



## UN DATES 2016

### FEBRUARY

- 13 World Radio Day  
20 World Day of Social Justice

### MARCH

- 3 World Wildlife Day  
7-13 Qld Women's Week—aim to celebrate the achievements of women and girls. Theme—*'Good for her—Great for us. When women achieve—Queensland succeeds.'*

- 8 International Women's Day.

### April

- 7 World Health Day

### May

- 3 World Press Day  
29 International day of UN Peacekeepers

### June

- 5 World Environment Day  
17 World Day of Desertification & Drought

### President

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With appreciation to  
**Senator Claire Moore**  
for printing this issue.

## Read the Children's Rights Report 2015



Megan Mitchell National Children's Commissioner, Rosie Batty Anti-violence campaigner and Professor Kerry Arabena from the University of Melbourne launched the **Children's Rights Report 2015**. The Minister for Women, Senator Michaelia Cash, sent a message of support via video.

Commissioner Mitchell said the report includes new data which reveals the prevalence and impact of violence inflicted on children and young people by family members. The Commissioner also paid tribute to Rosie Batty's impact on our awareness of domestic violence.

"We ended 2014, and began this year 2015, with an unprecedented national conversation and I hope, commitment, to end family and domestic violence," Commissioner Mitchell said.

"This did not arise from government reports or political leadership; it arose from the most deeply tragic of circumstances

"Rosie captured the nation's attention with her bravery. As a result we have seen an explosion of news reporting about family and domestic violence, whereas before there was relative silence.

"In recent months, all too often there has been front page news around the country about a terrible sequence of deaths of mothers and their children.

"Because of Rosie Batty, and the courage of other adults and children who have spoken out, we can no longer ignore this issue."

Commissioner Mitchell said new data included in the Children's Rights Report 2015 shows that 1 in 12 men and women experienced physical abuse by a family member, and one in 28 experienced sexual abuse by a family member, before the age of 15.

### Read the Children's Rights Report 2015

"The report outlines work the National Children's Commissioner has undertaken throughout 2014-15 to promote discussion and awareness of matters relating to the human rights of children and young people in Australia. It also discusses the progress of the recommendations that I made in my Children's Rights Reports in 2013 and 2014. It includes chapters on how children's rights have been considered in legislation and court proceedings.





Welcome to the United Nations. It's your world

## UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on The Rights of the Child were adopted in 1959 and 1989 (respectively) on the same day as Universal Children's Day. The United Nations decided that children needed special protection under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and worked for many years to develop the [Convention on the Rights of the Child \(UNCRC\)](#).

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child protects children's rights by setting standards in health care; education; and legal, civil and social services. In general, the Convention says that children everywhere have the right to survival; to develop to the fullest; to protection from harmful influences, abuse and exploitation; and to participate fully in family, cultural and social life.



### Child Rights

"Rights" are things every child should have or be able to do. All children have the same rights. These rights are listed in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Almost every country has agreed to these rights. All the rights are connected to each other, and all are equally important. As children grow, they have more responsibility to make choices and exercise their rights.

The UNCRC's four key principles are:

- no child should be discriminated against;
- acting in the child's best interests;
- children's rights to survival and development; and
- respect for the views of the child.

The Convention puts special emphasis on the need to protect children's rights as early as possible in their lives. By agreeing to comply with the UNCRC, the Australian Government recognises these human rights for children and must think about how children will be affected when it is making laws and policies.

## UNICEF

**Born into danger**— More than 16 million babies were born in conflict zones in 2015 – 1 in 8 of all births worldwide this year. In conflict-affected countries such as Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Syria, or on perilous journeys to escape fighting, new-born children and their mothers face enormous risks. Pregnant mothers are in danger of giving birth without medical help and in unsanitary conditions. In addition to conflict, poverty, climate change and lack of opportunities are making children increasingly vulnerable and have pushed millions on dangerous journeys away from their homes.

**How can we make the world a fairer place for children?**

**UNICEF : [unicef@unicef.org.au](mailto:unicef@unicef.org.au) [www.unicef.org.au](http://www.unicef.org.au)**



Goals 6 to 13 / 18





### The Paris Agreement: Suddenly All Seems Possible 13/12/2015

**The world is different following adoption of the Paris Agreement on 12 December.** We now have a new orientation for the global economy set by the ambition of governments to put a limit to climate change. Of course there is much to be done to realise this ambition but economic analysis and growing experience bring confidence that transformation of economic activity on the scale necessary is well within reach

It fell to President Hollande at the high point of COP 21 to point to the fundamental significance of climate action: peace. The impacts of climate change are magnifying pressures on vulnerable communities and countries and increasing the prospects of conflict. Although the national security community in Australia has been slow to appreciate the implications, climate change is not just a major challenge to the Australian economy but also to the most basic of national interests.

Climate change policy has waxed and waned with singular amplitude in Australia but it must become a top priority while national interests remain in jeopardy. Australian delegation in Paris was talented and well-led. It advanced Australia's interests and played a full role in the meeting's success. The sense of relief from other delegations that Australia was back in the mainstream was palpable and became an asset for the delegation. The Government should ensure that Australia continues to provide its most effective people in departments at home and delegations abroad for furthering climate change policy as a national endeavour. This is a sweeping global pact but an agreement made in China and the United States.



Photo: left, United Nations climate change chief Christiana Figueres, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, French Foreign Affairs Minister /UN Climate Change Conference president Laurent Fabius and French President Francois Hollande celebrate the agreement on climate change. Photo: AP

Without concord between Beijing and Washington, the world could not have struck a comprehensive deal to tackle global warming. **by Adjunct Professor Howard Bamsey**

**MYEFO 2015 Australian Government spending on climate programs will drop over the next four years, new figures show.** The mid-year economic and fiscal outlook released today reported climate spending would total \$1.05 billion in 2015/16, dropping to \$900 million in 2016/17 and \$700m in 2017/18. The two key areas of spending: the emissions reduction fund and the Paris summit commitment of \$1bn over five years to help Pacific nations cut emissions and deal with the impact of climate change. **AAP 15/12/2015**



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### To All Our Supporters

**I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the generous and ongoing support you gave to UNHCR Australia over the last 12 months.** 2015 was certainly a challenging year for everyone working in refugee relief. We faced major conflicts in Syria, Iraq, Nigeria and Central Africa. We saw these crises spread across the sea, as thousands of people risked their lives to find safety and shelter in Europe.

**With your generous help, we were able to respond to these emergencies, giving help and hope to refugees around the world.**

During 2015 I travelled to refugee situations meeting with people fleeing from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia. Everyone I spoke to - mothers using our maternity clinics, young people employed in our livelihood programs and children going to our schools - wanted me to let you know how thankful they were for your support and the difference it made to their lives.

For you to see how your donations made a difference worldwide please watch the short message from UNHCR Supporter Cate Blanchet, at- [info@email.unrefugees.org.au](mailto:info@email.unrefugees.org.au) - Australia for UNHCR.

We cannot perform our life-saving work without your continued support - we are truly grateful and hope that you will continue supporting us on our journey through 2016. Thank you from everyone at Australia for UNHCR to you, your family and friends.

**Naomi Steer**

**National Director, Australia for UNHCR:**

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**Website: <http://www.unrefugees.org.au/>**

**Contact: [info@unrefugees.org.au](mailto:info@unrefugees.org.au)**





## Daily Life WOMEN OF THE YEAR



Professor Gillian Triggs, President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, has been named the *Daily Life* **2015 Woman of the Year**. The award, now in its fourth year, celebrates women who have gone above and beyond to inspire, influence or effect change in the past 12 months. *Daily Life* editor Candice Chung said it was an honour to recognise and thank Professor Triggs for her courage in the fight against human rights abuses in detention centres.

"Professor Triggs has stood up for the most vulnerable members of our society and has done so with grace, leadership and dignity," Chung said. "Her steadfast professionalism and refusal to be silenced by the bullying tactics of the Abbott government is truly admirable."

## Records broken for Human Rights Awards

The 2015 Human Rights Awards, held in Sydney on Thursday 10 December 2015, have broken records with 329 nominations. Over 500 people attended the annual awards, hosted by the Australian Human Rights Commission at the Westin Hotel in Sydney to mark International Human Rights Day. Professor Triggs delivered a keynote speech on the future of human rights in Australia. Renowned Chaser Craig Reucassel was MC

Professor Gillian Triggs, presented the prestigious 2015 Human Rights Medal to Peter Geste. In presenting the 2015 Australian Human Rights Medal, to Peter Greste, Professor Triggs described Mr Greste as a humble and inspiring individual who fought for freedom and justice. "Journalists must be free to report news and criticise governments without fear of punishment," Professor Triggs said.

Professor Triggs also congratulated the winners of **six other Human Rights Awards**, including 23-year-old Yen Eriksen, who won the Young People's Human Rights Medal.

"These outstanding Australians have come from different walks of life but they share a commitment to freedom, justice and equality. We honour all of our 2015 Human Rights Awards winners for their commitment to protecting and advancing human rights in Australia," Professor Triggs said.

"We also acknowledge and thank all of the people and organisations who nominated for this year's awards and who attended the presentation today," Professor Triggs said.

## Human Rights Award Recipients





## HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS Australia

Australian Human Rights Commission

Thursday, December 10, from

### The Human Rights Medal: Peter Greste



**Peter Greste** spent 400 days in an Egyptian jail after being arrested in Cairo and charged for national security related offences in 2013/14. His trial was widely criticised for its lack of evidence. Following his release, Peter Greste used his case as a platform to advocate for freedom of speech and a free media. *Photo: Matthew Syres*

### The Law Award: Genevieve Bolton



**Genevieve Bolton** has dedicated her career to improving access to justice and is a powerful advocate for systemic change. She is principal solicitor at Canberra Community Law.

### The Tony Fitzgerald Memorial Community Award: Ludo McFerran



Ludo McFerran has worked tirelessly for the human rights of women and children in the area of women and domestic violence for the past 30 years and has been responsible for innovative and effective policy changes in this area, greatly assisting women and children to deal with and escape from family violence.

### The Young People's Human Rights Medal



**Yen Eriksen**, 23, is a community radio host and documentary maker who joined the ACT Government Ministerial Advisory Council for LGBTIQ in 2013. She became interested in human rights from an early age. "It came with the territory of being born in Australia, to migrant parents, being born a woman and being born, knowing from a very young age, that I was queer."

### The Business Award (joint winners): Coles and Maitree House Productions



**Coles** has a long-running Indigenous employment program which supports positive experiences for Indigenous staff and customers. **Maitree House Productions** uses multimedia tools to give voice to young people, women, and Indigenous people.

### The 'Racism. It Stops With Me' Award: Tasmanian Students Against Racism

The Students Against Racism Tasmanian workshop has been included in University and TAFE courses. Tasmanian Students Against Racism is an effective education and advocacy group involving more than 10,000 participants.





**Refugee Advice and Casework Service Award**

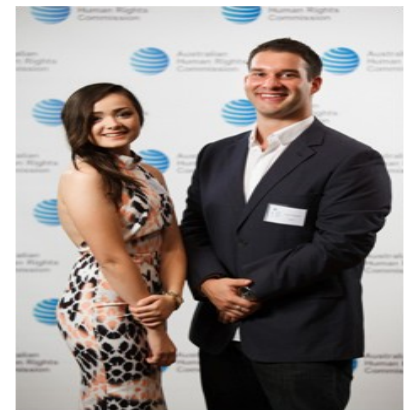


**The Media Award: Kirsti Melville for  
*The Storm* (Radio National, ABC)**



Kirsti Melville's powerful documentary tells the story of her former partner Erik's sexual abuse as a child. Erik speaks about his abuse and the toll it took on his relationships.

**AND MORE AWARDS:**





## United Nations Key Priorities 2016

A vision for the next 5 years.



After a 'year of breakthrough and horror,' Ban urges greater collaborative action to tackle crises in 2016.

"The Paris Agreement on climate change is a sign of hope in troubled times. It is a triumph for multilateralism that shows the United Nations delivering results the world desperately needs,"

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52833#.VoNJajZumUI>



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



2. The importance of prevention



3. Build a safer and more secure world



4. Supporting nations in transition - helping countries



5. Working with and for women and young people. Doing more for the world's women and



AND  
Advancing Global Health and Education

### Enablers

I. Harnessing the Full Power of Partnership across the Range of UN Activities

II. Strengthening the United Nations



### NEW UNAA QLD OFFICE

After 12 years located at New Farm the UNAA Qld Office has now been re-located to Griffith University at Nathan. The new office address and contacts are :

United Nations Association Qld  
The Eco Centre  
Nathan Campus Griffith University  
170 Kessels Road  
Nathan Qld 4111

UNAA Qld Newsletter  
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## SUPPORT THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION

The United Nations Association is an independent non-government association with a mission to support Peace and Security worldwide and assist United Nations activities and programs such as Peace Keeping, Human Rights, women and children's programs. Currently the UN is represented by 192 countries. Individuals can join UNAA Queensland, UN Student Associations and or UN Youth Australia.

### HOMESTAY: Re Asylum Seeker and Refugee Global Crisis

The Community Placement Network (CPN) Program, was first launched in 2012 by the Australian Homestay Network (AHN) and was successful in placing over 600 Australian Asylum Seekers being released from detention centres into AHN managed hosted accommodation. The results for both hosts and guests were outstanding. If you are interested in being considered for hosting people from this European crisis register your interest (there is no obligation) in the CPN program. As soon as we have more information we will get back to you about the next steps. So far we have over 1,000 rooms registered already!

For more information search: [homestaynetwork.org](http://homestaynetwork.org) - David Bycroft Founding Director AHN

**With appreciation to Senator Claire Moore for printing this issue.**

### UNAA MEMBERSHIP & DONATIONS FORM : Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ P/C \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

#### HELP US TO HELP REFUGEES

**Why not donate say, the cost of a breakfast \$3-\$6, a lunch \$5, a dinner (\$15-\$35)?** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation to United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund supporting WHO &/or UNHCR Aust** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation to UNICEF—supporting refugee children in Syria, Jordan** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donation supporting Domestic an Family Violence** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### UNAA Membership Fee – Just tick your box

- Member . \$ 50.00     Supporters... \$40.00     Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals... \$ 35.00  
 Student & concession... \$ 25.00     Schools, Service Clubs... \$ 50.00  
 Non-government organisations... \$ 90.00     Professions and Business Organisations . \$ 250.00

#### Membership and donation payments accepted by:

1. Direct deposit by Electronic Funds Transfer: BSB 633-000 account 128733770 Refer - enter your name
2. Cheque: to UNAA Qld
3. Credit Card: No \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date ----/----

Name on credit card \_\_\_\_\_ Authorising Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed Membership Fee \$..... Plus donation of \$..... TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return to

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