

# Advancing Human Rights – the Work of Many Joining Hands



In its work advancing human rights throughout the world, UUSC engages in eye-to-eye partnerships in four main focus areas: Rights in Humanitarian Crises, Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, and Civil Liberties.

In each area, UUSC analyzes the context in which violations of rights occur, along the dimensions of race, class, and gender, and recognizes the role that systemic discrimination plays in perpetuating injustice. Employing a three-pronged approach, UUSC combines work with grassroots partners on the ground, outreach to members and supporters, and advocacy for public-policy change.

“An eye-to-eye partnership is a partnership that offers respect and mutuality,” says UUSC Director of Programs Atema Eclai. “The commonality of our partners is that we treat them as equals ... We don’t subsume them, we don’t make them part of us. We join them.”

## Mission Statement

UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.

## Vision Statement

UUSC envisions a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights.

## Rights in Humanitarian Crises

In disasters and wars, inequalities aren’t erased, they are only deepened. An individual’s race, gender, class, religion, political beliefs, ethnicity, and immigration status all deeply influence how and whether that person will be able to access aid and rebuild her or his life.

In its Rights in Humanitarian Crises Program, UUSC defends the rights of marginalized groups both in disaster response and long-term humanitarian crises due to war and oppression. Whether supporting thousands of internally displaced people in the wake of Haiti’s devastating earthquake or helping northern Ugandans return home after 20 years of brutal war, UUSC works with local grassroots organizations that are serving marginalized populations in inventive, effective ways. Additional ongoing UUSC projects are responding to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, political violence in Kenya, and genocide in Darfur.



## Environmental Justice

Almost 1 billion people lack access to clean drinking water. In a world where the United Nations has reported that more people now die from contaminated water than from all forms of violence, the human right to water — access to safe, sufficient, and affordable water for everyone — is more important than ever. UUSC’s Environmental Justice Program focuses on defending that right.

UUSC works with partners to hold governments accountable and stop water privatization as well as pursue shareholder advocacy and corporate accountability for water injustices — from striving to pass the Human Right to Water Act in California to helping South Africans organize against discriminatory prepaid water meters.

## Economic Justice

Economic justice is essential for securing basic human rights, alleviating local and global poverty, and achieving a more peaceful and just world. Yet, throughout the world, millions of people face dangerous work conditions and inadequate wages, with informal workers — especially women and children — increasingly at risk.

UUSC recognizes that workers' rights are human rights. UUSC defends workers' right to organize, advances the right to a fair living wage, and promotes fair trade — through innovative solutions that build on local experience, apply new knowledge, and create effective alliances. UUSC builds partnerships with a wide variety of organizations, from the Southern Alternatives

Agricultural Cooperative, a pecan-processing plant owned by African-American women in Georgia, to the Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and Informal Traders.



## Civil Liberties

Since September 11, individual freedoms have been a major casualty of the so-called Global War on Terror. UUSC defends civil liberties and political rights both nationally and internationally, with a particular focus on the rights of Muslims in the United States and Muslim human-rights activists abroad. UUSC's Building Bridges program fosters solidarity within and between U.S. communities, particularly between UUs and Arab and Muslim Americans, for a more just and supportive society.

UUSC also takes a strong stand against government-sponsored acts of torture, under any circumstances. Working with partners, UUSC mobilizes people around this issue and supports public education and testimony against torture.



## What You Can Do

- **Stay informed with UUSC online.** Keep your finger on the pulse of what's happening at UUSC and in the wider world of human-rights activism through our website, blog, and e-Community, as well as Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. You can read on-the-ground reports, watch videos about our issues, and share your thoughts. Learn more and take action at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)!
- **Become a UUSC member.** Your membership gift will support UUSC's work, while you will also join a community of more than 40,000 UUSC supporters who share your ideals. We'll keep you up-to-date through regular mailings, action alerts, and a subscription to our newsletter, *Rights Now*. Join now at [www.uusc.org/membership](http://www.uusc.org/membership).
- **Take part in a JustJourney or a JustWorks Camp** — a week of experiential learning, a lifetime of inspiration. Whether it's a visit to one of our partners abroad or our annual Freedom Summer: Civil Rights Journey, you'll examine the roots of injustice, learn from communities working on positive solutions, and be part of making a difference. Find out more at [www.uusc.org/learn\\_by\\_doing](http://www.uusc.org/learn_by_doing).

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