



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

JULY 2011

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UNAA WA Newsletter

President's Report Judith A. Parker AM DSJ

Special points of interest:

- UNAA WA provides a resolution regarding asylum seekers and refugees for review by National meeting.
- UNAA WA successfully assists in facilitating AIRWA Immigrant and Refugee Women's training.
- Change of date for UNAA WA AGM: Sunday 14th August 2011 at 2 pm.
- UNAA WA wins grant to provide 10 places for rural and remote delegates to attend the conference
- UNAA wins grant to provide 4 places for Pacific UNAA delegates to attend conference.

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A small committee has worked on a resolution to be put to the National Meeting of UNAA in August expressing concern at the language used by the media when reporting on issues relating to refugees and asylum seekers. The draft resolution was circulated to members for comment before it was forwarded to the National office for consideration. The resolution will be debated at the National Meeting.

The training program UNAA WA hosted on behalf of the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance was held on the 1st—3rd July 2011. The program was open to immigrant and refugee women aged 18 to 30 and provided training in application writing, CV development, and self esteem. The skills learnt will assist young women to gain study places, employment and contribute to the community. The program was funded by the Federal Government. The meeting room at our office building was used for the 3 day session and I would like to thank the UNAA WA volunteers who assisted over the three days. The program was an outstanding success.

The planning for the conference is now intense and I thank the team of volunteers working to bring about a successful occasion. Registrations are coming in; please consider sending in your registration and encouraging others to attend. This is an amazing opportunity to connect with like minded individuals and hear excellent speakers. The contribution of young people is essential for this conference. Encourage your local member or council to sponsor a year 12 student to attend on Friday and Saturday to hear an excellent line up of speakers and participate in workshops. It is hoped that WA women will attend the

status of women meeting on Thursday afternoon on 4th August 2011 between 2-4pm. At this meeting up to 30 women will discuss issues relating to women. This event is free if you are registered for the conference. Please contact me on email: judithannparker@bigpond.com if you would like to attend.

UNAAWA was successful in its application for funding to bring 10 delegates from rural and remote areas of WA to the conference. We have already had some exciting applications. UNAA was successful in its application for funding to bring 4 delegates from the Pacific to the conference. Delegates will attend from Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and PNG.

Have A Go newspaper has recently run an article on the conference and is offering a free place to attend the conference. The deadline for registrations is 29th July 2011.

The AGM of UNAA WA takes place on Sunday 14th August 2011 at 2pm. It will be held at the UNAA WA offices in Subiaco. Please note the change of date. All positions are vacant. Please consider nominating for a position on the committee and ensure this vital organisation continues its essential work. The 2010/11 team have worked hard to build up the credibility of the organisation and be part of its continuous growth.

This is my final President's comment as I finish my 3 year term on 14th August 2011. I thank the membership for the honour of leading this association. I am proud of its achievements and wish the association well for the future.

UNAA Polo Shirts available soon!



The UNAA WA has enlisted the assistance of Eclipse Universal and much appreciated sponsors, CJ Carmichael and the Caruso family to start our merchandise range. The polo shirts are being made using top quality materials, compliant with UN conventions and are available in an array of sizes. The UNAA WA urges you to purchase this trendy polo to assist with our educational activities and awareness raising of UN related issues, as well as raise funds to help upcoming projects. More information will be available shortly on our website: www.unaa-wa.org.au or please email Neesha Seth: events@unaa-wa.org.au for more information.

UNAA WA and the Australian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Alliance

The UNAA WA paired with the Australian Immigrant and Refugee women's alliance to facilitate a three-day training course that was held from the 1st - 3rd July 2011. The program was open to immigrant and refugee women aged 18 to 30 and provided them with an opportunity to consolidate their presentation skills, develop a knowledge of application writing and a general overview in relation to critical communication skills. The skills learnt will assist young women to gain study places, employment and contribute to the community. The program was funded by the Federal Government and has also piloted in other states with great success. The three day course was held at the UNAA WA offices in Subiaco and was facilitated by UNAA WA members. Thank you for all your help!





Homeless folk on a mission to raise swags for the homeless

Two homeless men will cycle through the south west as part of an effort to fund raise for swags for the homeless. Corey Wilkinson, Wayne Jecks and supporter Kate Massam will leave Perth on August 20, heading for Albany via Bunbury, Donnybrook and Bridgetown and Mt Barker.

"The bike ride will cover 517 kilometres and we hope to do up to 100 kilometres a day," Mr Wilkinson said.

"We will be stopping off in towns to highlight the plight of homeless folk and to ask people to help with trying to get as many quality swags to homeless people. We sleep through the cold and the rain and it's about both dignity and health."

Mr Wilkinson, 33, has been homeless for the most part of the past decade. For the last eight months, he has been sleeping in an alleyway with half a dozen others.

He has now secured a swag from Swags for the Homeless, he said.

He would now like to raise funds to buy them for the many homeless people he has come to know, not only in Perth but also the south-west.

Miss Massam, a university student originally from Esperance, said she was joining the bike ride as a show of support for Mr Wilkinson and Mr Jecks. Even though swags for the homeless were not a solution to homelessness, they provided a little bit of dignity.

Perth documentary filmmaker Callum Denness will be following the trio throughout their journey. He is making a documentary on the plight of WA's homeless.

The cyclists intend to make short stopovers in both towns to talk to people about homelessness and their objectives with the ride. "We hope to raise \$50,000 to buy swags," Mr Wilkinson said. "Each swag costs \$68 and these swags are fireproof." If they have not raised enough in donations by the time they reach Albany, then they will consider cycling back to Perth (rather than being driven back) to raise a little bit more, Mr Wilkinson said.

Anyone interested can find out more and donate at http://fundraiseswags.org.au/homeless_bike_ride

At least 110,000 people are homeless across the country, according to Homelessness Australia. And according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, there are at least 14,000 homeless people in WA alone, with 6,500 under the age of 18 and 1,500 of them under the age of 12. WA also has a list of 25,000 public housing applications, which equates to 55,000 to 70,000 people in waiting. Most people who find themselves in abject and acute homelessness are not on public housing waiting lists.

Gerry Georgatos
UNAA WA Committee member

Letter from the UNAA WA International Representative.

11 July 2011

Dear Madam President, Executive and Members,

UNITED NATIONS WORLD POPULATION DAY 11 JULY 2011

The world currently has a Demographic Population approaching Seven Billion (7 Billion) inhabitants of diverse social cultures, creeds, religions, languages and Sovereign origins. World demographics consist of Black, White, Coloured, Asians, and Indians who practice Christian and/or Non-Christian religious beliefs. Population growth of Western countries has exponentially spawned due to colonisation and industrialisation of the post-World War II era, with living standards encompassing the divide from the dire poor to the wealthy. Sadly, the distribution of wealth is a concern in this millennium. Seventy Five percent of the world's hungry live in rural and impoverished areas.

The VIII United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) model Agenda strives to protect and enhance livelihoods and longevity of the World's population, notably in developing countries aimed at reducing the widening gap of poverty by the year 2015.

As the developed and under-developed nations, consume greater use of energy and land to grow food, the increasing use of potable consumptive water and world population continues to grow annually at 150,000 people along with the demand and exploitation of fossil fuels and other natural resources. The developed nations maintain and further strive for increased food production, water and industrial infrastructure demands to pursue national development and a quest to feed, employ and advance the technology standing of their country; it is a race that sometimes leaves the poor, poorer and in the "unforgotten" slipstream of dire need.

I quote from the NYUN Press Release 3 May 2011:

Quote:

"World population to reach 10 billion by 2100 if fertility in all countries converges to replacement level.

The current world population of close to 7 billion is projected to reach 10.1 billion in the next ninety years, reaching 9.3 billion by the middle of this century, according to the medium variant of the 2010 Revision of World Population Prospects, the official United Nations population projections prepared by the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which is being launched today. Much of this increase is projected to come from the high-fertility countries, which comprise 39 countries in Africa, nine in Asia, six in Oceania and four in Latin America.

The highest potential for future population growth is in high-fertility countries." End Quote

The United Nations World Food Agency is concerned in the capacity of the existing global agricultural, cereal food basket providers such as Australia, Canada, the America's, Russia and Europe to produce sufficient food to feed their own populations and to allow surplus exporting to other nations, save for floods, droughts, cyclones, devastation and natural disasters.

GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS

Consider for most of us, food is always available in our refrigerator, larder or supermarket, a block away from our homes.

In 2007 – 2008 the increase in food and commodity prices saw dramatic increase, creating a global crisis leading to economical and social instability in developed and underdeveloped countries.

Almost one billion people go hungry every day unable to access food, whilst several billion suffer from malnutrition

Letter from the UNAA WA International Representative cont'd...

equated to **50 times the population of Australia**, not to mention potable water and sanitation, of which 1.5 billion have no potable drinking water and almost 2 billion have inadequate sanitation.

Some key factors in the challenge of a sustainable food cycle pre-deliverables to support sustainable population growth.

- Political stability
- Building a resilience of commodities
- Inspiring and empowering rural livelihoods
- Boosting agricultural development by and new higher yielding crops
- Accessing suitable arable and non-arable land, forming deserts into food bowls
- Shifting population into regional de-centralised regions
- Adopting the VIII MDG's as a Global model.
- Global, international multi sectorial social / economic / humanitarian framework.

It is in this serious, current scenario that the United Nations Agencies and major economic world G8 powers confront, in conjunction with international global advocacies, human rights organisations donor Governments and development agencies pledging financial support to fulfil the need for each human to survive insofar as advancing sustainable life which has access to health care, water, education and freedom of speech and liberty. It is up to all of us to empower change, in eliminating excessive waste of food, water and protecting our natural assets. Impoverished populations will only survive once these initiatives are implemented, and we practice in our lives, the deeds of sound responsible, ethical corporate stewardship. Intrinsicly, world populations are directly linked into the basic life support survival necessities of food, water, health and social economic and environmental wellbeing and living standards of a country.

Our Australian Government is assisting to make people in developing countries more food secure. The World's population will grow by 150,000 people annually for the next 40 years and to feed them, the world must produce 70% more nutritional food. The challenge to farming and conquering food production in arid climates is a real fact.

We all need to reach out to each other, either as individuals, organisations or Governments for the next global debate other than peace is "How can the World feed itself".

They are very much thought provoking deliberations.

Yours sincerely

JOSEPH A. CARUSO
UNAAWA International Representative
Perth, Western Australia

Further Resources

- **The United Nations Information Centre for Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific:** <http://www.un.org.au>
- **The United Nations Youth Association Australia (UNYA) WA Division:** <http://wa.unya.org.au/>
- **For international updates, sign up for UN Wire:** http://www.smartbrief.com/un_wire/index.jsp Read more about the Millennium project: www.unmillenniumproject.org

UNAA WA Editor: Neesha Seth



United Nations Association of Australia (WA Division)

2011 AGM

The meeting will include:

Presentation of the Annual Report
Election of Office Bearers
2011 Annual Address
Guest Speaker Greg Mahney
(Director, Advocare)

Sunday 14 August
2 pm (Light refreshments will be served
from 1.30pm)

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2011 UNAA CONFERENCE - SEEKING RURAL DELEGATES

The United Nations Association Australia (UNAA) 2011 National Conference is being held in South Perth this year on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th August and is open to everyone to attend. The theme of the conference is "Goals for Life" - the progress towards the achievement of the world's eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Matters such as providing education and health services for all, environmental sustainability, combating HIV/AIDS, gender equity and reducing poverty will be addressed.

The input of delegates from Western Australian rural areas to the conference is critical. Lotterywest has provided funding for the registration of 10 delegates from **rural, community, not-for-profit organisations** in various WA regions to travel to and attend the conference. The conference will include interactive sessions and workshops to develop practical strategies to influence the progress of the goals. Delegates will be able to share the strategies and the outcomes of the activities when they return to their community organisations.

The registrations cover the 2 day conference, the Gala Dinner and transport support such as the cost of bus/train travel, airfare (from Broome only) or part petrol expenses. Twin share accommodation at the Metro Hotel, South Perth is available for three nights (including breakfast) for four delegates of the delegates.

Applicants must live further than 50km from the Perth CBD and preference will be given to those representing rural and remote areas. Applicants will be notified by 26th July 2011. Successful applicants will be responsible for submitting a conference registration form and making their own accommodation and transport bookings. Reimbursement will be provided on production of receipts.

a) To apply, your application must include:

Your name, address, contact details, age, the reason for the application and a brief description of the community & organisation you represent.

b) You need to briefly indicate:

An interest in the progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Goals

An active interest in the work of the United Nations

A demonstrated ability to communicate knowledge gained at the conference to the local community

A commitment to report to your local community about the conference.

c) At the end of your application, please sign the following statement:

I agree with the conditions of the application _____ (signed) _____.

For more information, please contact UNAAWA President, Judith Parker, on 9527 2438 or visit our website at www.unaa-wa.org.au.

Applications are to be received by email to judithannparker@bigpond.com and vice-president1@unaa-wa.org.au by 5pm on Friday 22nd July 2011.



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division



President's Place

A complementary place is available to attend the UNAA conference Friday August 5 & Saturday 6th including dinner. Value is \$230 Contact President Judith Parker stating name, age, organisations you are involved with and the reason you would like to attend: email: judithannparker@bigpond.com or mail to 516 Safety Bay Rd Waikiki WA 6169. Entries close Monday July 25th, winner will be notified

Draft Resolutions for Federal Council 2011 Circulated 10 July 2011

Integrated Resolutions for consideration:

Due to the interest from multiple divisions in Indigenous issues and Refugee issues, it is recommended that the resolutions be integrated as per the below:

1. Indigenous Rights.

UNAA applauds the Federal Government for its apology to the stolen generations, for its signing on to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and for its invitation to the UN Special Rapporteur to visit Australia. At the same time, UNAA is aware of ongoing areas of deep concern to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Australia. We strongly support the Government proposing to give constitutional recognition to Australia's Indigenous Peoples."

Accordingly UNAA asks the Government to consider further the following:

- (a) withdraw the 'special measures' which have been invoked under the Racial Discrimination Act;
- (b) compensating financially those who were part of the stolen generation;
- (c) providing funding for Indigenous legal services;
- (d) implementing in Australian jurisdictions the provisions of the Declaration; and
- (e) negotiating a treaty or treaties to protect the rights of Indigenous Australians.

2. Refugees/Asylum Seekers.

UNAA urges the Australian Government to

- (a) review its policy of mandatory detention of asylum seekers in the light of the opinions of UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur, and the Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review panel, that it is against Australia's international obligations under the Refugee Convention.
- (b) encourage all governments in SE Asia to adopt the Refugee Convention; and
- (c) ensure accurate information about asylum seekers is made available to the Australian community so as to reduce the level of misunderstanding and mistrust about asylum seekers and refugees.

Individual Resolutions Prepared by Divisions

It is being recommended by the Resolutions Committee that those shown in Blue be brought together into the integrated resolutions above.

1. Recognition of to the rights of Indigenous People

SUBMITTED BY: NSW Division, Mina Singh Batra

Resolution

The United Nations Association of Australia

URGES the Australian Government to amend the Constitution to include recognition of all Australian Indigenous people.

Resolution

The United Nations Association of Australia

BELIEVES that mandatory detention of asylum seekers causes severe harm to detainees and places Australia in contravention of its international human rights obligations,

SUPPORTS the UNHCR call for alternatives to detention to be explored, and

URGES the Australian Government to move to end this policy

2. Extending Mandatory Detention

SUBMITTED BY: ACT Division

Preamble

Australia's policy of mandatory detention of asylum seekers has been criticised as inhumane, uneconomic and unnecessary. Currently as a result of the policy around 1000 children are held in detention. Mandatory detention creates mental health problems for detainees and has led to suicides and self-harm. The policy imposes enormous financial costs on the community and is unnecessary. UNHCR has said publicly (eg on 10 June) that detention does not deter irregular migration, and costs a lot more than releasing people into the community.

Resolution

The United Nations Association of Australia

BELIEVES that mandatory detention of asylum seekers causes severe harm to detainees and places Australia in contravention of its international human rights obligations,

SUPPORTS the UNHCR call for alternatives to detention to be explored, and

URGES the Australian Government to move to end this policy.

3. Carbon Pricing Mechanism

SUBMITTED BY: ACT Division

Preamble

Based on the best available science, the continued emission of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere threatens the well-being of the environment and future generations. Countries are moving to introduce carbon pricing mechanisms to curb greenhouse gas emissions. Australia must act urgently to decrease its own emissions. The introduction of a carbon pricing mechanism will help Australia achieve this.

Resolution

The United Nations Association of Australia

RECOGNISES the reality of increased greenhouse emissions as a major threat to the wellbeing of the environment and future generations,

SUPPORTS the introduction of a carbon price mechanism as the most appropriate policy response to the challenge increased greenhouse emissions, and

URGES all political parties to adopt this policy as an example of collaborative non-partisan action.

4. Ratification of the Migrant Workers Convention

SUBMITTED BY: ACT Division

Preamble

There are 9 major international human rights treaties. The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families is the only one that Australia has not ratified. In 2003 the Convention entered into force and in 2010 it reached its 20th anniversary, which was marked by the launch of a global campaign for its ratification by a number of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs. In the UN Universal Period Review of Australia's human rights performance, countries called on Australia to consider ratifying the Migrant Workers Convention. On the grounds that the protection of migrant workers is "adequate" Australia said that it will not consider ratifying. No wealthy country has ratified the Convention, despite the fact that many are migrant receiving states. 200 million people around the world are migrants, and in many parts of the world migrants face severe human rights abuses and are in vulnerable situations lacking legal protections.

Resolution

The United Nations Association of Australia

NOTES that migrants in many parts of the world face severe human rights abuses including in some cases slavery-like conditions,

EXPRESSES concern that Australia has not yet ratified the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, and

ASKS the Australian government to reconsider its position and consider ratifying the Convention

RECOMMENDS to WFUNA consideration of involvement in the global campaign for ratification of the Convention

5. UN Aid and Genetically Modified Food

SUBMITTED BY: SA Division

Preamble

At recent food conferences there has been strong criticism of the UN supplying GM food as aid to developing countries.

There would appear to be no regulatory framework setting out the conditions applying to the supply of such GM foods. The framework needs to address the issues involved food security, that is relating to the supply of food in circumstances where there is insufficient food, as well as issues of food sovereignty which protects the right of each country to be able to decide for itself what is in their best interests.

If both these aspects of the supply and distribution of food are not considered in the provision of food as aid then the UN is failing in its duty of care to the recipients.

The framework adopted within Australia (for example the Gene Technology Act 2000) illustrates the sort of regulation that we feel is needed to provide an opportunity to scientifically assess the possible outcomes of GM in other countries as well as Australia.

For developing countries additional factors might apply such as the cultural impact of sterile seeds on a society which customarily holds back a part of their usual crop for seed, or the impact of needing to use specific herbicides and insecticides to accompany the use of GM crops. It is of considerable concern to us that the UN does not appear to have any means of assessing the impact (positive as well as negative) with regard to the impact of GM food on the local situation of the recipients. Another issue involves GM modified foods which impact on insect populations, not only where specific herbicides and insecticides are mandated during the growth phase, but also where local different insect and other populations might be sensitive to genes which are appropriate in the donor country, but can have disastrous results in the different environment of the recipient.

Resolution

The United Nations Association of Australia

REQUESTS that the Australian Government, as a member state of the UN and represented on the various relevant UN bodies, raise our concerns at the lack of a regulatory framework covering the supply of GM food as aid to developing countries.

6. Refugees and the Malaysia Solution

SUBMITTED BY: SA Division

Preamble

The Australian Government is trying to discourage the arrival of refugees seeking asylum in Australia by boat by moving a number of these people to Malaysia, and accepting a larger number of proven refugees from those already in the queue in Malaysia.

At last year's Conference the UNAA congratulated the Government for choosing East Timor on account of their having adopted the UN Refugee Convention. It would be appropriate for the UNAA to act by asking the Australian government to publicly seek adoption of the Convention throughout the South East Asia region, especially mentioning Malaysia and Nauru as the two non-signatory states that are the subjects of the present debate.

The UNAA believes that refugees should be welcomed to Australia, not imprisoned, and allowed to find employment etc.

Resolution

The United Nations Association of Australia

REQUESTS that the Australian Government advocates for countries in South East Asia to adopt the Refugee Convention

REQUESTS the Australian Government look for alternative paths to the currently published solution with respect to Malaysia which respects both UN Conventions, and the individual rights of the people concerned.

ENCOURAGES the Australian Government to ensure that the rights of refugees are guaranteed

7. Rights of Australia's Indigenous Peoples

SUBMITTED BY: QLD Division, Waratah Gillespie

Preamble

GUIDED by the principles of equal rights and the right of all peoples to self determination, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

RECALLING that human rights are universal and indivisible, as affirmed at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna 1993,

AFFIRMING that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, entitled to their own unique identity, culture and customs, as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,

CONCERNED that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (First Peoples of Australia) continue to suffer injustices as a result of subjugation, dispossession and denial of equal rights, which prevents them from exercising their right to development according to their own needs and interests

RECALLING that during his 2009 visit to Australia, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Professor James Anaya, noted that this intervention includes measures that "overtly discriminate against Aboriginal peoples, infringe on their right to self determination and stigmatize already stigmatized communities",

RECALLING ALSO that the Special Rapporteur observed that the intervention is incompatible with Australia's international obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, treaties to which Australia is a party,

Resolution

The United Nations Association of Australia

APPLAUDS the Australian Government's decisions to apologise to the Stolen Generations, sign the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and invite the Special Rapporteur to visit Australia,

URGES the Government to swiftly reinstate the Race Discrimination Act, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur,

CALLS ON the Government to promptly cease all measures and acts that discriminate against Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and to implement the provisions of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, to which Australia is now a signatory,

URGES the Government to promptly remedy its economic discrimination against Aboriginal controlled legal services which have demonstrated exemplary efficiency in assisting their disadvantaged clients, and to provide adequate funding equivalent to that granted by the Government to mainstream legal services,

CALLS ON the Government to develop measures designed to overcome the harm caused by two centuries of subjugation and dispossession of the First Peoples of Australia, by working in partnership with them, recognizing their inalienable right to self determination which is enshrined in international law,

URGES the Government to follow up its formal Apology with payment of compensation to the members of the Stolen Generations, who suffered as a result of loss of connection with their families, communities, culture, identity and ancestral lands,

CALLS ON the Government to undertake a comprehensive review of all its legislation, policies, and programmes that affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in light of the Declaration, as recommended by the Special Rapporteur,

REQUESTS the Government work in partnership with the First Peoples of Australia to develop a treaty or set of treaties designed to protect the rights of all peoples who live in this great land.

8. Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

SUBMITTED BY: WA Division

Preamble:

Australia has obligations to protect the human rights of all asylum seekers and refugees who arrive in Australia, regardless of how or where they arrive from and whether they arrive with or without a visa.

Australia is party to the following covenants and conventions which safeguard and protect the rights of men, women and children seeking asylum or refuge within its shores, even if they do not meet the definition of refugee under the refugee convention.

While asylum seekers and refugees are in Australian jurisdiction, the Australian Government is party to obligations under various international treaties to ensure their *human rights are respected and protected*. These treaties include: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the 1951 UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees.

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) strongly affirms Australia's responsibilities as a signatory to the above and reiterates Australia's obligations to ensure that the human rights of these men, women and children are respected and protected. Dissemination of information to the greater public through the various media plays a key role in how the public views and eventually treats refugees and asylum seekers. It is therefore imperative that the media acts in a responsible and respectful manner when reporting on issue to do with asylum seekers and refugees in Australia.

UNAA values the tenets that found freedom of speech and respects the sovereign right of every Australian to express personal and professional views on any subject through various media. UNAA affirms that freedom of speech and freedom of thought are enriched by accurate reporting and correct usage of definitions and language

UNAA is deeply concerned that the dissemination of inaccurate and misleading language may perceptually modify the views of the public with regards to the status quo of men, women and children who seek asylum or refuge in Australia. For example the terms 'illegal immigrant' and 'queue jumper' are incorrect.

Resolution

The United Nations Association of Australia

REQUESTS the Immigration Minister to initiate bi-partisan information for media and public institutions that promotes respectful and accurate debate and discussion of the rights of asylum seekers, refugees and displaced persons

REQUESTS that all leaders in the Australian Parliament and State and Territory Parliaments actively encourage compassionate and accurate debates on asylum seekers, refugees and displaced persons.

