



Celebrating 80 Years of Advancing Human Rights

A TIMELINE OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE

1939 Martha and Waitstill Sharp embark on a rescue mission to help Jews and political dissidents escape the Nazis.

1940 The Unitarian Service Committee is established to continue these humanitarian efforts in Europe.

1947 A project is founded to provide childcare, education, and food to exploited migrant communities in Texas.

1955 A relief project is established in Vienna to help refugees fleeing the Hungarian Uprising.

1960 Desegregation projects are launched in Georgia and Florida as Unitarian Universalists take a prominent role in the civil rights movement.



1978 UUSC sponsors fact-finding Congressional delegation to investigate war crimes in El Salvador.

1984 Famine in Ethiopia leads UUSC to appeal for emergency funds long before the story reaches U.S. television.

1994 UUSC sends emergency medical equipment to Rwanda and begins a long-term relationship with grassroots groups working to bring peace to the region.

UUSC has been advancing human rights and social justice since 1940, when we were founded to help Jews and political dissidents escape the Nazis. With your support, we are continuing that legacy today by supporting people forced to flee their homes due to violence, corruption, natural disaster, economic injustice, or climate change. Thank you for helping make our work possible! For more information, or to make a gift, please visit uuscc.org/uuscc-sunday.

A UUSC TIMELINE FROM 1939 TO 2020

2003 UUSC leads a delegation to Guatemala to monitor national elections and witnesses the defeat of former dictator General Efraín Ríos Montt.

2006 UUSC's work for a living wage helps win ballot victories in six states, leading to the first increase in the federal minimum wage in 10 years.



2010 UUSC begins decade-long response to the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

2012 UUSC works with partners in California to help pass Human Right to Water legislation.

2014 UUSC begins a program to help migrants in U.S. immigration detention access their legal rights.

2015 UUSC begins long-term partnerships in response to the refugee crisis in the Middle East and Europe.

2017 UUSC launches new program to support Indigenous communities facing the harshest and earliest impacts of climate change.



2018 UUSC supports our partner No More Deaths to release a report documenting U.S. Customs and Border Protection's routine destruction of humanitarian aid supplies in the U.S.-Mexico borderlands.

2019 UUSC supports human rights defenders facing fabricated charges and jail-time in Honduras for their work to defend a national park from a mining project.



2020 UUSC continues to partner with grassroots organizers worldwide to advance human rights.