



Newsletter Date: 8/21/17

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Weekly newsletters will resume Sept 11th

Fight Supremacy

By Laura Wagner, Executive Director

Denial, complacency and rationalization are no longer an option in the face of white supremacy. The stakes have always been high but Saturday’s “Free Speech” rally was a stark wake up call reminding us all of threat that is deeply rooted in our society.

The words of Rev. Dr. William Barber resonate in my mind on most days but they kept me especially centered on Saturday. “There are some issues that are not Left versus Right, Liberal versus Conservative, they are right versus wrong.” Clearly, without any doubt, white supremacy is wrong.



[Love Showed Up Today in Charlottesville, By Rev. Susan Frederick Gray, UUA President](#)

I am deeply grateful for the centering and renewing power of my Unitarian Universalist faith and for all of you, my beloved partners in justice. Thank you.

Look for our new podcast Stating in September! Justice Connections

UU Mass Action would love to visit your congregation this year! Let’s work together on strengthening UU organizing in Massachusetts. Laura Wagner, Executive Director, or Evan Seitz, Climate Justice Organizer, will be happy to a lead worship service and meet with you after the service to discuss how we can better work



together. **Laura’s Sermon title: Justice Stories.** At the center of any powerful movement you’ll find amazing individuals who are creating justice. What can we learn from each other and how will we create justice during these difficult times.

TAKE ACTION!

Protect Workers Rights and Families!

Join the effort to collect signatures for the [Raise Up MA](#) Ballot initiative!



The legislative campaign for Raising the Minimum Wage to \$15 and Paid Family Medical Leave continues; however, we are not placing our fate solely in the hands of legislators. To ensure that the people's needs are met, we are called to gather signatures to place these questions on the Nov 2018 ballot.

Signature petitions are expected to be available as of Sept 11th. **The first big weekend of collecting signatures will be Sept 16 & 17.** What needs to happen:

1. Sign up as a volunteer lead and collect signatures – this can happen during coffee hour and/or organize a team to collect signatures in a public space. Contact: lwagner@uumassaction.org
2. Laura Wagner will train you on how to properly collect signatures – this training is crucially important! If the signatures are not recorded correctly, they will not count! We don't want anyone's effort to be wasted!
3. UU Mass Action pledged 1,000 signatures (I know we can easily top this number!) After collecting the signatures, let Laura Wagner know your count and send the petitions to the address you'll be provided.

If you are able to attend a full training session offered by the Raise Up MA Coalition, there are two upcoming opportunities you can join:

Lexington: Monday, September 11, 7-8:30, Cary Memorial Library - Large Meeting Room.

Brookline: Sunday, September 17, 2-4 pm, Coolidge Corner-Meeting Room, 31 Pleasant Street

Shut Down Pilgrim Nuclear

[Submitted by Diane Turco, Cape Downwinders](#)

Enough is Enough! Come to the next Cape Downwinders' general meeting on:

Wednesday, Aug. 23, at the Hyannis Public Library, 5:00 PM.

Cape Cod Times: "Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station's performance in the second quarter of this year showed no improvement from previous quarters, based on five violations found by federal regulators that were connected to the staff's failure to follow procedure and to keep parts in good working order."

The NRC special inspection team from last December was tasked with "arresting declining performance" and yet the violations continue. Energy has nothing to fear from the NRC except another paper report. There is no accountability nor consequences for ongoing violations. Pilgrim should be a poster child for public safety and shut down but the NRC will not do so. The evidence is clear from the NRC's own reports. Pilgrim/Energy are a threat to public health and safety. Will our elected officials stand up for public safety and now demand the NRC revoke the operating license?

<http://www.capecodtimes.com/news/20170814/pilgrim-quarterly-review-finds-5-violations>

Link of NRC second quarter inspection report:

<http://files.constantcontact.com/4ef44f21401/429455a0-163a-4de3-9a21-4ac272cbea27.pdf?ver=1502883556000>

Please call and demand our elected officials speak up now:

Massachusetts Officials

Governor Charlie Baker

Massachusetts State House, Office of the Governor, Room 280, Boston, MA 02133

(617) 725-4005 (Boston)

email form:

<http://www.mass.gov/governor/constituent-services/contact-governor-office/>

Attorney General Maura Healey

Office of Attorney General, One Ashburton Place. Boston, MA 02108

(617) 727-2200 (Boston)

(413) 784-1240 (Springfield)

email for constituents, policy comments: AGO@state.ma.us

Senator Ed Markey

975 JFK Federal Building, 15 New Sudbury Street, Boston, MA 02203

(617) 565-8519 (Boston)

(202) 224-2742 (DC)

(413) 785-4610 (Springfield)

email form: <https://www.markey.senate.gov/contact>

Senator Elizabeth Warren

2400 JFK Federal Building, Boston, MA 02203

(202) 224-4543 (DC)

(617) 565-3170 (Boston)

(413) 788-2690 (Springfield)

email form: <http://my.elizabethwarren.com/page/s/contact>

Rep. William Keating: Massachusetts's 9th Congressional District Representative

2351 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-3111 (DC Office)

Staffer: Michael Jackman michael_jackman@mail.house.gov

170 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360: (508) 746-9000 (South Shore/Plymouth)

297 North St., Suite 312, Hyannis, MA 02601: (508) 771-0666 (Cape & Islands/Hyannis)

558 Pleasant St., Suite 309, New Bedford, MA 02740: (508) 999-6462 (South Coast/New Bedford)

email form: <https://keating.house.gov/contact>

Upcoming Hearings

Tue Aug 22: [Joint Committee on Housing](#) 10:00 AM where: Room B -2

[H.659 An Act to Protect Homeless Families from Having to Sleep in Unsafe Places](#), Rep. Decker

Can't attend the hearing? As with any hearing, you can always submit written testimony to the members of the committee

Tue Sept 19: [Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce 1:00 PM](#) **Where: Gardner Auditorium**
If you plan to testify, arrive no later than 12:15 PM

[S.1004/H.2365 Raise the Minimum Wage to \\$15](#), Sen. Donnelly/Rep. Donahue [“The Cliff Effect”](#)
This bill will be implemented in increments over 4 years. The Fight for \$15 would raise wages for over 932,000 low wage earners in Massachusetts.

Tue Sept 19: [Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy](#)
(time & location TBD)

[H.2700/S.1876, Increase RPS and Ensure Compliance with GWSA](#), Sen. Pacheco/Rep. Khan

Tue Oct 3: [Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy](#)
(time & location TBD)

[S.1846/H.2706 Solar Power & the Green Economy](#), Sen. Eldridge /Rep. Mark

[S.1831/H.3396 Solar Power in Environmental Justice and Urban Comm](#), Sen. Chang Diaz/Rep. Holmes

Tue Oct 17: [Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy](#)
(time & location TBD)

[S.1847/H.3400 Clarifying Authority & Responsibilities of DPU](#), Sen. Eldridge/ Rep. Kulik

[S.1855/H.2698 Protect Ratepayers from Pipeline Expansion Costs](#), Sen. Jehlen/Rep. Gordon

[S.1845/H.2683 Protect Consumers from Paying for Gas Leaks](#), Sen. Eldridge/Rep. Barber

To access the legislation tracking sheet for all UU Mass Action legislative priorities, click [HERE](#)

Note: There are tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet for each issues area

TAKE ACTION FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS

Update by Laura Wagner, Executive Director

Yes, there are laws broken when a person is in this country without legal



authorization, but these laws are immoral. Families should not be separated and terrorized. Immigrants are not criminals – the laws that are broken are unjust. The real crime is separating parents from children and from any person whom they love.

The landmark Supreme Judicial Court ruling on Aug 2nd was a significant step in the right direction for protecting immigrant rights. The ruling determined that state and local police and court officers have no legal authority to hold people on civil detainers (Lunn v Commonwealth, Aug 2, 2017).

Governor Baker’s immediate response was to submit a bill to the legislature that would grant them this authority. His purported reasoning was, “to ‘fill the statutory gap’ identified in the Lunn v Commonwealth decision, and to ‘focus our efforts on those who have been convicted of serious crimes.’” [Boston Globe](#) [MIRA Summary](#)

Taking Action

1. Instead of asking, “What can I do?” ask, “Who do I need to be in relationship with?”

UU Mass Action continues to work with our interfaith partners in developing geographical clusters focused on building an accompaniment network that meets the needs of the local immigrant communities. This requires consistent communication among interfaith partners, community partners and building relationship with the local immigrant communities.

There are multiple clusters being developed throughout the state. Here’s how you can help:

- A. Have a functioning cluster? Contact Laura Wagner – let her know who you are working with and the status of your cluster’s outreach effort. Lwagner@uumassaction.org
- B. Don’t have/know of a functioning cluster but want one? Contact Laura Wagner and she will provide training and resources to help you develop one.

2. [Support the Safe Communities Act!](#)

Make a call to [your legislator](#) and then make another call – they need to hear from us often! Ask:

- A. If they support the bill ([check here](#)), ask them to contact the [Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security](#) chairs and ask that it be reported out favorable and as soon as possible
Senator Michael Moore Michael.Moore@masenate.gov 617-722-1485
Representative Harold Naughton Harold.Naughton@mahouse.gov 617-722-2230
- B. If they don’t support the bill, advocate for it! Set up a meeting – contact Laura Wagner and she will arrange to have support join you. lwagner@uumassaction.org
- C. Go the extra mile! If your legislators support this bill, ask them to contact House Speaker DeLeo and tell him this bill needs to be called for a vote this session

<p style="text-align: center;">Attention Medical Professionals</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Do you have patients who are immigrants? Click HERE to access a tool kit developed for medical professionals</p>

3. Write an Op Ed for your local paper!

We need to bring lots of public attention to immigrant rights and make keeping families together the central point. This [resource from MIRA](#) will help you and Laura Wagner is glad to help you write something, as well. Lwagner@uumassaction.org

4. Come to the Sanctuary Hood Gathering on October 7, 2017

Where: The Cathedral of St. Paul, 138 Tremont St Boston

The feature speaker of the event will be Ravi Ragbir, dedicated community activist and founder of New Sanctuary Movement NYC. Learn more about his story [Here](#)

Registration information will be available soon!

Update on Temporary Protected Status

Statement provided from [Centro Presente](#)

“Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a form of immigration status that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot be safely returned to their home countries.

There are approximately 186,403 Salvadorans, 70,281 Hondurans, and 46,558 Haitians who currently hold a valid grant of TPS, for a total of approximately 300,000 individuals.

deporting all Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian TPS holders would cost taxpayers \$3.1 billion dollars. Ending TPS for these three countries would result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade.

In the case of Central Americans and Haitians, TPS was granted following natural disasters. Ending TPS will return thousands of families to these countries, two of which are among the deadliest countries in the world after Syria.”



Watch the Centro Presente video on TPS [HERE](#)



UU Mass Action is working with [UUSC](#) and the [Love Resists](#) campaign to advocate for the extension of TPS status for people from Haiti, El Salvador and Honduras. In May 2017, Haitian TPS was extended for 6 mos. That is not enough time and Haitian families are faced with great uncertainty about what comes next.



TPS Extended through:

Sudan: Nov. 2, 2017

South Sudan: Nov. 2, 2017

Honduras: Jan. 5, 2018

Nicaragua: Jan. 5, 2018

Haiti: Jan. 22, 2018

El Salvador: March 9, 2018

Syria: March 31, 2018

Nepal: June 24, 2018

Yemen: Sept 3, 2018

Somalia: Sept 17, 2018

TPS is a federal program. To advocate for the extension of these crucially important protections, please contact your US Senators ([Senator Warren](#) and [Senator Markey](#)) and your US Congress person. To find your US congress person, go to: www.wheredolvetema.com

EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS

Looking for ways to live you values?

Note: Events Below are sponsored or co-sponsored by UU Mass Action, or are being offered by our UU partners

Funding Justice Reinvestment

An In-Depth Look at the Colorado Model and Lessons for Massachusetts

Sponsor: Mass Inc and the Criminal Justice Reform Coalition

When: Wed. Sept 6, 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Where: State House, 24 Beacon St. Boston Rm 428

[Register HERE](#)

With efforts by the legislature to reform the criminal justice system by the end of 2017, this important conversation will look at Colorado's transformative model for reinvesting in communities most impacted by crime and incarceration as a potential tool to use here in Massachusetts.

Featuring:

Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz and Representative Mary Keefe, co-authors of the Justice Reinvestment Act
And Christie Donner, Executive Director, Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition