Dear Victor Madrigal-Borloz,

**The Unitarian Universalist Association strongly opposes the use of conversion therapies.** We offer an effective, comprehensive educational program called OWL that cultivates an open mind set on gender identity and sexual orientation. This program was jointly developed and is used by the **Unitarian Universalist Association** [**https://www.uua.org/re/owl**](https://www.uua.org/re/owl) and the **United Church of Christ**. [**https://www.ucc.org/justice\_sexuality-education\_our-whole-lives**](https://www.ucc.org/justice_sexuality-education_our-whole-lives)

In both versions of the program, students ranging in age from 5 years old to adults of all ages learn that diversity in sexuality and gender expression are normal and to be respected.

OWL stands for **Our Whole Lives.** This educational program is offered at most congregations in both denominations (UUA and UCC). **We offer this training in our congregations because we know that this very important sexuality education is not offered in our schools or other venues.** OWL also includes safe-sex practices and methods to prevent infection and to foster personal responsibility for reproductive health. OWL reflects some of the core principles of the UUA and UCC, which are: the inherent worth and dignity of every person (First Principle); justice, equity and compassion in human relations (Second Principle); acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations (Third Principle), and a free and responsible search for truth and meaning (Fourth Principle).

**OWL is the direct antithesis of what conversion therapies are trying to accomplish.** It is offered for all ages and it is presented in effective ways to different age groups. **The program accentuates self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, and justice and inclusion and it teaches the value of each other’s sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as parents’ importance as a child’s predominant educator on sexuality.**

**In a 2011 study investigating the efficacy of sexual educational curriculums, OWL was found to be one of the most well-founded programs.** Even though OWL has religious origins, it is designed to be secular and contains no scriptures nor religious references. Many private schools, after-school programs, and colleges all use OWL as their sexual education course.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this remarkable program.

In Solidarity for Peace, Justice, and Compassion,

Bruce

**Bruce Knotts** (he, him, his)**|** Director **|** United Nations Office **|** International

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"We need not think alike, to love alike." -- Ferenc David (often rendered "Francis David"), founder of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, 1565