

UUA Resolutions

Battered Women

1979 Business Resolution

WHEREAS, the battering of women in the home is a family and societal problem related to the violation of basic human rights in a significant way both nationally and globally; and

WHEREAS, the problem is compounded by the legal and social system's inability to protect victims of abuse adequately; and

WHEREAS, children internalize and perpetuate models of behavior observed and experienced in the home and in the larger society; and

WHEREAS, long standing religious and cultural myths and practices authenticate and sanction inequitable and oppressive male/female relationships such as male dominance and female submission;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges the Administration, member societies and individuals to:

1. Help women learn of and use local assistance available;
 2. Support the creation of crisis resources such as hotlines, shelters and transition houses for battered women and their dependents;
 3. Promote improved civil and legal protection for victims;
 4. Work toward improved police and court methods of handling violence in the home and toward follow-up treatment services for offenders and victims;
- and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the 1979 General Assembly asks all Unitarian Universalists to consider to what extent religious and cultural myths and practices set models for and influence inter-relationships within their own homes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly requests professionals and staff members of the Unitarian Universalist Association to:

1. Determine whether the physical abuse of women is related in any way to religious myths which promote male dominance in human relationships;
2. Try to assess the potential impact of these myths on the sense of self-worth and dignity of men and women;
3. Recognize the consequences of this impact in future statements, publications and educational materials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this Assembly requests the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association to:

1. Send copies of this resolution to appropriate political and religious organizations and individuals urging its promotion nationally and globally;
2. Include denominational action on Resolve Three of this resolution in the annual report on Women and Religion.

Implementation of Women and Religion Resolution: A Call to Commitment
1980 Business Resolution

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association passed a resolution titled "Women and Religion" at the 1977 General Assembly and a related resolution titled "Battered Women" at the 1979 General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, these resolutions, in part, urge all Unitarian Universalists to examine their religious beliefs and the extent to which these beliefs influence sex-role stereotypes; and

WHEREAS, these resolutions further urge all persons within societies to avoid sexist assumptions and language in the future; and

WHEREAS, avoiding sexist assumptions and sexist language is a long term undertaking during which the deep-seated patriarchal nature of our religious

traditions must be examined and new ways of perceiving the nature of women and men and of relationships between them must be developed;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the 1980 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urge all societies to provide opportunities for members to participate in activities that bring into focus the sexist nature of our religious heritage and also the emerging ideological understanding that value women and men as full human beings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That this General Assembly urge the UUA administrative staff, in association with lay members and clergy, to develop and provide:

1. Materials to help societies eradicate longstanding sexist assumptions and language forms and usages diminishing women whether in worship or in other church settings; and
2. A procedure for evaluation of the progress made toward incorporation of concepts, values and linguistic forms that are free of sex bias; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That this General Assembly calls on the Board of Trustees of this Association to urge all societies to:

1. Use the evaluation procedure when provided; and
2. Recognize and celebrate women's experience in the quest for religious identity.