

Inspire involvement

These are some of the ways UUSC will help you inspire your congregation to get involved in our human rights programs.

Whichever projects you choose, be sure to involve your entire congregation. Youth and young adults have as much to offer to successful social action as adults do. UUSC believes that in order to truly bring about social change, we must not only be activists but also help to train the next generation of social activists.

Primary projects

Help people join the Human Rights Defenders network.

Activists can receive regular e-mail alerts about opportunities to advocate for justice on specific issues related to UUSC's major program and advocacy initiatives. Use the sign-up sheet found online at www.uusc.org/volunteernetwork to help your congregation's members become Human Rights Defenders. Mail the completed sheets to UUSC.

Set up a UUSC table following your services.

This project is a major part of educating congregants, building membership, *and* inspiring involvement. Choose carefully the dates on which you'll run your table. Most local reps will do this during Guest at Your Table and Justice Sunday, and a few more key times during the year. Many local reps do this once a month throughout the church year.

- Talk about UUSC's current work. Feature a current Human Rights Defenders action alert.
- Encourage people to become members and Human Rights Defenders.
- Sell UUSC merchandise, including holiday cards.
- Be sure to have Human Rights Defenders sign-up sheets, a UUSC member/supporter list, and current publications and membership envelopes on hand.

You can find all you'll need online at www.uusc.org.

Work with your social action committee to weave UUSC into the social action priorities of your congregation.

Collaborate with your leadership to learn which social justice issues resonate with your congregation, and how best to engage the different generations of your congregation in human rights action and advocacy through UUSC.

Many local reps have found that UUSC can constitute the global aspect of their congregations' social justice programs. Others have found ways to partner with UUSC to take action within their communities, by supporting projects such as purchasing fair trade products, local living wage campaigns, or local right to water efforts. You can find more ideas online at www.uusc.org or by contacting volunteerservices@uusc.org.

Additional opportunities

Host a video viewing and discussion session.

Video is a powerful education and organizing tool. UUSC has a number of videos on human rights issues for use by our volunteers. Use them at a UUSC table, or hold a special screening. Visit www.uusc.org/volunteernetwork or contact UUSC at volunteerservices@uusc.org or 617-868-6600 for a full list of resources and help organizing a screening.

Participate in the UUSC Coffee Project.

Buy fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate through Equal Exchange, a worker-owned fair trade organization. Serve and sell Equal Exchange fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate bars during your congregation's coffee hour and all events.

When your congregation orders its coffee and other products through Equal Exchange's interfaith program, you help UUSC assist small farmers, their families, and their communities improve their lives and protect their rights. More than 50 percent of UU congregations participate, buying fairly traded coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate. A portion of each UU congregation's purchase goes directly to helping farmers and their communities. Visit www.uusc.org/coffeeproject to get involved today.

JustWorks camps and JustJourneys delegations: UUSC offers two ways for people to learn firsthand about human rights in the United States and around the world.

JustWorks camps are short-term projects that help volunteers examine and understand the causes and damaging effects of injustice. Participants work directly with people in the communities they serve, experiencing social justice struggles firsthand.

JustJourneys are unique educational travel experiences that focus on human rights and social justice issues. Participants come into direct contact with UUSC program partners and other human rights defenders. You will return inspired, well informed, and with tools to become a more effective human rights activist.

Host a UUSC guest speaker. Bring UUSC to the community by hosting a guest speaker for worship or a special event. Visit www.uusc.org/rightsaloud for more information.

Celebrate your UUSC members. Learn about events to celebrate your congregation's UUSC members, on page 16 of this handbook.

Run a human rights advocacy campaign. In addition to Guest at Your Table and Justice Sunday, your congregation might be inspired to take part in a UUSC human rights advocacy campaign such as Drumbeat for Darfur. Partner with your social action committee, or help them form a subcommittee, to organize such a campaign.

Ask UUSC staff for help. UUSC staff can assist you with events and activities benefiting UUSC, or organizing involvement in our work. Reach out to us and let us know how we can help!