

UCC CAMPAIGN AGAINST TORTURE

Action Suggestions for Congregations and Members of Congregations

Study and educate

Show and discuss the film “Ghosts of Abu Ghraib” by Rory Kennedy (a limited number of free DVD’s are available – go to www.UCCAgainstTorture.org).

Organize a bible study on torture, using, for example, the curriculum “Way of Torture, Way of the Cross” (find it at www.UCCAgainstTorture.org).

Organize, joining with others opposed to torture

For individuals in the congregation: go to www.UCCAgainstTorture.org and sign the “Torture is a Moral Issue” Statement of Conscience of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture:

“Torture is a Moral Issue” Statement of Conscience

Torture violates the basic dignity of the human person that all religions, in their highest ideals, hold dear. It degrades everyone involved -- policy-makers, perpetrators and victims. It contradicts our nation's most cherished ideals. Any policies that permit torture and inhumane treatment are shocking and morally intolerable.

Nothing less is at stake in the torture abuse crisis than the soul of our nation. What does it signify if torture is condemned in word but allowed in deed? Let America abolish torture now -- without exceptions.

For congregations: join the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, either as a participating member or an endorsing member (go to www.UCCAgainstTorture.org for more information)

Give Visible Witness

Hold a worship service that focuses on the religious imperative to abolish torture, with prayers and sermon inspired by this witness.

Participate in the Banner Project, displaying outside your sanctuary during June (torture awareness month) a banner that says either “torture is a moral issue” or “torture is wrong.” For choices in design and more information about the Banner Project go to www.UCCAgainstTorture.org.

During this electoral season, attend candidate events and ask a question about what the candidate is prepared to do to help to end US-sponsored torture.

Sponsor a social resolution on abolishing torture to bring to your Conference annual meeting. (The example of a resolution currently being considered by the New Hampshire Conference is attached and posted at www.UCCAgainstTorture.org.)

Write letters to the editor saying why, as a person of faith, you oppose torture.

Engage in Advocacy

Organize delegations from your congregation to visit your Congressional representative(s) and U.S. senators to give witness to your opposition as people of faith to US-sponsored torture and to ask your elected officials to work to abolish torture.

Organize and engage in letter-writing, faxing and/or phone calling campaigns to elected officials.