

# Ways UUs Can Support Youth Activism

Public Document about best practices and good ideas for how Unitarian Universalist religious professionals, lay leaders and congregations can bolster and amplify youth efforts towards social justice. If you're not UU your contributions are still welcome! If you're a youth your ideas are ESPECIALLY welcome!

## How to use this document

**Contributing:** please read through the whole document to ensure your suggestion is not already present. After adding your contribution, add your name to the Acknowledgements section at the bottom.

**Editing:** if you edit a contribution in this document, please do so in 'Suggesting' mode rather than editing directly. Feel free to make a copy of this file if you'd like to edit/format for your personal use. If this document is too messy to be helpful, please notify the owner:

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## Generally

- **Ask yourself** what your motivations are for supporting youth activism. Will your participation amplify the values being fought for or are you doing this for political gain, your own glory or out of a personal need.
  - [Teaching and Supporting Students after Parkland](#)
- **Ask youth** if adult allies are welcome at walkouts, planning meetings, etc.! Ask what role you can play, and if the wisdom you have would be helpful. If it's a church sponsored thing then uh, yea adults should be there but if it's not, consider yourself a guest.
- Practice good **boundaries**! It can be easy to get wrapped up in the energy of the moment or a sense of urgency but remember your safe congregations policies ([uua.org/safe](http://uua.org/safe)).
- Talk about **intersectionality**! Explore with youth how toxic masculinity plays a role in #metoo & #neveragain, how white privilege manifests in the difference in media coverage between #neveragain and #blacklivesmatter, how gun rights/control issues are addressed in #neveragain and #blacklivesmatter, how queer women, trans women and women of color must be centered in #metoo conversations, etc. Here are some helpful articles:
  - [We Need To Talk About Black Lives And Gun Violence After The Florida Shooting](#)
  - [A reflection from Keeanga-Yamahitta Taylor](#)
  - [Why it Hurts when the World Loves Everyone But Us](#) by Janaya Khan
  - [tweets by Roxanne Gay](#)

- [Black Teens Have Been Fighting for Gun Reform for Years](#) Teen Vogue
- **Acknowledge disappointment** when change doesn't happen at the rate we wish and offer the "long haul perspective." Young people (especially black youth and youth of color) have been in the struggle a long time, youth today are paving the way for youth tomorrow.

## Resourcing

- **Host** a political action overnight for a UU youth group or an [Activism 101 workshop](#)
- **Register** people to [vote!](#)
- **Identify human resources:** trusted adults with drivers license and cars, good relationships with local restaurants to donate lunches, the Twitter handles of organizers at local high schools, etc. that youth need access to.
- **Offer** of free meeting space, home hospitality and allowing organizers to crash at church (uua.org/safe)
- **Donate to/get involved** with Peace First: <https://www.peacefirst.org/>
- Share work by youth (with their permission) and encourage others to spread it too. Youth voices have a hard time getting heard.

## Amplifying

- <https://twitter.com/yactivism101>
- Tell youth about <https://www.peacefirst.org/>

## Protecting

Information for Students Participating in Protests - ACLU

<https://www.aclu-ky.org/en/news/information-students-participating-protests>

Students' Guide to Walkouts and Protests

<https://offspring.lifehacker.com/a-students-guide-to-walkouts-and-protests-1823334274>

## Re: Specific Movement Moments

### #NeverAgain

Walkouts around the country: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/marchforourlives/events/>

<https://www.marchforourlives.com/>

- **Organize** rides to pick up kids from schools, lunch, and school work space at the church,
- **Supply resources** to student organizers at high schools.

- Set up **voter registration** for teens during the walkout
- **Host** a rally sign making event and teach-in in preparation for the March for our Lives. Blots of card-/poster board, markers/paint, and provide a couple suggestions
- **Stay in the back** and refer media to the youth

## #MeToo

<https://metoomvmt.org/>

- **Empower** teens and families to spread a [culture of enthusiastic consent](#) in your youth group, congregation, homes, schools and other environments
- If youth want to host a screening/discussion of [The Hunting Ground](#), offer some theological framing, and make sure chaplains are on hand.

## #BlackLivesMatter

<https://blacklivesmatter.com/>

- Put those **bake sale skills** to the test to support the 2nd Annual [Black Love Bail Out](#) or the [A Wrinkle in Time Challenge](#)
- Make your space available, provide snacks and safety for black youth to **host** a [Black Panther Watch Party](#) and or offer this [Wakanda curriculum](#)
- For **young adults**: the Black Youth Project 100 (<https://byp100.org/>)

## #DREAMActNow

## UUs in the News

“What's next for #MeToo movement in Valley?” *The Daily Item* (PA)

[http://www.dailyitem.com/news/local\\_news/what-s-next-for-metoo-movement-in-valley/article\\_925adbea-e1eb-560a-9344-21e6e4178890.html](http://www.dailyitem.com/news/local_news/what-s-next-for-metoo-movement-in-valley/article_925adbea-e1eb-560a-9344-21e6e4178890.html)

“Area churches put politics aside with DACA,” BlueRidgeNow.com (VA)

<http://www.blueridgenow.com/news/20180216/area-churches-put-politics-aside-with-daca>

“Susan Campbell: Meriden Church Feels Call, Offers Sanctuary,” *Hartford Courant* (CT)

<http://www.courant.com/opinion/hc-op-campbell-deportation-meriden-20180214-story.html>

“Gun control rally in Vero,” WPTV.com (FL)

<https://www.wptv.com/news/region-indian-river-county/gun-control-rally-in-vero>

“Gun control vigil held at UU church in North Andover,” *Eagle-Tribune* (MA)  
[http://www.eagletribune.com/news/gun-control-vigil-held-at-uu-church-in-north-andover/article\\_11f9ad36-155d-11e8-baa6-876567052df2.html](http://www.eagletribune.com/news/gun-control-vigil-held-at-uu-church-in-north-andover/article_11f9ad36-155d-11e8-baa6-876567052df2.html)

“Here’s a chance to talk with Delaware lawmakers about gun reform,” Technical.ly Delaware (DE)  
<https://technical.ly/delaware/2018/02/22/talk-delaware-lawmakers-gun-reform/>

“Let us grieve following another tragedy,” *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* (NH)  
[http://www.ledgertranscript.com/vpHolmes-ml-022018\\_-15610143](http://www.ledgertranscript.com/vpHolmes-ml-022018_-15610143)

“Memorial service for victims of Florida school shooting today at Unitarian Meeting House,” *The Inquirer and Mirror* (MA)  
<http://www.ack.net/news/20180219/memorial-service-for-victims-of-florida-school-shooting-today-at-unitarian-meeting-house>

“Moms Demand Action seeking law changes, planning vigil for Parkland victims,” WATE.com (TN)  
<http://www.wate.com/news/top-stories/moms-demand-action-seeking-law-changes-planning-vigil-for-parkland-victims/980474177>

“More than 200 people lined Bayfront Drive to demand action for more significant gun control in the wake of the Parkland shootings.” Your Observer (FL)  
<https://www.yourobserver.com/photo-gallery/sarasota-gun-control-rally>

“Rally held at IRC courthouse demanding ban of assault weapons,” TC Palm (FL)  
<https://www.tcpalm.com/picture-gallery/news/local/indian-river-county/2018/02/21/rally-held-at-irc-courthouse-demanding-ban-of-assault-weapons/110679358/>

“Vigil against gun violence March 4,” *The Marblehead Reporter* (MA)  
<http://marblehead.wickedlocal.com/news/20180222/vigil-against-gun-violence-march-4>

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