



# Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness  
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OCTOBER 2009

## October 24<sup>th</sup> is International Day of Climate Action

This fall is a critical time for climate change legislation at both the national and international levels. With the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen coming up this December, it's important to make sure the U.S. will be on board. People all over the world are joining together to demand strong action to lower atmospheric CO2 levels to 350 parts per million (ppm). Scientists generally agree that if we don't lower our CO2 emissions to this level, climate change will destabilize the delicate balance of life on earth. Beyond being an environmental issue, climate change is a social justice issue. Major changes in climate patterns more adversely affect communities in need.

Our commitments to justice and equality and tightly woven with a sustainable and viable planet, as a healthy planet is essential to provide the resources necessary for sustaining life. As Unitarian Universalists, we can live out these values by doing our part to ensure that the dangerously high levels of greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.

The Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) website is rich with ideas and resources to get involved in the International Day of Climate Action. If you are organizing or participating in an action in your congregation or community, please register at the UUMFE website and on the 350.org website and identify yourself as a UU. By registering, you will receive emails with tools and learn about what people are doing for the event. Please visit the UUMFE website for more information: (<http://www.uuministryforearth.org/350.htm>).

You don't need to wait until October 24<sup>th</sup> to act on Climate Change. For the most up-to-date priority actions, visit (<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/environmentaljustice/index.shtml>) and know what you can do to make the difference.

**"We've got to take back the ideal of justice, we've got to take back this principle of human dignity. We've got to take it back from vengeance, from hatred, we've got to say: look, we're all in this together. We are human beings." - David Kaczynski**



**"It is the spirit and not the form of law that keeps justice alive."  
- Earl Warren**

### *Calendar*

<b>Oct. 11</b>	<b>National Coming Out Day</b>
<b>Oct. 13</b>	<b>Indigenous People's Day</b>
<b>Oct. 17</b>	<b>Diwali begins</b>
<b>Oct. 24</b>	<b>International Day of Climate Action</b>
<b>Oct. 27</b>	<b>United Nations Sunday</b>
<b>Nov. 11</b>	<b>Veteran's Day</b>
<b>Nov. 20</b>	<b>Transgender Day of Remembrance</b>
<b>Nov. 22</b>	<b>UUSC's Guest at Your Table</b>

**Sign up for action alerts, get resources, take action via our website:  
[www.uua.org/socialjustice](http://www.uua.org/socialjustice)**

**We're on Facebook!  
"Advocacy & Witness Initiatives of the UUA"**

### Get Ready for the 2010 Sexuality Education Advocacy Training!

Register today (<http://www.uua.org/SEAT>) for SEAT 2010, the sixth annual Sexuality Education Advocacy Training, which will take place in Washington, D.C. from March 20-23, 2010. SEAT brings together a dynamic, interfaith group of youth, young adults and adult allies to discuss sex education as a religious issue and its impact on young people. The three and a half day training includes interfaith sharing, anti-racism and oppression training, community organizing skill building sessions, a legislative briefing, lobbying training and lobby visits with Congressional staff.

Every year, SEAT creates an inclusive and supportive environment where a diverse group of youth, young adults and adult supporters learn to be effective religious advocates for comprehensive sex education in their congregations, schools and communities. We strongly encourage intergenerational groups from the same area to come to SEAT together. Financial assistance is available for those in need. For more information, email Orelia Busch at [obusch@uua.org](mailto:obusch@uua.org). Join us for SEAT 2010, Register today! (<http://www.uua.org/SEAT>)

### Final Year of Peacemaking CSAI: Your Congregational Feedback Needed

At the 2009 General Assembly (GA), the delegates referred the Draft Statement of Conscience (SOC) on Peacemaking back to the Commission on Social Witness (CSW) for another year of study and possible revision. The CSW is taking advantage of the extra year to review the wording of the Draft SOC and will submit a Draft SOC to the Congregational Poll and Congregational Comment Process by November 15, 2009. **The Congregational Poll and Comment form on the Draft SOC must be returned electronically by February 1, 2010.** The CSW will carefully consider the comments received through this process in deciding whether to further revise the Draft SOC before it is put on the Final Agenda of the 2010 GA. If the CSW determines that there is insufficient support to generate an acceptable SOC on Peacemaking, the CSW may place the Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) on the Final Agenda with a proposal to drop that CSAI from further consideration. Please urge your congregation to vote in the Congregational Poll by February 1, 2010, that a Draft SOC be placed on the Final Agenda at GA and to offer any proposed further amendments.

In addition, for this extra year until the 2010 GA, the Peacemaking Core Team of Unitarian Universalist (UU) volunteers is winding down and replacing itself with a broad ongoing Peacemaking Ministry Network to institutionalize Peacemaking throughout the UUA to encourage a culture of peace within our families, our congregations, our association, our communities and throughout the world. Find out about this effort and sign up for a newsletter by going to the UU Peacemakers website (<http://www.uupeacemakers.org/>).



**The Standing on the Side of Love campaign has taken off with over 5,000 fans on Face book, and congregations across the country are ordering banners, standing on the side of love in worship, in interfaith coalitions, and community partnerships.**

**Standing on the Side of Love is a public advocacy campaign, initiated by the UUA, on the commitment that no person should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, and violence.**

**We'd love to hear what you are doing and how the campaign can support you, your youth or young adult group, and your congregation as you stand on the side of love.**

**Connect at**  
[www.standingonthesideoflove.org](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org)

### Social Justice Empowerment Workshop Applications

The UUA Social Justice Empowerment Workshop helps members of a congregation to assess their social justice program and make them more effective. For more information, please email Audra Friend at [afriend@uua.org](mailto:afriend@uua.org)