



## **Statement on Inequities Impacted By the COVID-19 Virus**

As Unitarian Universalists committed to gender equity, we believe in justice, dignity, and compassion for all.

Universal access to affordable and comprehensive healthcare is a moral imperative.

As we have witnessed the unprecedented spread of the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, the UU Women's Federation is committed to advocating for a United States where catching a preventable illness and seeking medical care does not bankrupt a person.

The UU Women's Federation demands a world where a living wage, paid time off, shelter, ample food, and adequate healthcare & childcare are not markers of privilege, but rather a right of any and every human.

We demand a New Normal that not only addresses the virus but interrupts the underlying oppression that has made this pandemic so catastrophic. We honor all the essential workers who risk their lives to ensure that the rest of us can be with our families and loved ones, and we insist that they be valued not only in words but with fair compensation for the risks they are taking on our behalf. This New Normal affirms the dignity of detained and incarcerated people, dismantling the systemic cruel and unusual neglect in prisons.

We seek a system that does not cause women, trans, and people of color communities to be disproportionately harmed by pandemics or other crises. The New Normal includes a health care system with accessible mental health care, safe and affordable housing, nourishing food, and adequate time off work to maintain health and safety for ourselves and our loved ones.

May, 2020