



UN DATES 2016

- July
11 World Population Day
17 International Day of Justice
30 International Friendship Day
30 UNAA Qld AGM

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Newsletter

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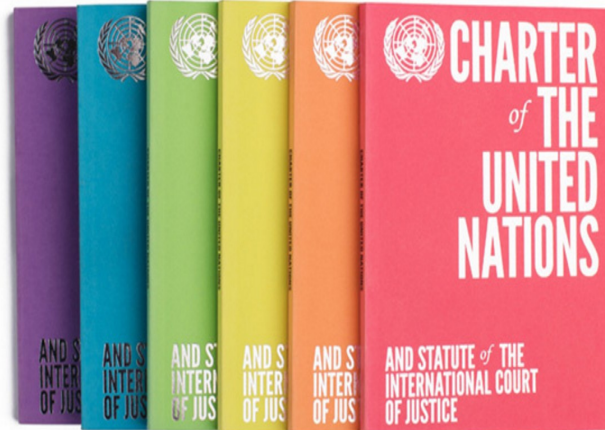
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Trapped in Greece
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- 9. United Nations days**
August - to December

With appreciation to
Senator Claire Moore
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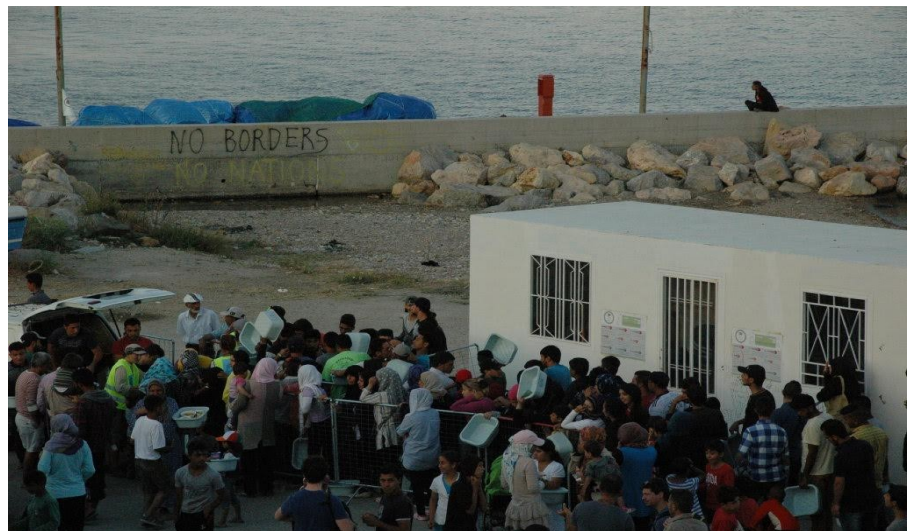
After Orlando, Can the UN Move the Needle on Global LGBT Rights?



The Security Council last week passed, for the first time, a measure condemning violence against LGBT communities. The measure was unanimously approved in the wake of the Orlando massacre and was a precedent breaking affirming that "targeting persons as a result of their sexual orientation" is something to be explicitly condemned. For several countries

that have long opposed LGBT rights, this was a watershed moment

2,000 Refugees Are Trapped on a Tiny Greek Island



To many, they are considered the lucky ones. By arriving on Greek shores before March 20, they are not subject to the automatic deportation back to Turkey mandated in the EU-Turkey migration deal.

But very few of the estimated 2,000 refugees on the Greek island of Chios feel lucky. Instead, out of the international spotlight and with no information on what their future may hold, they feel forgotten and left behind.

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION QLD guest speaker
Professor Charles Sampford
Notice of 2016 Annual General Meeting
To be held on 30th July 2016
from 9.30am at
Eco Centre Griffith University Nathan



PEACE IN THE WORLD—IS IT ACHIEVABLE ?

BAN KI-MOON'S SPEECHES:

A quick guide to statements on key UN agenda issues

Remarks at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum

Remarks to the Sustainable Energy For All Advisory Board

Remarks at Asia Society Dialogue event

Remarks at European Development Days Forum

Opening remarks to press with the President of the European Commission

Remarks at meeting with the pilots of the Solar Impulse

Remarks on the election of the President of the 71st Session of the General Assembly

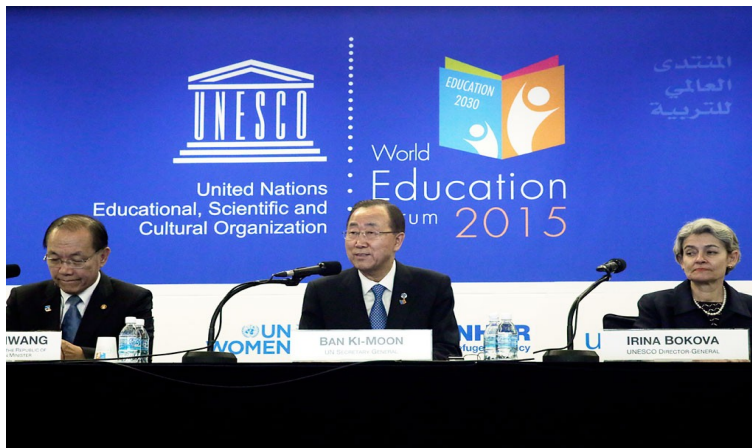
Remarks to the Security Council Debate on the Protection of Civilians

Remarks at Wildlife Conservation Society Gala 2016

Opening remarks at press encounter at World Greening and Jim Yong Kim. **Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon,**

“Leaders and policy-makers must recognize a powerful truth: the larger the spaces for democracy and fundamental freedoms, the smaller the chances for extremism and violence”.
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Astana (Kazakhstan), 10 June 2015

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Education must do more than produce individuals who can read, write and count, must nurture global citizens who can rise to the challenges of the 21st century.
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Incheon (Republic of Korea), 19 May 2015

UN Photo/Evan Schneider

Secretary-General Ban opens the World Education Forum. Education minister Hwang Woo-yea (left) and UNESCO's Irina Bokova look on, at Incheon, Republic of Korea,

Women's economic empowerment is a key to unlock progress across society. Evidence shows more money in the hands of women means more food in the mouths of children, more resources for education, better investments in the family and greater progress for the community”.



At World Economic Forum, Ban Ki-moon (left) announces creation of UN High-Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment. Also pictured Justine Greening and Jim Yong Kim. **Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Davos (Switzerland), 21 January 2016**

UN Photo/Rick Bajornas

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UN NEWS CENTRE at www.un.org/news



AUSTRALIA FACES STARK CHOICE IN THE GROWING MOVEMENT FOR A GLOBAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS TREATY Tim Wright

The recently retired UN high representative for disarmament affairs, Angela Kane, [commented in 2014](#) that a strong stigma exists for the two prohibited classes of weapons of mass destruction:

How many states today boast that they are '[biological-weapon states](#)' or '[chemical-weapon states](#)'? Who is arguing now that bubonic plague or polio are legitimate to use as weapons under any circumstance, whether in an attack or in retaliation? Who speaks of a bio-weapon umbrella?

A ban on nuclear weapons would influence not only nuclear-armed states, but also their allies, compelling those that host US nuclear weapons on their territory (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey) to abandon that Cold War practice. For Australia, joining the new instrument would mean ending the pretense of protection from a so-called 'nuclear umbrella'.

It is for this reason that the Coalition Government has so far resisted moves towards a ban. It asserts that nuclear weapons are necessary for our security and, indeed, our prosperity. But increasingly the logic and wisdom of that position are being challenged. A ban on nuclear weapons would influence not only nuclear-armed states, but also their allies, compelling those that host US nuclear weapons on their territory (Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey) to abandon that Cold War practice. For Australia, joining the new instrument would mean ending the pretense of protection from a so-called 'nuclear umbrella'.

It is for this reason that the Coalition Government has so far resisted moves towards a ban. It asserts that nuclear weapons are necessary for our security and, indeed, our prosperity. But increasingly the logic and wisdom of that position are being challenged. John Tilemann, a former Australian diplomat, [wrote in March](#):

To put unquestioned reliance in the US nuclear umbrella deprives Australia of policy flexibility and the moral right to lead efforts to fashion an alternative world order where mutually assured destruction is not the ultimate guarantor of our existence.

Australia's negative role in disarmament diplomacy in recent years has sullied its reputation in this field. As Fairfax newspapers [reported in May](#), diplomats from pro-ban nations have labelled Australia a 'weasel state', given its membership of a group working surreptitiously to undermine disarmament efforts.

By aligning itself with NATO members, including those that host nuclear weapons, Australia has grown more and more isolated from Southeast Asian and Pacific Island states that are vocal supporters of a ban. One Australian diplomat, after participating in a regional disarmament forum in Bangkok last year, [confessed in a report to Canberra](#): '*[W]e represented the lone voice in the room on many issues.*'

Sooner or later, Australia's opposition to a ban will become untenable. A large majority — [84% of Australians](#) — want the government to support a prohibition. And it will eventually do so; just as it begrudgingly joined the processes to outlaw anti-personnel landmines in the 1990s and cluster munitions a decade later.

The Australian Labor Party, in its national policy platform adopted last July, [declared its support for a ban](#):

Given the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons, Labor firmly supports the negotiation of a global treaty banning such weapons and welcomes the growing global movement of nations that is supporting this objective.

[Daniel Flitton explained](#) that this position might seem unremarkable, given the 'drive to abolish nuclear weapons ever since the horror of Hiroshima and Nagasaki'. But a ban 'is something very different — and new':

It stems from an effort by non-nuclear-armed countries in the UN, and supported by activist groups, to negotiate a treaty that would declare the very existence of nuclear weapons illegal under international law because of the catastrophic humanitarian cost, similar to the way chemical and biological weapons are prohibited. The goal is to create moral pressure on the countries with atomic arsenals.

Last month, at a UN working group meeting in Geneva tasked with developing new legal measures for nuclear disarmament, [the momentum](#) behind the ban approach appeared unstoppable. This group will re-convene in August to finalise its report to the 71st session of the UN General Assembly, at which states are likely to adopt a resolution recommending the launch of negotiations.

Australia will face a stark choice: to join this global initiative to outlaw the most destructive, indiscriminate weapons ever created, or to side with nuclear-armed states in opposing it. The latter would potentially alienate its nearest neighbours, undermine disarmament and incite proliferation. **Lowey Institute Latest Post**



WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION - Yellow Fever Situation Report

The latest yellow fever situation report has been published to the web:

<http://www.who.int/emergencies/yellow-fever/situation-reports/16-june-2016/en/>

Please follow this link to a feature on the Yellow fever global vaccine stockpile in emergencies

<http://www.who.int/features/2016/yellow-fever-vaccine-stockpile/en/>

WHO expresses concern over disease outbreaks in its response to Fallujah crisis

Baghdad, 16 June 2016: WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Dr Ala Alwan arrived in Baghdad today to review firsthand WHO's response to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Fallujah city, where more than 42 000 Iraqis have been displaced since the beginning of the military operations in the city in May 2016. Tens of thousands of besieged and displaced men, women, children and older people face major health risks as they lack adequate access to health services

<http://www.emro.who.int/media/news/who-expresses-concern-over-disease-outbreaks-fallujah.html>

Please find the Situation report on Zika virus, microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome dated 16 June here:

<http://www.who.int/emergencies/zika-virus/situation-report/16-june-2016/en/>

WHO declares the end of the most recent Ebola virus disease outbreak in Liberia

Liberia, 9 June 2016 – Today the World Health Organization (WHO) declares the end of the most recent outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Liberia. This announcement comes 42 days (two 21-day incubation cycles of the virus) after the last confirmed Ebola patient in Liberia tested negative for the disease for the second time. Liberia now enters a 90-day period of heightened surveillance to ensure that any new cases are identified quickly and contained before spreading. <http://www.afro.who.int/en/media-centre/pressreleases/item/8699-who-declares-the-end-of-the-most-recent-ebola-virus-disease-outbreak-in-liberia.html>

Some 13 million Yemenis need immediate help

16 June 2016 – The top United Nations relief official for Yemen has reported that more than 13 million Yemenis are in need of immediate life-saving assistance as a result of a bleak humanitarian situation in the country that continues to worsen.

"The humanitarian situation in Yemen is among the world's worst crises. The scale and intensity of the humanitarian situation here is bleak – and by many measures it's continuing to get worse," Jamie McGoldrick, the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen, said in a press briefing in Sana'a.

"The war has taken a very heavy toll on the country and its people. It is no exaggeration to say the economy is on the verge of total collapse," he added.

UN humanitarian coordinator reports more than 26,000 people affected by Myanmar floods

15 June 2016 – Heavy monsoon rains since the beginning of June have caused flooding in five states and regions of Myanmar, resulting in 14 deaths and affecting at least 26,000 people, a United Nations humanitarian coordinator reported today.

The states and regions that are now affected by floods are the same as those that were severely impacted by floods and landslides between July and August 2015, [said](#) Janet Jackson, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator on Floods in Myanmar, in a press release issued by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs ([OCHA](#)).



Photo UNIEF Mohammad Badrul Hassan

The states and regions that are now affected by floods are the same as those that were severely impacted by floods and landslides between July and August

2015, [said](#) Janet Jackson, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator on Floods in Myanmar, in a press release issued by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs ([OCHA](#)).

Chin State, remote and mountainous and one of the poorest regions in Myanmar, was among the hardest-hit by floods in 2015. . 15 June 2016 – Heavy monsoon rains since the beginning of June have caused flooding in five states and regions of Myanmar, resulting in 14 deaths and affecting at least 26,000 people, a United Nations humanitarian coordinator reported today



PEACE AT LAST IN COLUMBIA

A ceasefire between FARC and the Colombian government has been signed, ending 50 years of warfare. "May this be the last day of the war. We are close to a final peace accord," said Farc chief Timoleón "Timochenko" Jiménez, his voice choked with tears, after shaking hands with Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos at the signing ceremony in Havana, which was attended by the UN secretary general, Ban Ki-moon.

Although a final peace deal will require approval in a referendum, the formal cessation of hostilities between the two main combatants and the Farc's acceptance of disarmament are key steps towards resolving a low-intensity war that has caused more than 250,000 deaths and the displacement of more than 6 million people. Santos hailed a historic day for his country and its people – many of whom have only known war. 'Colombia got used to living in conflict. We don't have even the slightest memories of what it means to live in peace,' he said. 'Today a new chapter opens, one that brings back peace and gives our children the possibility of not re-living history.'" (Guardian <http://bit.ly/28TyTo6>) Guardian Graphic | Source.

AUSTRALIA'S GIFTED PARALYMPIC ATHLETES going to Rio de Janeiro



The success of the Paralympics puts an important spotlight on inclusion and advocating in our society for greater support for people living with disability in Australia and around the world.

Behind every athlete is an immense support network providing advice, encouragement and love. In particular, parents of children, who work to ensure their children, are given the same opportunities as any other child – this is their journey as well. Labor recognises the families, carers, coaches, schools, medical teams and supporters of every Paralympic contender.

Labor also congratulates the Australian Paralympic Committee whose efforts to forge partnerships with government, business, sporting organisations and disability groups, help prepare the Australian Paralympic Teams. Importantly they help change community attitudes towards people with disability. The reach and impact of their Paralympic Education Program is testament to their commitment and the values they embody. From: Senator Claire Moore's Weekly News

AN AUSTRALIAN FIRST BY [Sophie Vorrach on 7 June 2016](#) Queensland school installs solar and battery storage –



Schools and solar PV make a great pairing. Add storage and it can get even better.

A great recent example of this can be found at **Bundaberg Christian College**. The college which already harvests and treats all of its own water and sewerage – takes sustainability seriously. Harvesting its own electricity was the next logical step. For this, the College turned to local outfit **GEM Energy**, who along with Melbourne-based inverter maker and energy management specialist **Selectronic**, designed and installed a big enough solar and battery storage system to drastically reduce the College's reliance on grid supplied electricity.

The result, pictured above, was a 194kW solar system with 250kWh of battery storage (located in the white container to the right of the water tanks), completed and switched on in March, which claims to be the largest hybrid solar and storage array ever to be installed at an Australian school.

This is not the largest solar array ever installed on a school. The honours for that achievement go to Canberra's Amaroo School, which last year commissioned a 600kW rooftop PV system; currently, they are claimed by Mazonod College in Melbourne, which installed a 270kW PV array in 2014. From: One Step Off the Grid.com,au



REFUGEES ARE WELCOME

In 2014 the government's own commission of audit estimated it cost \$400,000 a year to hold an asylum seeker in offshore detention

Extracts from FOCUS report by Bryan Mulligan and Michael Corkill
In 1984 Australia adopted a national anthem that *welcomed those who had come across the seas to share our boundless plains*. Now our political parties are saying that if you come by boat you will never be settled in Australia.

In mid-2015 the number of refugees of concern to UNHCR reached an estimated 15.1 million. The highest level in 20 years

No boundless plains to share

In 2014 the Australian Human Rights Commission found children on Nauru were suffering from extreme levels of physical, emotional, psychological and developmental distress. Temperatures inside overcrowded tents reached 50 degrees C; water regularly ran out, toilets overflowed with sewage; phosphate dust from nearby commercial operations polluted the air; and the hospital required patients' families to supply their own linen.

The major political parties have been locked in a 'same-same, only different' policy in which they state boat arrivals will not be settled in Australia and such refugees will be processed in offshore detention centres.

Last month the Immigration Minister Mr Dutton upped the rhetoric by claiming the government was protecting Australian jobs by not allowing uneducated refugees into the country. "For many people they won't be, you know, numerate or literate in their own language, let alone English. These people would be taking Australian jobs, there is no question about that" he told Skye news.

"For many of them that would be unemployed, they would languish in unemployment queues and on Medicare and the rest of it so there would be huge cost and there's no sense in sugar coating that, that's the scenario."

In 2014 the government estimated it cost \$400,00pa to keep asylum seekers in offshore detentions— twice the cost of onshore detention in Australia and 10 times the cost of letting them stay in the community on a bridging or temporary protection visa while their claim is assessed. Refugee advocates claim that means the government is paying billions of dollars to detain people offshore that eventually make it to Australia.

It is an unusual situation for a nation founded by 'boat people' and whose national anthem contains the lyrics:

**For those who've come across the seas, we've boundless plains to share;
With courage let us all combine to Advance Australia Fair!**

The only people in Australia who have not 'come across the sea' to settle in Australia, in the last 200 years, are indigenous Australians.

In *Asylum Seekers & Refugee Myths, Facts and Solutions*, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre says asylum seekers are not illegal immigrants because immigrants leave their countries by choice and are able to return home at any time, while asylum seekers are forced to leave their homes for fear of persecution and are too fearful to return.

As for the notion that asylum seekers are queue jumpers the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) argues there is no just and orderly queue.

Under the Refugee Convention, even those who enter Australia by sea or plane, without a valid visa, are not illegal says the ASRC because like a speeding ambulance asylum seekers are exempt from the usual application of the law because they are in an emergency situation."

It takes five years to get on the resettlement for those who the UNHCR have already found to be refugees . Places offered through the UNHCR settlement program has remained constant, at around 80,000 world wide, so only a tiny fraction of the world's refugees have access to what is erroneously thought of as the 'proper channel'.

While both political parties have the policy of offshore detention and repelling boats, Labor is offering more humane treatment in offshore detention; fast-tracking refugee claims; and an increase in the number of refugees into Australia. Labor accuses the Coalition of having no empathy for asylum seekers while the Coalition says Labor is weak on border patrol. There is also the high level of secrecy and control that surrounds government border protection activities; the remoteness of and restricted access to the detention centres; the risk of two year jail terms for doctors and detention centre workers who speak out, means the media rely heavily on the government for information.

"The polarising nature of the debate means we have reached a stalemate." said Dr Steven Odgen, Principal Anglican Church's St Francis Theological College in Brisbane.

"This is evident from the character of public discourse, which is cast in either/or terms. In other words, it is as



CLIMATE JUSTICE WOMEN & PEACE



Recognising Women as Peace Builders in 2016 **24 July, 2016 from 2pm – 4pm.**

You are invited: The Queensland Branch of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) will be holding the **7th WILPF PeaceWomen's Awards Presentation** at **The Shore Restaurant, Little Stanley Street, Southbank on**

This is an opportunity to recognise the talents and dedication of Queensland women whose activities have promoted peace at local, national and/or international levels. Each year the Awards are presented at an inspiring ceremony to mark the 1915 founding of WILPF at The Hague.

Following the **WILPF PeaceWomen's Awards Presentation** join us in a Panel Discussion focusing on

"Climate, Justice, Women & Peace

How Are Climate Justice, Women and Peace Interconnected".

with Margot Pearson, Vice President WILPF Australia as moderator. Come join us on 24 July.

Book your ticket: <https://www.trybooking.com/201154> WILPF.

Tickets \$25pp or \$15 full time student.

Contact website: WILPF Peacewomen's Awards Qld or Email : wilpf.qld@wilpf.org.au

Notice of United Nations Association Queensland **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



Griffith University Nathan
30th July 2016 from 9.30am

All Welcome

President's report, Treasurer's Report
Election of the Executive Committee

Guest Speaker: Professor Charles Sampford

Aigul Zholtayeva Secretary

United Nations Association NSW **2016 Conference**

22-23 July

**"Making the United Nations Fit for
Purpose in the 21st Century"**

Customs House Circular Quay Sydney

Registration: www.trybooking.com/KYQF

For information contact :

Peter Airey & Kim Andrews

Email: UNAANSWConference2016@gmail.com

or Ph. 0430 789 506 Daryl Cornu

United Nations Association Victoria **National Forum:**

SAVE THE DATE: 5 - 6 September 2016

"Economic Empowerment of Women and Girls"

Novotel Hotel, 270 Collins St Melbourne

This theme aligns with the focus for the 61st Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), to be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in March 2017.

This one and a half day forum will include expert keynote speakers to advance economic empowerment of women and girls. **Contact:** Ph: (+613) 9620 3955

Email: office@unaavictoria.org.au or website www.unaavictoria.org.au



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.

QLD MEMBERSHIP Why not become a UNAA member? Why not renew your membership ?

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 - David Bycroft Founding Director AHN

Would love you to promote to UNA members!
Cheers

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 \$ _____
Donation supporting Domestic against Family Violence \$ _____

UNAA Membership Fee – Just tick your box

Member . \$ 50.00 Supporters... \$40.00 Student & concession... \$ 25.00
 Young Entrepreneurs & Professionals... \$ 35.00 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 - Electronic Funds : BSB 633-000 account 128733770 Refer - enter your name
2. Cheque: to UNAA Qld or 3. Credit Card: No _____

Expiry date ---- / ---- Name on credit card _____

Authorising Signature _____ Date _____

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

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UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA QLD 2016 - DATES TO REMEMBER

August 2016		
Aug 09, 2016	International Day of the World's Indigenous People	World
Aug 12, 2016	International Youth Day	World
Aug 19, 2016	World Humanitarian Day	World
September 2016		
Sep 21, 2016	International Day of Peace	World/Qld
Sep 27, 2016	World Tourism Day	World
October 2016		
Oct 02, 2016	International Day of Non-Violence	World
Oct 03, 2016	World Habitat Day	World
Oct 05, 2016	World Teachers' Day	World
Oct, 11 2016	International Day of the Girl Child	World
Oct 13, 2016	International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction	World
Oct 16, 2016	World Food Day	World
Oct 17, 2016	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	World
Oct 24, 2016	United Nations Day -	World/Qld
Oct , 2016	Presentation of UNAAQ Community Awards (Date TBC)	Qld
November 2016		
Nov, 10 2016	World Science Day for Peace & Development	World
Nov 16, 2016	International Day for Tolerance	World
Nov, 17 2016	World Peace Day	World
Nov 20, 2016	Universal Children's Day	World
Nov 25, 2016	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	World
December 2016		
Dec 03, 2016	International Day of People with Disability	World
Dec 05, 2016	International Volunteer Day	World
Dec 10, 2016	Universal Human Rights Day	World/Qld

Please note the UNAA Qld Executive Management Committee Meets
3rd Saturday each month from 9.30am at: Eco Centre 170 Kessels Road, Griffith University, Nathan.
For further details contact UNAA Qld: Tel 07 3735 3525 or Email – unaa.qld@gmail.com
UNAA Qld Newsletter July 2016