

Unitarian Universalists for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

*Implementing the mandate of UUA
resolutions calling for an end to
capital punishment.*

*UUADP is Social Justice Related UU
Organization*



UUADP

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The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations has a long history of opposition to the death penalty. Resolutions were made in 1961, 1966, 1974, 1979, 1989, and 2005 voicing the view that capital punishment is "inconsistent with respect for human life," and recognizing its "retributive, discriminatory, and non-deterrent character."

In recent years this issue has become increasingly controversial. Many of the states in our nation seem determined to increase the use of capital punishment, and those states without it are struggling to stay free of this violent practice.

It is time for UUs everywhere to join together and become active in the fight to abolish the use of state-sanctioned homicide. UUADP has been organized to implement the mandate as stated in our UUA resolutions, and is listed by the UUA as a Social Justice UU Related Organization.

Even though our membership is spread across the county, we want to create a sense of "belonging" to a family of like-minded activists with the common purpose of joining the fight against capital punishment. We maintain both an e-mail (Yahoo group) newsletter and a Web site for that purpose (updated regularly).

Together, we can make a difference!

Our Purposes include:

Providing education and resources to UUs so that they may be well prepared to speak and act in ways that shed a truthful light on this issue.

Urging participation in state and local groups that oppose the death penalty, and where no local chapters exist, provide help in organizing them.

Raising the consciousness of our congregations through workshops, programs, and sermons.

Demonstrating how the principles of Unitarian Universal-ism are affirmed and promoted by our participation in this effort.

It has been said that "we are forever responsible for the evil we might have prevented." There can be no true justice without the union of compassion with accountability. We must help our nation to become a more just and humane place for all its citizens, thereby joining all the other nations of the civilized world that have already abolished the death penalty. Our purposes include:

We invite you to join us in this mission!

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Death Penalty Quotes

It is tempting to pretend that minorities on death row share a fate in no way connected to our own, that our treatment of them sounds no echoes beyond the chambers in which they die. Such an illusion is ultimately corrosive, for the reverberations of injustice are not so easily confined.

--Justice William Brennan, 1987

Capital punishment is a good way of making miscarriages of justice irrevocable while reducing murder rates not at all.

--C.D. Hare

When we live at each other's mercy, we had better learn to be merciful.

--William Sloane Coffin, *Living the Truth in a World of Illusions*

We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.

--Martin Luther King, Jr

As one whose husband and mother-in-law have died the victims of murder assassination, I stand firmly and unequivocally opposed to the death penalty for those convicted of capital offenses. An evil deed is not redeemed by an evil deed of retaliation. Justice is never advanced in the taking of a human life. Morality is never upheld by a legalized murder.

--Corretta Scott King

Our sister Nancy and her husband Richard were a young couple expecting their first child when they were shot to death in their home. They loved and valued life; our sister was carrying life within her when she died a terrifying and brutal death. Her last act as she was dying was to write a message of love in her blood. We can't imagine making the death of another human being her memorial.

--Jennifer Bishop, whose sister Nancy Bishop Langert and her husband Richard Langert were murdered in 1990.

I know that love does not seek revenge. We do not want a life for a life. Love seeks healing, peace and wholeness. Hatred can never overcome hatred. Only love can overcome hatred and violence. Love is that light. It is that candle that cannot be extinguished by all the darkness and hatred in the world. Judge Goger, that is the reason we are not asking for the death penalty.

-- Hector Black, whose daughter Patricia was murdered in Atlanta, Georgia in 2000.

I'm opposed to the death penalty because I don't agree with murder. Murder is still murder. It's violence against a human being. Forgiveness is not saying what he did was right - it's taking back your power.

It's time to stop teaching people to hate and start teaching people to love. The whole execution as closure idea is not realistic.

-- Aba Gayle, whose youngest daughter was murdered,

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And Receive News Updates via the UUADP Yahoo Group and the UUADP Website
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Name _____ Email _____
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UU Congregation and Location _____

Please set your dues based on your ability to pay: Send Form and **UUADP**
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