



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

MAY 2013

UNA AWA Newsletter

Australia and the UN—Can We Make a Difference?

[by Ailsa Allen, UNA AWA member]

On 2 May, approximately 100 people attended the UNA AWA event 'Australia and the UN: Can We Make A Difference?' at Curtin University. The Curtin University Centre for Human Rights Education partnered with UNA AWA and we were supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). A panel of leading government, NGO and academic representatives shared their experiences and their expectations for Australia's role with the UN mechanisms and on the Security Council - and the role civil societies can play in holding countries accountable for the treaty obligations. This was followed by an opportunity for the audience to frame questions and comment.

UNA AWA President Carolyne Gatward welcomed Dr Russell Trood and other guests and introduced Joan Mann who paid respect and acknowledged the Elders and Custodians of the land. She then passed the proceedings to Lisa Hartley from the Centre of Human Rights Education at Curtin University to introduce the panel and ask the question - will Australia will leave a legacy when our term on the UN Security Council is complete? Following a short video about the work of the UNA AWA, we were introduced to Dr Trood, UNA AWA National President.



[Photo (L to R): Guest speakers:

*Fiona McGaughey,
Michael Wood,
Tammy Solonec,
Paddy Cullen,
Russell Trood.]*

Dr Trood serves as the Special Envoy of the PM of Australia for Eastern Europe and Professor of International Relations at Griffith University. He is an Adjunct Professor in the Defence and Security Program, US Studies Centre at the University of Sydney and previously served as a Senator for Queensland and assisted in the foundation of a United Nations Parliamentary Group. He provided an overview of the UN since its inception and in particular the role of the Security Council. He acknowledged community frustration in regard to the Council but gave many examples showing that without the Security Council there would be no boundaries for states in conflict. He also cited the point that we can sit back and complain - or 'step up to the plate', take responsibility and grasp the opportunity to make a difference. He also pointed out that the Security Council is an important part of the UN and to be elected does have international prestige. He argued that the question is how often a country should put themselves forward for election.

Michael Wood, State Director of DFAT WA since 2012, has previously worked at several Australian diplomatic missions including Mexico City and Singapore. He spoke strongly about the overwhelming vote of confidence in Australia's diplomatic capabilities by being elected to the Council for a 2 year term and how we are seen internationally as a 'fair and balanced player'. He emphasised the importance of a seat on the Council but also warned that a country can be judged by its failure as well as successes. He reminded us that the Council does have the potential power for sanctioning countries (including sanctioning the use of force) and he emphasised how civil societies and NGOs could use the opportunity to consult with their representatives and to advise of pressing needs.

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Tammy Solonec, Director of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples is a Nyikina woman from Derby in the Kimberley region of WA. Tammy was awarded Young Female Lawyer and Lawyer of the Year for WA in 2012. Throughout her career, Tammy has advocated for Indigenous peoples on local, state, national and international levels including work with the UN. Some of her work has included advocacy for Indigenous people who may otherwise have not known how to seek justice; in particular she has been able to increase awareness of women's rights and she has looked closely at the issue of the high incarceration of indigenous people in WA and at programs to reduce these numbers. Her work has also encompassed issues with detention and a protocol regarding torture in SE Asia and in Africa but part of her message was the importance of Australians 'looking in our own backyard' to support and provide hope.



Tammy was followed by Fiona McGaughey who is a lecturer at the Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University. Her engagement with the UN includes as joint editor of an Australian shadow report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) in 2005 and as an NGO delegate to the CERD Committee review in Geneva. She spoke of rights and discrimination particularly in association with disability and commented on how much capacity NGOs have to influence and make a difference in the UN and through the Security Council.

[Photo: Russell Trood (UNAA President) and Harold Wilkinson (UNAA Treasurer) with UNAAWA Executive Members Kombe Musonda, Renata Sivacolundhu, Carolyne Gatward, Neesha Seth.]

Mr Paddy Cullen has been the Campaigns Coordinator for Oxfam in WA for 7 years. He has worked with activists and campaigners all over the world on the Arms Trade Treaty campaign and has also worked on Make Poverty History, Close The Gap, The Robin Hood Tax and the GROW campaigns. He shared his concern that global problems seem to be increasing and he cited poverty, childhood mortality, Indigenous rights and climate change as some of the issues. However, he noted that the world is getting "closer" via globalisation and this could increase opportunities in areas such as education, advocacy training and making changes at a grass roots level.

Following the speakers, there was the opportunity for questions from the floor which allowed for some debate and a short period for networking at the close of proceedings. It was a highly informative and entertaining presentation, inspiring great interest along with the possibility of developing stronger links between Australia and the UN.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day—15 June

The 15th of June every year marks the UN internationally recognised day - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. Alarming statistics from Advocare and the University of Western Australia estimate that over 12 500 older people in WA will experience some form of abuse at any given time. This figure is expected double in the next 20 years with an ageing population. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is about the community working together to bring greater recognition of the mistreatment of older adults and to highlight the need for appropriate action.

Elder abuse is defined as 'Any act which causes harm to an older person and occurs within an informal relationship of trust, such as family or friends'. The most common risk factors of abuse are due to a person's vulnerability, particularly when the older person is frail or has a disability, and can occur in many settings including residential aged care or in the community. Financial abuse is the most common type of abuse reported. However different types of abuse can occur simultaneously. Other types of abuse include psychological, social, neglect, physical and sexual.

Many seniors don't report abuse and remain silent about the issue. Some fear retribution from the abuser, while others believe that if they turn in their abusers, no one else will take care of them. When the carer is their adult children, they may be ashamed that their son or daughter are behaving abusively or be embarrassed to speak to them directly.

Advocare is the peak body in WA raising public awareness and supporting those at risk of, or experiencing, elder abuse. People who have become victims of elder abuse, or who believe they are at risk of elder abuse from family or friends should contact Advocare to discuss their concerns with a trained professional advocate. All services are free and confidential. Call 9479 7566 or 1800 655 566 (free for country callers).

Advocare
incorporated

[Article information - provided by Advocare Inc]

2013 Australian Youth Representative to UN—Adam Pulford

The Australian Youth Representative to the UN is a role appointed annually by UN Youth Australia in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Running since 1999, the Youth Representative holds an extensive nationwide consultation tour to engage with and discover the issues that are most important to young Australians. They take those views to the UN as part of the Australian mission in October each year.

The Representative will have the task of seeking and promoting the ideals and the work of the UN. While these aims are similar to that of UN Associations, they focus more on educating young people about the structure and functions of the UN. The role will also be committed to the task of advocating the involvement of young people in domestic affairs and in playing an active part in the democratic process.

The search for the Australian Youth Representative to the UN began in September 2012. There were well over 300 applications. Adam Pulford, who resides in Melbourne, was chosen to be the representative for 2013. Adam is 23 and lives in a Melbourne sharehouse (called Kelso). Adam is deeply passionate about the power that young people have to create change in local and global issues. His belief in young people's potential to create the world they want to see will drive his time as the UN Youth Representative for 2013.

Although Adam has lived in Melbourne for the past two years, he grew up in the Northern Territory, completing high school in Darwin at Kormilda College. After graduating, Adam took his gap year in Darwin, beginning to volunteer with youth-led organisations UN Youth Australia and the Oaktree Foundation alongside his full-time work.



In 2009, Adam moved to Adelaide to begin his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Adelaide. During this time, he also deepened his involvement with both UN Youth Australia and Oaktree – taking on leadership roles in each organisation. In UN Youth Australia, Adam was the National Vice President (Education) for 2009-2010 and he coordinated the inaugural Youth-Led NGO Roundtable in 2011. In Oaktree, a youth-led organisation driving forward the movement to end poverty, Adam ran *Generate*, the university internship program and the SA involvement of the *MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY* Roadtrip 2010.

Upon moving to Melbourne in late 2010, Adam joined *PROJECT ROCKIT* – a youth-led anti-bullying organisation. Adam worked with the two co-founders, Lucy and Rosie Thomas, to facilitate strengths-based, interactive workshops on the issues of (cyber)bullying and leadership around Melbourne.

Adam completed his Arts degree at Monash University, majoring in Sustainability and Spanish, in 2012. In addition to continuing his work with *PROJECT ROCKIT*, Adam's first step after graduating was to jump back into Oaktree. Adam worked with the National Team on the Roadtrip to End Poverty – a week-long campaign to call on the government to further act to end poverty involving 1,000 young people from across Australia.

Through Adam's work, Adam has seen firsthand the passion and power that young people have to create change in their communities. Join Adam as he tours throughout Australia, speaking to young people about what they are passionate about through 'liking' his Facebook page or visiting www.youthrep.org.au. Adam is currently seeking financial and in-kind support to ensure his ideas and plans for the Youth Representative position are made possible. To talk about potential partnerships with Adam, please email him at adam.pulford@unyouth.org.au.

References:* <http://www.unyouth.org.au/representation/youthrep/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Youth_Australia
<http://www.unyouth.org.au/2013/04/new-youthrep-to-un/>

[Max Fouda, UNAAWA member]



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division



OMEP Australia

WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR

Organised by United Nations Association of Australia WA Division, World Organisation for Early Childhood Education of Australia and National Council of Women of WA.



When: Wednesday June 12, 2013. 6-8pm

Venue: [Rod Evans Centre, 160 Hay Street, East Perth](#)

Charge: Free event. (Gold coin donation requested)

Refreshments: Light refreshments will be served

Forum speakers:

- 1) Judith Parker AM DCSJ: *Presentation of Statement from the Office of Ban Ki Moon UN Secretary General*
- 2) Dr Dawn Butterworth: *Overview of Child Labour, Conventions, Child Labour Issues in Australia*
- 3) Guest speaker from [ASeTUS](#): *WA Trauma Experience by Child Victims*
- 4) Guest speaker from *Walk Free: The Movement to End Modern Slavery*
- 5) Guest speaker from Department of Child Protection: *Measures to Protect WA Children*
- 6) Major Donna Bryan, Salvation Army Fellowship Corp Secretary: *Asia/Pacific Initiatives*

RSVP: UNAAWA. Email: office@unaa-wa.org.au, Tel: 6380 7304

World Day against Child Labour—12 June 2013

Today, throughout the world, around 215 million children work, many fulltime. They do not go to school and have little or no time to play. Many do not receive proper nutrition or care. They are denied the chance to be children.ⁱ

47% of all child domestic workers are below the age of 14 years, with 3.5 million aged 5 to 11 years and 3.8 million between 12 and 14 years.ⁱⁱ More than 115 million of these children are engaged in hazardous work including toiling in the extreme heat of brick kilns in India, working dawn to dusk casting fishing nets in precarious conditions on Lake Volta in Ghana and forced into the dark underworld of sexual slavery in Cambodian brothels. Asia has the largest number of working children, accounting for 60 per cent of the world's total.ⁱⁱⁱ

Many people are ignorant to the fact that child labour still exists in Australia for example, children working domestically and in jobs that demand long hours and overtime for little to no pay. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it.

Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them. The focus for World Day against Child Labour in 2013 is 'no to child labour in domestic work'. The ILO estimates that 15.5 million children are engaged in paid or unpaid domestic work in the home of a third party or employer.^{iv} This year in the lead up to 12 June, the ILO is calling for:

- Legislative and policy reforms to ensure the elimination of child labour in domestic work and the provision of decent work conditions and appropriate protection to young workers in domestic work who have reached the legal working age.
- ILO member States to ratify ILO Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers and its implementation along with the ILO's child labour conventions.
- Action to build the worldwide movement against child labour and to build the capacity of domestic workers organisations to address child labour.^v

The ILO's member states have set the target for eliminating the worst forms of child labour by 2016. To achieve this goal requires a major scaling up of effort and commitment.^{vi}

- References:
- i <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/child-labour/lang--en/index.htm#a2>
 - ii <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2013/lang--en/index.htm>
 - iii <http://www.ethicaltrade.org/in-action/issues/child-labour>
 - iv <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2013/lang--en/index.htm>
 - v <http://www.ilo.org/ipec/Campaignandadvocacy/wdacl/2013/lang--en/index.htm>
 - vi <http://www.un.org/en/events/childlabourday/>

United Nations - Important Dates

June

- 1 June—Global Day of Parents
- 5 June—World Environment Day [UNEP]
- 8 June—World Oceans Day
- 12 June—World Day against Child Labour [ILO]
- 14 June—World Blood Donor Day [WHO]
- 15 June—World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- 17 June—World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought
- 20 June—World Refugee Day
- 23 June—Public Service Day
- 26 June—International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 26 June—International Day in support of Victims of Torture

News from Other Organisations

UNA Youth—Human Rights Training

Applications are now open for WFUNA's third annual human rights training for UNA Youth (*So, you want to be the next High Commissioner?*) to be held from 22 - 25 July 2013 at the UN in Geneva. The goal of this training is to empower young individuals to take a leading role in upholding human rights in their communities and around the world. For more detailed information, please refer to <http://ow.ly/jq1pP>. The deadline for registration is 7 July 2013.

Forum—Stopping Violence against Women

Soroptimist International (SI) Fremantle invites you to a forum *"Advocacy for Action: Stopping Violence Against Women"* on **Wednesday 5 June 2013** at 7-9pm at Willagee Community Centre, Cnr Archibald and Winnacott Sts, Willagee. Speakers will include Anne Moore, Chair Women's Council for Domestic Violence and Vivienne Pillay, Manager of Domestic Violence Services for Women's Health and Family Services. Please RSVP to Pamela Fruin pamela.fruin@iinet.net.au.

Women, Peace and Security Workshop

On **13 July 2013** at 9am - 12 noon, Young UN Women will be running an interactive workshop on UN Security Resolution 1325 and Australian's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The role of women in peace building and international security is a hugely important issue and this workshop will be of particular interest to university students (especially those studying international relations, law, and development, as well as gender or defence studies), local women's groups and members of the local AFP, Police and defence communities. Materials and morning tea will be provided.

Date: 13 July 2013

Time: 9am - 12 noon

Address: Office of Commissioner for Children and Young People, Ground Floor, 1 Alvan St, Subiaco

RSVP: by 10 July to perthyouth@unwomen.org.au with the subject line "WPS registration".

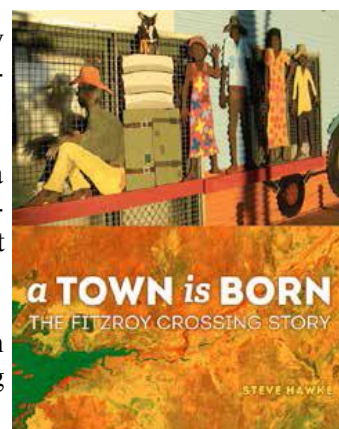
Cost: free, but you must register - places are strictly limited.

Books—New Release

A Town is Born: The Fitzroy Crossing Story by Steve Hawke is a history of the Fitzroy Crossing, with a particular focus on the upheavals of the 1960s following the introduction of the pastoral award.

In the course of a few years, the town changed from being small frontier outpost to a refugee camp with hundreds of people living on the fringes in poverty. From this maelstrom a unique community emerged, with a strong ethos of co-operation and support amongst the peoples of the Fitzroy Valley.

A Town is Born will be available from June 2013 for \$35 in bookstores and online from Magabala Books at www.magabala.com. Magabala Books is a not-for-profit publishing house that aims to promote and preserve Aboriginal culture.



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