



**United
Nations
Association
of Australia**
WA Division

UN Matters

Jan Feb 2017

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I cannot believe that it is already the end of February! I hope that all our members had a wonderful year end break and are energised to face the challenges of 2017. I am pleased to inform you that your Executive Committee, supported by our committees and working groups, has already been hard at work in putting together a great program for 2017.

In our last newsletter, I said “In the coming year, we all look forward to furthering these objectives through our Human Rights, Women, Young Professionals and Education Committees – all overseen by a strong Executive Committee and support structure. I anticipate a lot more emphasis in broadening the stakeholder and support base of the UNAAWA. I truly believe we can leverage the vast wealth inherent in our rich multicultural society to achieve truly sustainable development in Australia and abroad.”

This aspiration is now turning into reality. Following a recent strategic planning session, we have agreed to focus on five key areas:

1. Stakeholder outreach to broaden our influence and support base.
2. Membership care to encourage members to be more involved and engaged. We will be holding regular member networking sessions – the first is scheduled for the evening of 29 March 2017. Watch your e mails for details.
3. Sustainability of UNAAWA to ensure we are financially sustainable and adhere to the norms of good governance.
4. Communication of our activities through our newsletter, social media, events, advocacy, education program and media.

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5. Events and Advocacy Program. An exciting programme of events will be communicated soon. This will include events related to:

- Women
- Human Rights
- Education – schools and higher education sector
- Young Professionals
- Environment
- UN Events/Days

We will be getting a lot closer to our members in 2017 and as such I would welcome all suggestions on how we can better meet your needs and achieve our purpose of connecting West Australians with the United Nations to promote justice, peace, security and sustainable development for present and future generations.

This year has started off on an uncertain note. Human rights continue to be eroded on numerous fronts and the Sustainable Development Goals remain as goals to test our resolve to a truly sustainable future. To make progress we all need to make every effort to assist the UN in its tasks whilst assisting Australia to reach new heights of achievement in sustainability. Please join us in making this happen.

Steve Lennon, UNAAWA President

“ Together, let us stand up against bigotry and for human rights.

Together, let us build bridges.

Together, let us transform fear into hope.

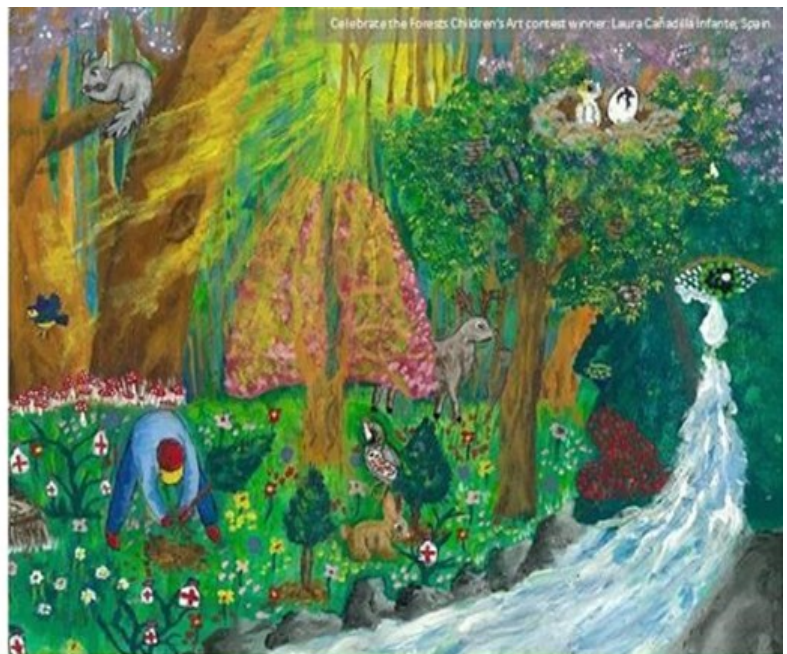
For our Muslim brothers and sisters – and for all humanity.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres
on Combatting Anti-Muslim Discrimination and Hatred
17 January 2017



TOGETHER
RESPECT, SAFETY AND DIGNITY FOR ALL

**Forests cover
30% of land -
target set to
increase this by
3%, by 2030**



#GlobalGoals | #UNForests | www.un.org/esa/forests

HUMAN RIGHTS EVENT RECOGNISES THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY REFUGEES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

8 December 2016

The intake of people seeking a safe future benefits not only the individuals and families escaping human rights violations, but through resilience, skills and entrepreneurship can significantly contribute to our diverse community and a prosperous economy.

In recognition of Human Rights Day, commemorated on 10 December, the UNAAWA hosted an event at the Perth office of King, Wood and Mallesons law firm. The event sought to celebrate and explore the economic, cultural, social and environmental gains which follow effective resettlement of humanitarian entrants.

We want all communities to be recognised, respected and afforded equitable treatment. We welcome everyone to be part of the solution.

Around 100 participants heard from a panel of speakers. Each sharing personal stories and insights into the challenges and successes experienced by those who have come to Australia as refugees and asylum seekers.

“In Australia, we are privileged to live in a free, democratic and open society,” said UNAAWA President Mr Steve Lennon. “We should appreciate

this freedom and never take it for granted. It’s a gift we should nurture every day through how we live and how we support those who have been deprived of their basic human rights.”

Many humanitarian entrants continue to face barriers in starting a new life, including establishing connections with their new community. A report published by the WA Metropolitan Migrant Resource Centre¹ recommends a greater focus on empowerment, fostering networks and building capacity to assist with faster integration and resettlement.

The UNAAWA works to connect the WA community with the work, goals and values of the UN, and to achieve positive change to support those who are most vulnerable. Ms Fadzi Whande, Chair of the UNAAWA Human Rights Committee emphasised the need for more people to get involved in generating awareness for human rights both locally and globally. “Our objective is to increase engagement on these issues. We want all communities to be recognised, respected and afforded equitable treatment. We welcome everyone to be part of the solution,” she said.

Melanie Chatfield, UNAAWA Chief Editor

[1 www.mmrcwa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/Refugees-in-WA-Settlement-and-IntegrationFINAL.pdf](http://www.mmrcwa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/Refugees-in-WA-Settlement-and-IntegrationFINAL.pdf)



Guests and speakers at UNAAWA Human Rights Event. Photo: UNAAWA

EXPERIENCE OF A UNAAWA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE INTERN

In 2015 as part of my Bachelor's Degree course in International Relations at the University of Western Australia I decided to do an internship. I was a first year student and had only been in Perth for one semester but I was determined to get some practical experience related to my study. I applied for an Arts Practicum placement and the UNAA caught my eye.

Initially, I expected UNAA to be a not-for-profit that just ran model UN competitions for high school students. I was not sure what exactly could be done in WA to further the goals of the UN. I had been interested in the work of the UN ever since I first read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Even in the first year of my degree, I chose to write essays about the UN Security Council, or present on topics such as poverty and inequality, with particular focus on the Millennium Development Goals.

I set out to get more information about the UNAA and sought feedback from my practicum advisor. I was advised that the WA division of UNAA was not looking for interns at that point in time and I should consider applying for something else. I decided to wait.

In August 2016, I was informed that an opportunity on the Human Rights Committee had become available and I immediately accepted. By that point, I had gained experience working with not-for-profit organisations as the Program Director of the Micro Volunteering Program and the Volunteering and Community Engagement Chair at UWA. A position as the Human Rights Project Officer was perfect for me, combining my interests in not-for-profit organisations and activism with my area of study.

From the very start, it was not the internship experience I had expected. Instead of having to work

in an office environment a few days a week, I was given tasks to complete on my own time. I never expected that much flexibility, and whilst a blessing, did mean I had to actively manage my time.

I was also surprised by the people I worked alongside. You would be hard-pressed to find a more diverse, experienced and passionate group of individuals anywhere else in Perth. I have learnt so much from getting to know other people, chatting to them about what they do and their motivations for being involved with the UNAAWA. Seeing great turn-outs at our meetings and the amount of time and effort contributed by volunteers was astounding.

I was even more surprised that these amazing and experienced individuals were willing to listen and take on board my ideas. I truly felt valued. It was fantastic to see my suggestions and contributions become realised during the Peace Day event. I had not imagined playing such a significant role in the running of a successful event at the start of my internship. It was a testimony to the amount of faith the President Carlyne Gatward and everyone on the committee had in me.

I enjoyed the variety in the work throughout my internship. There was never any monotony. My first project was presenting for UN Careers alongside high profile guests. I then helped organise and MC for the Peace Day event, wrote my first media release, presented at the AGM, wrote a speech for an event with Australia for UNHCR, researched and reported on the global refugee situation and helped with preparations for Human Rights Day. I have also been assisting Fadzi Whande, the Human Rights Chair, with various tasks to support and give direction to the committee.

“It was amazing to see my suggestions and contributions become realised during the Peace Day event.”

I was also afforded the independence and flexibility to pursue my own interests. For example, I came up with an idea for a new volunteer program specifically for university students. I discussed my idea with the volunteer coordinator and developed a proposal to be presented to the Executive Committee. It is a piece of work that I am perhaps most proud of. From being unsure about what I was doing at the start, through the course of my internship I developed the confidence to develop and pitch my own ideas.

The most difficult parts of the internship were the challenges of working at a volunteer-run not-for-profit organisation. Everyone was not only busy with their full-time work and personal lives, but with the sizable amount of responsibility they had taken on within UNAOWA as well. As an intern with no example materials to base my own work off and unsure of what was expected of me, I often found myself feeling quite lost. Emails sometimes went unanswered for longer than I had hoped which made me anxious. However I soon learned to note down my questions and get answers in person. Once I got a bit more used to how things were done, it got easier. I gradually learnt to be more confident of doing my work independently and make the necessary changes following feedback.

Meetings were initially a lot more casual than I had expected. However over time we have learned to strike a good balance between remaining flexible and covering everything on the agenda. I have worked on ways to make all our records and documents more accessible in order to increase transparency and help keep better records of past work and decisions.

"I have had the opportunity to learn from, and work with, outstanding individuals, gained experience in organising events, and developed the confidence to speak publicly and



Sophia (middle) with guest speakers as part of the UNAAWA event Insider's Guide to the UN. Photo: UNAAWA

Another struggle for me were incredibly busy and hectic periods, followed by times when there was not much for me to do. It was especially difficult when the busy periods at the internship happened to coincide with exams or assignments at university.

Overall, I have had the opportunity to learn from, and work with, outstanding individuals, gained experience in organising events, and developed the confidence to speak publicly and express my ideas. I have been able to learn more about the UN and human rights through my research and through interacting with other committee members. It has been amazing to see first-hand how much can be done with so little. Looking at some of the Human Rights Committee events, I don't think anyone could guess how small our budget is. By contributing their time, effort and expertise, as well as various resources and connections, it feels like the committee is able to accomplish the impossible.

I could not be more thankful to everyone who has helped me learn and grow while exposing me to what it takes for the UNAAWA to keep doing what it does. Having completed my internship, I will become a member and continue contributing to the Human Rights Committee.

**Sofia Kouznetsova,
UNAAWA Human Rights Committee Member**

LIVING ON THE LINE OF CONTROL – TWELVE MONTHS IN KASHMIR

On 1 April 1973 at age 40 years of age, Major Trevor Arbuckle and his wife Iris left for Rawalpindi, Pakistan, and the HQ of the United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan.

The life changing move followed a short lunch briefing with the Chief Operations Officer regarding a UN peacekeeping vacancy. "It wasn't really a selection process, the Army was just keen to send someone," recalled Dr Arbuckle. Keen for the opportunity, they packed up their lives, put their three children into boarding school and headed to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Since achieving independence from Britain in 1947, India and Pakistan have fought several declared wars over the mountainous territory. The area remains roughly divided between the two countries by the UN negotiated Line of Control, formerly known as the Cease Fire Line.

The first observers arrived in the region on 24 January 1949, forming the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. Their purpose was to provide an impartial view of a situation, promoting peace indirectly by monitoring adherence to ceasefires and validating reports of activity and atrocities.

Major Arbuckle was among several Australian UN representatives sent to Kashmir between 1952 and 1985. He joined a group of five other Australian military observers, most drawn from the Citizen Military Forces. Up to this time, Australia had provided a mix of retired officers and veterans from World War 2 and Korea. The 1973 group included two teachers from Queensland and a grazier from New South Wales. "We were all majors in the citizen military force with both life experience and diplomacy skills," he said.

At that time, the posting was unaccompanied so they paid for his wife to join him. Unable to stay together, for five months Mrs Arbuckle lived aboard a house boat on Nagin Lake, part of the lake system fed by the Jhelum River in the picturesque valley of Kashmir.

Officers on leave stayed separately on the Royal Paradise boat. "The boats had a bath and a flushing toilet that went straight into the lake. You couldn't swim near the boat but there was a freshwater spring nearby," Mrs Arbuckle said. "We had to travel everywhere by water taxi. There was a man in a punt to paddle you. They were quite difficult to manage on your own".



Major Trevor Arbuckle in Kashmir. Photo: TJ Arbuckle.

The region is known for its crafts including silverwork, silk weaving and wood carving and the wives were permitted to discover the shops in the area. "We got to know the best places and when the officers returned on leave we'd take them to buy carpets, furniture and saris," said Mrs Arbuckle. "Their designs were old but what you could get was only limited by your imagination" Dr Arbuckle remembers.

In deference to the winter, the UN changes sides between India and Pakistan every six months. During his 12-month posting Dr Arbuckle split his time on either side of the line, staying at Baramulla, Rajouri, Kotli and Bhimber. "India tolerated us but Pakistan really made us feel welcome. On the Indian side, it was mostly liaison but on the Pakistan side I went to visit the front line," he said.

Amidst the mountains of the Himalayas, transport was by jeep or air. From 1975 to 1979, Australia provided an RAAF Caribou to assist with transport and resupply of the UN observers between stations. In 1973, Canada provide a Twin Otter aircraft.

During his posting, Dr Arbuckle observed many differences in units, machinery and weapons to the Australian Army. "On one visit the driver showed me a mule squadron, the bottom of the hierarchy. I inspected 92 mules and equipment and got a good appreciation of their difficulties," he said.

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United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. From this mountain near Bhimbar, Pakistan, peacekeepers from the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan get a view of the Line of Control. Photo: UN Media Centre # 99345 (2005)

“It wasn’t uncommon for bullets to be going overhead” he recalls. “Our job was to confirm there had been no change in disposition or defensive arrangements and report when either side had an infraction. We were there to verify information, report facts and try to determine why it happened.”

He remembers the underlying relationships formed as a result of the Indian and Pakistan senior officers having training together. “They all knew each other. When I got invited to dinner with one of the Generals he asked me to say hello to the one on the other side, ...and one time they set up a big tent set for a cross border meeting that we weren’t supposed to know about.”

Sport and cultural events were a regular occurrence and the UN observers were often invited to attend or participate. “There was one observer from Uruguay who was very good at the interdivision football” said Dr Arbuckle. One particularly memorable evening was a religious ritual that included the ceremonial blessing and subsequent sacrifice of a water buffalo. The important proceedings lit only by flares.

Without air-conditioning, proper cold weather clothes or refrigeration everyone was constantly sick. “Water would be poured from a terracotta jug and you would be handed a glass with 14 sets of fingerprints on it,” said Dr Arbuckle. “You can’t refuse, you just have to accept it.”

Food was usually chicken, mutton and guinea fowl, often smaller and more malnourished than what they were used to. Kashmir has a temperate climate and agriculture is a big part of the economy. Fruit trees, vegetables and staple crops such as wheat, corn and oats are commonly grown in the valley and the couple fondly remembered the cherry tree and roses in their backyard.

Following their experience, the Arbuckles found it hard to settle back into normal life and have continued to travel extensively. “We have been up the Khyber Pass three times and to the Taj Majahal twice,” said Dr Arbuckle.

“It wasn’t uncommon for bullets to be going overhead....Our job was to confirm there had been no change in disposition or defensive arrangements and report when either side had an infraction.”

They returned to Kashmir in 1978 as part of a driving holiday from London to Bombay. The trip included getting their windscreen fixed in Tehran, right around the time when civil resistance demonstrations were occurring. “We were in Iran getting fresh water from the American embassy the day the troubles started,” remembers Dr Arbuckle.



United Nations Observers assigned to investigate positions on both sides of the "cease-fire" line report their findings to the UN Commission for India and Pakistan which is mediating the Kashmir conflict. "Cease-fire" line between India and Pakistan runs through these mountain peaks. Foreground shows Indian outpost looking across Pakistan position on opposite peak. Photo: UN Multi Media Centre # 83977 (1949)



A jeep of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan coming down a typical Kashmir road. The observers were on their way to the cease-fire line, where they were to investigate an incident Photo: UN Multi Media Centre # 181023 (1955).

They travelled to Turkey in search of the grave marker of Dr Arbuckle's great uncle who was killed in Gallipoli. Staying the night in a campervan next to a sentry post where soldiers on duty cooked them local fish. "We signed the visitors book right after Queen Elizabeth who had been there just six months before," said Mrs Arbuckle.

Used to the Islamic culture, they chose the middle silk route through China when they travelled from Beijing to St Petersburg in 2004.

Since returning to Australia, Dr Arbuckle completed his Lieutenant Colonel's course, Bachelor of Science, Master of Business Administration and Doctor of Business Administration.



UN Peacekeepers Photo: UN Multi Media

His advice to those contemplating taking on a role such as a UN peacekeeper, "It is an experience you cannot quantify.... set your mind and just do it".

Melanie Chatfield,
UNAANA Chief Editor Newsletter

Further reading: Londey, Peter (2004) *Other People's Wars. A history of Australian Peacekeeping.*

- 1 www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmogip/
- 2 www.awm.gov.au/atwar/peacekeeping.asp
- 3 www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/peacekeeping/observers/kashmir.asp

WA SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BENEFIT FROM EDUCATION RESOURCES BANK



Namibian student Photo: UN Multimedia #37157

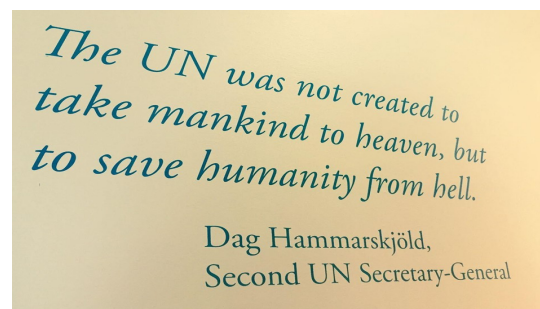
The UNAANA has developed a range of education resources to help students and teachers reflect on the work and ideals of the UN in both the local and global context. The resources provide a UN perspective on contemporary world issues and simplify the more complex concepts for exploration within schools.

Resources include PowerPoint presentations designed for use by teachers and students, supporting material for teachers outlining curriculum links, ideas for class activities, photo collections and student resources.

The initiative is just one component of the UNAANA Global Citizenship Schools program which seeks to engage member schools and students in teaching and learning about the UN.

For further information or to suggest new resources for development email gcs@unaa-wa.org.au.

Rees Barrett,
UNAANA Chair Education Reference Group



THE YEAR IN REVIEW - REFLECTIONS FROM OUR GLOBAL REPRESENTATIVE

The UNAAWA witnessed a new and freshly elected Executive and the successful delivery of prominent calendar events. It is heartening to observe membership numbers increase, and the number of young people joining the organisation is gratifying. Congratulations to our incoming New President, Vice Presidents and Executive committee office bearers. Your commitment continues to make us a successful community organisation.

Briefly, in the past year I was involved with various WA tertiary institutions on multiculturalism and migration assimilation, assisting others to write their journey. I completed a multicultural Italian-Australian anthropological, social and historical journey of our family which has taken 10 years to document. Australia can be proud of its multicultural pre-war, post-war and present migrant engagement. We are a better nation as a result.

One only needs to look at the Syrian 'breaking point of life' in a conflict that cannot be resolved in our modern educated world. Notwithstanding the natural disasters that have occurred sometimes without warning, inflicting hardship and challenging survival.

From a UN agenda standpoint, there were, and remain, many and varied issues yet to be resolved. However, outcomes regarding carbon emissions, the Millennium Development Goals, and UN Security resolutions allowing the UNHCR refugee agency, Red Cross and food relief entry into war zones were positive outcomes.

Poverty reduction, peace, widespread global refugee crises, food sufficiency, humanitarian, health, education, gender equality and climate change remain significant matters and continue to be prominent apex priorities, along with the threat of terrorism.

"In the global arena, a noticeable wave of change sweeps the world in relation to security, asylum seekers, geopolitical, economic and humanitarian predicaments."

I received an unexpected nomination to be a patron of Miracles, a UK Charity, joining three other individuals in London. The organisation cares for homeless people and victims of land mines who require prosthetic and artificial limb surgery.

I was further privileged to travel to Bosnia-Herzegovina to meet with other UN agencies on secondment to land mine clearance, social rehabilitation, Romany (Gypsy) housing re-settlement, and prosthetic limb manufacture for children.

In the global arena, a noticeable wave of change sweeps the world in relation to security, asylum seekers, geopolitical, economic and humanitarian predicaments. Times are indeed different from the conventional peace time that we have perhaps experienced.

At home, we all read, if not feel, the structural shifts of human atrocities, sadness and heartfelt feelings toward the under privileged, and those experiencing unquantifiable and unimaginable persecution engulfed with abhorrent suffering of 'life itself'.

In early January 2017 a new Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, was appointed replacing the notable Ban Ki-moon. Secretary Guterres has a strong commitment to reducing global poverty, elevating children's welfare and health, and empowering women.

Over on the Atlantic Americas, the United States' republican election victory poses concern particularly to the UN and its agencies. From mandates of slashing budgets to its core key operations, long standing treaties of Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Rim locations such as NATO, ASEAN and other joint peer member organisations are showing early concern as to America's regional continuance to peace time security support.

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"From a UN agenda standpoint, there were, and remain, many and varied issues yet to be resolved."

Australia, very much part of this global arena, takes its place in international long standing unity membership as a close partnering friend and headline member to matters of border security, refugees, aid and other humanitarian needs, making our Australian Sino-Asian Japanese position as close neighbours even more important.

The prospect of conflict between super powers China and the United States increases impact to Australia on security and bilateral trade. The fine line of global diplomacy will no doubt be tested, and ripples will be felt on our shores.

The January meeting of heads of State and world elite business leaders at the World Economic Forum in Davos hopefully realigned world leaders to stronger engagement across all sectors of "new world order" in human behaviour and the way we conduct transboundary business trade and inter-governmental activities.

Real time events such as the recent Florida Ft Lauderdale terrorist attack strike home. They are not as distant as one may think. Abatement of global peace seems as distant as ever from each day of reporting to continual heightened alert.

Casualties now common daily news in conflict areas such as Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, West Bank, Gaza Palestine and Israel.

Secretary General Guterres, at his first formal pivotal address to the Security Council stated, "We must work proactively to prevent wars". In Australia we are threatened and not immune to an ideology that strikes against a harmonious society and what we stand for in expression of democracy free speech, religion and political persuasion. We must bridge this divide with meaningful dialogue and not with arms.

My recent visit to the United States from September to December 2016 included attending various international seminars, charity business appointments and examining engineering of new generation projects.

I inspected previous damage to life and property in New Orleans from Hurricane Katrina, and in Haiti in the Caribbean from Hurricane Matthew. UNDEP continues to provide and oversee disaster relief in these areas.

While there, I had the opportunity to visit iconic historical locations spanning the late 1700s Civil wars, when African-American slavery was prominent in the southern Gulf States, when cotton was king and classified 'white gold 'in Louisiana, Georgia, Mississippi and South Carolina.



The 9th UN Secretary-General António Guterres commenced his five-year term on 1 January 2017. The former Prime Minister of Portugal is pictured here with UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohamed (right), the Chef de Cabinet, Maria Luiza Riberio Viotti (left) and other senior officials. "Only global solutions can solve global problems and the UN is the cornerstone of that," he told UN staff. <https://www.un.org/sg/en>

Individuals like us can make the difference with committed voices from afar to support humanitarian outcomes and human principles.

I visited sites where the racial master-servant struggles that led to slavery abolishment were fought, and the later life and years of Dr Martin Luther King including the motel where he was assassinated. In Nashville I visited the Jewish Holocaust memorial place of hope displayed poignantly from war records commemorating Anne Frank's respect to her fellow Jewish Citizens a short distance away from the WWII price of victory war memorial.

My time in the United States witnessed landmark events such as the UN Global Change Agreement in New York, the election of a new President, the death of Cuban President Fidel Castro, Armistice Day (our Remembrance Day), Cape Cod Hyannis, the Estate of John F Kennedy family on the anniversary of his death, and the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbour.

I attended a community national Thanksgiving Day, a Mariners Mass at St Louis Cathedral in New Orleans and read headlines of the death of John Glen, the first man on the moon in 1969. In Tennessee I met with Mining leaders on new environmental technology to rehabilitate live and dormant coal mines from proven and tested experience in Tennessee Valley.

My visits to the New York UN HQ, highlighted for me our importance on the world stage. Australia continues to hold a valued position as a country always ready to assist through our Government aid agencies and NGO foundations. The recent formation of the Australian based Global Foundation NGO business model which encompasses focusing on global progress in economic,

social, and environmental matters including eradication of forced labour from global supply chains, strengthening partnerships for business and religions, and improving economic empowerment of women shows Australia's commitment to the less privileged from our corporate leaders displays a concerned initiative.

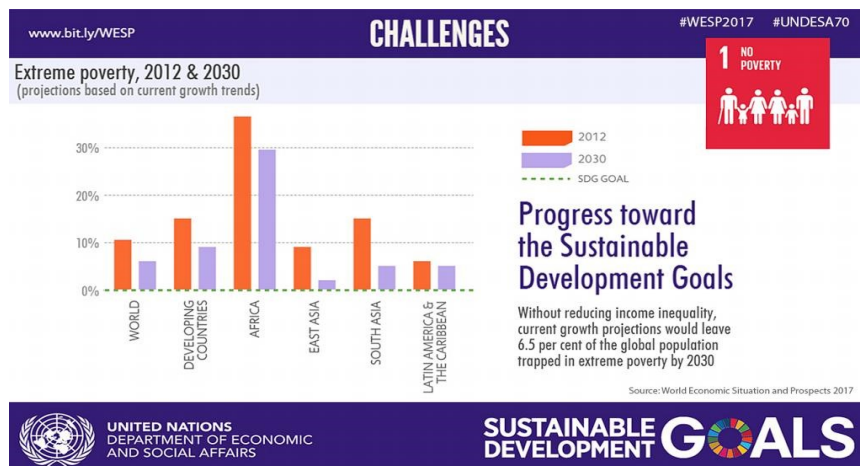
From our WA home town, as Ambassadors for the UN, we must continue to stand steadfast for the core values that we carry and hopefully instil in others.

In New York, Boston, Savannah, Nashville and other cities, attending many functions, I was asked a very simple question "How is society and UN going to fix these problems?" I responded, "Alone we cannot. However, by peaceful and continuous commitment to core human values and humanitarian purpose, we can continue our sincere crusade. For it's the small pebbles that cause the mill pond to ripple". Individuals like us can make the difference with committed voices from afar to support humanitarian outcomes and human principles.

Our 2017 year ahead has many difficult challenges in our own demographics, governments, and lives. It's not how many times we fail or fall, it's the number of times we raise and remobilise to continue. In the end it comes down to the fact that we must live with each other. We are all brothers and sisters irrespective of colour, creed or religion, and we can make a difference. One fact is certain, there are trying days ahead, at times we will feel helpless however we are all blessed with our UNAAWA special genes that make us care for others.

I look forward to continuing to do my very small part to improve others' lives.

***Joseph A Caruso,
UNAAWA Global Representative***



GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN AND THE END TO POVERTY INITIATIVE

In June 2016 Dr Sandy Chong attended the 2016 International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference at the UN in Geneva. The two-week conference focused on "The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda". For the first time ever there was a special focus on global supply chain and how it impacts the equality and work conditions for men, women and children worldwide.

"Personally, it was a honour to be invited to attend the conference and to join in on the discussion of Global Supply Chain Sustainability for the business group," said Dr Chong. "I was also appointed the Special Rapporteur on Social Protection for Youth Workers at a Plenary Session for the Disadvantaged Group."

The following article was written by Dr Sandy Chong and first published by the UNAA.

The 105th International Labour Organization Conference was held at the UN in Geneva. 5,982 representatives from 187 member states came together to share insights and participate in dialogues on advancing opportunities for all to secure equal and dignified working conditions.

The three focus areas as indicated by the ILO Director-General, Guy Ryder, are the Standards Initiatives, which was an integral part of the ILO activity, the End to Poverty, and Future of Works initiatives. The outcomes of these discussions are aimed to feed directly into the strategic planning for all ILO programs.

Despite the ILO being almost 100 years old, it was the first time in history that Global Supply Chains were on the agenda in its annual conference. The tripartite structure includes governments, employers, and workers' groups that discussed and debated whether and how Global Supply Chains can ensure decent work for all workers globally.

It was acknowledged during the conference, the positive contribution Global Supply Chains have on employment in some countries and regions.

However, supply chains have also been known to create a permissive environment for labour standards violations and failure to respect decent work.

In fact, testimonies were given by worker groups particularly from a range of Asian countries that are facing increased repression from governments and employers in the region. Sharan Burrow, the ITUC General Secretary has called for the end of violence against workers and implored the governments to return to the bargaining table, giving workers the right to freedom of association and minimum living wage and collective bargaining.

The three key learnings from the ILO conference are:

Firstly, progress has been slow to reduce poverty which was a key issue during the conference, Director-General Guy Ryder referred to his report entitled "The End of Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda". He indicated that ILO must set the course for making poverty history by 2030. Its role is to set a compass to guide members in meeting their obligations to apply ratified conventions, and delineate the way which decent work can and must contribute to peace and stability.

However, for ILO to be effective, it was highlighted that the role of ILO needs to be expanded for it to work on Global Supply Chains, such as focusing on transition and building stronger national institutions.

Secondly, it is acknowledged that Global Supply Chains contribute to governance gaps and new regulatory gap needs to be bridged at the international level because cross-border supply chains exacerbate these governance gaps. Currently there are number of initiatives by multinational firms which address these issues such as conducting audit on their suppliers for labour rights issues, but more needs to be done on a sectoral, national, regional and international level.

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Despite the ILO being almost 100 years old, it was the first time in history that Global Supply Chains were on the agenda in its annual conference.

The members called upon ILO to establish a process or body that would assess the nature of the problem and consider what ‘guidance, programs, measures, initiatives or standards are needed to promote decent work and/or facilitate reducing decent work deficits in global supply chains’.

Finally, it is important to note that the premise of ILO is that it rests on national-level enforcement, and from a regulatory standpoint, there has never been an ILO convention that defines transnational responsibilities for governments. Nonetheless, governments are called on to strengthen their labour inspection systems, promote social dialogue and grant fundamental rights to workers. As for businesses, they have been called on to put in place measures that reflect the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, as well as due diligence procedures to promote decent work in their supply chains.

Whether major players from the international business and policy community achieves these targets, the conference is deemed successful for now in putting these participants in conversation with worker groups, activists and scholars. Also, the particular focus which the Global Supply Chain lens provide this conference offers new perspective for viewing the efficacy of ILO programs and standards. It is expected that more research will shed better understanding of the issues while offering a roadmap for action in the future.

Dr Sandy Chong, UNAAWA Vice President

Further information:

Global Supply Chain sustainability, decent work for transition to peace, and social protection for a prosperous economic development: <http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/105/committees/lang-en/index.htm>

Conference proceedings and sessions http://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/105/media-centre/news/WCMS_489199/lang-en/index.htm.

The United Nations

- Provides food and assistance to some 80 million people in 80 countries
- Supplies vaccines for 40% of the world’s children, helping save 3 million lives a year
- Assists and protects 59.5 million people fleeing war, famine, and persecution
- Works with 195 nations to hold the rise in global temperature below 2°C
- Keeps peace with 125,396 peacekeepers in 16 operations on 4 continents
- Fights extreme poverty, helping to improve the livelihoods of more than 1 billion people
- Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations
- Coordinates a \$20.1 billion appeal for the humanitarian needs of 87.6 million people
- Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict, including electoral assistance in some 67 countries
- Supports maternal health, helping 30 million women survive pregnancy and childbirth

2017 YOLANDE FRANK ART AWARDS

The UNAAWA Education Committee is launching the 2017 Yolande Frank Art Awards in WA schools. “We have conducted these awards annually since 2010 in memory of Yolande Frank, an outstanding member who died in 2009. A Holocaust survivor, Yolande held a passion to ensure that children understood about universal human rights,” said Rees Barrett, Chair of the Education Reference Group.

The Awards promote human rights education, and students can use any art medium to communicate the meaning and importance of a selected human right. This year, for the first time, the Awards will include both secondary and primary school students.

For the 2017 Primary School Award, year 4 to 6 students will use any media to communicate Article 16 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child: Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks on their way of life, their good name, family and home. “Researching the importance of this human right is very relevant in the age of social media” said Rees.

For the 2017 Secondary School Award, year 7 to 9 students will communicate Article 15 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: Humans have the right to belong to a country. “With an estimated 60 million refugees on the move, it is very relevant to ask our youngsters to learn about and communicate the importance of this human right.”

The Education Committee urges all members who have a friend or relative in years 4 to 9 to promote the Awards. “The Awards promotion flyer is available on the UNAAWA website along with details for schools on how to enter,” says Rees.

Schools can select their leading four entries and submit them electronically to UNAAWA by 25 August 2017. This provides a good lead-time for schools to involve their students.

The website also contains advice notes for children and teachers with a recommended approach to researching and visually communicating human rights. These are based on the Australian Curriculum General Capability of Creative and Critical Thinking – so important in our rapidly changing world.

The advice will also be helpful for any UNAAWA member wanting to encourage a school-aged friend or relative to get involved in the Awards as a home-based project, particularly if the school is not able to include it in its crowded curriculum. All entries in the Art Awards are through the child's school and must be verified by the Principal as the student's own work.

Above all, it is vital for the ongoing integrity of the Awards that the boundary between motivating/supporting the child's learning journey (through questioning and discussion) and ensuring the child determines and implements the creative process is managed.

***Rees Barrett,
UNAAWA Chair Education Reference Group***

Gaining School Support Important Steps to Follow

- Ask the child's school/teacher if they are interested in participating in the Awards.
- If they are, tell them about the information on the UNAAWA website.
- If the school is not able to include Award participation in its curriculum but your child is keen, ask the teacher if they would be prepared to verify and submit the child's entry completed at home.

If so:

- Negotiate with the teacher the evidence required for verification – we recommend a dated journal and/or visual diary, in the child's hand, showing the development process.
- The teacher will also need to verify by comparing the standard of the finished product with similar work usually completed in class by the child.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

UNAAWA President's Address

31 January 2017

Firstly, I respectfully acknowledge the past and present traditional owners of this land on which we are meeting, the Noongar people. It is a privilege to be standing on Noongar country. I also acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the furtherance of the fundamental Human Rights of all people in this country we all live in and share together – Australia.

As we mark the International Day of Remembrance in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust it is fitting to remember why we have days such as this. After remembering the many millions of humans who have been victims of genocide we should always look to the future and ask ourselves, “what contribution can I make to ensuring that this never happens again?”

If we honestly reflect, we can say that we have not been particularly successful in learning the horrific lessons taught humanity by the Second World War and the Holocaust. This is highlighted in the address of the United Nations Secretary General António Guterres to the UN General Assembly on Friday 27 January, on the occasion of the Observance of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

In this address he said: -

“Today is a day to remember, reflect and look forward. The world has a duty to remember that the Holocaust was a systematic attempt to eliminate the Jewish people and so many others. There is no better education for the future than the guarantee that we

will always be able to remember the past and to honour the victims of the tragedies of that past.

It would be a dangerous error to think of the Holocaust as simply the result of the insanity of a group of criminal Nazis. On the contrary, the Holocaust was the culmination of millennia of hatred and discrimination targeting the Jews – what we now call anti-Semitism.



Commemoration in Memory of Victims of Holocaust Photo UN Multi Media Photo # 713329

History keeps moving forward, but anti-Semitism keeps coming back. After the Holocaust, the world seemed eager to find a more cooperative path. The founding of the United Nations was one expression of that moment. The UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Genocide Convention enshrined a commitment to equality and human rights. Humankind dared to believe that tribal identities would diminish in importance.

Anti-Semitism is [however] alive and kicking. Irrationality and intolerance are back. Hate speech and anti-Semitic imagery are proliferating across the Internet and social media. Violent extremist groups use anti-Semitic appeals to rouse their forces and recruit new followers. All this is in complete contrast to tolerance, the primacy of reason and universal values.

Today, we see anti-Semitism, along with racism, xenophobia, anti-Muslim hatred and other forms of intolerance, triggered by populism. I am extremely concerned at the discrimination faced by minorities, refugees and migrants across the world.

I find the stereotyping of Muslims deeply troubling. A new normal of public discourse is taking hold, in which prejudice is given a free pass and the door is opened to even more extreme hatred.

These are lessons for our time. We need to invest in education and youth. We need to strengthen social cohesion so that people feel that diversity is a plus, not a threat. The United Nations itself must do more to strengthen its human rights machinery, and to push for justice for the perpetrators of grave crimes. Today, we can be inspired by many cooperative efforts to bring diverse groups together.

As we remember the millions of victims of the Holocaust, we must take these words to heart and ask ourselves what we can do as individuals to create this value based and sustainable future for ourselves and our children.

We need to deepen this solidarity. After the horrors of the 20th century, there should be no room for intolerance in the 21st. That is the best way to build a future of dignity and equality for all – and the best way to honour the victims of the Holocaust we will never allow to be forgotten.”

If we take these words as a critical reflection of our collective inability to learn these lessons, then we should be asking ourselves what we should be doing differently from today to change our future. In this regard, we should look to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which was born out the horrors of World War II and adopted in 1948.

Its preamble states “...recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”

The 30 Articles of the UDHR form the basis of human rights law globally today and it is incumbent on all of us to be familiar with its provisions and to aspire to live by its values.

The UNAAWA is an organisation which focuses on the achievement of the goals and values of the UN in Australia, and which assists all stakeholders in civil society, politics and the public and private sectors in achieving these goals.

One of our focus areas is Human Rights and I urge all of you to consider involvement with us in the promotion of this critical human value today and into the future. Living the UDHR, coupled with the enduring lessons to be learnt from the Holocaust which we reflect on today, will go a long way to ensuring that we never again have such atrocities committed against fellow human beings.

I will conclude with a final extract from António Guterres inaugural address to the General Assembly on 12 December 2016. In commenting on modern society he said, “*Today’s paradox is that despite greater connectivity, societies are becoming more fragmented. More and more people live within their own bubbles, unable to appreciate their links with the whole human family.*”

In the end, it comes down to values.... We want the world our children inherit to be defined by the values enshrined in the United Nations Charter: peace, justice, respect, human rights, tolerance and solidarity.”

As we remember the millions of victims of the Holocaust, we must take these words to heart and ask ourselves what we can do as individuals to create this value based and sustainable future for ourselves and our children.

Steve Lennon, UNAAWA President

UNAA GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP SCHOOLS

IS YOUR SCHOOL SEEKING TO DEVELOP GLOBAL CITIZENS?

Joining the Global Citizenship Schools network offers many advantages:

- A Membership Kit including the United Nations (UN) flag and student-friendly versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Access to electronic teaching resources such as PowerPoint presentations on the history, ideals and work of the UN and Teacher Notes on WA curriculum links.
- Advice on UN related projects and competitions (e.g. about the environment, community development projects and art competitions).
- Regular newsletters sharing information on the work of the UN and current global affairs.
- Invitations to participate in events such as UN Day, the International Day of Peace and Human Rights Day.
- Access to our Speaker Program.
- Links with like-minded schools with opportunities to share ideas on global citizenship education.
- Through our membership in WFUNA (World Federation of United Nations Associations), be part of a global network of people in over 100 member states seeking to promote and strengthen the work of the UN.

The network will support WA primary and secondary schools implementing the curriculum – particularly in Civics and Citizenship, Geography and History.



UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



**United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

WEB: www.unaa-wa.org.au/

EMAIL: office@unaa-wa.org.au

PHONE: (08) 9221 7020

2017 YOLANDE FRANK ART AWARDS

STUDENTS IN YEARS 4 TO 6 AND YEARS 7 TO 9 ARE INVITED TO USE ANY VISUAL ART MEDIA TO CONVEY HUMAN RIGHTS:

YEAR 4 TO 6:

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 16 – children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks on their way of life, their good name, family and home.

YEARS 7 TO 9:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 15 – humans have the right to belong to a country.



2016 Winner Tea Heathcote-Marks, Karrinyup Primary School
Article 31 UN Convention on Rights of the Child Children have the right to relax, play and to join in a wide range of leisure activities.



2016 Highly Commended Olivia Cohen, Carmel School
Article 15 Universal Declaration of Human Rights humans have the right to belong to a country.

▶ HOW TO ENTER

- > Schools select leading entries (to a maximum of four) for electronic submission with Principal's Declaration.
- > Entries must be submitted to the UNAAWA office no later than 5pm Friday 25 August 2017.
- > Entries will be judged according to their originality and effectiveness in conveying the importance of the selected human right. The decision will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
- > **PRIZES** for Year 4 to 6 and for Year 7 to 9: Individual – Winner \$150 each for the school and the student, Highly Commended \$50 each for the school and the student.
- > Further information is available through the UNAAWA website: <http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/wa-programs-for-schools/wa-yolande-frank-art-award/>

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION

- > Teaching for human rights contributes to building student self-esteem and confidence – the foundation of protective behaviours instruction, which is now mandatory in all WA schools.
- > Teaching about human rights is part of the new Civics and Citizenship syllabus.

Each year since 2010, UNAAWA has conducted the Yolande Frank Art Awards in memory of long-time member Yolande Frank who died in 2009. A survivor of the Holocaust, Yolande Frank had a passion to ensure that children understood the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since 2015, the Awards have also been based on the related document, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Australia in 1990.



**United Nations
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UNAAWA www.unaa-wa.org.au

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**A PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT PROMOTING THE AIMS AND IDEALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS
THROUGH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**

UN OBSERVANCES

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 01	Zero Discrimination Day
Mar 03	World Wildlife Day
Mar 20	International Day of Happiness
Mar 20	UN French Language Day
Mar 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Mar 21	International Day of Forests
Mar 21	World Poetry Day
Mar 23	World Meteorological Day
Mar 24	International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
Mar 25	International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade
Mar 25	International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members
Apr 04	International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
Apr 06	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
Apr 07	International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda
Apr 12	International Day of Human Space Flight
Apr 20	UN Chinese Language Day
Apr 23	UN English Language Day
Apr 23	World Book and Copyright Day
Apr 29	Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare
Apr 29	International Dance Day

The Sustainable Development Goals and Australia – A National and Personal roadmap to sustainability

Friday, 31 March 2017 3:30 PM-6:00 PM
Building 100, Level 2, Executive Briefing Centre, Curtin University

On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. This was a critical component of a new sustainable development agenda for the Globe. This presentation will summarise these Sustainable Development Goals, what they can mean for life in modern society and Australia's performance against the targets to date. Suggestions will be made as to how we could improve our performance, as well as what the individual can do to make a contribution to a truly sustainable society.

Business, Human Rights and Sustainability – a roadmap to prosperity

Thursday 6 April 2017, 5.30 pm registration, 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm Presentation
Curtin Graduate School of Business, 78 Murray Street, Perth 6000

This seminar will discuss the role of business values and culture in creating sustainable business models for the future. Reference to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and how these can be linked to business strategy with a view to enduring business excellence.

Further information www.unaa.org.au/events



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