

Celebrate the United Nations 69th Anniversary

Taking Action for Human and Environmental Rights

Sunday, Oct 19, 2014

Unitarian Universalist Church and Center
1187 Franklin St, San Francisco



Discuss, Explore, and Participate

- **UN Sunday Church Service at 11:00 am with Bruce Knotts, Director of the Unitarian-Universalist United Nations Office speaking.**
- **Lunch catered by Thomas Brown at 12:15.**
- **Panel discussion with Bruce Knotts and Shannon Biggs (Community Rights Coordinator for Global Exchange).**
- **Small group discussions until 2:30 led by Bay Area Human Rights leaders -- choose your table from the list below.**

Table Breakouts

* **Animal Welfare** and the UN -- connecting the dot with the abolishment of slavery. How can we persuade UN member states to sign an animal welfare charter rendering cruelty to animals unconstitutional everywhere?

Table facilitator: **Dr. John Spangenberg** is a Wall Street investment banker and philanthropist. He runs an environmental stewardship portfolio including renewable energy finance, ecovillages and animal welfare transparency. Following St Francis he has dedicated himself to a life of humility and community service.

* **Human Rights and Equality for Women in the U.S. ([Cities for CEDAW](#) campaign), and around the world** - The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) affirms principles of fundamental human rights and equality for women around the world. The *Cities for CEDAW* campaign seeks the adoption of a CEDAW measure in 100 US cities by December 2015.

Table facilitator: **Roberta Guise**, MBA, is an award-winning marketer who focuses on guiding people, especially women, to be visible and known as authorities in their fields. As Co-Chair of Public Policy for the American Association of University Women, San Francisco ([AAUWSF](#)), she's working with the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women on CEDAW matters and women's issues, and is well-known and respected in Commission circles. She may be contacted at roberta@guisemarketing.com.

* **Community Rights** is a peoples' legal evolution enabling communities to maintain community control in a world that gives away human rights to corporations. Community Rights activists pass laws that place the rights of residents and nature above corporate "legal" rights.

Table facilitator: **Shannon Biggs** is an attorney and Director of Human Rights at Global Exchange. She specializes in communities that are or might possibly be in a sacrifice zone for corporate profits, assisting those communities in "Rights-based Organizing" that emphasizes the needs and wants of a community in the form of a civic legal arrangements. Shannon will need to leave at 2:00 PM. See globalexchange.org/events/speaker/shannon-biggs.

* **Emerging issues in Human Rights** - Global solidarity and citizenry: civil rights as human rights * LGBTQI Intersex, Androgenism: torture and the binary gender paradigm * Immigration/Migration as Human Rights * Global equality across social and income groups * Individual well-being (health, education, food).

Table facilitator: **Rochelle Fortier**, an immigration attorney involved with border children seeking a safe harbor from persecution in their home countries. She based in San Francisco and has extensive experience assisting women and children secure their immigration rights in the USA. See website at rafnlaw.com.

* **Climate Justice** - The discussion will center on the effects of Climate Change on the environment and on the people who have contributed the least to Global Warming yet who are already feeling most of the effects.

Table facilitator: **Larry Danos** is the Environmental Coordinator for the San Francisco Unitarian Universalist Church with community organizations and a Member of UU United Nations Office Climate Coalition. He maintains contact with various environmental organizations (350SF, 350BA, Food & Water Watch, Sunflower Alliance, et.al.) in the Bay Area and reports to the Church's Green,

UUs for Peace and Justice, [UU-United Nations Office](#) and SF 99% Coalition committees regarding environmental actions, events and meetings.

* **Global Sexual Exploitation of Women** – from men buying women to use them for prostituted sex to female genital mutilation to control women's sexuality to rape. Is it time for the UN to recognize that all human beings have a right to live free of sexual exploitation?

Table facilitator: **Dr. Kathleen Barry**, Sociologist and Professor Emerita, a feminist human rights activist and the author of *Female Sexual Slavery* (1979) and *Prostitution of Sexuality* (1995). www.kathleenbarry.net

* **Homelessness** - The right to housing is recognized as a human right. What constitutes "adequate" housing? What constitutes a home? What can we do to work toward creating adequate housing and ensure everyone has a place they call home?

Table facilitator: **Carmen Barsody, OSF** Co-founder of [Faithful Fools](#) Street Ministry together with Rev. Kay Jorgensen in the Tenderloin District of San Francisco. Since 2000 Carmen has lived in the Tenderloin District of SF, which is often called the "containment zone" for those struggling with poverty, mental illness and homelessness.

* **Indigenous Peoples' Rights** - Indigenous peoples around the world are each special and different, but there are similarities in how they are everywhere mistreated by the powers that be.

Table facilitator: **Nwe Oo** is a member of the Rakhine People and a human rights activist who worked in conflict zones in Bangladesh-Burma-Thailand border areas. She was instrumental in the creation of the Policy on Women, a coalition of NGOs working to advance the status of women and a Delegate to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women. She currently lives in Oakland and may be contacted at Nwe.Oo@chaaweb.org.

* **LGBT Rights** - The unique problems of LGBT people as they flee state-sponsored persecution around the world.

Table facilitator: **Galen Workman** Member of the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco since 1982; Currently, Secretary of the UUSF Board. He has been active in anti-war and justice projects in addition to his current work with LGBT refugees. Contact Galen Workman here: Galen@ozdachs.com.

* **Mass Incarceration** - The U.S. stands alone among its rich economic partners in its poor treatment of prisoners. We even fail to comply with rules we have sanctioned, such as those in the Geneva Convention, when it comes to our own prisoners.

Table facilitator: **Dr. Corey Weinstein** has been in medical practice in San Francisco for 42 years. He is the founder of California Prison Focus, a human rights organization whose mission is to shut down the solitary confinement units in California prisons and to end long term isolation, medical neglect, and all forms of discrimination. See prisons.org for more information and/or contact Dr Weinstein at corey2w@att.net.

* **The Right to Clean Water** - The discussion will cover lessons learned from California's legislation, the future of water rights in California and how to extend those rights to the broader world.

Table facilitator: **Jennifer Clary** is Director of [Clean Water Action](http://CleanWaterAction.org)'s Central Valley Program. As water policy and legislative analyst for CWA since 2003, she is one of the architects of California's Right to Clean Water. She can be contacted at jclary@cleanwater.org.

* **Right to Peace** - Is there, or should there be, a right to peace and to a nuclear free world? Is peace more than the absence of war? Should the UN find a way to make war and possession of nuclear weapons illegal -- world crimes? Heads of state are frequently above the law. What changes in the UN judiciary and enforcement system are needed to fix this problem?

Table facilitator: **Dr. Roger Kotila**, is a psychologist and peace activist. He is currently Vice President of the [Democratic World Federalists](http://DemocraticWorldFederalists.org) and Editor of [Earth Federation News & Views](http://EarthFederationNewsandViews.org). See his articles in Reader Supported News: "Peace Strategy Upgrade: Putting 'Ending War Itself' on the Table" (1/19/14), & "Has National Security Become a Dangerous Mental Disorder?" (10/25/13).

* **Two-Tiered Legal System** - Over the last 40 years our right to a day in court has been under indirect attack, through such things as the \$1.5 billion cuts in the courts and privatization of the legal system.

Table Facilitator: **Michele Hays** is Operations Manager with Coalition of Concerned Legal Professionals and co-publisher of its national publication, *Verdict*. For over 35 years, she has been a full time volunteer organizer, beginning her work with all volunteer, non-government funded associations of low-income workers, such as domestic and attendant care workers.

Sponsored by Unitarian-Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) and by UNA San Francisco Bay Area Council of Organizations. Limited seating, \$10 at the door for the luncheon, or buy ahead via [Eventbrite](http://Eventbrite.com) (see sfbaycoo.org for the link). It is perfectly OK to come for just the morning or just the afternoon portion of the event.