

Upcoming Events and Updates

Justice News, Updates and Actions!

Well the New Year is already stepping up and moving forward! We hope that you had a season filled with family, friends, good food and some restoration of hope.

The 2026 Legislative Session will start on January 12, 2026. It is a short session this year (ending March 12, 2026) so things are going to move quickly. If you want to participate in contacting your legislators about various justice-related pieces of legislation, please make sure you are signed up with our Legislative Advocacy email group. If you haven't already sign up with JUUstWA, complete [this form](#) and be sure to selected the Legislative Advocacy options. If you have already signed up with JUUstWA and need to get on the Legislative Advocacy list, go into your subscription and change it [here](#) to add Legislative Advocacy.

- Jan 2 Deadline - Oppose new rule on biometric information
- Jan 6 - Regional UU Congregations Justice Leads Gathering
- Jan 6 - Front and Centered 2026 Legislative Agenda Briefing
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- Jan 12 Deadline - National Forest Thinning Project
- Jan 12 - Welcome Renewal

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- Jan 27 - Meaningful Movies Bellevue: Citizen George
- Jan 27 - Salmon Advocacy Action Hour
- Jan 28 - Green Sanctuary 2030 Celebration
- Feb 12 - Interfaith Advocacy Day - SAVE THE DATE!

Help us
Change the
World
Donate!

- July 31 - Aug 6 - Paddle to Nisqually Call for Volunteers TBA
- Black Lives Matter Flash Stances
- Support Peace-Focused Solidarity in Palestine
- Love at the Center – Defending Trans Lives and Democracy Study Guide
- Clean Water Petition
- Save our Wild Same Reciprocity Webinars
- How Much Is A Farmworkers Life Worth - Ways to Support
- The UU Solidarity Initiative (Immigration)
- UURise Tools to Help (Immigration)
- GA 2026 Registration is now open!
- Nisqually Tribe says it won't allow ICE detainees in tribal facilities

January 2, 2026 Deadline

Oppose new rule on biometric information - UUSC Resistance Network

Under a new proposed DHS rule, the Trump administration seeks to harvest intimate biometric information on just about everyone who interacts with the immigration system—including U.S. citizens, children, and the elderly. One line of the proposed rule even states that “DHS may request DNA evidence to prove or disprove an individual’s biological sex in instances where that determination will impact benefit eligibility.” Such language could also be used to deny noncitizens asylum or legal protections under the Violence Against Women Act, based on this administration’s unscientific and discriminatory definitions of gender and “biological sex.”

Oppose here: <https://uusc.quorum.us/stop-immigrant-tests/>

Sign up with UUSC’s Resistance Network here: <https://www.uusc.org/action/uusc-resistance-network>

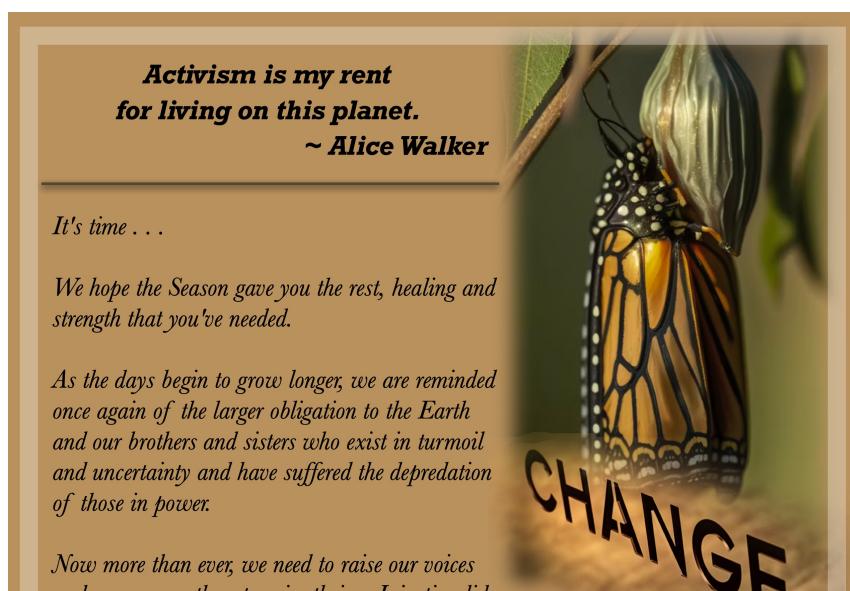
Regional UU Justice Leads Gathering

January 6, 2026

7:00 pm on Zoom

If you are leading (official or unofficial) up any kind of justice team in your congregation, please join us as we begin to gather everyone in to share our individual activities and find ways to collaborate. All leads in western states are welcome to attend.

Join the session [here](#).



and encourage others to raise their voices and not pause as we did. It kept marching on.

It's time . . .

To pick up and hone the tools of justice and

Repair what has been torn asunder,

Restore that which has been diminished,

Heal the injuries inflicted,

Rebuild what has collapsed,

Renew a hope resilient, and

Revitalize dreams that can create a more

promising future and a more world more whole

and flourishing for us all.

JUUstice Washington is calling on all UUs who have already stepped up to lead and those of you who are ready to take that first step in leadership to respond to the challenges we are faced with.

Join us

January 6, 2026

7:00 pm, Zoom

<https://uuma.zoom.us/j/97129501296>

January 6, 2026

Front and Centered 2026 Legislative Agenda Briefing • 12:00–1:00pm on Zoom

Front and Centered is launching their [2026 Legislative Agenda](#). Please join us if you can to learn more about our priority legislation, including the Cumulative Risk Burden (CURB) Pollution campaign which aims to protect communities from harmful facilities, and our Right to Energy campaign, which seeks to ensure energy assistance for low-income residents in Washington State. Join them for a lunch-hour legislative briefing. Featured speakers include Rep. Sharlett Mena (D-Tacoma), representatives from partner organizations, and members of our frontline community coalition. They will share insights, followed by a questions and answer session. Register [here](#). Also, review their [2024 Just Futures Report](#).

January 7, 2026

Neighbor-to-Neighbor Interfaith Witness at ICE • 2 - 2:45 p.m.

First Portland Unitarian, Portland, OR

Next to the ICE building, at the intersection of SW Moody & SW Bancroft, Portland, OR. Neighbor-to-Neighbor Interfaith Witness at ICE is an opportunity for faith communities to be in solidarity, declaring our moral outrage at the cruel practices of abducting community members, terrorizing communities, and separating families, in the name of an inhumane political agenda. The bi-monthly witness rituals will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, sponsored by a neighborhood or geographic region. Please dress accordingly for the weather. We ask that you not bring signs. We will provide whatever is needed for the ritual.

January 7, 2026

Green Sanctuary Office Hours • 7pm ET/ 6 CT/ 5 MT/ 4 PT/ 3 AKT/ 1pm HT

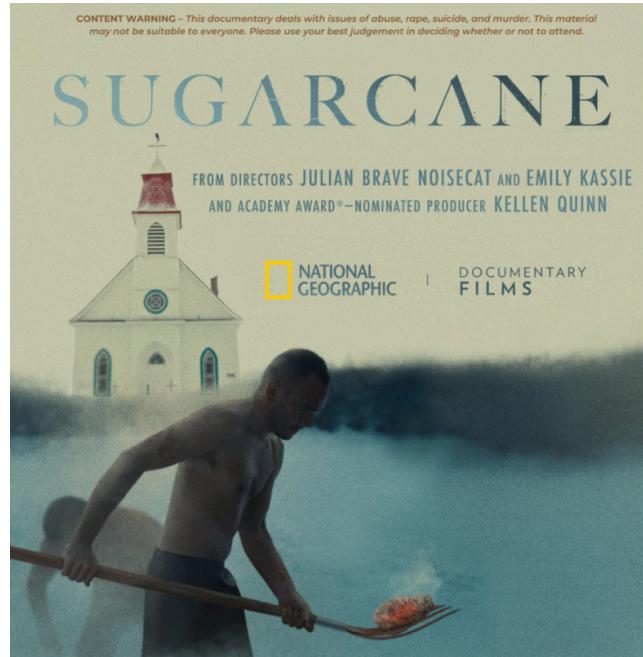
For 35 years, the Green Sanctuary program has supported UUs in protecting our environment. We honor that work and we need to transform our commitments and actions to respond to the challenges of our times. The new Green Sanctuary 2030: Mobilizing for Climate Justice offers a flexible, manageable, and impactful process to support UUs in transforming their congregations through climate justice. Monthly Office Hours are here for

anyone with questions on how Green Sanctuary 2030 can support UUs to transform our congregations through climate justice. Review the short [Orientation Video](#), then join us in the office hours to get all your questions answered. Current Green Sanctuary 2030 Teams, this time is for you, too! Register for the January 7th session [here](#).

January 10, 2026

Screening of *Sugarcane*
East Shore Unitarian • 4:00 p.m. (In Person)

The ESCU Indigenous Connections team invites you to a screening of the award-winning documentary *Sugarcane*. The documentary from Julian Brave NoiseCat and Emily Kassie, is a groundbreaking investigation into an Indian residential school, shedding light on years of forced separation, assimilation and abuse that Indigenous children experienced at the hands of Church and government. This urgent and timely film brings the hidden story of cultural genocide to audiences worldwide while celebrating the resilience of Native people as they work to overcome cycles of intergenerational trauma. After the film, stay for a post-viewing discussion. We will serve a light meal of soup and bread.



January 12, 2026 - Deadline

National Forest Thinning Project
Sierra Club

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has proposed a massive, forest-wide thinning project on the Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest (MBSNF) impacting 36,000 acres over 30 years and stretching from the Canadian border to Mt Rainier National Park. This project in the MBSNF threatens recreation, wildlife, local economies, and clean air and water, while increasing the likelihood of forest fires. Send the forest service a formal comment to stop this project until it can produce a thorough environmental impact statement. Here's how to take action:

Click [here](#) () to go to the U.S. Forest Service's webpage on this project.

Fill out your personal information.

Copy and paste [Sierra Club messaging](#) from this Google doc

Click the "I'm not a robot button".

Click "Submit".

**Note: Before copy and pasting the Sierra Club messaging, please include a unique personal message about why the Mt Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is important to you, i.e., "I live in Washington State and frequently [fill-in: tour, hike, bike, boat, hunt, bird, back country ski, cross-country ski, snowshoe, take photos, etc.] in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest". This will make your action more effective.*

January 12, 2026

Welcome Renewal

LGBTQ and Multicultural Programs

2pm ET / 1pm CT / 12pm MT / 11am PT

We are inviting religious leaders and congregants to join one (or more) of our Five Practices of Welcome Renewal (Welcoming Congregation) Monthly Orientation sessions. Register [here](#).

January 12, 2026

The Gathering - Economic Non-Cooperation

Side with Love

8pm ET/ 7 CT/ 6 MT/ 5 PT/4 AT/ 2 HT

This month, Rev. Mykal Slack will ground us with music, Nicole Pressley will share teachings about noncooperation, and we will hear from UUs active in the campaigns to stop Avelo Airlines and AT&T from contracting with ICE. Gathering, a monthly virtual event from Side With Love designed to offer:

Spiritual Grounding – Strengthen your heart and spirit for the work ahead.

Political Analysis – Understand the threats to democracy and justice.

Collective Action – Organize with others to block anti-democratic forces and build a just and loving world

Register [here](#).

January 14, 2026

Now What: The Gathering for Congregational Leaders

Side with Love

If you are on staff or a board member of a congregation, we encourage you to attend *Now What: The Gathering for Congregational Leaders*. This specifically for staff and board members of UU congregations to provide daytime, condensed access to the content of the Monday evening Gathering with breakout groups designed to help leaders process, reflect, and strategize for the work ahead with your peers. If you want to be in community with your peers and with Side with Love and Congregational Life Staff, LREDA, UUMA, and AUUMM, this is for you! Now What: The Gathering for Congregational Leaders occurs on the Wednesday after The Gathering on the second Monday of the month. Register [here](#).

January 18, 25, & February 1, 2026

Social Change Now! Workshop: Sundays

East Shore Unitarian

12:00 pm (In Person)

Join Rev. María Cristina and Grace Colton to dive into the UUA Common Read for 2026,

Social Change Now! They will help us apply the teachings and practices of the book in order to activate, re-invigorate, and support East Shore's social justice projects and to develop a common practice for all groups at East Shore. This is a leadership development and adult education/older youth opportunity. Using breakout groups, activities, and whole group processing, the sessions guide participants to discover East Shore's ecosystem and understand the roles members play, or could play, in it. Participants are invited to ground their work for change deeply in their UU faith. Exploration together opens paths for all participants to support the congregational ecosystem and the transformation it seeks to effect in the world.

January 19, 2026 - Feb 16, 2026

30 Days of Love – Side with Love

Love At The Center: Reimagining the World As It Could Be

At a time when fear, violence, and extraction dominate our politics and our planet, we practice another way. We believe love is not fragile; it is fierce. It grounds our organizing, fuels our imagination, and sustains our communities. Over five weeks, we will move through a journey from imagination to action, rooting our freedom dreams in faith and bringing them to life in our world. Each week, we will have a written reflection from Side With Love staff; a conversation with a UU theologian; a multigenerational family activity; reflection questions for journaling; a meditative body practice; and a coloring sheet connected to the weekly theme. More info [here](#).

Our weekly themes are:

Week 1: Reimagining Thriving
Week 2: Grounding in Context
Week 3: Mobilizing Action
Week 4: Nurturing Community
Week 5: Exploring Possibilities

January 20, 2026

Monthly Conversations on Abolition: "Intro to Restorative Justice Practices"

Church of the Larger Fellowship

7–8:30pm on Zoom

Join us for "Intro to Restorative Justice Practices", the next conversation in our Monthly Conversations on Abolition series. If you have asked yourself, what does accountability look like in a world without the carceral system? One answer is restorative and transformative justice practices. We will learn the basic tenets of restorative justice and dialogue about the ways we already affirm many of these practices in progressive spaces.

Register [here](#)

Congregations are invited to explore the CSAI's Topics for Congregational Study as well as the curated Resource List, both found [here](#). CLF has a resource and learning hub at clfuu.org/abolition with monthly conversations on abolition. The full text of the 2025-2028 Congregational Study/Action Issue, "Abolition, Transformation, and Faith Formation" is [here](#).

January 22, 2026 Deadline
Oppose offshore oil and gas leasing
People v Fossil Fuels

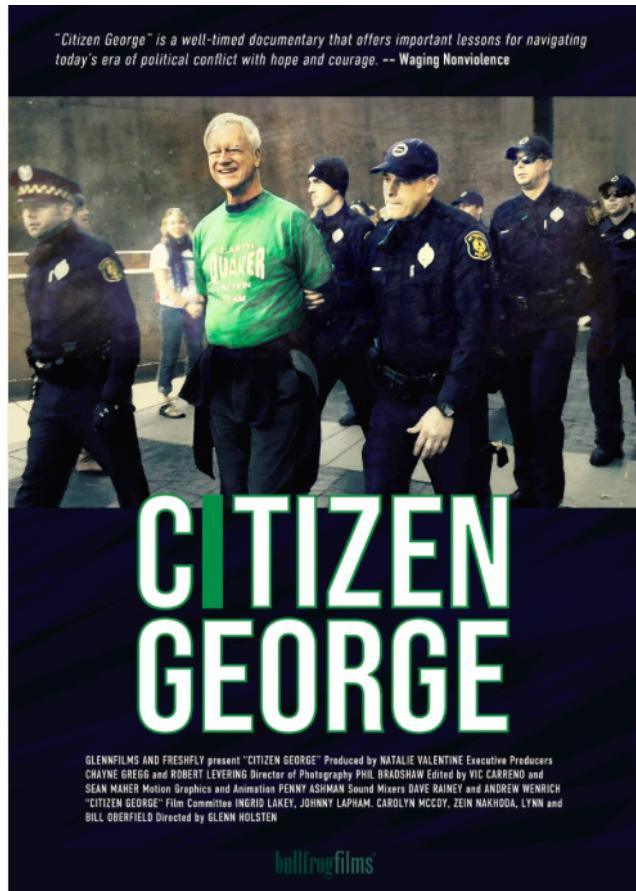
The Trump 5 Year Plan for offshore oil and gas leasing is in the 2nd stage of development, and while Republicans calling for the Atlantic coast to be removed from the plan have succeeded, the plan still includes California, the Gulf, Alaska, and even the “high Arctic” a place never even considered for offshore leasing. These leases would bein addition to the lease sales mandated by congress and would lead to more offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting in some of the most sensitive habitats on Earth. It's critical to pack the record with public comments, and NRDC and Ocean Defense Initiative have circulated a strong group letter for sign on calling for no new leasing anywhere.

You can read the letter & sign on [here](#).

Organizations, Tribes, elected officials, businesses, and individuals can also submit public comments directly to the federal register [here](#).

January 27, 2026
Meaningful Movies Bellevue: Citizen George

From Bullfrog Films, Citizen George presents the life and work of Philadelphia-based Quaker activist George Lakey, a non-violent revolutionary who has worked his entire life for justice and peace, guided by his ideal of societal transformation. You're invited to join Meaningful Movies Bellevue! Join Zoom: 879 2971 8047, Passcode: MMB. [Contact Lynn Roesch](#).



January 27, 2026
Salmon Advocacy Action Hour
Save Our Wild Salmon
5:30-6:30pm PT

Healthy rivers and salmon are vital to our way of life in the Pacific Northwest, but Columbia Basin salmon, steelhead, and other native fish are in crisis. “Most wild salmon and steelhead runs persist at a fraction of their historic abundance and geographic distribution, and some (including three of five in the Snake River) persist at less than one percent of their historic abundance” (Source: *Six Sovereigns’ Fish Facts: Columbia Basin Salmon, Steelhead, and Other Native Fish in Crisis*).

Regional Tribes have led important comprehensive and collaborative progress to recover imperiled salmon populations- but salmon recovery efforts and goals are under attack: false and misleading information is being used to defend the harmful status quo, Federal agencies critical to salmon recovery are threatened, habitat restoration funding is in jeopardy, and Bonneville Power Administration is attempting to eliminate their obligation and responsibility to recover wild salmon and steelhead.

Join us in taking collective action to protect salmon and defend the historic progress made towards salmon recovery. Register [here](#).

January 28, 2026

Green Sanctuary 2030 Celebration

7pm ET/ 6 CT/ 5 MT/ 4 PT/ 3 AKT/ 1pm HT

In times when it can seem hard to identify joys and successes, celebration is an act of resistance and reimagining. So let's celebrate your congregation's climate justice work! We will be honoring the incredible climate justice work happening around the country in our congregations. During the celebration, Green Sanctuary 2030 teams share brief updates on their climate actions. We all get so many fantastic ideas and leave inspired by the ways UUs are advancing climate justice in our communities. All work done is worth celebrating, so be sure to tell us what you've done so we can name and appreciate it!

Interfaith Advocacy Day - SAVE THE DATE!!

February 12, 2026

Interfaith Advocacy Day

JUUstWA is joining up with the Faith Action Network (FAN) in hosting the annual Intefaitdh Advocacy Day! Join plenaries and workshops that will explore the issues on FAN's 2026 Legislative Agenda. Meet with advocates from your legislative district to prepare for your legislative visits. Meet with your legislator or their legislative assistant! If you register by January 29, FAN will set up an appointment for you and others from your district.

Register [here](#). Locations to TBA.



There will be UU specific activities TBA.

Gather with UUs and interfaith folks to review legislative priorities and then meet with your legislators and advocate for those priorities.

Stay tuned for details to come!!

July 31, - August 6, 2026

Paddle to Nisqually

Save the Dates and watch for calls for assistance and volunteers from the Tribes.

Community Meetings will be held in January by the Nisqually Tribe to train volunteers from our wider community to assist in preparing for and operating the large event. Watch the sites below for more information on how to volunteer and support the 2026 Paddle to Nisqually.

Also watch for other Tribes/Nations' paddle preparation as they will be gearing up for landings in their respective territories and will be needing help from the larger community as well.

Black Lives Matter Flash Stances

Bellevue—Corner by Dace's Jewelers

first Sunday of the month, 12:30 pm-1:30 pm

Issaquah—Corner of 56th and East Lake Sammamish Pkwy SE

second Sunday of the month, 12:30 pm- 1:30 pm

Kirkland— NW corner of Peter Kirk Park

3rd Sunday of the month, 12:30 pm- 1:30 pm

Woodinville— Corner by Jamba Juice in downtown Woodinville

5th Sunday of the month, 12:30 pm-1:30 pm

Stand with Sahar & Support Peace-Focused Solidarity in Palestine

This year, our fellow Unitarian Universalist (and former JUUStWA Intern!), Sahar Muhsin Laufman, is answering a call to witness and engage in solidarity work on a UUJME Palestine delegation, a trip rooted in education, human rights, and interfaith justice work. Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) has long supported delegations and educational experiences that deepen understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict and uplift voices seeking peace, equality, and dignity for all peoples.

Sahar's participation is an incredible opportunity to bear witness, build connections with local advocates on the ground, and bring back insights to share with our community. To help cover travel and participation costs, Sahar has launched a crowdfund on Zeffy, where 100 % of donations go directly toward her delegation expenses. Every contribution helps make this meaningful work possible and expands our collective commitment to justice and human dignity. Your generosity helps ensure that voices for peace and justice continue to be heard, from here at home to communities across the world.

Support Sahar's delegation fund [here](#):

Love at the Center – Defending Trans Lives and Democracy

Uplift

We're thrilled to share a new *Welcoming Religious Education Study Guide* inspired by Imara Jones's 2025 Ware Lecture at General Assembly: "Love at the Center: Defending Trans Lives and Democracy."

This guide invites Unitarian Universalists to explore five key themes from Jones's powerful message—manufactured fear vs. love, wedge politics, dehumanization, sacred care, and spiritual transformation. Designed for congregations, small groups, and justice teams, it offers framing quotes, discussion questions, and actionable steps for putting love and interdependence into practice.

[Watch the Lecture](#)

[Download the Study Guide](#)

Host a Discussion — and bring your community into deeper reflection and courageous solidarity with trans and nonbinary people.

Clean Water Petition

EarthWorks

Clean, safe water is a fundamental right. But the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering changes that would weaken protections for our nation's streams and wetlands—making it easier for pollution to reach the water we drink. Small streams and wetlands feed into the rivers and lakes that supply our taps. If these waters lose protection, pollution can spread quickly, putting our health, our communities, and our future at risk. The EPA's proposal would leave many streams and most wetlands unprotected, opening the door to more pollution and flooding. We can't afford to roll back safeguards that protect our water. Sign [here](#).

RECIPROCITY webinar series

Save Our Wild Salmon

Our six-part RECIPROCITY webinar series focused on respecting and caring for salmon and their special relationship to the health of ecosystems, our lands and waters, and other species and people. The series was attended by nearly 2,000 people from around the country, and the recordings are now available for viewing online [here](#).

More info [here](#). View Recordings [here](#)

How Much is a Farmworkers Life Worth?

How Much is a Farmworkers Life Worth?

Community to Community (C2C)

December 14, 2025: As floodwaters rose in Skagit Valley, the majority of farms and businesses respected the County's emergency evacuation alerts and ceased operations to allow workers to join their families and prepare for the coming floods. Despite the rising water and the ongoing evacuation alerts, two farms kept their workers in the fields working from before sunrise to after sunset, less than a mile from



the river, some working with heavy equipment that gets easily stuck in the mud. Knutzen Farms continued to operate their potato packing shed with workers inside even as groundwater pooled around them. Skagit Valley Farm had people out harvesting brussels sprouts, from 7am to 7:45pm on Wednesday the 11th and Thursday the 12th. In the community during these days of heavy anxiety over the uncertainty of the Skagit River's dikes breaking, some farmworker families were missing their father, brother and sons because they had been called in to work. [Read more.](#)

Ways to support Justice for farmworkers and Farmworker families affected by the flood:

Contact your WA State Representatives and demand Paid Hazard Leave for lost wages during extreme weather events!

Commit to be ready to respond to emergency exploitative work incidents on WA State Farms by e-mailing c2cinfo@foodjustice.org with your contact information

C2C supports farmworker families who were affected by the current flood. [Donations](#) are needed both to respond to this immediate emergency as well as to change our systems, protect our local food system, and grow our communities' resilience to these emergencies which are increasingly frequent.

You may also donate to Familias Unidas por la Justicia by mailing cash cards or checks made out to Familias Unidas por la Justicia to P.O. 1206, Burlington, WA 98233

Protect job security for farmworkers in our community by opposing the exploitative federal H-2A program. Call your Congressional Representative today and ask them to [oppose these bills](#) currently being proposed.

The UU Solidarity Initiative

The UU Solidarity Initiative is a nationally coordinated effort of UU and UU-adjacent organizations to provide resources and opportunities to build strong communities of solidarity with immigrant communities who are under attack.

Our goal is to coordinate the resources of UU organizations to do more impactful and accountable immigration work.

...

We seek to coordinate and reduce duplication of UU work related to immigration. Amplify needs and actions on the ground to wider networks. Reduce unintentional harm to partner organizations and directly impacted folx by UUs/UU orgs. Support UU congregations doing local and regional accountable work.

More info [here](#).

UURise Tools to Help (Immigration)

From the November 2025 UURise Justice Summit. To implement all of the tactics necessary to support the strategies to achieve the goals, movements need many kinds of contributors—protesters, logistics teams, storytellers, legal observers, caregivers, and more. Through her Building Movements Project, Deepa Iyer's Social Change Ecosystem Map identifies 10 Social Change Roles. This framework makes it easier for people to get involved in justice by identifying on-ramps and off-ramps to meaningful work.

Tools To Help

Asset Mapping: Helps congregations move from intention to action by identifying physical, financial, human, spiritual, and relational resources. Mapping resources allows us to respond quickly to needs and to build liberatory structures. Congregational and community assets are plentiful but often overlooked—mapping them reveals a community's real power.

Power & Relationship Mapping: Builds strategic clarity and turns uncertainty into action. This kind of mapping shows who holds influence, where they stand, where there are existing relationships, where relationships are needed, and how to focus resources and energy for maximum impact.

Social Change Now: A Guide for Reflection and Connection: a workbook by Deepa Iyer that helps you identify which Social Change Roles you can play.

Access these tools as well as the frameworks [here](#).

GA 2026 Registration Now Open!

General Assembly 2026 registration is officially open. GA 2026 will be a fully virtual experience that brings Unitarian Universalists together in new and inspiring ways. Join from home, gather with your congregation, connect at a satellite site, or take part in the live audience at our Studio Site in Louisville.

Schedule info [here](#). Registration info [here](#).

Nisqually Tribe says it won't allow ICE detainees in tribal facilities

The Nisqually Tribe operates its own correctional facility, one of several in Washington state run by tribal governments. That structure gives tribes wide autonomy over detention decisions. Gabe Galanda, an Indigenous rights attorney, said that because tribes are sovereign nations, they are not bound by the Keen Washington Working Act. KWW is the

sovereign nations, they are not bound by the [Keep Washington Working Act](#). [RCW 43.705.170](#) is the state law that bars local and county law enforcement agencies from assisting federal immigration enforcement.

“It’s any tribe’s prerogative to consider collaborating with ICE,” Galanda said. But entering into such agreements, he added, carries significant legal and civil-rights implications. A person held in a tribal detention facility while awaiting immigration proceedings may not have the same protections that would apply in a non-tribal facility, he said.

Read more [here](#).

Be Engaged, Be Committed

Social injustice and environmental injustice are fueled by the same flame: the undervaluing, commodification, and exploitation of all forms of life and natural resources, from the smallest blade of grass to those living in poverty and oppressed people worldwide.

~ Leah Thomas

Help us Change the World -

Donate!



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