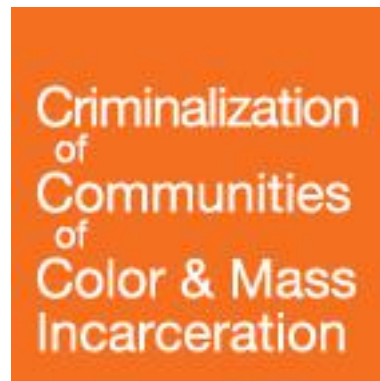


United Methodist Women members engage in social action drawing from our Biblical and theological Christian tradition and our Wesleyan heritage. We look to the Bible and to United Methodist Church social policy and prioritize the needs of women, youth and children as we set priorities for social action. We also draw on our rich 150-year heritage of engagement in mission as advocates for justice. Here are resources to assist as you plan programs with members to explore what grounds us and motivates our collective action.

Issue Priorities: 2021–2024



[Criminalization of Communities of Color:](#)

Interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline

"In the love of Christ, who came to save those who are lost and vulnerable, we urge the creation of a genuinely new system for the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole. Restorative justice grows out of biblical authority, which emphasizes a right relationship with God, self, and community."

—Social Principles, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2012*, ¶164

There is an increase in mass incarceration in the United States that disproportionately impacts people of color due to institutionalized racism, racial profiling, and mandatory sentencing. The concept of criminalization refers to the growing number of government policies and practices based on fear that apply

punitive laws for largely nonviolent offenses in racially selective ways on whole communities.

Each year more than three million students are suspended from school — often for vague and subjective infractions such as "willful defiance" and "disrespect" — amounting to countless hours of lost instructional time. Girls represent a high proportion of those who are confined for low-level crimes such as status offenses and technical violations, behaviors that would not be considered illegal if committed by an adult (such as skipping school or running away). Girls who are suspended face a significantly greater likelihood of dropping out of school and are more likely to have contact with the juvenile justice system.

An estimated 200,000 youth are tried, sentenced, or incarcerated as adults every year across the United States and many begin their journey into the criminal justice system in school. "Zero-tolerance" policies criminalize minor infractions of school rules, while cops in schools lead to students being criminalized for behavior that should be handled inside the school. Students of color are especially vulnerable to push-out trends and the discriminatory application of discipline. Black and Latinx youth are more likely to be sentenced to jail or prison, while white youth are more likely to be sentenced to probation.

Black students are disproportionately suspended from class, starting as early as preschool, according to new data from the U.S. Department of Education collected from all public school districts during the 2013–2014 school year. An estimated 40 percent of all students that are expelled from U.S. schools are Black. This leaves Black students over three times more likely to face suspension than their white peers. When you add in Latinx numbers, 70 percent of all in-school arrests are Black or Latinx students. Multi-racial boys and Native American boys also had higher rates of expulsion. Students with disabilities who are served by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act were twice as likely to receive one or

more out-of-school suspensions, and 67 percent of them underwent restraint and seclusion.

In 2013, just more than 1 million cases in U.S. juvenile courts involved charges of a delinquency offense—approximately 2,900 delinquency cases per day. Yet, since peaking in 1997, the number of delinquency cases has declined by 44%.

United Methodist Women will actively work to dismantle current policies that depict children of color, particularly girls of color, as criminals and that respond with mass profiling, arrest and incarceration.



Climate Justice:

Reduce carbon footprint emissions of corporations and individuals

"All creation is the Lord's, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God's creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings. God has granted us stewardship of creation. We should meet these stewardship duties through acts of loving care and respect."

—Social Principles, *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016*, ¶160

While climate change affects everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. The poorest people in industrialized and developing nations suffer the worst effects of

the buildup of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. Women and children comprise an estimated 70 percent of the world's poor. United Methodist Women calls for sound stewardship of the earth and sound relationships within and between communities, whether local, state, national, or international work. We work to provide practical, theologically sound tools to guide and inspire your work, to create a healthier environment locally, nationally and globally .

Fundamental to a cleaner planet is to work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from our own habits and the greatest causes of greenhouse gas emissions. UMW will continue to live into the 13 Steps to Sustainability that provides concrete ways to counter climate injustice through our own event planning and daily habits. Recognizing that individual acts are not enough, United Methodist Women has set an ambitious goal to fulfill God's call to be stewards of God's creation. This can only be achieved when we mobilize together — in our towns, cities, states and beyond — and engage with the biggest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions. Over the next several years, UMW will press upon these leading emitters to reduce their carbon footprint by 25%. One mechanism will be by engaging in shareholder campaigns to incentivize corporations to redirect resources away from contesting permits to innovation and compliance by 2024.

Take Action on United Methodist Women's Four Social Action Campaigns!

Steps you can do today and in your units!

1. **Just Energy for All (Climate Justice):** unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice **Two ways to act:**

1. Organize our 3rd letter writing campaign to urge Chevron to join other oil and gas companies in reducing their methane emissions and supporting sound regulations (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/chevron).

2. Do you know if the energy you consume is just or impacting the health of women and children and God's creation? Curious about what your United Methodist Women unit can do? Take the "Just Energy for All" 3-part webinar

training this September to October or take the online bridge course.

Register here: <https://umwomen.wufoo.com/forms/z1hbcxa110el5xr>.

♦Contact Elizabeth C. H. Lee, climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org

2. **InterrupttheSchool-to-PrisonPipeline:CriminalizationofCommunitiesof Color and Mass Incarceration**

Do a deep dive into scripture and the school-to-prison pipeline using the Bible study found here: unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/service-and-advocacy/mission-focus-issues/racial-justice-and-mass-incarceration/reflections

♦Contact Emily Jones, ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org

3. **A Living Wage for All: EconomicInequality**

What happens if you or a loved one falls ill and you get no pay when you're out of work? You get zero wages, may deplete savings and incur debt and could lose your job. Join our campaign to urge members of Congress to support the bipartisan FAMILY Act guaranteeing paid family and medical leave for all! Go to unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave to send an online letter right now! This Fall, plan to screen the documentary "Zero Weeks" in your unit or church and then invite others to take action as well! For resources to take this campaign to your unit go to unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave.

♦Contact Carol Barton, cbarton@unitedmethodistwomen.org

4. **End Maternal Mortality:Maternal and Child Health**

Find a local maternal and child health advocacy group in your community or state. Explore ways to establish and support maternal mortality review committees in the state. unitedmethodistwomen.org/mchealth

♦Contact Katie Pryor, kpryor@unitedmethodistwomen.org



About the Just Energy for All Campaign

Our Just Energy for All Campaign works for energy that is cleaner and more just for all of God's people and creation. The means advocating for 100% renewable energy (RE) – such as solar, wind, small-scale hydro and geothermal – that is centered on justice and equity.

Goal of UMW Grant Support

To advance United Methodist Women's efforts to advance just energy for all by providing small scale grants to deepen existing campaigns and/or develop new campaigns.

Available Grant Support

Consideration will be given to funding requests of \$100 – \$5,000. We invite each applicant to carefully consider the amount of funding needed and to document the budget and the rationale in the application. Funding is limited so please budget responsibly and request only the amount that you will need. Requests for funding support in excess of \$5,000 will not be considered.

Criteria for Evaluating Applications

Many United Methodist Women groups are doing wonderful work in a variety of areas – awareness-building, direct services, education, Bible Study, prayer groups and more. However, this funding support is specifically designated for organizing + campaign work. Such work may also include some component of direct service provision, Bible Study, awareness-building, etc., but it must include an organizing/campaign component.

Your campaign should have a clear goal/target – e.g. a concrete change in practice or policy – that will address the climate crisis and advance justice energy for all. Campaign goals/targets may be at any level, from work advocating for 100% renewable energy policies at a municipal, state or corporate level, to pressing for electrification of school buses or expanding community solar to low-income communities. Campaign goals should demonstrate a healthy mix of ambition and realism.

Campaigns must show that they include the voices of directly-impacted communities in the leadership and/or decision-making process. Depending on your specific context and campaign, directly-impacted communities could include environmental justice, fence-line and frontline communities near power plants, mining, fracking areas, highly polluted areas, communities with high energy burden, youth, those with health conditions impacted by climate change, or workers in the current energy industry.

United Methodist Women groups are strongly encouraged to apply for a grant to support work that is happening collaboratively, in coalition/partnership with other organizations or groups, so long as such work involves substantial participation from local United Methodist Women members. We will consider applications for stand-alone UMW-led work, but we strongly encourage collaborative campaign work with United Methodist Women groups acting in coalition with other organizations and groups to achieve a shared goal. We can best do this work by working together.

Learn More

If you are unfamiliar with UMW's Just Energy for All campaign, we strongly encourage applicants to [participate](#) in the next monthly Just Energy for All Strategizing and Capacity Building sessions (Aug 18 and Sep 15 from 3 to 4:30 pm ET). [Register here.](#)

Additionally, we will be hosting a [webinar on Aug 25 at 1 PM ET](#) specifically around our grants.

[Additional resources](#) that might be helpful as groups prepare their application can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1dYgbe3PdHEEKEnJVn1huYuiJu5Wtejj3jys-VKR3j54/edit?usp=sharing>

Timeline

- Info Session- August 25, 2021 1PM ET [Register here.](#)
- Application deadline – October 17, 2021
- Groups notified of funding support decisions – Mid-December 2021
- Selected group(s) receive funding – Mid-December to early January 2022
- Implementation – 2022 or 2022 and 2023

Application Link: <https://forms.gle/WvKDiBKdvzXTDZJA8>

All applications will be collected online via the form above. If you have questions about the application process or wish to confirm receipt of your submission, contact climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org. For a preview of the application, click here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Yj7D-USZnSPUpA1klbCulFz58-t_Gyb/view?usp=sharing

Grace & Peace,
Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee
Office of Economic and Environmental Justice
United Methodist Women

You are receiving this email through the UMW's Climate Justice list.

If you were forwarded this email and would like to receive future updates from United Methodist Women around climate justice, please sign on [here](#).

