



# Human Rights on the Border

## Info sheet

**When:** March 17-20, 2011

**Vision:** a service/learning/reflection journey for Unitarian Universalists to engage in the issue of human rights at the Arizona border. There will be ample time for worship, theological reflection, and fellowship while we travel the borderlands of Arizona.

**How much:** \$280.00

**Maximum number of participants:** 36

**Registration deadline:** January 31. Participants are not considered registered until we receive their payment in the PSWD Office. If you are under 18 years old and not traveling with a parent, we must receive your parental consent form (find on the PSWD website) with your payment. You are not considered registered until we receive both of these.

**Age range:** 16 years on up to our elders

**Program:** Thursday evening we begin at the UU Church of Tucson. The Friday and Saturday portions of our program are provided by Borderlinks ([www.borderlinks.org](http://www.borderlinks.org)), a non-profit educational group that has provided education, action, and awareness experiences since 1988.

**Transportation:** transportation to Tucson to be provided by participants. Borderlinks provides transportation on Friday and Saturday.

**Housing:** Accommodations provided by Borderlinks Friday and Saturday night, in dorm-style rooms that sleep four people/room. Thursday night UU Church of Tucson will provide home hospitality for those who request it by the registration deadline. There may be space on the church floor for those who want to throw out a sleeping bag. We are making arrangements with a nearby hotel for a special group rate.

**Passport:** Every participant will need a valid passport or passport card! Check NOW to make sure your passport has not expired.

**Food:** Meals begin with Thursday evening dinner at UU Church of Tucson and all meals are provided through Sunday lunch. Every effort will be made to honor vegan and gluten-free diets. Be aware that some of our meals Friday and Saturday may be hosted by families in Mexico and meal requests may be harder to honor. Please come prepared with supplemental snacks if you feel that is needed.

**Translation:** Borderlinks is providing translators for the Friday and Saturday portion of our trip.

**Pre-packet and preparation:** Participants will receive a pre-packet with information on how to prepare and what to pack, several weeks before the trip. There will also be pre-trip reading and centering questions.

**Sample itinerary** (actual itinerary will vary from what is listed, but this will give you a taste):

#### Thursday

- 5:00 Gather at UU Church of Tucson. Check-in with registrar. Receive home hospitality information. Enjoy refreshments.
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:30 Opening worship
- 7:00 Grounding ourselves in our community & preparing for our experience (ice breakers, logistics, staff intros, small group work)
- 9:00 Head out to home hospitality – get a good nights sleep!

#### Friday

- 7:30 Light breakfast at church
- 8:15 Head to Borderlinks HQ – use your own transportation, carpool over
- 8:30 Orientation at Borderlinks office
- 9:00–10:00 Talk with Kat Rodriguez from Coalicion de Derechos Humanos (human rights)
- 10:15–11:30 Travel to Nogales, Sonora
- 11:45 Lunch with families in Flores Magon and La Torres colonias  
*Flores Nagon and Las Torres began as squatting communities. Due to their close proximity to the maquila industrial parks of Nogales, these neighborhoods have seen rapid population increases. Though the neighborhoods are still poor and lack adequate infrastructure, community organizers have been working hard over the years to bring basic services (water, electricity, and plumbing, for example) to the area.*
- 1:15 Small group reflection
- 2:30 Part 1 of Market Basket Survey at La Soriana grocery store  
*The market basket survey is a participatory activity that demonstrates the cost of living in Nogales, Sonora, and other border cities in comparison with the United States, taking into account the prices of goods and workers' buying power.*
- 3:15 Talk with Polita Acuna at the industrial park  
*As a former maquiladora worker, Polita Acuna is aware of many of the conditions in the US-owned factories along the border.*

- 4:30 Part 2 of Market Basket Survey and prioritizing exercise at the Casa de la Misericordia (House of Mercy, Borderlinks' community center in Nogales, Sonora)
- 5:20 Dinner and conversation with Esther Torres  
*Esther Torres has run a lunch program for underserved children in her neighborhood for 30 years.*
- 6:30 Head to Borderlinks dormitories
- 7:30 Small group reflection
- 8:30 Evening worship

### Saturday

- 7:30 Breakfast
- 8:15 Centering
- 8:30 Meet with border artist, Alberto Morackis and view his work
- 9:30 Grupos Beta
- 11:00 Activity
- 12:30 Lunch in the park
- 1:30 Small group reflection
- 2:30 Hands-on activity
- 5:30 Dinner
- 6:30 Drive back to Tucson
- 8:00 Evening reflection and closing worship

### Sunday

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Head back to church
- 9:30 Those participating in worship, prepare for worship service
- 10:00 Worship service
- 11:00 Socialize and enjoy lunch
- 12:30 Chat with Mike Wilson, active member of Humane Borders
- 1:15 Closing activities and closing worship
- 3:00 End. Head to airport or drive away.