SOCIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL RIGHTS

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

• 40 million children below the age of 15 suffer from abuse and neglect.
• Every city with a population greater than 250,000 reports gang activity.
• Approximately 27 million people are currently enslaved in the human trafficking trade around the world.
• More than 300,000 children under the age of 18 are being exploited as child soldiers in armed conflicts worldwide.
• Even though 2/3 of the world has abolished the death penalty, 1,591 people were knowingly executed in 2006 alone. The real figures of executions are likely much higher, 91% of these penalties took place in China, Iran, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, and the U.S.
• Millions of people are displaced in regions like Darfur where ethnic cleansing and violent conflict occurs. The displaced are forced to rely on humanitarian relief. Humanitarian workers are often kidnapped and attacked, and relief trucks are looted.
• Several governments monitor their citizens’ Internet use and have censored or imprisoned them for freely expressing opinions online. People in China have been arrested and charged for using the Internet as a tool to spread human rights information.
• Armed conflict has killed 2 million children, disabled 4 to 5 million, left 12 million homeless, and orphaned more than 1 million in the past decade.
• There are approximately 246 million child laborers worldwide.
• Protestors of repressive governments across the Middle East and North Africa have been killed, beaten, and arrested by police in the streets for voicing their opinions of reforms.
• Throughout history, women have been denied the knowledge, means, and freedom to act in the best interest of themselves and their children.


STATE, NATIONAL & GLOBAL AGENCIES:

• 1BlueString - www.1bluestring.org
  “1BlueString asks guitarists to replace one of their six strings with a blue string to symbolize and support the 1 in 6 men sexually abused in childhood.”
• **ECPAT-USA** - www.ecpatusa.org/take-action
  “ECPAT-USA is the leading anti-trafficking policy organization in the United States. ECPAT-USA belongs to an international network of organization in 80 countries, all working to end the commercial sexual exploitation of children.”

• **Human Rights Campaign** - www.hrc.org
  “The Human Rights Campaign represents a force of more than 1.5 million members and supporters nationwide. As the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization, HRC envisions a world where LGBT people are ensured of their basic equal rights, and can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.”

• **Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission** - www.illinois.gov/sites/gac/OSG/Pages/Volunteer-guardianship.aspx
  “The Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission is the state agency designated to protect and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The population served by IGAC includes persons with mental illness, cognitive disabilities and physical disabilities, as well as nursing home residents. The ages range from infant to geriatric. The Human Rights Authority is one of three programs; the others being the Office of State Guardian, which serves as guardian of last resort for adults with disabilities, and the Legal Advocacy Service, which provides legal assistance to persons with disabilities in matters related to their disability.”

• **Love Has No Labels** - www.lovehasnolabels.com
  “Most Americans agree that people should be treated respectfully and fairly. Yet many people in the United States still report feeling discriminated against. The reason might be that we’re actually discriminating unintentionally—we do 98% of our thinking in our subconscious mind. And that’s where we collect and store implicit biases. The important thing is to educate ourselves and watch for biases when they surface. To end bias, we need to become aware of it. And then we need to do everything within our power to stop it. In ourselves, others, and institutions. The world will be a better place for it.”

• **The Dreams Corps** - www.thedreamcorps.org/volunteer
  “The Dream Corps finds aspiring leaders who have the courage and determination to tackle America’s toughest challenges. Then we connect them to world-class partners, smart digital tools and national media platforms to help them succeed. Every day, we are reshaping “what’s possible” in the field of social justice.”

• **The Exodus Road** - www.theexodusroad.com/volunteer-2
  “We are a growing nonprofit which focuses on bringing strategic solutions to the counter-trafficking movement. Our primary focus, from the beginning, lies in fueling targeted interventions and rescues by providing funds, covert gear, technology, resources and staff to support local authorities in finding and freeing modern slaves. We also support prevention and after care projects for holistic victim care, provide trainings for nationals, encourage collaboration among practitioners through The Liberty Alliance, and work to mobilize civil society to actively fight trafficking in their own communities.”
CHAMPAIGN - URBANA ORGANIZATIONS:

- **Community Relations Office** - [ci.champaign.il.us/departments/city-manager/community-relations-office](ci.champaign.il.us/departments/city-manager/community-relations-office)
  “The Community Relations Office services as an important link between the City Manager’s Office and the community. The Community Relations team ensures equal opportunity and fair treatment for citizens through education regarding and enforcement of the City’s Human Rights Ordinance and Equal Opportunity and Purchasing Ordinance. The Community Relations Office also provides staff support for the City’s Human Relations Commission and coordinates the work of the Champaign Community Coalition.”

- **Uniting Pride** - [www.unitingpride.org/#/volunteer/c52z](www.unitingpride.org/#/volunteer/c52z)
  “The purpose of this Community Center shall be to form a multi-service agency, for youth and adults, to support and promote human care, education, and community-building activities directed at furthering the well-being and development of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, and ally community of Champaign County, in accordance with 501(c)(3) and 170(c) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, as now or hereafter amended.”

CAMPUS OPPORTUNITIES AND REGISTERED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS:

- **Alternative Seasonal Break** - [www.illinoisasb.org](www.illinoisasb.org)
  “Alternative Seasonal Breaks (ASB) is a student-run, non-profit service organization at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Despite the organization’s name, ASB sends U of I students on nationwide service trips four times throughout the year. Annually, ASB sends about 30 trips consisting of 14 students per trip. During their fall, winter, spring, and summer breaks, ASB participants travel across the country to learn about and actively combat social justice and environmental issues. Since the inception of UIUC’s ASB chapter in 1989, thousands of University of Illinois students have positively impacted communities in the nation. Trips concern issues such as homelessness and poverty, childhood illiteracy, healthcare, environment, and many more.”

- **Amnesty International** - [www.facebook.com/AmnestyUIUC](www.facebook.com/AmnestyUIUC)
  Amnesty International is a multi-issue based human rights organization consisting of a million members and supporters in 162 countries and territories. Amnesty International works to promote all the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The U of I chapter works locally to promote and educate about human rights activism by coordinating educational events, and organizing actions around a facet of issues.

- **Campus Union for Trans Equality and Support** - [illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/cutesUIUC](illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/cutesUIUC)
  The Campus Union for Trans Equality and Support is an organization developed to advocate for the equality of, and educate on the issues about, the Trans community, as well as providing a safe space for support and discussion about these issues.

- **Channing Murray Foundation** - [www.channingmurray.org](www.channingmurray.org)
  “Channing Murray Foundation seeks to contribute to a vibrant community life in Champaign-Urbana that values social justice, diversity, and community-building across a diversity of identities and experiences. We are LGBTQ-affirming, interfaith-oriented, and committed to social justice. As a community center rooted in Unitarian-Universalism, we are guided by the seven principles of Unitarian-Universalism.”
• **Choose Kindness at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** - [illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/choosekindnessUIUC](illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/choosekindnessUIUC)

  “The Choose Kindness Organization is a student-led organization devoted to sharing kindness by promoting anti-bullying awareness, diversity, and social inclusivity. Choose kindness at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, goes out into the community and helps, mentors, and supports its members in its many other chapters in the Urbana-Champaign community. Choose Kindness are chapters with the Champaign Park District, Jefferson Middle school, Edison middle school, Central High School, and more. Our goal is to help and support the chapters through campaigns, seminars, and other awareness projects for students of all ages; and through this we promote anti-bullying awareness, diversity, and social inclusivity.”

• **Civil Rights Pilgrimage** - [housing.illinois.edu/resources/get-involved](housing.illinois.edu/resources/get-involved)

  “Each spring break a bus of students heads to the southern US to learn about some of the important events and leaders of the 1960’s Civil Rights Movement. Last year we went to Greensboro, Tuskegee, Atlanta, Montgomery, Little Rock and Memphis. The trip is great program to take advantage of while you are living in University Housing, because University Housing students pay a reduced rate.”

• **Harry Potter Alliance** - [illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/hpa](illinois.collegiatelink.net/organization/hpa)

  “The Harry Potter Alliance uses fan activism to fight for human rights, equality and literacy worldwide.”

• **Illini Collegians for Life** - [www.facebook.com/illiniforlife](www.facebook.com/illiniforlife)

  “Illini Collegians for Life (ICFL) is a human rights group open to all faiths and beliefs that respects the dignity of every human life from conception until natural death. We are for women and children, and are dedicated to promoting a culture of life on campus, with a specific focus on the effects of abortion on our society.”

• **Interfaith in Action** - [www.uiucinterfaith.org](www.uiucinterfaith.org)

  “Interfaith in Action is a social justice organization focused on engaging students, staff, faculty, and community members from different philosophical backgrounds to participate in dialogue, community service, and social action. Our goal is to break down barriers and misconceptions that are perpetuated by society and often in political climates, create a space for diverse groups of people to discuss relevant issues, and encourage building bridges between different communities through participation in service work targeting hunger, poverty, environmental issues, etc.”

• **International Justice Mission at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** - [www.facebook.com/ijmillini](www.facebook.com/ijmillini)

  “The IJM is a global organization that fights to end slavery around the world. As a local chapter, we work to raise awareness of the issues IJM stands against, as well as provide opportunities for individuals to directly join the cause.”

• **J Street U Illinois** - [www.jstreetu.org](www.jstreetu.org)

  “J Street U is the student organizing arm of J Street, the political home for pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-Palestinian, pro- two state solution Americans. We are a chapter of a nationwide movement of campuses advocating and educating on colleges and universities, in our communities and on Capitol Hill for vigorous and sustained American leadership in facilitating a negotiated, two-state resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We are deeply committed to ensuring Israel’s future as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people, which can only be secured through a two-state resolution.”
• **Liberty in North Korea** - [www.facebook.com/illiniforlife](http://www.facebook.com/illiniforlife)

  “LiNK (Liberty in North Korea) is a national non-profit organization that works to increase awareness about the exploitation of North Korea by its leader Kim Jong-Un. Concentration camps, sex trafficking, and famine are just some of the things that still plague North Korea to this day. The UIUC chapter of LiNK works to increase awareness on the U of I campus through public demonstrations, documentary screenings, fundraisers, and other events on campus.”

• **MEDLIFE** - [www.uicmedlife.wordpress.com/about](http://www.uicmedlife.wordpress.com/about)

  “MEDLIFE is a secular, volunteer-run global health organization whose mission is to help families achieve greater freedom from the constraints of poverty, empowering them to live healthier lives. We seek to achieve this goal through partnering with motivated individuals from poor communities working to improve their access to MEDs: Medicine, Education and community Development. MEDLIFE believes access to quality healthcare, education and personal development are basic human rights. To this end, we commit all our resources to bring Medicine, Education and Development to Low Income Families Everywhere. Along with affiliate chapters, MEDLIFE UIUC works to promote the highest standard of MEDLIFE’s goals and reputation within the community. The University of Illinois MEDLIFE chapter brings Illinois students together to raise money and awareness for this global organization.”

• **Pride** - [www.facebook.com/illinoispride](http://www.facebook.com/illinoispride)

  “Pride is the oldest and largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) registered student organization (RSO) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign! We are dedicated to serving the needs of the LGBT campus community. We hold weekly meetings to discuss social and political happenings, host National Coming Out Day and Day of Silence, and organize a number of other outside activities for university LGBT students and our allies.”

• **Prison Justice Project RSO** - [www.facebook.com/pjprso](http://www.facebook.com/pjprso)

  “The Prison Justice Project is a group of like-minded volunteers and activists and is associated with the Education Justice Project. The aim of this group is to create safe, productive spaces to address social justice issues pertaining to incarceration. We aim to foster the development of a diverse community, passionate about transforming the penal system of the United States. Our programming consists of two branches. First, we offer bi-weekly dialogue lunches and monthly forums pertaining to social justice issue relating to incarceration. Second, we coordinate a tutoring/mentoring program for UIUC students to work with formally incarcerated students at a local alternative school.”

• **Service and Justice Outreach** - [www.facebook.com/sjcnocsjo](http://www.facebook.com/sjcnocsjo)

  “Service and Justice Outreach is an organization that provides students from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and local residents with several opportunities that involve the betterment of the area. SJO works towards social justice through volunteer opportunities and service trips!”

• **Social Justice and Leadership Education (SJLE) - University Housing** - [housing.illinois.edu/inclusive](http://housing.illinois.edu/inclusive)

  “The Social Justice and Leadership Education (SJLE) team coordinates student groups, leadership opportunities, and social justice initiatives in the residence halls. SJLE is a component of Housing at U of I that focuses on diversity education, resident leadership and dialogue creation. Programs and opportunities include Multicultural Advocates and Central Housing Groups.”
• **Students for Justice in Palestine** - [www.facebook.com/SJPUIUC](http://www.facebook.com/SJPUIUC)
  “We are a diverse group of students, faculty, and staff members working towards a common goal; creating a forum for Palestinian independence and basic human rights. Our objective is to look beyond the stereotypes to cultivate a comprehensive understanding of the underlying issues contributing to this conflict by providing students with alternative sources of information that go beyond the views of mainstream media outlets. We believe peace will be reached when truth and justice prevail above all.”

• **University YMCA** - [www.universityymca.org/faith_and_justice](http://www.universityymca.org/faith_and_justice)
  “Since 1873 the University YMCA has sponsored programs, organizations and activities dedicated to fostering ethical and principled leadership dedicated to building a better world, better human relations and better care for the Earth. The Y has become a hub for student-led initiatives and community engagement around issues of faith, ethics, justice and equality. Recognizing that for many people their faith calls them to service and work for justice, Y staff work to generate programs which connect faith with justice issues.”

• **Volunteer Illini Projects (VIP) - Social Empowerment** - [social.empowerment.vip@gmail.com](mailto:social.empowerment.vip@gmail.com)
  “The Social Empowerment project strives to aid people in the C-U community that are going through life transitions. Volunteers work to promote community building for self-sufficiency as well as work for social change. Whether it is helping victims of domestic violence or helping international students navigate around campus, volunteers are sure to make a mark in the community!”