



American Ethical Union

Inspiring Ethical Communities

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2020 ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report for ETHICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Chair(s) Carolyn A. Parker, Bob Gordon (deceased in 2020)

NLC Representative: Hugh Taft-Morales

NES Representative: Jone Johnson Lewis

Board Representative: Casey Gardonio-Foat

Staff: Bart Worden

Members: John McCormick
Marta Guttenberg
Martina Brunner
Jan Broughton

Please provide brief updates on the following areas of your Committee that occurred or developed during 2020:

The Ethical Action Committee expresses its gratitude for the service and fellowship given by Co-Chair, Robert Gordon. We offer our sympathy to his family and the Ethical Society of Bergen County for their loss. Bob is gone but not forgotten.

Committee's Mission/Purpose:

The AEU Ethical Action Committee provides support to Societies in their Ethical Action work (community strengthening and local change) and leveraging the power of the AEU as a national organization with moral authority (systemic change).

Programs/Projects for 2020:

- Ethical Action Listserv – The EAC supports the Ethical Action Listserv, a communications tool for Society Ethical Action chairs and members. In 2020, the EAL hosted more than 70 posts and conversations and included 5 calls to (ethical) action:
 - Earth Hour 2020

- (Amplify) International Sanctuary Principles
 - Comment on Rules: Definition of “Poverty”
 - Write Op-Eds on COVID-19 Safety
 - Use Poor People’s Campaign Goals to Enhance Ethical Action
- EA Facebook Page – The EAC supports the Ethical Action Facebook page to amplify resolutions, statements, and calls to (ethical) action. Team members posted 64 items for information and partnership with allied organizations.
 - Rapid Response Team: The EAC works with the Rapid Response team to take stands on issues or propose ethical actions in response to current national and international events. In 2020, working through the Rapid Response Team, AEU issued 5 Statements:
 - 6/1 – AEU Statement on George Floyd and Aftermath
 - 6/18 – AEU Statement on Supreme Court LGBT Discrimination Decision
 - 8/11 – Black Lives Matter to AEU
 - 11/4 – AEU Affirms That Every Vote Must Be Counted
 - 12/15 – Statement of Support for Compassionate Release and COVID-19 Vaccination for Incarcerated Individuals

Additional Projects and Activities:

- Monthly Committee meetings
- Virtual watch party for “Healing Justice”
- Initiated Salon for Activism at a Distance, facilitated by Bart Worden
- Reclaim Our Vote initiative in partnership with Center for Common Ground and 16 member Societies
- Anti-Racism Book Dialogues, coordinated by Jone Johnson Lewis

Goals for 2021:

- Host Salons for follow up action on resolutions addressed in Black Lives Matter to AEU Statements;
- Assist development of resolutions as requested;
- Develop new series of Anti-Racism Book Dialogues;
- Continue support for Ethical Action List, EA Facebook page, and Rapid Response Team
- Expand Committee membership (volunteers welcome!)