United for Peace & Justice (UFPJ) is a network of U.S. peace and justice organizations, founded in 2002 to oppose the war on Iraq. From the beginning, we 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. Over the years, nuclear abolition advocacy has moved ever closer to the center of UFPJ’s work.

UFPJ believes that an effective movement for justice and peace must address a broad array of concerns. We should seize the opportunity to work with other emerging movements and be ready to address new crises with openness to a range of perspectives without losing our commitment to fundamental values.

Today, a new and politically divisive war devastates Ukraine. In addition to the Ukraine war’s tragic human impact, the arms industries and their political allies have exploited the conflict to push through huge increases in military spending. The war crisis and the military budget increases have allowed the political classes to largely abandon efforts to solve the deadlock over spending for human needs both immediate and long-term, from pandemic response to funding for education to the transition to an ecologically sustainable society. But the gravest effect of our ever-expanding commitment to high-tech state violence as a way to solve political problems both abroad and at home, is that this vast “security” apparatus sustains a global way of life that is unjust, undemocratic, and unsustainable.

That is why UFPJ is a proud national partner of The Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival and its organizing to build power for change that lifts all people by challenging the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, militarism, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism. This year, as a top priority, UFPJ worked with its member groups to bring people from around the country to Washington, DC on June 18 for the Poor People’s Campaign Mass Poor People’s and Low-Wage Workers Assembly and March on Washington and to the Polls.

The goals of dismantling injustice and ending poverty, of challenging the war economy and ending war and militarism require us to build for the long term. Last year UFPJ completed the pilot session of a new project, “Seeding Young Peacekeepers” 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. We hope to be able to raise enough money to organize a second session of the project next year.

In March 2020, UFPJ launched a monthly electronic newsletter, “Currents,” compiling recent posts on vital issues, UFPJ campaigns, and the crucial work of our member organizations.