SPIRITUALLY GROUNDED
ACTION FOR JUSTICE:

U.S. GRAIL
CORE SOCIAL POLICIES

THE GRAIL
Women For Equality and Justice
On a Sustainable Planet

www.grail-us.org

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SPIRITUALLY GROUNDED ACTION FOR JUSTICE:
US GRAIL CORE SOCIAL POLICIES

The Grail in the U.S. mobilizes women to work for just transformation in the US and the world. Called by our spiritual values, the Grail envisions a world of peace, justice and renewal of the earth, brought about by women working together as catalysts for change.

In this booklet you will find the core social policies of the US Grail, adopted by the Grail in the USA from 2019-2020. They are not final statements, nor do they cover all of our concerns. They represent our best thinking about the crises facing our planet and the particular impact on diverse women and girls at a particular moment. They offer policy recommendations for collective action as US Grail to fulfill our Mission. We hope this will also lead to alliances with other organizations locally and nationally.

This resource serves both to introduce people to the US Grail and our vision of social justice, as well as a tool for Grail members in the United States to have easy access to our public policy positions. These are a guide to inspire action for justice.

What is the Grail?¹

The Grail is a women’s community, organization and movement of about a thousand women from 20 countries, many different cultures and very different backgrounds and work situations. Although the Grail is grounded in Christian faith, we welcome women of diverse spiritual paths.

We are drawn together by a common vision. In spite of our great diversity we share a common longing to find meaningful ways of contributing to the transformation of our world into a place of justice, peace, and sustaining (restoring) our Earth. We seek to understand ever more deeply the mysteries of life, the longings of the human heart, the causes of suffering, and to learn what we can do to make this earth a happy home for all people and all creatures.

The Grail movement was started in 1921 in Holland within the Catholic tradition. By 1939 the movement involved thousands of young women in Holland, England and Germany. This movement was crushed by Hitler and forced to go underground. It re-emerged after World War II when the focus changed to reaching out in support to young women in other parts of the world.

Our work as the Grail in the United States varies from region to region. Recently, we gather in face to face and virtual groups for spiritual nurture and action. Some of these groups include prayer and meditation circles, women’s ritual, the arts, the Politics & Spirituality Group, the Climate Justice Group, Anti-racism organizing, immigration rights work, a Girl’s group and other spaces and issues as they emerge. The Grail in the Bronx, New York, has spearheaded and hosted international Grail girls and young women to attend the annual U.N. Commission on the Status of Women.

¹ Adapted from The Grail Entering the 21st Century, produced in 1999 by the International Grail.
How can I join?

Women interested in the Grail generally have conversations with members they have met. They are invited to participate in gatherings and Grail work. As their interest grows and they wish to become a member of the movement, they can embark on an explorer process to become a member. Members make life-long commitments to the movement while also engaged in jobs, family and other organizations. For more information, contact info@grail-us.org.

US Grail Vision and Mission

As the Grail in the USA, our vision, mission, and resolution statements guide our public policy stands and actions.

Vision: Called by our spiritual values, The Grail envisions a world of peace, justice and renewal of the earth, brought about by women working together as catalysts for change.

Mission Goals: The Grail in the US empowers women to work for world transformation by: building bridges among diverse faith traditions and spiritual paths, advancing peace, justice and a world free from military dominance, fostering international exchange and solidarity, challenging economic systems that put at risk the most vulnerable, especially women and children, creating communities for a sustainable future, celebrating the arts as a means for personal and societal transformation.

1 Adapted from The Grail Entering the 21st Century, produced in 1999 by the International Grail.
US Grail Core
Social Policies
Anti-Racism and Racial Justice
Anti-Racism and Racial Justice (2020)

Whereas,

Grail participants in the 2017 General Assembly adopted the following resolution: *The US Grail commits its collective power to becoming Anti-Racist internally and externally, viewing ALL our activities through an Anti-Racist lens.*

From the genocide of native peoples and the enslavement of African peoples to contemporary policies that disproportionately exclude people of color from jobs, health care, adequate housing and quality education, racism has persisted in every aspect of US public life.

Racism in the United States is best understood as a system of white supremacy that is maintained by social and political institutions. Therefore, becoming an anti-racist organization requires that the US Grail and its members understand and act on the complex dynamics of power, policies and practices that shape US institutions, including our own organization.

To this end, we seek to address:

- Racism in the criminal justice system, such as policing and mass incarceration.
- Racism in the economic system which directly contributes to an ongoing racial wealth and income gap in the US.
- Racist immigration policies and practices which demonize and criminalize immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers and encourage anti-immigrant rhetoric, practices and policies.
- Environmental racism such as toxics, pesticides, poisoning of drinking water and dumping industrial waste in communities of color.
- Racism in electoral policies such as voter suppression and intimidation.
- Racism in religion and in religious institutions. We recognize our particular responsibility to address racism within our own faith tradition(s).
- Racism seen in structures, power dynamics and priorities of the US Grail.
Therefore,

We call on US Grail members to take action by:

- Making a personal commitment to examine and dismantle our own biased behavior, color prejudice and racist beliefs and practices. Challenge our biases about people who are different, speak differently and whose beliefs conflict with our own.

- Denouncing white supremacy rhetoric and actions on the local, state and national levels and working to dismantle systems of white supremacy.

- Collectively speaking out as Grail against racist police violence, policies of mass incarceration and economic and environmental violence against communities of color.

- Consistently committing to recognize, expose and dismantle systemic racism in the Grail and in our society.

- Endorsing and actively engaging in social movements for racial and economic justice.

- Naming the intersections of gender, race, class and other oppressions in US and global society and addressing these in the context of specific policies. Recognizing in particular the ways that race intersects with class.

- Responding to the differential racial and geographic impact of energy production, natural resource extractive industries, industrial waste and climate change.

- Listening to directly impacted communities and affirming their leadership in social movements, our communities, workplaces and institutions.

- Making changes within the US Grail to reflect the above commitments towards racial justice and transformation of the world.
Climate Justice
Climate Justice (2020)

Whereas,

The US Grail envisions a world of peace, justice and renewal of the earth, brought about by women working together as catalysts for change,

The International Grail has designated Climate Justice to be a central focus for Grail women and has promoted the study of Pope Francis's Laudato Si’ as a guide for climate action.

Whereas,

- The world is experiencing severe climate disruption (storms, flooding, rising sea level, drought, fires) brought about by rising levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere, with consequential famine, dislocation of populations, and even violent conflict, impacting the entire planet, but imposing greater harm on low-income communities, Indigenous communities and communities of color – all of whom are least responsible for causing the crisis.

- The production of fossil fuels, militarism and our current economic growth model disproportionately impact communities of color through environmental racism, including poisoning of air and water, chronic illness and displacement. Though Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities use less energy, they are more likely to be exposed to pollution generated by energy production and they are most impacted by climate change due to structures of institutional racism that make them more vulnerable.²

- Climate scientists have warned that as of 2020 we had less than a decade to significantly reduce the use of fossil fuels to avoid the most devastating impacts of climate change.

Therefore,

The US Grail recognizes a moral obligation to act now to address climate disruption and protect vulnerable communities, and will:

- Strive to share a communal spirituality that respects and celebrates the interdependent web of all creation of which we are part.

- Reassess our understanding of our economy and “progress.” Explore new economies - local, sharing, collaborative-- as opposed to unrestrained competition and growth. Share our projects and best practices with other communities where US Grail women live and work.

- Model ecologically responsible lifestyles of simplicity. Support and practice energy and water conservation and the development and use of non-harmful renewable sources of energy.

- Advocate for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, including elimination of the use of fossil fuels.

- Advocate for Just Energy, where the energy we use does not contribute to climate change, harm others or the environment; where energy is available to all; where the energy sector is decentralized with greater public ownership for the common good, not driven by profits.\(^3\)

- Stand with and support the most impacted communities as they challenge economic and social institutions that cause or contribute to pollution of their air, land, and water.

- Continue to build Grail community, while engaging with diverse communities (human and natural) to strengthen the entire human and planetary community for resilience in the face of climate change.

- Use Grail resources to help educate and empower women to risk radical action as part of our global life community.

- Make changes within the US Grail to reflect the above commitments towards climate justice and transformation of the world.

\(^3\) Ibid.
Economic Justice
Economic Justice (2020)

Whereas:

- The International Vision Statement of the Grail calls us to build a world of peace, justice and renewal of the earth.
- The US Grail mission statement calls us to advance peace, justice, and a world free of military dominance and to challenge the economic systems that put at risk the most vulnerable, especially women and children.
- There are few Biblical themes as prominent or as numerous as the scriptural injunctions to stand in solidarity with the poor and to “love your neighbor as yourself.”

Whereas

In our current reality, we see:

- A growing gap between the rich and the poor and the concentration of wealth in an ever-smaller percentage of the global population.
- The demise of union power and a race to the bottom as companies pit workers against each other.
- An expanding population of low-wage workers, often without access to health insurance, a living wage, pensions, paid sick leave or work environments that protect their health and safety. The majority of low-wage workers are women and people of color, and many of these jobs are essential to the well-being of all of us and our communities.
- Global corporations that have undermined wage and labor standards, weakened environmental protections and have created economies of exclusion and inequality that put profits and property before people.
- Cuts to basic safety net programs that provided housing, nutrition, and healthcare to millions of people. Poverty and food insecurity are major concerns in the US and globally, made more intense by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Tax policies that favor the wealthiest individuals and corporations.
- A capitalist international economic system run by elites for their own benefit. Their financial and political power has come by taking the wealth created by working people and the poor and by exploiting the resources of countries all over the world.
- The increasing migration of peoples caused by political, economic and environmental crises.
- Lack of adequate health care coverage, which is a leading cause of bankruptcy in the US. Efforts towards universal public health care have been on the national agenda for decades yet are undermined by corporate interests in health care and insurance industries.
- The interconnectedness of these crises and the recognition that the impacts are racial, economic, generational, and global.
Therefore,

As Grail members we commit to participate in peaceful and nonviolent ACTIONS which:

- Demand a guaranteed living wage.
- Protect the rights of workers to join unions and strike.
- Call for adequate health care, education, housing and safe workplaces for all, especially the most marginalized.
- Challenge government at all levels to create a “faithful” budget that promotes a compassionate and comprehensive vision and maintains a strong safety net while creating jobs, revitalizing communities and ensuring a living wage.
- Revise tax laws so that wealthy individuals and corporations pay their fair share. Reinstitute estate taxes on inherited wealth. Tax financial transactions. Go after offshore tax havens that rob our communities of needed tax resources.
- Demand that corporations be responsible for the quality of life of their workforce. Work with communities to hold corporations accountable for the human and environmental damage they cause.
- Promote just, equitable and sustainable economies throughout the world
- Challenge the capitalist system that benefits the few and condemns the many to poverty. Instead, put people before profits and property and put the good of the entire global community ahead of the interests of elites.
- Envision an economic democracy of, by and for the people rather than for the benefit of the few which condemns the many to poverty.
- Work for food sovereignty globally and food security for women, children and their families.
- Advocate for universal public healthcare through a single-payer system which guarantees health care as a human right for all.
- Support the rights of migrants, including those displaced due to climate change, and address the challenges they face.
- Advocate for a global green new deal.
- Shift expenditures from military spending (half of the federal budget in 2020) to economic needs of the majority. Stop sending military equipment to local law enforcement, shifting resources to community needs.
- Make changes within the US Grail to reflect the above commitments towards economic justice and transformation of the world.
Intersectional Gender Justice (2020)

Whereas,

- The US Grail is a women’s organization which involves “women working together as catalysts for change” (Vision) with a particular concern for women and children (Mission Goals).
- The US Grail has been a leader for women’s and girl’s rights and has worked to dismantle sexism within faith and secular movements, working through such programs as Women Breaking Boundaries, Women of the Americas, and advocacy for women and girls at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.
- Women are the weavers of the social fabric of communities and have been the sustainers of most faith-based and other organizations historically. Gro Brundtland, former Prime Minister of Norway appointed more than half of her cabinet to women. When asked did this change anything, she said “absolutely, it changed the agenda to respond to the needs of all people.”

Whereas,

- Women live at the intersection of multiple identities that bestow greater or lesser power. These include, but are not limited to, race, ethnicity, religion, class, age, marital status, relational and sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, migration status and national origin. An intersectional feminist approach recognizes that there is not a generic “woman,” but that each woman’s lived experience depends on intersecting oppressions which must be addressed. The US Grail itself reflects these multiple identities in our membership and understands that these identities impact members in differential ways.
- In our patriarchal society, specific roles are assigned to men and women, shaping their circumstances. Gender is a social construct and we have learned that it is a continuum rather than a binary. Sex is a biological trait. We also understand race to be a social construct. When male and female roles are gendered in a male-dominant society, this impacts females’ (including lesbian and trans women’s) power to negotiate on their own terms and claim rights. Gender intersects with other identities and forms of oppression representing historic patterns of inequality and disadvantages for some and privilege for others. Intersectional gender justice entails equitable sharing of resources and power across gender identities, recognizing different starting places for different individuals and groups due to these historic systems of oppression and privilege. Thus, intersectional identities must be addressed together in all processes towards social justice.
- Our understanding of “women and girls” in the points below encompasses women in all their diversity, many of whom experience multiple oppressions and barriers beyond the narrow patriarchal understanding of “gender.” This changes our understanding of the task before us.
Whereas,

- The marginalization of many women and girls from decision-making spaces leads to their lack of access to the resources, opportunities, autonomy, movement and legal rights that are the path to economic, political and social power. Some women and girls are beneficiaries of resources, power and privilege denied to others.

- Many women provide the care-giving/social reproduction role within a society, carrying the burden of unpaid labor within the household. Austerity programs and cuts to social services add to women’s unpaid work burden.

- In the paid economy women are too often relegated to low-wage care jobs where their work is underpaid and undervalued.

- As of 2018, over 61% of the world’s population worked in the precarious informal sector with no protection for rights. About 40% of those informal workers are women. Poverty and precarious work may also lead to human trafficking.

- Women of diverse identities are frequently denied access to essential health care, including reproductive health care, limiting their life choices.

- About 22% of LGBTQI people in the US lived in poverty in 2019, compared to an estimated 16% poverty rate among their straight counterparts. The rising number of violent deaths of transgender people in the US, most of them Black Trans women, is an alarming reality.

- Gender-based violence is an appalling reality in all countries and at all levels, including as a weapon in conflict situations.

- Because of women’s roles in society they are differentially impacted by climate change, climate-related weather and environmental racism. This includes the impact of toxins on women’s health; loss of livelihoods; displacement due to drought, flooding, mud slides, desertification and extraction industries; and more.

- Women in their diversity are made vulnerable by oppressive structures and policies and cultural norms/attitudes. At the same time, they are agents of change and powerful advocates for rights. While not inherent, women’s role in social reproduction may bring insights and perspectives for the common good.

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6 LGBTQI: Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Trans-gender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex

Therefore,

The US Grail commits to work together with other organizations and movements to:

- Affirm and advocate for women’s human rights, including political, economic, social and cultural human rights, recognizing the disproportionate impacts on some women due to intersecting oppressions which may require designing new systems to redress the past.

- Advance the social, economic, cultural and political human rights and opportunities for girls and affirm their leadership as change agents.

- Address intersections of race, ethnicity, class, disability, relational and sexual orientation, gender identity and other factors in all aspects of women’s lives, challenging multiple oppressions.

- Support women’s demand for equal voice and leadership in all decision-making spaces from the home to the workplace to government.

- Celebrate and affirm the leadership of those most marginalized nationally and globally, including low-waged women workers, Black women, Indigenous women, Latinx women, Asian-American women, Muslim women, Migrant women, LBTQI women, and women impacted by environmental racism.

- Recognize and make visible the realities of LGBTQI people and advocate for their full inclusion and their human rights. Recognize and affirm their leadership in multiple US social movements.

- Work towards economic justice for women in their diversity, including equal access to education, decent work, health and safety in the workplace, social protection, quality public services, the right to organize unions and collective bargain and the ability to get jobs and to advance in all labor sectors.

- End all forms of Gender-based Violence from home to workplace to the streets to situations of conflict. Work towards ratification and implementation of the UN Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and ILO Convention 190 on Gender-based Violence in the World of Work.

- Work towards zero carbon emissions and join with communities of color to challenge environmental racism, particularly as it impacts women and girls. Recognize and affirm the wisdom and leadership of Indigenous women on climate change solutions.

- Realize, respect and protect women’s right to affordable healthcare through quality public health systems with full access to all health services, including reproductive health care.

- Affirm and advance the UN Beijing Platform for Action and the Beijing+5 Declaration, Agenda 2030 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ILO Convention 189 on the rights of domestic workers, and other core Human Rights instruments.

- Make changes within the US Grail to reflect the above commitments towards intersectional gender justice and transformation of the world.
Migration

Photo by Robert Silz
Migration, 2019

Whereas,

✦ We stand on the side of justice and dignity for all migrants, including asylum-seekers.

✦ We call on the US government to adopt humane US migration policies that promote, protect and fulfill international human rights, including human rights at international borders; women’s human rights and the rights of the child. The US must extend dignified and humane treatment to migrants, including asylum-seekers.

✦ We call for an end to family separation, detention and deportations. We condemn the detention of children, which must end immediately. While we particularly challenge the role of private prisons in detaining migrants for profit, the government must seek alternatives to ALL forms of migrant detention.

✦ We denounce the criminalization of migrants due to their migration status. Recognizing the global realities of economics, politics, discrimination and war that force people to leave their homes and the pull of employers and governments seeking migrant labor while denying their rights, we affirm the right to migrate as well as the right to remain at home.

✦ We denounce the “externalization of borders” such as that occurring between the US and Mexico, where the US pressures Mexico to prevent migrants, including asylum-seekers, from reaching the US. Offering asylum seekers consideration of their claims is an obligation under the Refugee Convention. We challenge US efforts to deny asylum on multiple arbitrary grounds.

✦ We recognize that there are many reasons that migrants leave their home. Some of these fall under the Refugee Convention and some, including economic conditions, climate change and gang violence, do not. Yet all are equally deserving of welcome and legal protections in countries of destination. We reject a false narrative of “deserving asylum-seekers and refugees” and “undeserving migrants,” and work to challenge this.

✦ We recognize that US economic, political, trade, and climate policy in Central America and throughout the world has played a major role in creating the conditions for large movements of migrants today. As such, the US has a responsibility not only to receive migrants and refugees, but also to end military support and militarization while investing in just, equitable and sustainable development.

✦ We call for a process to regularize the status of the estimated 11 million undocumented migrants in the US as well as an expansion of legal pathways for migration to the US. All migrants, regardless of status, must have access to public services as healthcare, education and housing as well as access to the justice system.

✦ We call on the US to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (it is the only state not to do so). In addition, we urge the US to sign the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees. Whether or not the US joins the global community in these commitments, it still has an obligation to respect the human rights of children, including migrant children and their families, in all situations.
Therefore:

We call on US Grail members to:

✦ Listen to migrant voices and support their leadership in discerning effective ways to take action for migrant justice.

✦ Explore ways to provide direct solidarity and support for migrant communities across the US and globally, through providing direct financial and material support, legal aid, know-your-rights support, sanctuary, and more.

✦ Speak out, issue statements, support statements, advocate with elected officials and mobilize to change the deeply disturbing US immigration policies that violate migrant human rights.

✦ Challenge US policies that create conditions of forced migration. Support US policy that affirms democratic, just and sustainable development in Central America, Mexico and throughout the world. This includes support for democratic institutions, protection of human rights and environment defenders, and investment in healthcare, education and jobs that pay a living wage.

✦ Work with International Grail members, including the Grail Migration Network, to explore and challenge the global impact of US migration policy as well as the global realities of xenophobia, detention, deportation, racism and criminalization of migrants.

Statements, sign-ons and actions can be taken by local, regional or national Grail groups without further vote if they are within the parameters of this policy statement.
Peacemaking

Photo by Guillermo Prado
Whereas,

The US Grail vision and mission statements affirm that the Grail in the US is “dedicated to peace, justice and the renewal of the earth”, and that we work for “a world free from military dominance, fostering international exchange and solidarity…”

The US Grail

❖ has taken policy positions challenging the US role in economic and military intervention (Berta Cáceres 2016, Taking a Stand). We recognize that “US economic, political, trade and climate policy” also “creates conditions of forced migration.”

❖ has affirmed the right to “peaceful resistance to hate and exclusion,” recognizing that “racism and antisemitism fuel violence,” (Charlottesville, VA – August 2017, Taking a Stand).

❖ has affirmed the essential role of human rights and the need to protect human rights and environmental rights defenders from state and extra-state violence (Berta Cáceres, 2016 and Migration, 2019).

Whereas,

❖ Peace is not only an absence of war, but the presence of an equitable society which challenges patriarchy, militarism, racism and xenophobia, and enables the equitable and sustainable distribution of resources within and between nations.

❖ Militarism and arms sales not only harm communities around the world, but rob US communities of needed resources for schools, infrastructure, health care, recreation and more. The US Federal Budget 2021 allocated 47% ($1,644 billion) to current and past military expenses.8

❖ The doctrine of “national security” focuses on national interests of elites at the expense of the majority and undermines solidarity and cooperation. It has led to the construction of physical or legal walls and the justification for war and intervention. Such policies rely on and foster “attitudes and relationships characterized by greed, fear, domination and the objectification of ‘others’ through racism, sexism, imperialism and the desire to control the physical environment.” (Teresa Wilson, Grail Entering the 21st Century, 2000).

❖ State militarism and intervention serves the needs of national capital by guaranteeing raw materials, labor and markets. Military spending also feeds the profits of a military industrial complex. This military industrial complex is self-perpetuating, creating the demand for unnecessary wars. We are witnessing the destruction of countries and their ancient civilizations and genocide of populations, as seen in the war in Yemen, perpetrated with US arms sold to Saudi Arabia, and the war in Iraq.
The US projects its power globally, with close to 800 military bases in 70 countries and regional and bi-lateral military alliances. This military power is used to maintain relations of domination through explicit and implicit violence. US bases transform localities, harm the environment, and open the way to the sexual abuse of local women and women soldiers. In 2020, the US had over one million deployed and reserve personnel in the Armed Forces. US economic sanctions on 1/3 of the world’s population block essential medicines and food killing tens of thousands. Children, the chronically ill and the elderly – suffer most.

In a society that has historically excluded women, people of color, poor people and LGBTQI people, the military has become an important option for advancement among these groups as the military has led the way, albeit with great resistance, to diversifying employment. Rather than investment in peaceful jobs and communities, the US has made the military one of the best career tracks and rewarded localities with economic investment. This has led to broad buy-in for military spending. Ironically, then, it is often poor people, a large number of them people of color, who are sent to fight US wars through an “economic draft.”

The US Military is the world’s biggest polluter. The Department of Defense “has left its toxic legacy throughout the world in the form of depleted uranium, oil, jet fuel, pesticides, defoliants like Agent Orange and lead, among others.”

Militarism in our society is gendered. Being a woman does not inherently mean being a peacemaker. Some women serve as political and military leaders in waging war. Yet, in a patriarchal society, many women are excluded from decision-making in the home and society. Many play roles as caregivers in the social reproduction of society and are targets of sexual and gender-based violence by partners, employers and by the state—government officials, police and military. Because of these roles, women suffer in unique ways during conflict, war, the violence of poverty or forced migration. Women’s organizations are addressing these interlocking realities, actively challenging state violence and gender-based violence in all of its forms. Women’s peace organizations urge implementation of UN Security Council 1325 which insists that women be part of peace negotiations and peace and security policymaking.

The police in the US has been militarized and raced. As seen in the consistent killing of Black, Native and Latino men and women and the repression of Black Lives Matter demonstrations, police training and tools lead to violence and suppress calls for systemic change.

Therefore,

The US Grail will work to:

- Challenge militarism and patriarchy in all its forms.
- Dismantle the US global military presence—bases, troops, military aid
- Shift the federal budget from military spending to social needs.
- End programs that put military equipment in the hands of local law enforcement. Hold police, law enforcement and local governments accountable for abuses of their powers to kill and enforce their duty to intervene.
- Challenge the national security doctrine and work towards global solidarity and cooperation.
- Challenge the ongoing impact of colonialism and neo-colonialism on nations in the Global South and work towards an equitable sharing of the world’s resources and decision-making.
- Work to abolish nuclear weapons, landmines, cyber-attacks, biological warfare, weapons in space and all other weapons incompatible with human rights and humanitarian law and work to reduce the global arms trade.
- Address the root causes of conflict including economic violence, imperialism, neo-colonialism, authoritarianism, xenophobia and patriarchy.
- Make visible and challenge the damage that the military industrial complex has on the natural environment, both nature and people.
- Work to end all US-imposed economic sanctions.
- Work to model peacemaking within the US Grail, addressing differences and tensions through open hearts, deep listening and respect for each other. Each member will work in good faith to resolve conflicts within our community rather than deepening tensions.
US Grail and the United Nations

Whereas,

❖ The US Grail vision strives for “a world of peace, justice and renewal of the earth” and our mission statement seeks a transformed world by “advancing peace, justice and a world free from military dominance… challenging economic systems that put at risk the most vulnerable, especially women and children (and) creating communities for a sustainable future.”

❖ The International Grail has had an active presence at the UN through its leadership role in United for Equity and Against Racism (UFER) since 1953.

❖ The Grail Link to the United Nations Network (GLUNN), an International Grail network, focuses its efforts on the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues by working in partnership with like-minded groups and regularly signing on to NGO statements related to women and girls.

❖ The 2017 International General Assembly affirmed work with women and girls and climate change as priorities for Grail work.

Whereas,

❖ US communities are in struggle to address core aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals such as the right of Native People’s to clean water, the right of the people of Flint, MI to restitution for poisoning of their water, the Poor People’s Campaign mobilization to end poverty for 140 million people and the Movement for Black Lives challenge to systemic racism including racist policing and incarceration policies.
Therefore,

US Grail members affirm:

- The UN commitment to strengthen peace, sustainable development and gender equality through multilateralism.

- Sustainable development as an integrated approach that responds to the experience and leadership of directly affected communities. It links efforts to eradicate poverty, end inequality, advance gender equality, provide clean water and sanitation for all, and challenge environmental degradation and climate change through the joint actions of states, civil society and communities, challenging concentration of political, economic and corporate power.

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the normative human rights framework of the UN, including UN treaties and conventions and International Labor Organization core standards and conventions. We particularly lift up UN treaties on the rights of women (CEDAW), against racism and xenophobia (CERD), against torture (CAT), on the rights of children (CRC), and the rights of migrants (CRMW).

- Work on Women, War and Peace focused on implementation of Security Council 1325 and on grassroots women’s leadership in peacemaking at all levels. We call for an end to war and conflict, including through resource wars and displacement due to resource extraction.

- An intersectional approach which recognizes multiple and intersecting oppressions which keep women and girls from realizing their human rights and must be addressed in a holistic way. We affirm ALL women's full inclusion regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, relational and sexual orientation, gender identity, migratory status, marital status, age, religion, caste, class or other factors.

- A Global Green New Deal which, rather than continuing to concentrate profits in new energy production schemes, will enable a just transition to a new economy and new energy alternatives. This includes guaranteeing quality public services and social protection for all, decent work, and a shift from reliance on fossil-fuels.
Therefore, US Grail Members Commit to:

- Actively support the work of the International Grail at the United Nations through GLUNN.
- Work to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in the US and global context. Advocate for US policies that advance the SDGs at municipal, state, federal and global levels, from encouraging a city to divest from fossil fuels or enhance public transportation, to advocating for national implementation of the Paris Accord, for example.
- Engage in transformative advocacy in the UN and the US. Engage in analysis of the economic and political situation in order to address the root causes of poverty and the changes needed to avert climate disaster.
- Strengthen grassroots groups in the US engaged in struggle around the SDGs and build coalitions with directly affected people. Such efforts include action for the right to water, environmental justice, anti-poverty, challenging inequality and advocating for migrant rights. This will entail challenging powerful political, corporate and social forces that undermine human rights.
- Actively advocate in the global arena for gender equality, women’s human rights and rights of the girl; climate and environmental justice; racial justice; peacemaking; indigenous rights and the fulfillment of women’s economic, social and cultural rights.
- Address the intersectionality of women’s human rights by recognizing the diversity of women and girls’ experience and affirming policies that explicitly address race, ethnicity, class, relational and sexual orientation, gender identity, migration status, religion, disability, age and other factors of exclusion;
- Make changes within the US Grail to reflect the above commitments towards global community and transformation of the world.
- Inspire by faith and give hope and motivation that together we can create a new world.
Process for Taking Action:

This is our time. The International Grail was founded in the Netherlands 100 years ago. When those fore-mothers were faced with the Nazi occupation of their country they went underground, helped those in need, and emerged with a strong vision and mission into the future.

This is a resource to move Grail members forward in a time of political, economic, health and climate crises in our nation and the world. These US Grail Social Policies are meant to be a living document to ground Grail action. Members are encouraged to find ways to live out the vision of these policies through advocacy at local, national and global levels.

Grail procedures for “Taking A Stand” can be found at https://www.grail-us.org/members/policies/. They provide a way to be visible, take quick action, build alliances and partnerships, sign on to statements and speak as the US Grail while keeping the US Grail as a whole informed.