

AEU News & Updates - September 2021

AEU Joint Statement on the Situation in Afghanistan



On August 19th 2021, the American Ethical Union joined American Atheists, the American Humanist Association, and Humanists International in a letter urging the Biden Administration to take all necessary steps to protect the human rights of all Afghans, particularly vulnerable religious minorities and nonreligious people, in the wake of the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. This letter is in accordance with the National Leaders Council's 2009 Statement, *"A Call for Just and Enduring Peace in Afghanistan."*

[Read more here](#)

Criminal Justice Salon Hosted by the AEU Ethical Action Committee



The AEU Ethical Action Committee will host another in its series of Activism at a Distance Salons on **September 29 (8:00 EST)** via Zoom. The focus of the Salon will be **Criminal Justice**.

Register for the Salon online using this [form](#). *Registration is free but required. Zoom link provided upon registration.*

The Salon on Criminal Justice will take its initial guidance for discussion from the AEU's 2020 Statement on [Black Lives Matter to AEU](#) with its recommitment to the 2015 Resolution on [Criminal Justice](#) as well as the 2021 [Renewal of Commitment to a Culture of Peace](#), which highlights racism and economic injustice, both features of the US criminal justice system, as factors in violence and civil strife. Participants may share information about their Ethical Culture Society's past, present, and planned Ethical Actions in regard to criminal justice. Participants are also welcome to share information about partnerships and projects that other Societies might join for broader effect on the criminal justice system.

Call to Ethical Action: Promote the Culture of Peace on the International Day of Peace

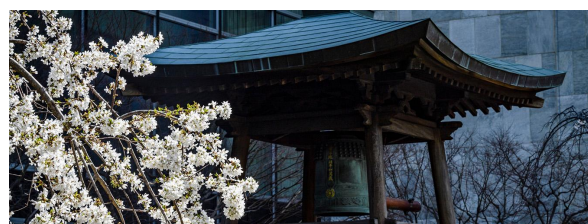


AEU members and Societies are called to ethical action in recognition of the [International Day of Peace](#) and pursuant to the resolution--[Renewal of Commitment to a Culture of Peace](#)--passed by an overwhelming majority of Delegates to the 106th Annual Assembly. [Read the call to Ethical Action here.](#)

[Watch recordings of Assembly Events on our Youtube channel!](#)

[Watch here!](#)

Join the Philadelphia Ethical Society in honoring the United Nations International Day of Peace!



On Sunday, **September 19, at 11:00AM EDT**, Hugh Taft-Morales will be giving a platform talk entitled, **"Peacebuilding."** This talk, hosted by the Philadelphia Ethical Society will reference both (1) the **AEU resolution** to be proposed at the American Ethical Union Assembly on August 8, 2021 called *Renewal of Commitment to a Culture of Peace*, and (2) **H. R. 1111 --Department of Peace Building Act**. For too long nations have honed war-making capacities while neglecting the strenuous and important work of building peace. *National Ethical Service* (NES), the AEU affiliate representing Ethical Culture at the United Nations, has labored over decades to advocate for building a culture of peace.

If your Society would like to attend, please join us on Zoom at: www.tiny.cc/phillyethics (Zoom phone in meeting number: 215 735 1906)

If you would like to be a co-host along with the *Ethical Society of Austin* and *National Ethical Service*, please email Hugh Taft-Morales at HughTM@gmail.com. Co-hosting means that you will attend and advertise the event to your members and perhaps the general public.

Call to Action: Societies Can Make a Difference Addressing Food Insecurity



NYSEC's Ethical Action Committee, through the efforts of Janet and Howard Rose, began a Food Insecurity Initiative in NYC in October 2020. It was a simple concept. Have their van outside a designated building for an hour that had been organized by a resident with notification to those who lived there. No staff involved. To date, they have collected well over six tons of food servicing three food banks in Manhattan To learn about how it works in a watch this youtube video of the Platform they presented last month:

[Watch the youtube video here](#)

BUT - what if your Society is in a suburb or more rural area? Chico, CA developed a simple and successful way of addressing food insecurity in their community. They distribute blue bags for residents to fill with food items which are picked up six times a year. Each time, they collect over 11,000 lbs of food. To learn more about how their initiative works, visit chicofoodproject.org

With the eviction moratorium ending, more families will be in need in your communities. If you haven't already done so, please consider starting an effort to address food insecurity where you live.

Feel free to contact Janet Rose, jrose@nysec.org with any questions.

The American Ethical Union Welcomes 2021-22 Board Members

Thank you to all of the 2021 Assembly Delegates who participated in selecting our 2021-22 Board Members:

- Sonja Kueppers (Washington DC) -- President
- Elizabeth Singer (New York) -- Vice President
- Tom Castelnuovo (Brooklyn) -- Treasurer
- Casey Gardonio-Foat (St Louis) -- Secretary
- Bill Aul (Mid Rivers)
- Liz Collier (Riverdale-Yonkers)
- Dorothy Dale (Ethical Humanist Society of the Triangle)
- Zia Durrani (Ethical Culture Society of Essex County)
- Dwight Panozzo (Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County)
- J  Hooper -- NLC President Liaison
- James Croft -- NLC Interim Liaison
- Julia Julstrom-Agoyo -- FES Liaison
- Bart Worden -- AEU Executive Director, Board ex-officio

Stay up to date with our Connections Calendar!

Please check our Connections Calendar for upcoming events from AEU and our Ethical Societies.

Join our [Connections Forum \(Google Group\)](#) to receive and share information on current events and ethical issues we face together.

