

UUSJ WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION POLICY

A. Application. This Whistleblower Protection Policy applies to all of the Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) staff, whether full-time, part-time, or temporary employees, to all volunteers, to all who provide contract services, and to all officers and directors, each of whom shall be entitled to protection.

B. Reporting Credible Information. A protected person shall be encouraged to report information relating to illegal practices or violations of policies of UUSJ (a “Violation”) that such person in good faith has reasonable cause to believe is credible. Information shall be reported to the Chair of the Board of Trustees (the “Compliance Officer”), unless the report relates to the Compliance Officer, in which case the report shall be made to the Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees who shall be responsible to provide an alternative procedure.

Anyone reporting a Violation must act in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing that the information shared in the report indicates that a Violation has occurred.

C. Investigating Information. The Compliance Officer shall promptly investigate each such report and prepare a written report to the full Board of Directors. In connection with such investigation all persons entitled to protection shall provide the Compliance Officer with credible information. All actions of the Compliance Officer in receiving and investigating the report and additional information shall endeavor to protect the confidentiality of all persons entitled to protection.

D. Confidentiality

UUSJ encourages anyone reporting a Violation to identify himself, herself or themselves when making a report in order to facilitate the investigation of the Violation. However, reports may be submitted anonymously in writing by mailing the report to Washington Ethical Society, Attn: UUSJ, 7750 16th St NW, Washington DC, 20012. Reports of Violations or suspected Violations will be kept confidential to the extent possible, with the understanding that confidentiality may not be maintained where identification is required by law or in order to enable UUSJ or law enforcement to conduct an adequate investigation.

E. Protection from Retaliation. No person entitled to protection shall be subjected to retaliation, intimidation, harassment, or other adverse action for reporting information in accordance with this Policy. Any person entitled to protection who believes that he or she is the subject of any form of retaliation for such participation should immediately report the same as a violation of and in accordance with this Policy.

Any individual within UUSJ who retaliates against another individual who has reported a Violation in good faith or who, in good faith, has cooperated in the investigation

of a Violation is subject to discipline, including termination of employment or volunteer status.

F. Dissemination and Implementation of Policy. This Policy shall be disseminated in writing to all affected constituencies. UUSJ shall adopt procedures for implementation of this Policy, which include:

- (1) documenting reported Violations;
- (2) deciding whether the reported Violation requires review by the Compliance Officer or should be directed to another person or department;
- (3) keeping the Board of Trustees informed of the progress of the investigation;
- (4) interviewing employees;
- (5) requesting and reviewing relevant documents; and
- (6) preparing a written record of the reported violation and its disposition, to be retained for a specified period of time.

The procedures for implementation of this Policy shall include a process for communicating with a complainant about the status of the complaint, to the extent that the complainant's identity is disclosed, and to the extent consistent with any privacy or confidentiality limitations.

Adapted from Elizabeth Bluestein, Public Counsel Law Center