

United for Peace and Justice

United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) was founded in 2002 to build a coalition of local and national peace and justice organizations in the United States to prevent the war on Iraq. From the beginning, UFPJ recognized the inextricable links between militarism, racism, and economic and environmental justice. The conflicts raging around the world today, among and within nations, make it clear that the need to work for peace remains more important than ever.

At its first National Assembly, in 2003, several U.S. Abolition 2000 member groups submitted a proposal that UFPJ make nuclear abolition one of its priorities. The proposal was met with skepticism by some, who said: “Nuclear disarmament – that’s the Bush agenda!” They were referring to one of President George W. Bush’s justifications for attacking Iraq, namely the false accusation that Iraq had an active nuclear weapons program (it did not). In reality, the Bush administration had drawn up contingency plans for using tactical nuclear weapons in Iraq. The proposal was adopted, but this exchange revealed a wide-spread lack of information about current U.S. nuclear weapons programs and policies among U.S. anti-war groups.

A UFPJ nuclear disarmament/redefining security working group was established to address this deficit, and over the years, nuclear abolition advocacy has moved ever closer to the center of UFPJ’s work. Last year UFPJ joined Abolition 2000 as an affiliated network and launched a monthly newsletter, “Currents,” which highlights the work of our member groups on many interlocking injustices. In March 2021, UFPJ hosted a webinar, “[The Enduring Nuclear Threat: A Deeper Look](#),” featuring Abolition 2000 co-founders, Jackie Cabasso and Andrew Lichterman, of Western States Legal Foundation and John Burroughs, of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy.

UFPJ is about to launch a new project, “Seeding Young Peacemakers” to help young organizers, particularly of color, make the connections between issues of concern in their local communities and global challenges including nuclear weapons and climate change.

For more information see www.unitedforpeace.org or contact UFPJ National Organizer George Friday at info.ufpj@gmail.com.