting barriers that stop them in their tracks. That panel was live-streamed and is available to view on UN Web TV – go to http://webtv.un.org/watch/uu-uno-spring-seminar-2016/4837786864001
The fourth and final panel brought together speakers from diverse backgrounds, addressing the need for our societies to be inclusive and not give up on people. It is essential for survivors of natural disasters to engage actively in rebuilding their communities. That way they have control over their own futures, as well as gaining new skills, community services, and more active and engaged communities. Development will be more sustainable and communities can become economically independent. Similarly, societies must not give up on those who are addicted to drugs. The global drug prohibition has created mayhem and poor public health in communities. There are clear connections between an increase in poverty and disenfranchisement as a result of punitive drug law. Portugal’s decriminalization of drugs has stabilized communities and has actually decreased use of various drugs, since the emphasis is placed on treatment and rehabilitation, rather than punishment. The last panelist spoke about the influence of money in politics and how it disenfranchises people and prevents democratic engagement.

The seminar offered a fantastic opportunity for participants of all ages to learn together about all of these issues and more, and commit to going back to their communities to take action. At the end of the seminar, participants collaborated to create a statement in which they affirmed all that they had learned and resolved to do something about it. Below, you can read the 2016 Intergenerational Spring Seminar Statement.

For more information on this year’s spring seminar from a youth perspective, check out our blog: 
http://international.blogs.uua.org/united-nations-2/the-colors-of-inequality-2016-uu-uno-intergenerational-spring-seminar/

2016 Intergenerational Spring Seminar Statement
THE COLORS OF INEQUALITY: COSTS AND CONSEQUENCES

Whereas:
As Unitarian Universalists, we recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people and covenant to work toward equity in human relations.

We are all part of the United Nations, which functions collaboratively to further the development of all countries.

UN Sustainable Development Goal 10 calls for reduced inequalities within and among countries.
1% of the world’s population controls 50% of global wealth, and legal systems favor the status quo.

People suffer unfairly in a world where our goals of community should include peace, liberty, and justice for all, not just for a select few.

We have witnessed inequality in our communities’ systems, including but not limited to the judicial, the personal, and the educational.

People are often born into such inequality and lack the means to change their own circumstances.

Personal and systemic bias has led to massive injustice for people in historically looted communities, including youth.

Issues such as climate change, mass incarceration, solitary confinement, and poverty disproportionately affect those already disenfranchised globally.

Every individual and social group has unique needs that should be respected and addressed in ways that help them grow and approach them with dignity.

We Therefore Resolve To:

Raise awareness about the overall goals of the United Nations, including humanitarianism, respect for universal human rights, and diplomacy.

Stand in solidarity with individuals and communities who are experiencing the effects of income inequality.

Utilize our positions of privilege to engage our communities and call them to action through campaigns, protests, and collaboration.

Call our congregations to partner with organizations that are already working to identify and address the root causes of income inequality.

Work actively to create globally aware communities that promote fair living wages and equal opportunities for groups facing biases and systemic oppressions.

Lobby and use other methods to change policy and influence legislation in our governments.

Educate intergenerational allies, especially youth, to continue to fight for equality.

Remember the importance of the human story and lift up those stories in our communities.

Affirmed by the participants of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office Intergenerational Spring Seminar, New York City, 9 April, 2016.
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 economic inequality that you may want to use your UN Sunday service/event to promote action.

INCREASE THE MINIMUM WAGE

The minimum wages currently in place in most US states and Canadian provinces are not living wages. Because of the minimum wage is so low, many people are forced to work multiple jobs in order to survive at the most basic level, leaving them no time or energy to spend with their families and friends, or taking care of themselves properly. By raising minimum wages, more people will have a chance to move up in the world economically and socially. Consider supporting an existing raise-the-wage campaign in your area with a group from your congregation.

PROTECT OUR PLANET

The effects of global climate change have already begun intensifying inequality levels worldwide, overwhelmingly impacting poor communities across the globe, causing droughts, floods, extreme weather, receding coastlines, and more. Wealthy nations have some ability to hold back the consequences of these disasters, but small and developing countries do not. It is crucial that we take action to make sure that our countries live up to (and exceed) the commitments made in Paris at the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change conference in 2015.

REMOVE PRIVATE MONEY FROM US ELECTIONS

The current laws in the United States allowing corporations to contribute to election campaigns means that politicians are held captive to corporate interests that influence the policies they do and do not support. This sabotages the democratic process by giving wealthy people and corporations a huge say in the success or failure of public policies, while those with less wealth have next to no influence. One way to get involved is through Move to Amend, a coalition calling for constitutional amendment to state that inalienable rights belong to human beings only.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Prison systems in the United States contribute to cycles of intergenerational poverty, preventing those in “historically looted” communities from breaking through social and economic barriers. By increasing rehabilitation, education, and treatment programs in prisons, as well as improving and expanding re-entry programs upon release can contribute to breaking these cycles. One way to counter the stigma and barriers faced by previously incarcerated job-seekers is through “Ban the Box,” a campaign to remove the question about criminal record from initial hiring applications.
Documentaries, Films, and Videos on Economic Inequality

- Robert Reich. *Inequality for All* (documentary)
- Robert Kenner. *Merchants of Doubt* (documentary)
- Jamie Johnson. *The One Percent* (documentary, available on YouTube)
- TED Talks:
  - Richard Wilkinson: *How economic inequality harms societies*
  - Dan Ariely: *How equal do we want the world to be? You’d be surprised*
  - Nick Hanauer: *Beware, fellow plutocrats, the pitchforks are coming*

Books, Websites, and Articles on Economic Inequality

- Alexander, Michelle: *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in an Age of Colorblindness*
- Lemann, Nicholas: “Evening the Odds: Is there a politics of inequality?” The New Yorker, April 23, 2012
- OXFAM Briefing Paper: An Economy for the 1%: How privilege and power in the economy drive extreme inequality and how this can be stopped,” January 18, 2016.

More Resources on Economic Inequality

- Find useful facts, statistics, resources, opportunities to take action, etc. at [www.inequality.org](http://www.inequality.org)
- United for a Fair Economy has information about the many costs and consequences of economic inequality at [www.faireconomy.org](http://www.faireconomy.org)
- Tools for engaging your congregation more deeply in the topic of economic inequality can be found in the UUA’s “[Study Guide on Escalating Inequalities](http://www.inequality.org)” for the 2014-2018 Congregational Study/Action Issue
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 economic inequality.

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 2016 suggested date is October 23rd. 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
- August 12th is International Youth Day
- August 19th is World Humanitarian Day
- September 15th is International Day of Democracy
- September 21st is International Day of Peace
- October 2nd is International Day of Non-Violence
- October 10th is World Mental Health Day
- November 16th is International Day for Tolerance
- November 20th is Universal Children's Day
- December 5th is International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- 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 1st is Zero Discrimination Day
- March 8th is International Women's Day
- March 20th is International Day of Happiness
- March 21st is International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

**DEVELOP THE THEME AROUND ECONOMIC 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, 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 economic inequality issues have with our UU principles)
• Consider including a presentation of some kind (i.e. show a video, give more information about economic inequality, 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 economic inequality)

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
  - 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 Envoy Coordinator 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 23.

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.
  o 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
  o Can they provide you and/or the UN Office with a list of the names of donors?
  o 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 all materials 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, 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
- 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 Envoy Coordinator (unenvoycoordinator@uua.org) with your total money count and how many individuals donated.

UN SUNDAY: FOLLOW-UP

- Please send 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
  - The UN Sunday Envoy Report (on the next page or online!)
- Email or mail the UU-UNO the UN Sunday report (or complete it online) in order to qualify for the 2016-2017 Blue Ribbon Congregation Award
- 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 2016 Dana Greeley Award by Feb. 1, 2017 (www.uua.org/action/awards/greeley)

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

Did you hold a special collection for the UU-UNO at your UN Sunday Service? If so, how many people donated? __________________________________________________________

Please provide a description of your UN Sunday celebration.

(If 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:

What was the date for your UN Sunday Service? (MM/DD/YY)

How far ahead did you start planning? _________________________________________

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.

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

UN Sunday 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
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 #475 (UN Charter) or “Today we Celebrate a Dream Awakening” by Elizabeth Strong (from UUA Worship Web)

**Opening Words/Chalice Lighting:** Singing the Living Tradition Reading #455 or “Chalice Lighting on Inherent Worth and Dignity” by Steve Stock (from UUA Worship Web)

**Opening Hymn:** Singing the Living Tradition #318 (We Would Be One) or #159 (This is My Song) or #155 (Circle ‘Round for Freedom)

**Story for All Ages:** “The First and the Last” by Martha Dallas (from UUA Worship Web)

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

**Reading:** Singing the Living Tradition Reading #457 or “Prayer Addressing all Hungers” by Debra Smith (from UUA Worship Web)

**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 global economic inequality.

**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 Journey #1018 (Come and Go with Me) or #1028 (The Fire of Commitment) or Singing the Living Tradition #131 (Love Will Guide Us)

**Chalice Extinguishing**

**Closing Words:** Singing the Living Tradition Reading #698 or #601 “When All the People”
UN Sunday Religious Education

*Please enlist the help of the Religious Educator in your congregation:

MEET WITH THE RE COMMITTEE

- To get the children involved
  - Processional – for example use “Let There Be Peace on Earth” banners, or flags representing different countries in the UN
  - 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 ECONOMIC INEQUALITY 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 2016 theme: The Colors of Inequality: Costs and Consequences.

RE teachers should start by educating themselves through our resource section on current work of the UN on economic inequality. 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 economic inequality issues is suggested below. Possible suggestions for the craft are in the UU-UNO RE packet (*UN Me* – see [www.uua.org/un](http://www.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 different groups of 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: 2016 Global Rights Topic for more ideas and suggestions.

SUGGESTED BOOKS:

*A few children’s books related to the subject of economic inequality or the UN:*
- *The Sneetches* by Dr. Seuss, Random House, 1961: The tale of the unfortunate Sneetches, bamboozled by one Sylvester McMonkey McBean ("the Fix-it-up Chappie"), who teaches them that prejudice can be costly.

- *Those Shoes* by Maribeth Boelts, Noah Z Jones (Illustrator), Candlewick Press, 2012: All Jeremy wants is a pair of those shoes, the ones everyone at school seems to be wearing. But Jeremy’s grandma tells him they don’t have room for “want,” just “need,” and what Jeremy needs are new boots for winter.

- *Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type* by Doreen Cronin, Betsy Lewin (Illustrator), Simon & Schuster, 2000: The story of Farmer Brown’s cows who find an old typewriter in the barn and proceed to write letters to Farmer Brown, listing various demands, such as better working conditions.

- *Horton Hears a Who* by Dr. Seuss, Random House, 1954: Horton the Elephant hears a cry for help from a speck of dust and vows to protect the Whos who live upon it from harm, proclaiming that “a person’s a person, no matter how small.”

- *The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister, North-South Books, 1992: A beautiful fish finds friendship and happiness when he learns when to share.

- *(Book related to the UN, but not inequality)* - *Ruby Mae Has Something to Say* by David Small, Knopf Books for Young Readers, 1992: 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: Try the UNICEF “Wants and Needs” activity. (Download it here: http://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/unicef_wants_needs_cards.pdf) Using cards that can be printed from online, the children will be prompted to think about which things they want versus which things they need. Two activities are suggested to help guide discussion and help children process and connect these wants and needs to the concept of human rights. Following the activities, reflect as a class on how access to items people want and even items they need can be impacted based on economic inequality.

Activity and Discussion: You’ll want to print out a few copies of the needs/wants cards in order to have enough for this activity. Distribute need/want cards based on the first letter in each person’s name. Everyone draws the number of cards they get from the needs/wants stack:

- A-L gets 2 cards each
- M-S gets 5 cards each
- T-Z gets 10 cards each

(Adjust the alphabet distribution as necessary so it makes sense for the names in your class – The first group should have the most, there should be a few in the middle, and the last group should only have one or 2 people getting a lot of cards.)

The people who get 10 cards have a lot of their needs and wants taken care of, whereas those with only two cards hardly have any and may have a hard time in life.

- How did you feel about the way in which the cards were distributed?
- How does it feel to have more or less than somebody else?
- How do media messages make us feel about what we do and do not have?
- What does it really mean to be rich? How can you work to change your own and others’ understanding of the idea of richness?

For Grades 6-8 (or older) RE classes: Explore ideas about economic justice with the Economic Justice Continuums: Start off by asking the group what they think “economic justice” means. (Simply put, it means giving everybody a fair share of Earth’s resources – enough to be safe, healthy, and comfortable.) This activity is from the UUA’s 6th grade Tapestry of Faith Religions Education program, Riddle and Mystery; Session 1 is about Economic Justice.

Invite the youth to stand. Indicate one side of the room to represent “yes” and the other to represent “no.” Ask them to move to the answer that they think is best, or stand somewhere in
between if they have reasons to answer both yes and no. When they have taken their positions, you will ask them to explain why they are there.

1. I believe one of the biggest questions people should ask is how to achieve economic justice in the world.
2. I think there is economic justice in the world right now.
3. I believe it’s everybody for themselves. Everybody should work to get as much money as they can and keep it for themselves.
4. Economic justice means my little brother (pretend you have one even if you do not) should give half his toys away to a kid who has nothing.
5. Economic justice means the government should take my iPod or cell phone or camera or bicycle away from me and give it to some other kid who has nothing.
6. It is the job of governments to create economic justice.
7. If one country is poor and another country is rich, the poor one should attack the rich one and make it share its wealth.
8. It is the job of religions and congregations to create economic justice.
9. It is the job of individuals like you and me to create economic justice.
10. There should be a law that limits how much money any one person can have.

After conversations about why each person stood where, take some time to discuss what economic inequality is and how economic justice involves working to address it. (See Part II: 2016 Global Rights Topic for more information to help guide the discussion.)

**Activity and Discussion:** [Economic Justice: The Scramble for Wealth and Power](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/virtueethics/workshop5) (from University of Minnesota Human Rights Resource Center) for any age group, adaptations are suggested for younger participants. Participants (with various handicaps) scramble to pick up scattered pennies and then create and vote on plans for fair redistribution.

**Lesson plans from Tapestry of Faith related to economic inequality:**

For Grades 2-3 RE classes: Workshop on Fairness from Virtue Ethics program. [www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/virtueethics/workshop5](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/youth/virtueethics/workshop5)

For Grades 4-5 RE classes: Lesson called “Making Visible the Invisible” from the Windows and Mirrors program, on socio-economic class. [www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/windows/session12](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/windows/session12)

For Grades 6-8 (or older) RE classes: The “Faith in Action: Economic Justice” activity from Riddle and Mystery can be incorporated to address issues of economic justice. [www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/riddle/session1/156964.shtml](http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/riddle/session1/156964.shtml)
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 2016-2017 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 2016 is economic inequality. (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 an excerpt of the sermon or address at the upcoming Canadian Unitarian Council national conference or Unitarian Universalist Association 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, 2017.
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.

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. 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.
• Preparing 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 one of only three events at CSW that specifically addressed the rights of lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women. We hope to continue these important conversations throughout the year and leading up to next year’s CSW Forum. [www.uua.org/international/action/women](http://www.uua.org/international/action/women)

**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 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. [www.uua.org/environment/climate/initiative](http://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/international/un/programs/racial-justice-united-nations](http://www.uua.org/international/un/programs/racial-justice-united-nations)
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 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. 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. 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 poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, race, LGBT rights, indigenous peoples’ rights, and criminal justice. The 2016 Seminar topic was economic inequality. 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. 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](mailto:unitednations@uua.org).

**UU Community Involvement**

*Listed below are ways to get your UU congregation 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. [www.uua.org/unsunday](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](http://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)