



Just Journeys: On the Path to Rights for All

CODE OF CONDUCT

“If you have come to help me you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

An Aboriginal Woman

“If large numbers of Americans are ever to care about human rights violations around the world, they must see the implications of those violations for their own lives here at home.”

William Schultz – *‘In our Best Interest: How Defending Human Rights Benefits us All’*

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian human-rights organization. We advance human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world by partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.

JustJourneys are transformative experiences that call on participants to examine their own roles and values when faced with unjust power. In witnessing the devastating effects of systemic oppression and human-rights abuse, JustJourneys participants are challenged to relate social injustice to their own lives. They are encouraged to understand issues in terms of how they are linked to their own communities.

UUSC abides by certain principles and beliefs:

- Our partners are agents of change -- not victims.
 - Rights are not charity.
 - Power is created *with* others, not *over* others.
 - Partnerships should be eye-to-eye.
 - By our words and deeds, we create space for relationships of mutuality and respect.
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The purpose of this code of conduct is to set the tone for the kind of relationships we wish to nurture through JustJourneys. This code will be discussed and enhanced with participants' input during our orientation. It will serve as a reference point during our trip.

My Commitment

I commit to educating myself before my Journey.

I commit to being responsible and accountable in my actions to my community of fellow JustJourney travelers.

I commit to being an engaged listener.

I commit to participating in group-reflection sessions during my visit.

I commit to not making promises to UUSC's partners and/or local residents in terms of gifts, donations of money, or return visits, etc.

I commit to respecting the lives, culture, and decisions of the groups and individuals I meet.

I commit to respecting the suggestions of our hosts with regard to our presence and mobility in another nation.

I commit to recording my experience and, on my return, sharing my experience through various means (such as the media, public education, and political advocacy).

I commit to being thoughtful about my next steps, in accordance with what people in the country ask of me.

I commit to continuing my education and seeking to understand the issues as they affect my own community and nation.

I commit to consulting with UUSC staff and/or representatives when in doubt concerning appropriate responses or actions.



Questions for self and group reflections:

- Will I think of the people I meet as innovative and creative problem solvers or as potential recipients of my charity?
- How will I look for hope and solutions?
- When I return, how can I apply what I learn on this JustJourney to problems in my community and in other places around the world?