



# Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness (617) 948-4607 [www.uua.org/justice](http://www.uua.org/justice)  
 Washington Office for Advocacy (202) 296-4672 [www.uua.org/uuawo](http://www.uua.org/uuawo)

MARCH 2007

## SEXUALITY EDUCATION: PHONE BRIEFING AND CONGRESSIONAL CALL-IN DAY

On Monday March 26th UU and United Church of Christ youth, young adults and adult supporters will be in Washington DC lobbying their Senators and Representatives for the first ever federal funding stream for comprehensive sexuality education programs; programs that can help young people make educated decisions regarding their sexual health.

Join UUs from across the country as we advocate for this important issue in an organized Phone Briefing and Congressional Call-In Day. On Wednesday March 21st at 8:30 pm EST, UUA president Bill Sinkford along with UUA Washington Office and United Church of Christ staff, and young advocates will be hosting a free phone briefing. Learn about our religious grounding for this issue, the current political and public health situation and how you and your congregation can speak effectively on this issue as people of faith.

Then, on Monday March 26th, UUs from across the country will call their Senators asking them to support the Responsible Education About Life Act (REAL). These calls will increase the strength of our voices and the power of our message. Pledge to get your congregation/youth group/social action group to call your Members of Congress on March 26th and add your voices to our lobbying efforts on this important issue. Capitol Switchboard (202) 225-

Put your faith into action and sign up today! Visit [www.uua.org/uuawo](http://www.uua.org/uuawo) to for more information about the REAL Act and to register for the phone briefing.

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### Calendar

<b>March 8</b>	<b>International Women's Day</b>
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Fourth Anniversary of War in Iraq</b>
<b>March 24-28</b>	<b>Sexuality Education Advocacy Training , Washington, DC</b>
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Applications due for Social Justice Internship Program</b>
<b>April 14</b>	<b>National Day of Climate Change</b>
<b>April 16</b>	<b>Day of Action for DC Voting Rights</b>
<b>April 17</b>	<b>Day of Action Against Hate Crimes</b>
<b>April 22</b>	<b>Earth Day</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Clock in For Equality: Workplace Fairness for BGLT Workers</b>
<b>June 20-24</b>	<b>General Assembly, Portland, OR</b>

**Online Calendar and Deadlines:**  
[www.uua.org/justice/](http://www.uua.org/justice/)

## DRUMBEAT FOR DARFUR

As genocide devastates Darfur, we must be relentless in our efforts to end it. The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Drumbeat for Darfur" campaign calls for constant action to raise the decibel level of voices urging the Bush administration and Congress to make ending the genocide one of their highest priorities. The Washington Office strongly supports this campaign and urges you to do the same. Suggested actions include sending a message to the President on UUSC.org, sending letters or calling Congress, and ordering the UUSC "Heroes of the Spirit" DVD learning from the work of Martha and Waitstill Sharp and carrying it on today. To coordinate your participation in this campaign contact Monika Parihk at the UUSC, at [mparihk@uusc.org](mailto:mparihk@uusc.org) or 617-301-4398.

[www.uusc.org/drumbeatfordarfur](http://www.uusc.org/drumbeatfordarfur)

## ACTION ALERT: HATE CRIMES

Did you know that current federal hate crime law only allows for federal investigation and prosecution of hate crimes based on race, religion, and national origin? It does not include sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability. Hate crimes are a crisis in this country, particularly against youth: *50 Under 30*, a 2006 report from the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition (GPAC) highlights this wave of under-reported violence against gender non-conforming youth, tells victims' stories, analyses contributing factors and makes suggestions for prevention and education. Learn more by reading the report at [www.50Under30.org](http://www.50Under30.org), then make your voice heard; urge Congress to support the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act.

The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act will make it easier for communities to investigate and prosecute hate crimes; it:

- Gives the Justice Department jurisdiction over crimes of violence involving bodily injury, if motivated because of a person's actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.
- Would provide Federal support—through training or direct assistance—to state and local law enforcement officials investigating or prosecuting hate crimes.
- Provides funding to state, local and American Indian law enforcement officials who have incurred extraordinary expenses associated with investigating and prosecuting hate crimes.
- Does not affect the penalty for hate crimes.

**Ask Your Members of Congress to  
Co-Sponsor the Hate Crimes Bill:**

**Call the Capitol Switchboard:  
(202) 224-3121**

The Unitarian Universalist Association's Washington Office sent letters to all members of Congress stating our strong support for this legislation. Join us! Fax a letter or call your members of Congress; ask them to co-sponsor the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act. (If you call the Capitol, be prepared to ask for your Representative by name: go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) to look up your members of Congress).

## CLOCK IN FOR EQUALITY

The UUA joins Lambda Legal in this campaign for workplace fairness. On May 15, 2007, thousands of people across the country will do something to support workplace fairness. Participate in your congregation or workplace:

- Host a community forum or educational panel about workplace rights
- Ask your congregation to pledge to be allies in support of workplace equality
- Wear and distribute Clock In for Equality buttons and flyers
- Post a sign making your work area a safe space for LGBT co-workers

By coordinating organizations and individuals to take action on the same day, we will educate the public about the harassment and discrimination LGBT people and those living with HIV face at work, increase support for efforts to win legal protections for LGBT employees and activate people to fight for the rights of LGBT and HIV-affected workers.

**For More Information visit:**  
<http://ga4.org/lambdalegal/clockinforequality>

## SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 14TH IS NATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

StepItUp2007.org is asking for people to help organize a nationwide day of hundreds and hundreds of rallies on April 14. They hope to have gatherings in every state, pushing for Congress to enact immediate cuts in carbon emissions, and pledge an 80% reduction by 2050. The individual rallies will be linked together electronically via their website to create the largest demonstration on global climate change that the country has seen. As Unitarian Universalists, we just passed a Statement of Conscience about the urgent need to address the issue of global warming/climate change. So please, check out their website ([www.stepitup2007.org](http://www.stepitup2007.org)), think of ways that you and your congregation can participate, and keep April 14th on your calendar.

[www.stepitup2007.org](http://www.stepitup2007.org)