

Organizing for Health Equity

Attacks against abortion rights, against gender affirming health care programs, and against the very young and the very old, combined with the impact of systemic racism, pandemics, poverty, and other problems, have raised awareness about the need for health equity and mutual aid. This AIW calls for new partnerships to secure personal and social wellness, with justice for all people, in all nations.

Proposed by: Robert Murphy, partnering with United Fellowship, in Saint Peterburg, Florida, with other community organizations in the American South. The Florida Project. Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community.

WHEREAS recent attacks against abortion rights, against gender affirming health care programs, and against the very young and the very old, combined with the impact of systemic racism, pandemics, poverty, and other problems, bring all nations to a new conversation about health equity and human dignity; and

NOTING that the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit will convene at the United Nations in September to reimagine and reshape global programs for public health and justice;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly calls for immediate action. We want individuals to have more control over their bodies. We agree with the World Health Organization that health equity is achieved when everyone can attain their full potential for health and well-being. We know that racism, agism and ableism, homophobia, misogyny, and other forms of systemic oppression, prevent many people from enjoying wellness.

THEREFORE the General Assembly nurtures partnerships at three levels

- o INTERNATIONAL ACTION: Global programs in public health will require global solutions. We support global partnerships for health improvement with a strong Unitarian Universalist presence at the United Nations. We ask congregations to study the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations programs that promote health equity and justice. We ask Unitarian Universalists to celebrate Human Rights Day in December.

- o NATIONAL ACTION: We will work with others to create multigenerational alliances, so that different people, in different communities, can care for each other.

We call for equitable programs for paid family and medical care leave. We support a strong Social Security programs and programs that empower people of all ages and with different

abilities. In the United States, we affirm our support for a single-payer system that will provide medical insurance and long-term care insurance for all residents.

There has been a resurgence in labor union organizing during recent months. We support workers as they organize democratic labor unions to secure adequate compensation, worker representation, pensions, and occupational health and safety.

- o LOCAL ORGANIZING: As North Americans move into the hot weather season, we want congregations and other community organizations to work together for health equity.

New programs for emergency preparedness, for mental health services, for health and safety education, and to provide access to family planning services, are needed immediately. We ask for mutual aid and solidarity instead of charity.

The 2023 Farm Bill is being prepared. Different Communities are asked to help each other by creating a Farm Bill that works for the distribution of health food in a healthy environment.

As people of faith, we affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all individuals and we join with others to reduce suffering and to overcome injustice. Health care programs should be proactive, and they should help to empower individuals in healthy relationships. We will work with others to create healthy workplaces and communities.

We will be held accountable by future generations.