



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE | 2018 RESOURCE PACKET

# United Nations Sunday Service

When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All

## Part II: 2018 Global Rights Topic

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# Part II: 2018 Global Rights Topic

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

## Understanding Terminology

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

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

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

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

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

## LEGAL PROTECTION FOR REFUGEES

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

must not be expelled or returned to situations where their life or freedom would be under threat.”<sup>1</sup> However, ensuring that states comply with the responsibilities articulated in the 1951 Convention is a major challenge.

## Migration Issues at the United Nations

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

### UN AGENCIES RELATING TO MIGRATION

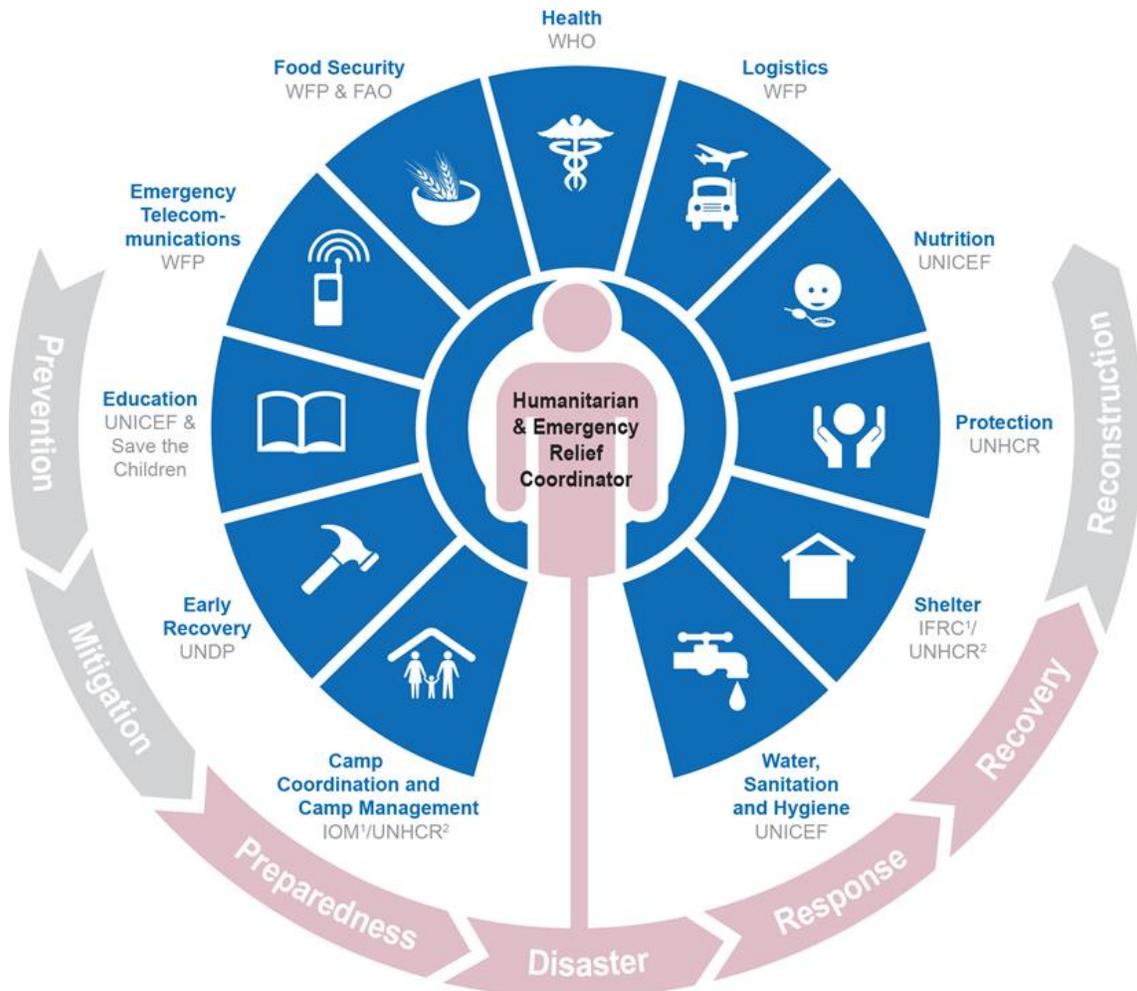
The primary United Nations agency tasked with helping refugees is **UNHCR** (also known as the **UN Refugee Agency**) – the agency is based in Geneva but most of its 9,700 staff-people work in 126 countries around the world providing protection and assistance to nearly 59 million refugees, returnees,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

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

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<sup>1</sup> “Refugees” and “Migrants” – *Frequently Asked Questions*; UN Refugee Agency, 16 March 2016: <http://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/latest/2016/3/56e95c676/refugees-migrants-frequently-asked-questions-faqs.html>

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



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

## CLIMATE-FORCED DISPLACEMENT

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

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

## **UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS – MIGRATION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT & COMPACTS FOR REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

In September 2016, the United Nations General Assembly convened a high-level Summit for Refugees and Migrants in response to the extreme global trends of refugees and others on the move worldwide that often followed dangerous routes and whose numbers overwhelmed countries of arrival. This Summit concluded with the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants which “commits to protecting the rights of all migrants regardless of status and to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for protecting and assisting refugees, and to address all aspects of international migration. It initiated a process to develop two global compacts: one “on refugees” and the other “for safe, orderly and regular migration.” It emphasized that the migration compact should be grounded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”<sup>2</sup> At this Summit, the Secretary-General also launched the global “Together” campaign to foster more positive narratives around refugees and other migrants. More on that, including resources for addressing xenophobia, at [Together.UN.org](http://Together.UN.org)

### Global Compact for Migration

As stated by the United Nations, “the global compact for migration will be the first, intergovernmentally negotiated agreement, prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner.”<sup>3</sup> The final text of the *Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration* was approved on July 13, 2018. It articulates a set of nine guiding principles including establishing that the Global Compact is people-centered, rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, prioritizes human rights, is gender-responsive (“...recognizing their independence, agency and leadership in order to move away from addressing migrant women primarily through a lens of victimhood.”), and child-sensitive.<sup>4</sup>

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

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<sup>2</sup> UN DESA/Population Division - *International Migration Report 2017* – Pg. 25  
<http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> United Nations “Compact for Migration” <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>

<sup>4</sup> Global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration; <https://www.un.org/pga/72/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2018/07/migration.pdf>

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

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

### **Global Compact on Refugees**

Continuing the work of the UN Summit, the High Commissioner for Refugees will propose a Global Compact on Refugees as part of his annual report to the 73rd session of the General Assembly which opens in September 2018. The goals of the compact include making global reactions to refugee crises “more responsive, more predictable, and more inclusive of relevant stakeholders.”<sup>5</sup> The Compact will have two main parts: the first is the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (as established in the New York Declaration), and the second is a Programme of Action which will detail specific steps Member States and other stakeholders can take to fully implement the response framework. The Global Compact on Refugees is currently being drafted using the “whole-of-society” approach which takes into account input from many different stakeholders, civil-society organizations, and institutions – not just national governments.<sup>6</sup>

## **MIGRATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

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<sup>5</sup> Jessica Brandt and Lucy Earle. “The Global Compact for Refugees: Bringing Mayors to the Table: Why and How.” Brookings Institute, Jan 2018. [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/fp\\_20180125\\_global\\_compact\\_refugees-final.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/fp_20180125_global_compact_refugees-final.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> “Global Compact on Refugees” UN: Refugees and Migrants, n.d. <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/refugees-compact>

## **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ACTION FOR MIGRATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS**

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

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

## **Migration and Unitarian Universalism**

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

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

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

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

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

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### **Faith, Race, and Migration**

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

## MIGRATION AND THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

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

### **The inherent worth and dignity of every person:**

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

### **Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations:**

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

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

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

### **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **UU UNITED NATIONS OFFICE INTERGENERATIONAL SPRING SEMINAR**

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

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

Many resources for further engagement and education about these issues were compiled following the Seminar and can be found on our [website](#).<sup>7</sup> This includes a video of the Theme Panel which was live streamed from the United Nations ECOSOC Chamber in the NYC Headquarters building. Congregations may wish to hold a screening and discussion of this panel as an afternoon session following the UN Sunday worship service.

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

### **2017 Intergenerational Spring Seminar Statement**

*When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All*

Whereas...

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

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<sup>7</sup> Resources for further engagement to advance just migration for all:  
<https://www.uua.org/international-justice/un/spring-seminar/past/advancing-just-migration-all/resources-further>

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

#### And recognizing that...

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

#### We therefore resolve to...

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

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

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

## **THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY**

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

### **Addressing Misinformation**

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

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

### **Expanding Sanctuary & Accompaniment**

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

### **Action to End Human Trafficking**

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

### **Intergenerational Congregational Action: Walk for Kid Power**

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

## SUGGESTED RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL LEARNING

### Documentaries, Films, and Videos on Migration

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

### Books, Websites, and Articles on Migration

- Barbara Demick: *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea*
- Melissa Fleming: *A Hope More Powerful than the Sea*
- Aviva Chomsky: “*They Take Our Jobs!*” and 20 Other Myths About Immigration ([Beacon Press](#) Expanded Edition published April 2018)
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