



Staff - Advocacy Report

June, 2021

Highlights:

1. Please see the graphs and data below that cover the period of reporting for the June 26, 2021 board meeting, and further back in time. We thank Paulette.
2. Please note what UUSJ did in April, May, and now in June 2021, continues our experiment with a pandemic necessitated virtual approach to advocacy
3. The Executive Director's report for the same period lists information not detailed here, with greater emphasis on partnerships, collaborations, and relationship management.

June 2021

UUSJ put out one (1) **Write Here Write Now (WHWN)** as part of a "full tilt" advocacy outing on [Pathways to Citizenship for Immigrant Essential Workers](#), and their families ([WHWN Handout](#)) and in alignment with the [We Are Home/We Are Essential campaign](#), as an accountable partner representing moral owners from an impacted community, and with the endorsement of **Side with Love**, as an accountable partner representing UUs as moral owners.

In direct support of this outing, the Immigration Action Team held an **expert opinion briefing** with guests **Faith In Action** and **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** ([video](#)) on May 27. We had 96 registrations.

As of June 15th, we show:

- The WHWN online platform sent 133 letters, by 74 writers, to 36 legislators.
- The WHWN classic platform sent 14 letters, by 7 writers, to 5 legislators.

The take up rate, so far, has been lower than expected, given the distribution date in May. It's possible that the outing was viewed as too similar to the April action alert to [Support The Dream Act - The SECURE Act - Farm Workforce Modernization Act](#), by non-IAT

participants,

We scheduled [17 meetings](#), held 15, and are rescheduling 2 for July due to Juneteenth, or S.1 negotiation, interruptions. **Our meetings included** many constituents, it was hard to track, we are estimating 39. Several were invited by confirmed attendees and we may not have proper contact information for them. Among the full group, 4 were UU ministers (HI, MD, NC, VA) and 4 SANs (IA, NC, NH, TX). Especially noteworthy, this IAT outing included 2 impacted non-UU folks (IA) and 1 former TPS holder, a UU (CA). These are staff counts, the IAT may have different numbers, we have yet to reconcile and compare against notes taken.

Driving constituent participation for these meetings is a significant yet rewarding, task.

- It requires multiple emails through SALSA ([e.g.1-IAT](#))([e.g.2-EAT](#))([e.g.3-DAT](#)) and many individual follow-up messages in reply to specific shows of interest, as well as lots of coordination between Pablo and Anna.
- It is more logistically challenging than driving participation by Advocacy Corps or by Action Teams, which has its own dynamics.
- However, we built upon the use of a beta google form used in April and May for the EAT outing, and deployed 2 such forms in May and June for the IAT outing. The first was an [early commitment](#) form, the second [meeting specific](#) form.

In addition, for this outing, we experienced numerous last minute meeting changes initiated by Hill staff that were, indeed, taxing for Pablo and Anna to manage, stressful for the IAT, and vexing for the constituents. We also had a couple of staffers join our calls late, one was about 25 minutes late.

This is something we need to watch, especially the constituent dimension, and we will need to do some training on this, to frame expectations, and guard against worst case scenarios.

May 2021

UUSJ put out one (1) **Action Alert (AA)**:

1. [Do Not Let The Filibuster Kill S.1](#) in alignment with [Faithful Democracy](#) (FD)

Pablo and **Fred Van Deusen**, updated the tremendously successful, S.1 action alert in response to markup on May 11th by the Senate Rules Committee, and flowing from our [Washington Interfaith Staff Community](#) (WISC) and FD relationships.

It is performing well, so far. As of June 15th, SALSA shows:

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- The DAT action alert has sent 606 messages, by 349 participants, and engaged 135 legislators across both chambers.

This alert was shared with UU the Vote and UU State Action Networks (SANs) through the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (CUUSAN) for potential distribution. In particular, UU the Vote shared this alert via email and UUSJ saw an immediate bump in takers.

Note, also during May, we also completed the second of two weeks of the EAT April advocacy outing on a **Just Transition to Climate-Friendly Agriculture**.

April 2021

UUSJ put out two (2) **Action Alerts (AA)** and one (1) **Write Here Write Now (WHWN)** as part of a “full tilt” advocacy outing to **Support a Just Transition to Climate-Friendly Agriculture**. The WHWN was in collaboration with [UU Ministry For Earth](#) (UUMFE) and [UUs for a Just Economic Community](#) (UUJEC) as accountable partners representing UUs as moral owners.

Action Alerts:

1. [Tell Congress, UUs Support - H.R.51/S.51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act](#), by the UUSJ Democracy Action Team (DAT), in alignment with [Faithful Democracy](#) (FD) and with endorsement by **UU the Vote** and **Side With Love**.
2. [Support The Dream Act - The SECURE Act - Farm Workforce Modernization Act](#), by the UUSJ Immigration Action Team (IAT)

Each continues to perform well. As of June 15th, SALSA shows:

- The DAT action alert has sent 416 messages, by 154 participants and engaged 135 legislators across both chambers.
- The IAT action alert has sent 113 messages, by 67 participants, to 38 legislators.

Both have been shared with UU State Action Networks (SANs) through the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (CUUSAN).

It is with the assistance of **Peter Bishop**, by taking point and primary responsibility on behalf of the DAT for DC Statehood issues, that UUSJ has been able to engage more deeply. Together, Pablo and Peter, authored the action alert in response to queries of interfaith support, flowing from our [WISC](#) and [FD](#) relationships.

Note, in particular, the **Reeb Voting Rights Project** has been sharing this alert via email, asking UUs that live outside DC to take it.

WHWN

In April our “full tilt” advocacy outing was on a Just Transition to Climate-Friendly Agriculture, the [Justice for Black Farmers Act](#) (S.300) and the [Climate Stewardship Act](#) (S.1072). We collaborated with [UUMFE](#) and [UUJEC](#) as part of Earth Month. The outing was a bit complex for non-EAT participants, as we covered two bills, under one concept.

In direct support of this outing, the Environmental Action Team (EAT) held an **expert opinion briefing** with a guest from **Sen. Booker’s office** and another from the **Environmental Defense Fund** ([video](#)). This was a major victory, the first time in recent memory, at least since the pandemic began, that Hill staff gave their time to UUSJ for public education purposes. We had 266 registrations.

As of June 15th, we show:

- The WHWN online platform sent 509 letters, by 280 writers, to 66 legislators.
- The WHWN classic platform sent 16 letters, by 8 writers, to 5 legislators.

We held [11 meetings](#) over two weeks at the request of the EAT. **Our meetings included** many constituents, it was hard to track, we are estimating 25. By memory, among the full group we had, 1 SANs (IA). We also developed a [beta google commitment form](#) to test if this helped organize and orchestrate participation.

The outing was a bit complex for non-EAT participants, as we covered two bills, the [Justice for Black Farmers Act](#) (S.300) and the [Climate Stewardship Act](#) (S.1072), under one concept, a **Just Transition to Climate-Friendly Agriculture**.

Something to flag:

- Staff noticed that emails and posts highlighting S.300, received poorer reception than those highlighting S.1072.

This might be because UU environmental and climate activists did not adequately perceive the intersectional through line to their policy priority area, or perhaps that the black farmer issue had been resolved in previous legislation, but it might be other factors that drove this somewhat negative response. Without the ability to do some version of focus group

follow-up, UUSJ may never adequately discover the cause.

Correspondingly, as UUSJ works through the implications of our survey results, which showed robust support for **racial justice as a priority issue**, we will need to bear this in mind as a factor. At first glance, it implies, at minimum, a need for education within our base. This should include both our action teams, and general database contacts.

Even if the next board elects to adopt a racial justice policy priority, and form a discrete racial justice action team for that priority, the intersectional, theological, and justice making grounding for any related activity may require more education than less.

In addition, during April we:

- Hosted an educational [Immigration Town Hall](#) on April 28th. 166 people registered. While we selected and publicized our date, well in advance, a number of activities of interest to UUs were counter scheduled.

The purpose was to engage moral owners in an accountable relationship. The focus was to discuss strategy for advocacy efforts at the Federal level and in Congress, and seek feedback on the best focus for UUSJ's work in June and medium-term, in coalition with partners both UU and non-UU. This was a major victory for UUSJ, partners did attend volunteering their time, so did more general members of our base.

March 2021

UUSJ put out three (3) **Action Alerts (AA)**:

1. [Tell the Senate to Support S.1 - For the People Act of 2021](#), by the UUSJ Democracy Action Team (DAT), in alignment with [Faithful Democracy](#)
2. [Urge Congress to Reform Our Immigration System and Support the US Citizenship Act of 2021](#), by the UUSJ Immigration Action Team (IAT)
3. [Tell Congress and the Administration to Finance the U.S. Fair Share of the Green Climate Fund in 2021](#), by the UUSJ Environmental Action Team (EAT) in conjunction and collaboration with [UU Ministry For Earth](#) (UUMFE).

Each performed well, and have been retired from use. As of June 15th, SALSA shows:

- The DAT AA (S.1) sent **1,110** messages, by **643** participants, to **141** legislators.
- The IAT AA (Citizenship Act) sent 563 messages, by 197 participants, to 119 legislators. (We have

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- The EAT AA (Green Fund) sent 819 messages, by 184 participants, to 163 legislators.

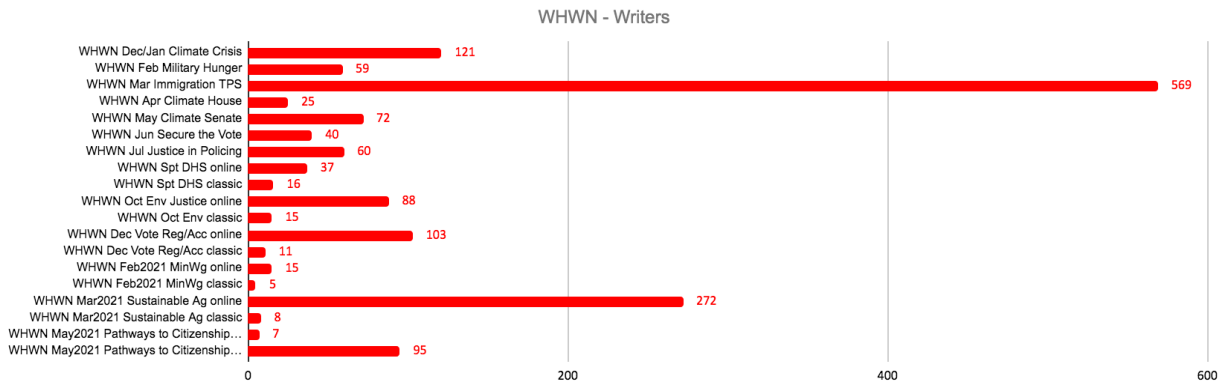
All have been shared with UU State Action Networks (SANs) through the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (CUUSAN).

In addition we:

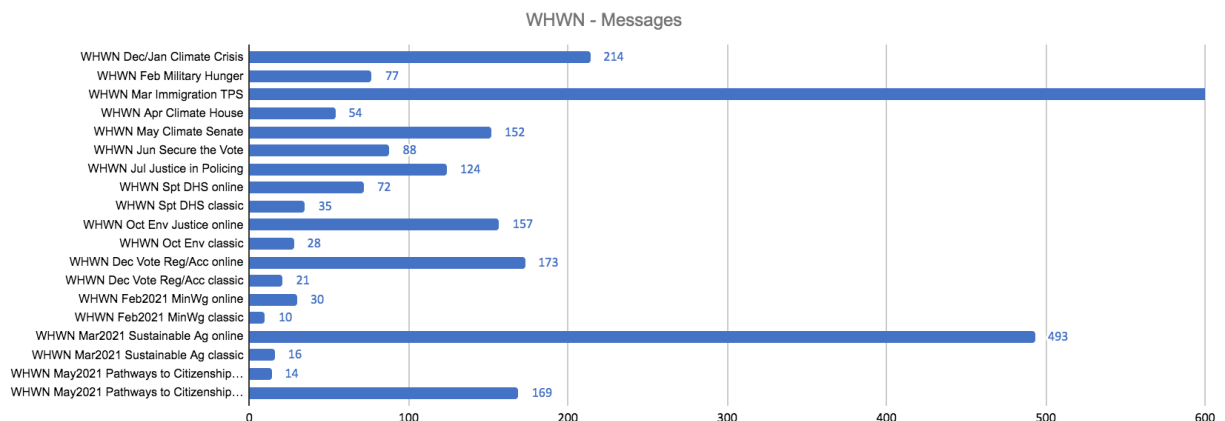
- Hosted an educational briefing on the topic of “[Immigration Policy - Past, Present & Future](#)” on March 24. We had 172 registrations.

(To see the graphs more clearly click [HERE](#))

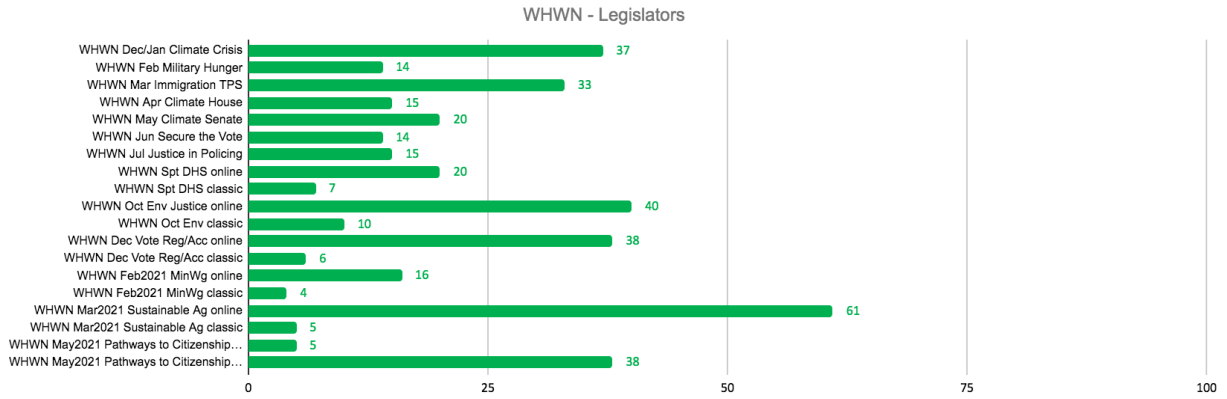
- Write Here! Write Now! -



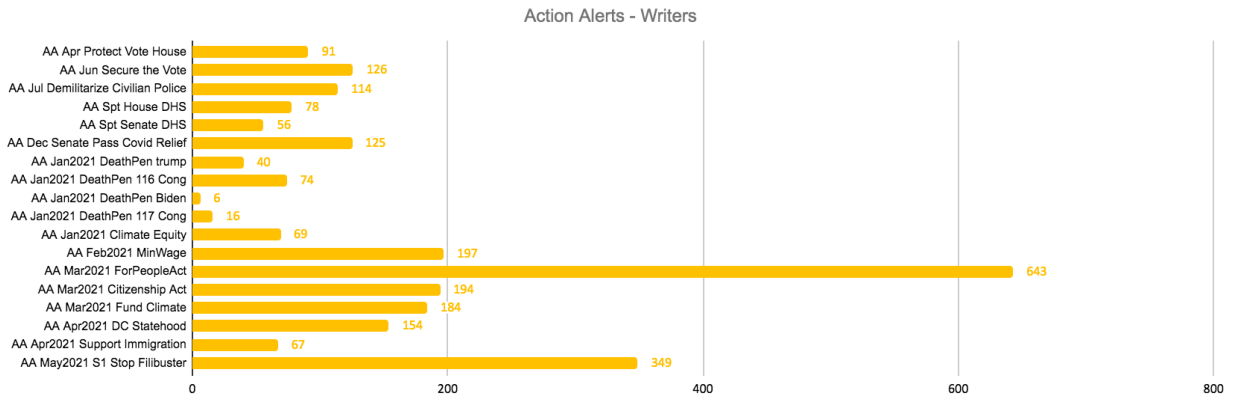
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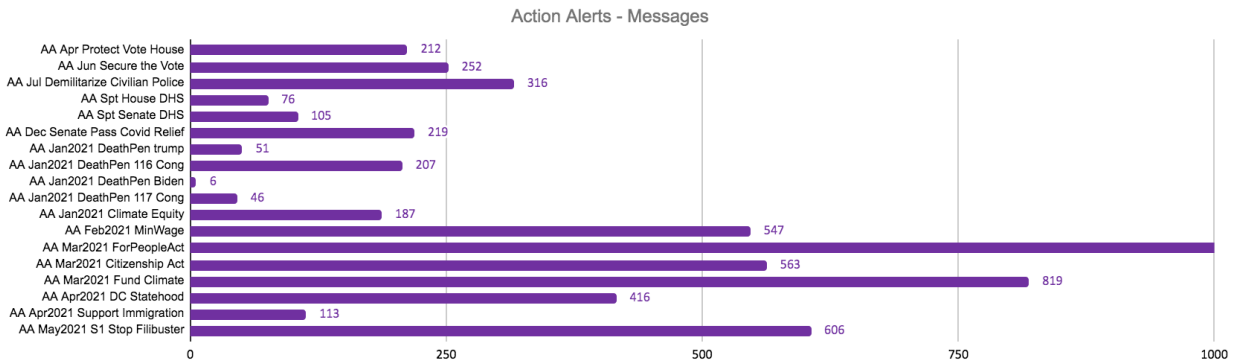
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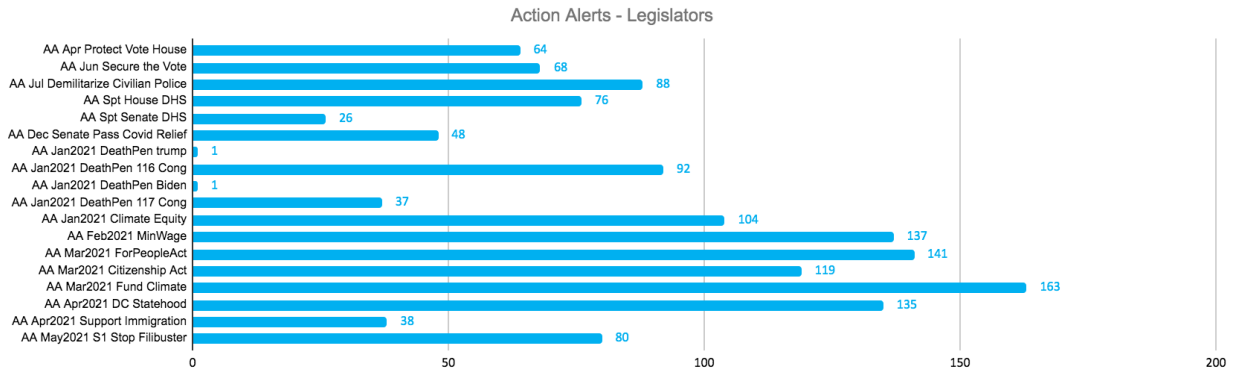
- Action Alerts -



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2020/21			
Topic / Activity	Messages	Writers	Legislators
WHWN Dec/Jan Climate Crisis	214	121	37
WHWN Feb Military Hunger	77	59	14
WHWN Mar Immigration TPS	1059	569	33
WHWN Apr Climate House	54	25	15
WHWN May Climate Senate	152	72	20
WHWN Jun Secure the Vote	88	40	14
WHWN Jul Justice in Policing	124	60	15
WHWN Spt DHS online	72	37	20
WHWN Spt DHS classic	35	16	7
WHWN Oct Env Justice online	157	88	40
WHWN Oct Env classic	28	15	10
WHWN Dec Vote Reg/Acc online	173	103	38
WHWN Dec Vote Reg/Acc classic	21	11	6
WHWN Feb2021 MinWg online	30	15	16
WHWN Feb2021 MinWg classic	10	5	4
WHWN Mar2021 Sustainable Ag online	493	272	61
WHWN Mar2021 Sustainable Ag classic	16	8	5
WHWN May2021 Pathways to Citizenship classic	14	7	5
WHWN May2021 Pathways to Citizenship online	169	95	38
WHWN Totals:	2986	1618	398
AA Apr Protect Vote House	212	91	64
AA Jun Secure the Vote	252	126	68
AA Jul Demilitarize Civilian Police	316	114	88
AA Spt House DHS	76	78	76

AA Spt Senate DHS	105	56	26
AA Dec Senate Pass Covid Relief	219	125	48
AA Jan2021 DeathPen trump	51	40	1
AA Jan2021 DeathPen 116 Cong	207	74	92
AA Jan2021 DeathPen Biden	6	6	1
AA Jan2021 DeathPen 117 Cong	46	16	37
AA Jan2021 Climate Equity	187	69	104
AA Feb2021 MinWage	547	197	137
AA Mar2021 ForPeopleAct	1100	643	141
AA Mar2021 Citizenship Act	563	194	119
AA Mar2021 Fund Climate	819	184	163
AA Apr2021 DC Statehood	416	154	135
AA Apr2021 Support Immigration	113	67	38
AA May2021 S1 Stop Filibuster	606	349	80
AA Totals:	5841	2583	1418
Grand Totals:	8827	4201	1816