



Action of the Month: Environmental Justice Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

Washington Office for Advocacy
Congregational Advocacy and Witness

(202) 393-2255
(617) 948-4607

uua.org/socialjustice
socialjustice@uua.org

"There were 50 police in my house." When Johannesburg Water began installing prepaid water meters in 2003, Serafina decided to fight back. As a pensioner, the money Serafina received from the government would not cover her water needs beyond what was minimally allocated under the prepaid system, so for a long time, she relied on the goodness of her neighbors. In her late 60s, Serafina would walk to her neighbors' houses, bringing back buckets of water at a time to cover her basic needs. When this got to be too much for her, she called a plumber and convinced him to reconnect the pipes to her house, skirting the prepaid system. Soon, though, police caught on to Serafina and showed up at her door.

"There were 50 police in my house," Serafina explained. The police arrived in a caravan that included army and private-security personnel. They told Serafina that she had to disconnect her pipes or be arrested — Serafina refused and held out her arms. She knew that under the South African constitution, she had a right to water...

(Courtesy of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Read the full story at http://www.uusc.org/content/serafina_and_fight_water_rights_south_africa)



Photo from World Bank Archives
Creative Commons License

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is partnering with Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth (UUMFE) and Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to bring you April's Action of the Month: Environmental Justice.

Leading up to and during the month of April, we invite Unitarian Universalists (UUs) to engage in environmental justice—recognizing the disproportionate impact that both environmental problems and proposed "solutions" have had on women, low-income families, and communities of color both in the U.S. and around the world. Join UUs across the country as we work on a variety of consciousness-raising actions, culminating in Earth Sunday services on April 26th.

Take Action

- Join hundreds of congregations around the country and hold an Earth Sunday Worship Service. See the UUMFE's worship packet for suggestions and resources
- Host a covenant group on the Human Right to Water using the UUSC's resource
- Show Oxfam's DVD, *Sisters on the Planet*, and host a discussion on the disproportionate effect that global climate change has on women
- Sign online action campaigns that support just environmental legislation
- Get your mayor or county executive to sign Green For All's pledge to build an inclusive green economy in your community

For more information, see our Environmental Justice Action Page at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/actioncenter/128311.shtml>



Congregational Success The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth, MA understands that environmentalism must go hand in hand with economic justice. While others focus on the need to stop global climate change by switching to renewable energy sources, the Falmouth Fellowship also works to make sure that all people on the Cape can afford the green energy through a service center that offers weatherizing tips and fuel assistance. While others talk about the need to eat organically and locally grown foods, the fellowship donates 95% of harvest from their service center's community garden to the center's food pantry.