United for Peace & Justice

United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) was founded in 2003 to build a coalition of local and national peace and justice organizations to prevent the War on Iraq. The conflicts raging around the world today make it clear that the need to work for peace remains more important than ever. That is why UFPJ reorganized in 2008, as a network, and now operates with an all-volunteer Coordinating Committee, supported by one part-time staff member who assists with UFPJ action alerts, campaigns, and organizing. Today, UFPJ is a network of hundreds of peace and justice organizations around the United States working to end war and oppression, shift resources to meet human needs, protect the environment and promote sustainable alternatives. With two disastrous wars waging – between Israel and Hamas, and between Russia and Ukraine – UFPJ is committed to engaging our member groups and organizations in focused and concerted efforts to work for ceasefires and diplomacy. Over the years, as the dangers of nuclear war have re-emerged, advocacy for the elimination of nuclear weapons has moved ever closer to the center of our work.

Much like Abolition 2000, UFPJ lifts up the voices and work of our members. We encourage member groups and individuals to engage in educational activities, public protests, nonviolent direct action, and mass mobilizations; all of which we promote and support. We encourage our members to publicize their actions and campaigns by submitting articles to “Currents,” our monthly newsletter, and posts to our web site. Our web site also includes a variety of informational and organizing resources, including our carefully-sourced and constantly updated Ukraine Resources and Israel/Palestine October 2023 War: Resources, which reflect a variety of perspectives. You can also find an action kit, updated annually, for organizing a participatory public reading of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “Beyond Vietnam” speech, as well as a Mayors for Peace Action Toolkit.

In 2024, UFPJ is planning to continue a series of virtual regional meetings to allow activists to jointly strategize and to share actions and advocacy efforts. Now, more than ever, it is crucial for people to connect and to learn about other (including new) justice and peace organizations in their area.

UFPJ’s is hoping to raise the funds needed to conduct a second round of our Seeding Young Peacekeepers project in 2024. This project seeks to identify, support, and “train up” young activists, prioritizing those from BIPOC communities across the U.S., to become leaders who reject fear, violence, militarism, and continuing conflict as “normal,” and who will promote equity, justice, and a recognition of the connections all beings have to one another and the planet. The trainings will particularly emphasize the social, economic, and political impacts of war, the dual existential threats of nuclear weapons and climate change, and the need to address oppression at all levels of society in order to create a more equitable and sustainable global order.
UFPJ is proud to be part of the Poor People’s Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival’s, “moral fusion” movement. In the coming months we will be building support for the Poor People’s Campaign’s nationally coordinated day of nonviolent direct actions on March 2, 2024, in State Capitals across the country, leading to the Mass Poor People’s and Low-Wage Workers Assembly in June in Washington, DC. In the runup to the 2024 elections, the Poor People’s Campaign seeks to activate 85 million poor and low-wealth eligible voters.

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