

Social Action Sunday at King's Chapel: February 21, 2016

King's Chapel welcomes the Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz as guest preacher on Sunday, February 21. He will deliver a sermon at Morning Prayer on "The Blessedness of Bodies." Afterwards, a luncheon at the parish house will be served by the Social Action Committee at which time Dr. Schulz will discuss in greater detail the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee throughout the world.

About the Preacher

William F. Schulz is the president of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. Previously, he served as president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) from 1985 to 1993 and the Executive Director of Amnesty International USA from March 1994 to 2006. He is also a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress in Washington, DC, where he works in human rights policy and religion; adjunct professor of public administration at the Wagner School of New York University; and affiliated professor at Meadville/Lombard Theological School at the University of Chicago. He has served on the boards of People of the American Way, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and the International Association for Religious Freedom.



Bill Schulz has travelled the globe in pursuit of a world free from human rights violations: visiting refugee camps, prison cells, poverty stricken villages; leading missions to Liberia, Tunisia, Northern Ireland, and Sudan; and spreading the message on campuses, in boardrooms, with civic organizations, and in the media as guest on Good Morning America, The Today Show, Hardball, and Nightline.

He is the author of two books on human rights and contributing editor for three others. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Oberlin College (1971), he holds a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Chicago (1974), and was awarded a master's degree in theology and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Meadville/Lombard Theological School in 1973 and 1975. He is married to the Reverend Beth Graham, also a Unitarian Universalist minister. His family includes two grown children from a previous marriage.

About the UUSC

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a human rights organization powered by grassroots collaboration. In more than a dozen countries throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC's innovative approaches and measurable impact are grounded in the moral belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights.

The mission of UUSC is to advance human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies. UUSC envisions a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights.

Featured Program #1: *UUSC's Rights at Risk Program*

The Rights at Risk Program has the goal to defend human rights under threat throughout the world. In extreme situations of natural disaster, armed conflict, genocide, forced migration, and systematic injustice, the program strategically addresses the needs of the most vulnerable by taking up the cause of structural change. In this work, UUSC focuses on the people most in danger of being excluded from existing responses. The program currently works in 11 countries across five continents, developing



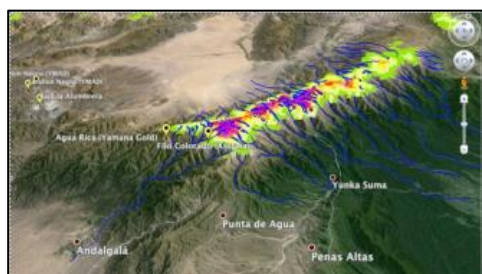
transferrable models and innovative strategies to address some of the core human rights challenges of our time, including (1) migration and the right to freedom of movement across borders, (2) access to asylum and protection for refugees, exiles, and stateless people, (3) offering relief for people denied their rights during disaster and conflict, (4) ensuring disaster relief and reconstruction efforts guided by the voices and needs of the community, and (5) ending gender and identity based violence and discrimination by building the capacity of survivors to demand their rights.

The projects and locales where these goals are carried out by UUSC are the following:

- Relief program for women and other marginalized people living with disabilities in Vanuatu and Nepal have equitable access to participate in reconstruction
- Assisting the Rohingya minority displaced by ethnic persecution in Myanmar
- Supporting women and children fleeing political violence in Burundi
- Bolstering urban agriculture and sustainable development in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake
- Reintegrating unaccompanied minors and their families after deportation from the Dominican Republic to Haiti
- Strengthening indigenous communities and organizations of farmers, fishermen and women, mothers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the Philippines
- Protecting refugee rights in Central America, Syria, and the Balkans – the rights to asylum, family reunification, and legal and humanitarian support

Featured Program #2: *UUSC's Environmental Justice Program*

UUSC's Environmental Justice Program promotes and defends the human right to water. The right to water entitles everyone to safe, sufficient, accessible, and affordable water for personal and domestic



Protecting Glaciers for Water in Argentina

use — yet, almost three-quarters of a billion people around the world lack clean drinking water, very often because of discriminatory policies and procedures. UUSC focuses on working with rural communities and low-income urban residents, indigenous people, people of color, women, children, and people living with disabilities. Its strategy is to influence government policies related to environmental justice by mobilizing activists to hold governments and corporations accountable for water-rights violations.

UUSC has collaborated with and supported the following projects to safeguard water resources:

- Promoted groundbreaking policies for protecting glaciers to ensure water supplies for 8.7 million people in Argentina and Chile
- Supported a legal case in which a Mexican court ruled that government is required to fully implement the human right to water
- Aided the prosecution of a mining company for damaging the local water sources of 18 indigenous communities in Guatemala
- Helped pass and implement the California Human Right to Water Act benefiting 11 million Californians who struggle to access clean water

- Advocated for water affordability in Boston, where Mayor Marty Walsh announced a 30% discount on water rates for low-income seniors and individuals with disabilities

Featured Program #3: *UUSC's Economic Justice Program*

UUSC's Economic Justice Program builds movements and influences local, statewide, and national policy on workers' rights. Workers' rights are human rights for the world's most marginalized and vulnerable workers. Many workers around the world are employed in environments that violate their most basic human rights. Consequently, they struggle to earn a living, support their families, and live a life of dignity. In the United States, UUSC seeks to empower and advance the rights of workers in the food chain. Throughout the world, UUSC focuses its economic justice work on women in the informal economy. The goals of this program are to create safe work environments, ensure living wages, hold corporations accountable for workers' human rights, and empower workers to advocate for their rights.



Rights for Food Chain Workers

UUSC has collaborated with and supported the following projects to achieve economic justice by securing workers' human rights:

- Supporting the training of workers and activists to promote the Good Food Purchasing Policy, governs institutional food procurement, in their communities
- Partnering to support trainings for workers in the restaurant industry to increase their access to economic opportunities including the creation and distribution of a comic book — designed to educate youth and adults about food chain workers
- Engaging in research on worker rights' issues in the poultry industry in Northwest Arkansas
- Supporting the expansion of a revolving loan fund for informal vendors and traders in Kenya
- Engaging activists and supporters to call on Wendy's and Darden to recognize the rights of workers in their food procurement policies

Featured Program #4: *UUSC's Rights in Humanitarian Crises*

UUSC's Program to Protect Rights in Humanitarian Crises is based upon the rights of refugees under international law to cross borders and fairly present their cases for asylum on an individual basis and to receive aid and assistance with dignity. In Europe, UUSC is working with partners to help thousands of refugees who have endured bombs, recruitment of their children into rebel armies, repeated torture and persecution, and are stranded in eastern border zones under abysmal conditions with no hope of advancing their journey. Some refugees are resorting to desperate measures to convey to the world the urgency of their plight (e.g. Iranians sewing their own lips shut in protest). UUSC has partnered with the Asylum Protection Center in Serbia to provide comprehensive mobile aid across the migration trail and with the organization, Prakis, in Greece to



Refugees in Europe

provide food and medical care to refugees in such places as the small village of Idomeni where 3,000 people have been living in appalling conditions at facilities equipped to house only a fraction of that number.

In the USA, the Service Committee's advocacy work focuses on admitting refugees and decriminalizing the asylum process. This year, the UUSC has worked to oppose legislation that would ban Syrian and other Muslim refugees in the U.S. and to counter the toxic anti-refugee rhetoric that feeds draconian border restrictions. UUSC has also focused a spotlight on the traumas of asylum seekers from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador being held in jail-like facilities in south Texas and Pennsylvania, some held for more than a year while awaiting court hearings. The UUSC commissioned a mental health study that documents the psychological and health toll (complex disorders more devastating than post-traumatic stress disorders) among mothers and children held in protracted detention having experienced multiple traumatic events – cascading traumas in their violent homelands followed by further traumas during dangerous flights to asylum (suffering as many as 15-20 events) and subsequent humiliations in holding facilities. The study concludes that conditions in the detention centers are inhumane and counter to U.S. moral values.

UUSC is a vocal advocate for the human and legal rights of asylum seekers, especially the thousands of refugees in Europe with little hope of advancing on their journey and Central American mothers and children crossing the U.S. border over the past year.

About Sunday, February 21

On Sunday, February 21, at King's Chapel parishioners can expect to experience a stirring connection to the world of millions of people where justice is often the difference between living and dying. Dr. William Schulz will deliver a sermon that envisions a world free from oppression and injustice. The outstanding work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee will be highlighted in the sermon, and the collection will be donated to the UUSC's work in response to the refugee crisis and the human rights of asylum seekers. Afterwards, a luncheon at the Parish House with Bill Schulz will address this work in greater depth along with the opportunity for questions and answers, following a thirteen minute video production from UUSC's 75th Anniversary that vividly portrays the works of the UUSC throughout the world. Please RSVP your intentions to attend the luncheon (Gretchen@kings-chapel.org) and be prepared to contribute to the UUSC (which has earned four stars for four years, the highest level of Charity Navigator, for transparency and efficient use of funds). There will be envelopes when the collection plate is passed, or a check can be mailed to the parish office payable to the UUSC.