

United Methodist Women Social Action Campaigns 2018-2020

United Methodist Women national office campaigns relate to the four quadrennial issue priorities: Climate Justice, Criminalization of Communities of Color, Economic Inequality and Maternal Health. The goal is to mobilize members around specific, achievable goals over several years to have the greatest impact in these areas of concern. As always, United Methodist Women will work with trusted partners in building coalitions that can impact municipal state and federal legislation and corporate practices. We encourage you to zero in on a priority; learn about the issue; and take collective United Methodist Women action!

CAMPAIGN: Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions! (Climate Justice)

TARGET: Companies, municipal and state policies and our own consumption

WHAT: Taking seriously our biblical call to care for God's creation, the campaign's goal is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and roll back global warming and its related crisis. Transportation and the electricity sectors are the largest emitters of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. We are calling on companies to implement cost-effective fixes like reducing methane leaks in their supply chain along with the larger work of transitioning their energy reliance to clean renewable energy through just transition. We are advocating at municipal, state and federal levels move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy and changing our own energy consumption sources personally and corporately.

WEB: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice

Latest Action: Tell Chevron to reduce methane emissions and move towards renewable energy: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/chevron

Reach out to your Be Just. Be Green Jurisdictional Guides at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice/guides/contacts

CONTACT: Elizabeth Lee, climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org

CAMPAIGN: Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline (Criminalization of Communities of Color/Mass Incarceration)

TARGET: Local decision-makers

WHAT: The school-to-prison pipeline is a term used to describe how children and youth of color are rerouted by systems and institutions, funneled away from educational success and towards the criminal justice system. This pipeline is not caused by any single action, but by many factors coming together, including implicit racial and gender biases, excessive out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, zero tolerance policies and the broader context of mass incarceration. Many of the most crucial decisions are made by local school boards, superintendents, principals and police departments. Acting locally, in our own contexts, we have a power to make real change. Do your research. Listen to youth leaders and support their work. Bring your gifts to the table and join an existing local effort. If there are no efforts in your area, prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to be the spark that gets the fire going.

WEB: Research disparities in school discipline: <https://ocrdata.ed.gov/DistrictSchoolSearch>
Learn more: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice

CONTACT: Emily Jones, ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org

CAMPAIGN: Living Wage for All! (Economic Inequality)

TARGET: Municipal and State legislation

WHAT: United Methodist Women's Living Wage for All Campaign engages members in advocating for state legislation that lays the base for a living wage for everyone. The living wage is what it takes for a family to meet basic needs of housing, food, transportation, utilities, etc., in their locale. United Methodist Women joins faith and labor coalitions working to raise the minimum wage to \$15 per hour. But that's still below the living wage, and that alone will not guarantee a living wage for all families. Domestic workers, tipped workers, farm workers continue to be excluded from some labor rights today. There are different legislative entry points depending on your state or municipality. For details, See:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/getmedia/1104c79a-2b27-4d10-b182-cac88148e17d/CIWManyEntryPointsHandout.pdf>

WEB: To learn about your state, see www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/living-wage-map
For our current postcard campaign to support women farm workers of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, see www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/farm-worker-action (due 11/1/18)

CONTACT: Carol Barton, livingwage@unitedmethodistwomen.org

CAMPAIGN: Create and Strengthen State Maternal Mortality Review Committees (Maternal Health)

TARGET: Federal government

WHAT: United Methodist Women works to address the rising maternal mortality rate in the U.S. at a grassroots level by building an advocacy network ready to respond to opportunities to both raise awareness and hold elected officials accountable when women's health issues are on the table. Women in the U.S. die from complications related to pregnancy or childbirth more than women in any other developed country. African-American women are three to five times more likely to die of pregnancy-related complications. The Center for Disease Control recommends that maternal deaths should be investigated through maternal mortality review committees made up of health professionals to make recommendations about preventing pregnancy-related deaths and health complications. United Methodist Women members are encouraged to contact Congressional representatives to advocate for the **Maternal Deaths Act of 2017, H.R. 1318** and **Maternal Health Accountability Act, S.1112** which incentivizes states with federal funding to establish Maternal Mortality Review Committees.

WEB: Maternal Health is a Human Right—Take Action to Support Legislation in the Senate
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/maternal-healthcare-is-a-human-right>

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/maternal-healthstoriescdcfoundation.org/building-us-capacity-review-andprevent-maternal-deaths