

Starting a Social Justice Action Group: a guide



Contact the Social Justice Unit

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Find us on Social Media

 facebook.com/SocialJusticeUCWA

 twitter.com/JamUCWA

 <http://bit.ly/JusticeAndMission>

Start a Social Justice Action Group

...for a world reconciled



Social Justice Commission
Uniting Church Western Australia

Why Social Justice?

The Uniting Church stands alongside those at the fringe of society, the poor, the marginalised and the oppressed. At its heart is a church committed to justice and reconciliation.

The Uniting Church is committed to working toward a just and peaceful world. This commitment arises from the Christian belief that liberation from oppression and injustice is central to the incarnation of God through Jesus Christ.

The Social Justice Unit of the Uniting Church WA currently has four key focus areas:

- First Peoples
- refugees and people seeking asylum
- environment
- peace-making

*for reconciliation,
justice and peace*



Where to start?

INTERESTED IN ACTION GROUPS?

contact the Social Justice Action Group Coordinator Kate on 9260 8900 or kate.leaney@wa.uca.org.au

FIND LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE

- seek out others in your congregation and community who share your passion for justice
- work with the social justice unit for support

IDENTIFY YOUR FOCUS

as a group, identify if you are interested in:

- one particular issue, or do you have the resources and interest to work on more than one activity or issue at once?
- agitating for change at a local, state, national and/or international level?

GET ORGANISED

once you have a group together;

- explore group members' individual interests, focus and abilities
- explore what commitment people are able to make and how frequently the group can meet
- elect a chair and secretary to facilitate meetings, organise contacts, coordinate minutes and organise contact lists
- make your meetings and actions fun! Add food, colour and activities

Next steps...

GET INFORMED

- sign up for the Social Justice update
- determine what you know and don't know about the issue
- seek out avenues to build knowledge and capacity
- contact the social justice unit for resources and support

PLAN

as a group, identify if you are interested in:

- running an advocacy or lobbying campaign (e.g. letter-writing)?
- hosting an event to raise awareness about an issue?
- running a fundraising drive?
- supporting an existing campaign or starting your own?
- exploring avenues of direct action?

work with the Social Justice Unit to determine the resources you'll need, tasks to undergo and delegate these among the group

TAKE ACTION

- pray for change!
- start small; achieve a small goal, then build to a greater one
- work with the Social Justice Unit to put your plan into action; run an event, start a letter-writing campaign, volunteer with a local service provider
- reflect on how it went and how you can improve for next time!