



Unitarian Peace Fellowship Newsletter

*For all within our denomination who witness to the
belief that war and preparation for war are
failures of humanity*

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www.ukunitarians.org.uk/peace/

Musings from the Chair

We had another busy GA this year, from the passage of the Resolution we co-sponsored on Nuclear Weapons. As well as an excellent session led by Rev. Celia Cartwright on Compassion.

Many of us are frustrated with the fact that our Beloved Community is always speaking out but with little personal responsibility and action following our Motions / Resolutions. So in this light we, UPF Committee, introduced a new ongoing project which I hope you will support and join us in retaining. That is producing a letter / How to Respond packet for congregations, individual delegates and others to take away. We did this with template letter and some information for people to write to the Prime Minister and their Member of Parliament on Nuclear Weapons, as well as a reflection & prayer to use in worship. There was at least one other Resolution passed that we could have produced a packet for, and that was on the disproportional effects of governmental policy on women and children. It would have been an excellent addition to our Nuclear pack.

My hope is that next year we are able to do the same for other Motions/Resolutions as we did this year. So that we can in a way ease some of the debate around motions, and energise our members and congregations to be more involved and active for the needs of Justice and Peace.

2018 is the UPF focused year on Compassion

“Compassion literally means ‘to suffer together.’ It is a feeling of deep sympathy and sorrow for another who is stricken by misfortune, accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering.”

A few years ago, the UPF committee, agreed to add to its remit, or simply to organise as the Unitarian Committee for the Charter for Compassion. We were noticing that after our vote to be signatories to the Charter, our Unitarian response and focus quickly waned. Since that decision we have been moving to make a focus of the Charter, specifically, and of Compassion, generally, as an aim for the UPF. This year is the year.

Rev. Celia Cartwright led our interactive session on *How to become a compassionate society*. It was well attended and from observation of the discussion groups it was equally enthusiastic in participation and discussion.

In our last newsletter I wrote these words which are still worth our reflection....

“As we look to 2018 and the centennial of the Armistice/end of WWI, the UPF committee is focusing on Compassion, especially our denominational signing onto the Charter for Compassion. We hope that many within our Beloved Community will make this their focus. How does Compassion inform our behaviours? Our interactions? Our approach to other religious communities? Our dealings with ourselves and other Unitarian congregations?

Are we truly living out our agreements we made when we signed on to the Charter?”

One way we can show compassion is by expressions of solidarity.

“Unity of purpose which produces or is based on unities of interests, objectives, standards, and sympathies. It refers to the ties in a society that bind people together as one.”

In essence solidarity is corporate or group compassion. Another item within this would also be hospitality, that is welcoming the stranger/s. We in the UPF also advocate for solidarity as an

expression of Shalom, or of Reconciliation. That is the bringing together and creating a new relationship between those individuals and /or groups who once were divided in embittered conflict.

The resolution on Nuclear Weapons calls for us to express solidarity with the people of Hiroshima and of Nagasaki. As you know these are the two cities that have experienced the full force of nuclear bombing. This is not about a debate on the justifications for the bombings, it is about the continued work and recognition of the long-term effects these type of weapons produce in environmental and emotional / relational terms.

So even if all you can offer is a “we continue to hold the people of _____ in our thoughts and our prayers” then please do so, as even the smallest word of compassion and solidarity can produce great results in the hearts and minds of the hearers. So I invite you to write to the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki a letter or note of solidarity, of compassion, of Shalom / Salaam / Peace.

Mayor of Hiroshima **Kazumi Matsui, Hiroshima City Hall 1-6-34 Kokutaiji-machi, Naka-ku, Hiroshima City 730-8586, Japan**

Mayor Kazumi Matsui is the son of a hibakusha, an atomic bomb survivor.

Mayor of Nagasaki **Tomihisa Taue, 2-22 Sakuramachi, Nagasaki-shi, Nagasaki-ken 850-0031, Japan**

So if you feel called please send a note of solidarity to these mayors and people of their cities.

Also if possible please join us and three other Unitarian groups this October. As we explore together a theme of *Endings and Beginnings*. Information is contained in this newsletter. I look

forward to seeing you there, and to hear what you are doing for peace and compassion in your locale.

As always, Peace,
Rev. John Carter, UPF Chair

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**Peace Fellowship Matters**

**PUTTING IT POLITELY,  
WE NEED THE MONEY, PLEASE!**

Many thanks to those of you who **have** paid your subscription for 2018/19. To the many of you who **haven't**, this year's subs are as follows:

|              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| Individual:  | £9.00  |
| Couple       | £15.00 |
| Small Group  | £18.00 |
| Large Group: | £27.00 |

**Our 2017/18 Appeal**, which was launched at the General Assembly meetings in April last year, in aid of **Women's Federation for World Peace**, raised nearly £9,000. Thank you to all the individuals & congregations who donated towards it.

**Our 2018/19 Appeal**, which was launched at the General Assembly meetings last month, is in aid of the **International Rescue Committee**, which helps refugees all over the world.

**We would be very grateful** if you would send your cheques, made payable to 'The Unitarian Peace Fellowship', to our Treasurer, Celia Cartwright. (address on back page). Please write on the back of the cheque what the payment is for (i.e. subs / appeal / both). Thank you very much.

**GA President's message for 2018/19 Peace Fellowship Appeal**

“The International Rescue Committee is a long-established charity which responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises, helping to restore health, safety, education, economic wellbeing and power to people devastated by conflict and disaster.

The IRC strive to reach more people, more quickly, to maximise the impact of their interventions, bringing rescue and relief more rapidly to communities devastated by crisis or disaster, and aim to respond within 72 hours of a disaster, their priorities are to organise health care, distribute cash, and deliver clean water.

Having seen personally, the devastation caused following a major typhoon, when a hillside previously covered with shanty type dwellings was completely flattened, and the people in a state of utter confusion, and despair, having lost everything they had. It is at that time that organisations such as the IRC are so badly needed, the time before the major disaster relief organisations can deploy their personnel and equipment, the time when people are in shock, distress, and at their most vulnerable. At any one time IRC may be working to bring aid, in up to four such emergencies. The IRC also works alongside, and in partnership with other agencies, both international and local, recognising the need for integrated input, in order to maximise the benefit and relief to those affected.

Above all, the IRC aims to help the most vulnerable, those affected by crises and disasters, and to enable millions of men, women and children to reclaim control of their lives.

I urge you to support this most worthwhile Appeal.

**Joan Cook, President of the General Assembly**

UPF HIGHLIGHTED CHARITY FOR 2018/19



UPF invites you to support International Rescue Committee by friending them on social media as well as with financial contributions.

Webpage: <https://www.rescue.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IRCEurope/>

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Joint Gathering planned for October 2018

The Unitarian Peace Fellowship is pleased to be joining the Unitarian Earth Spirit Network, the National Unitarian Fellowship and the Unitarian Renewal Group for a joint Gathering in October 2018. The theme for the Gathering is to be “**Endings and Beginnings**”, and it will be taking place at the Nightingale Centre at Great Hucklow, during the weekend of 26th – 28th October 2018. Please put the date in your diaries now!

A booking form for this event may be obtained from Joan Wilkinson (e-mail joan@yorkshiregirl.org.uk) **Please book soon as places are limited, and many have already been taken.** It is going to be a wonderful weekend – well worth attending.



Unitarian Peace Fellowship Vision



The Unitarian Peace Fellowship was founded in 1916 in the darkest days of the First World War to witness for peace and against the futility of war. Today we maintain that witness. Our vision includes the ethos and values of the Charter for Compassion. The surest route to peace is through the compassion of human beings for each other and for all living things. We support and encourage Unitarians in their witness for Peace and Compassion locally, nationally, and internationally.

Unitarian Peace Fellowship Officers & Committee

Chair: Rev. John Philip Carter, 9. Hoyle Road, London SW17 0RS. Tel: 020-8682-3353 e-mail: revjohn.ukuni@gmail.com

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Rev. Celia Cartwright, 16, Nether St, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 7DS Tel: 01539-733403 e-mail: revcelia51@gmail.com

Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Rev. Sue Woolley, 5, Martins Road, Piddington, Northampton NN7 2DN. Tel: 01604-870746 e-mail: revsuewoolley@gmail.com

Committee Members:

Mrs. Joyce Ashworth, 2, Daffodil Close, Shawclough, Rochdale OL12 6NY. Tel: 01706-659294

e-mail: joyce.ashworth@btinternet.com

Rev. Cody Coyne, Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester M2 1NL Tel: 07786 820 383 e-mail: rev.c.coyne@gmail.com

Rev. Feargus O'Connor, 11, Claremont Square, London N1 9LY. Tel: 020-7837-4472 e-mail: ggunirev@aol.com

Mrs. Christina Smith, 27, Morrell Wood Drive, Belper, Derbyshire DE56 0JD Tel: 01773-829736

e-mail: smith.christina@yahoo.com