



PRESENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

The Lutheran Office for World Community (LOWC) represents both the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) at the UN headquarters in New York. Advocacy through LOWC reflects the work of these bodies depending on whether the context is domestic or international. Furthermore, the LWF advocates with the UN and related entities at various other locations but most prominently in Geneva, Switzerland. The LWF's advocacy elsewhere is not necessarily covered in these priorities, but LOWC aims to maintain congruence with those efforts through regular consultation.

More at

<https://ELCA.org/LOWC>
and on Facebook

2021 UNITED NATIONS POLICY PRIORITIES

- **Gender Justice** – Accelerate the pace towards gender justice, tackle the pervasive gender inequalities and discrimination. Advocate with ecumenical and interfaith partners by urging member states to implement fully the Beijing Platform for Action and other relevant international agreements. Amplify faith perspectives in UN processes, as well as build more coordinated faith interventions for gender justice at the national level.
- **Migration** - Utilizing a rights-based approach, continue advocating for the promotion and protection of all migrants and their human rights, in accordance with international human rights treaties and instruments. Monitor UN member states implementation, follow up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.
- **Humanitarian issues** – Advocate for policies that promote and protect humanitarian response efforts by companion churches and organizations, such as the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), through discussions and written messages, when appropriate. Special attention will be given, in conversations with the Security Council member states, to “forgotten crises”. Contact will be maintained with ELCA and LWF staff as well as the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and its associated agencies. Advocacy collaboration will take place with ecumenical, inter-faith and other like-minded partners.
- **Sustainable Development** – Monitor efforts by all relevant UN agencies (including the annual High-Level Political Forum) to achieve Agenda 21 (the Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs) and keep ELCA and LWF colleagues informed about meetings and other advocacy opportunities.
- **Human Rights** – Advocate for the promotion and protection of human rights in country specific situations as well as with treaty bodies in coordination with LWF staff. Monitor and participate as feasible in the work of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.
- **HIV/AIDS** - Continue engaging with faith leaders and communities within the Interfaith platform working towards joint actions for access to prevention, testing and treatment services. Advocate and urge member states to address challenges hindering comprehensive responses to HIV in order to achieve the agenda 2030 HIV-related targets.
- **Racial Justice** – Continue to advocate for racial justice in UN forums. A planned contribution will be in response to the recent Human Rights Council resolution on policing and racism. Continue to lift up the activities of the UN Working Group on People of African Descent, including the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade (March 25) and the first International Day for People of African Descent (August 31).

GROUNDING - [ELCA social teaching resources](#) include the social statement *For Peace in God's World* and social message “Human Rights.” LWF Assemblies statements and resolutions and LWF Council resolutions provide the basis for advocacy activities undertaken in the name of the LWF.