



UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST
ASSOCIATION



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE | 2018 RESOURCE PACKET

United Nations Sunday Service

When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All

Part I: Background Information

In this packet

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About the United Nations

United Nations Sunday

Also available for UN Sunday Planning

2018 GLOBAL RIGHTS TOPIC

Understanding Terminology

Migration Issues at the UN

Migration and Unitarian Universalism

PLANNING YOUR UN SUNDAY SERVICE

Brainstorming UN Sunday

UN Sunday Checklist

Timeline for UN Sunday Service Planning

Sample Order of Service

UN Sunday Religious Education

BEYOND UN SUNDAY

Blue Ribbon Congregation: Requirements

Dana Greeley Sermon Competition

About the UU United Nations Office

Visit www.uua.org/UNSunday to download complete packet

Part I: Background Information

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

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

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

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

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

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

Good luck and have a fantastic UN Sunday celebration!

About the United Nations

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

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

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

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

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

PURPOSES

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

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

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

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

United Nations Sunday

BACKGROUND

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

AT YOUR OWN CONGREGATION

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

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

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

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