



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



UN Matters January-February 2019



Credit (L to R): Tony France, Dr Sandy Chong, Keith Makuni

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Chief Editor: Caleb Gorton

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From the President

As I indicated in our last Newsletter, Planning for 2019 is well in hand and we have finalised our calendar for the year. Members can look forward to an exciting year of events and activities aimed at progressing our focus areas of Human Rights, women empowerment, environment, education and the Sustainable Development Goals. All in all we have just over 41 events planned for the year, which should provide opportunities for all members to engage on matters close to their hearts. Keep an eye on the website for events as we firm up on dates, venues and content.

This year we have already held two very successful events. These were firstly, Holocaust Remembrance Day in partnership with the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia, the Holocaust Institute of WA and Courage to Care WA. Secondly, we also held the first of our SDG forums of the year in partnership with DFAT and with a focus on tourism and opportunities for indigenous peoples.

The Executive Committee of UNAAWA is also finalising its priorities for the year and the following 10 priorities have been identified for focus this year:

1. Raise awareness of Indigenous Peoples and their issues and include Indigenous Peoples in event planning and activities (internalise the UNAA RAP)

2. Key fundraising programs – increase reserves
3. Human Rights Position Paper to UNAA Board
4. Establish regional/rural reference group - Dunsborough/Margaret River region
5. Promote GCEd (Global Citizenship Education) in WA primary and secondary schools
6. Demonstrate membership value and retain and increase membership
7. Elevate brand visibility with all stakeholders internally and externally in WA
8. Ensure good governance, sustainable finances, a collaborative culture and effective communications
9. Recognise the contributions made by members and volunteers
10. Execute an ambitious portfolio of events in 2019

As always we welcome feedback from members as to what they would like us to focus on – so please do not hesitate to drop me a nod at wapres@unaa.org.au if you have any suggestions.

Dr Steve Lennon
UNAAWA President

International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2019



Address by UNAAWA President Dr Steve Lennon on the occasion of the International Day of Remembrance in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

Good Morning.

I would like to start by respectfully acknowledging the past and present traditional owners of this land on which we are meeting, the Noongar people. I pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging. 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.

This year the United Nations has adopted the theme of 'Holocaust Remembrance: Demand and Defend



Your Human Rights' for this important day of remembrance, reflection and learning. This theme encourages youth to learn from the lessons of the Holocaust, act against discrimination and defend democratic values in their

communities, at a time when the spread of Neo-Nazism and hate groups fuels the rising anti-Semitism and other forms of hatred around the world. The theme also highlights the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

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International Holocaust Remembrance Day 2019

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When we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights last year, we were reminded how this seminal declaration was born out of the horrors of the Second World War.

It was strongly shaped by the atrocities of the Holocaust and the collective desire of humanity to prevent a recurrence of this tragedy.

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 last 70 years have demonstrated how far we have come in the achievement of universal Human Rights – but it has also demonstrated how far we have yet to go. The experiences in Eastern Europe, Rwanda, Myanmar, Sudan and other places show that genocide is still a reality in our modern world. As such it remains a priority for all of us to inform on, promote and live the 30 principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights locally and internationally.



As a contribution to progressing Australia’s contribution to Human Rights internationally and domestically, The United Nations Association of Australia has drafted a position paper, which addresses pressing local and international Human Rights priorities. As Australia continues to hold a seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council, we hope that this will be a useful contribution to its input, whilst also contributing to addressing Human Rights issues that still need attention at home.

We must also remind ourselves on days such as this that we all have a contribution to make in progressing Human Rights. By empowering ourselves with

knowledge, sharing that knowledge, applying best practice in our homes and calling out injustice, we can all play a role in becoming role models for others to emulate. Even a simple social media repost can turn into an explosion of hatred. As the Secretary-General said in his address last week, “we see bigotry moving at lightning speed across the Internet”, he emphasised, pointing to “intolerance entering mainstream politics – targeting minorities, Muslims, migrants and refugees, and exploiting the anger and anxiety of a changing world”.

I will conclude with a complementary extract from António Guterres’ inaugural address to the General Assembly. 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. All major religions embrace these principles, and we strive to reflect them in our daily lives.”

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 a truly sustainable world for our children and their children.

Dr Steve Lennon UNAAWA President



Left: Rabbi Bernstein speaks at the International Holocaust Remembrance Day Event.

Above (L to R): National Council of Jewish Women of Australia WA member Ester Steingiesser, UNAAWA School Programs Director Rees Barrett, Rabbi Bernstein, UNAAWA President Dr Steve Lennon, Holocaust Institute of WA President Sol Majteles.

Previous page: Dr Steve Lennon.

Credit for all photos: Ester Steingiesser.

UN Chief outlines top priorities for the year



UN Secretary-General António Guterres has presented his top priorities for 2019 during his New Year's message in New York on January 16.

Despite recognising the "world of trouble" to be faced, Mr Guterres said the UN had "made a real difference" in 2018.

"As we look ahead to 2019, I won't mince words," he said. "While recognising the progress we are making, we cannot be complacent. To meet the needs and expectations of the people we serve, we must accelerate our work," he stated before outlining the priorities.

A surge in diplomacy

"Partnerships are fundamental" for achieving lasting peace, Mr Guterres said.

A stronger partnership between the UN and African Union is crucial for "consolidating gains towards peace on the continent" and ending conflicts in the Sahel, Mali, South Sudan, Somalia, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr Guterres also recognised the need for accelerated peace efforts in Libya, Syria, Afghanistan, the Caucasus,

Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel and Palestine.

Climate change action

"There is no greater challenge to the world of today and tomorrow" than climate change, Mr Guterres said. "By 2050, we need to reach net zero global emissions."

Accelerate efforts towards Sustainable Development

More work is needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

"Despite considerable efforts from Governments and many others, the transformative changes demanded by the 2030 Agenda are not yet being made," Mr Guterres said.

Address the challenges presented by new technologies

While recognising the benefits of new technologies for peace, health and education, Mr Guterres warned of its impact on the labour market, weapons and crime.

Reaffirm the UN's values

Mr Guterres cited peace, justice, human dignity, tolerance and solidarity as "the universal values of the United Nations Charter that binds us together."

"Let's keep proving our worth through action," he concluded.

Education at the heart of all SDGs

Education gives people the skills needed to achieve all 17 SDGs, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on the first-ever International Day of Education.

By proclaiming the International Day of Education on January 24, UN member states recognised the importance of providing inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

Mr Guterres recalled working as a teacher "in the slums of Lisbon" and said education was an engine for poverty eradication and a force for peace.

"Yet at least 262 million children, adolescents and youth are out of school, most of them girls," he said. "Millions more who attend school are not mastering the basics."

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay saw the day as an occasion to "reaffirm fundamental principles".

"Education is a human right, a public good and public responsibility," she said, calling it "the most powerful force in our hands to ensure significant improvements in health, to stimulate economic growth, to unlock the potential and innovation we need to build more resilient and sustainable societies".

Less than 5 per cent of global refugee resettlement needs met last year

New data released by in February by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, shows that of the estimated 1.2 million refugees in need of resettlement in 2018, only 55,692 were actually resettled.

Resettlement is the transfer of refugees from an asylum country to another country that has agreed to admit them and grant permanent resettlement.

"Resettlement remains a life-saving tool to ensure the protection of those most at risk," UNHCR spokesperson Shabia Mantoo said.

"Typically, less than one per cent of the 19.9 million refugees worldwide under UNHCR's mandate are ever resettled," she said.

In 2018, the beneficiaries in the UNHCR resettlement programmes were mainly from Syria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Afghanistan, and departed from major refugee-hosting countries, including Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan and Uganda.

Caleb Gorton

UN Matters Chief Editor

Photo (top): UN Photo # 709941

UN Declaration of Human Rights: Celebrate 70 Years Event

On the December 10th, in partnership with the State Library of WA, the UNAAWA Human Rights Committee hosted an event entitled *UN Declaration of Human Rights: Celebrate 70 years*. This year marked the 70th anniversary of the United Nations adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document that details basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which all human beings are entitled. The event highlighted progress made in the intervening years since the document's signing, as well as exploring various Human Rights issues facing Australia today.

UNAAWA Human Rights Committee Chair Alex Kannegiesser-Bailey was the MC of the evening, while State Librarian and CEO Margaret Allen and Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family & Domestic Violence; Community Services, made speeches. A panel discussion then followed, moderated by UNAAWA President Dr Steve Lennon, involving Curtin University Senior Indigenous Research Fellow Dr Hannah McGlade, Boston Consulting Group Principal Whitney Skinner, Custodial Services WA Inspector Professor Neil Morgan and Youth Affairs Council of WA MYANWA Project Support Officer Tamkin Essa.



Panellists (L to R): Dr Steve Lennon, Tamkin Essa, Whitney Skinner, Hon Simone McGurk MLA, Prof Neil Morgan, Dr Hannah McGlade. Photo: Cloud9Projects

Margaret Allen introduced the event, highlighting the importance of libraries when it comes to Human Rights. Libraries play a fundamental role in epitomising freedom of access to information, as well as freedom of speech and expression.

After a Welcome to Country by Olman Walley, the Hon Simone McGurk MLA spoke of Human Rights issues



facing WA and emphasised the work that the state government is involved in to rectify such issues.

The panel discussed critical Human Rights issues and abuses currently taking place within WA and Australia as a whole. These mainly surrounded the topics of Indigenous Australians, refugees and asylum seekers, as well as gender equality. The overrepresentation of Indigenous people incarcerated was critically analysed, as was the injustices they face while in detention; issues that women face in the workplace was explored, such as the gender gap and leadership discrimination; and the plight of people seeking asylum in Australia was discussed, as well as the ways in which various hardships could be reduced.



Questions from the audience. Photo: Cloud9Projects

At the closing of the event, audience members were encouraged to enjoy the Yolande Frank Art Awards displayed in the outside foyer. These art pieces were school children's interpretation of various articles within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Photos of the event can be found on the Facebook Event page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/256079008438453/>. This was the final event of the year hosted by the

UNAAWA Human Rights Committee, with further events scheduled for 2019. For more information visit the website:

<https://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>.

James Herrington
UNAAWA Human Rights Committee Member

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 70 Years On

Seventy years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted, significant work is still needed to realise its vision.

On 10 December we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), a document which set out a new direction for humanity.

Let us go back to 1948; this was not the best year for human rights.

It was the year of the Berlin blockade by the Soviet army which started on 24 June and ended almost one year later. The Stalinisation of Eastern Europe was about to accelerate in countries forcefully incorporated into the Soviet Empire. Apartheid laws were introduced in South Africa, and much of the world remained under a colonial system.

Why in such an inhospitable time for human rights was the UDHR born? There are at least two possible answers.

The first is the power of leadership at the time of Eleanor Roosevelt and of the USA, which was seen then as the world's moral leader. Mrs Roosevelt, with Canadian and French support, was the principal drafter; important contributions were made by people from Chile, China, Lebanon and the USSR. Only South Africa was fundamentally opposed to the declaration.

Second, the genesis of UDHR was rooted in the human rights abuses of World War II in which tens of millions died across the world. Particularly abhorrent was the Nazi holocaust and the concentration camps. The general feeling of "never again" compelled us to build a world order that would prevent a repeat of these atrocities. So in February 1947 the Commission on Human Rights was appointed by the UN to create an "international bill of rights" to apply to every human being regardless of such characteristics as sex, race and religion.

Reaching agreement on the contents of the document was not easy. Member states voted more than 1,400 times on practically every clause of the text. The USSR would not accept the inclusion of freedom of expression and other civil liberties; some Islamic states objected to the articles on equal marriage rights and on the right to change religious belief; and several Western countries criticised the commitment to economic, social and cultural rights, seeing them as an introduction of socialism by stealth.

The Universal Declaration

Finally, on 10 December 1948 the UN General Assembly voted in favour of the Universal Declaration: 48 in favour, eight abstentions and zero against. The United Nations recognised that the "inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world". The Declaration was a visionary document: a triumph of hope and optimism. It was the first global statement of universal human rights standards, which we now take for granted. Article 1 proclaimed that "Everyone is born free and equal in dignity and with rights".



Children celebrate the 70th anniversary in New York. Credit: UN Photo # 789359

The 30 articles of the UDHR set out in unprecedented detail the standards of dignity, respect and justice to which everyone is entitled because they are human. The Declaration focuses on individual rights and enumerates political and civil rights and social, economic and cultural rights. Article 29 emphasises the duty of the entire international community to create a society that allows for the full realisation of human rights.

Although the Declaration is not binding on states, by now it forms part of customary international law although its educational power exceeds its legal effect.

Since 1948, many advances in human rights have improved the lives of millions of people: such as the end of apartheid and the growth of democracy in Latin America and Eastern Europe and, more recently, economic and social development in Asia. The international community has developed an international human rights law system with clearly defined human rights standards.

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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 70 Years On

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Seventy years later, the Universal Declaration continues to be the inspiration behind a global movement, while setting the benchmark for the world to attain and providing a standard against which we can all be judged.



Eleanor Roosevelt with the Declaration of Human Rights poster, exact date unknown. Credit: UN Photo # 1292

Human rights in a contemporary world

But much is yet to be achieved. We witness human rights violations associated with the mass arrival of refugees and migrants, Islamic radicalisation and terrorism, inter-cultural conflicts, economic inequality and a range of other ills. We witness the global instability of superpower realignment and the rise of authoritarian leaders and populism.

This year Freedom House, the Washington-based NGO that has monitored global freedom since 1941, reported that around the world, political and civil rights sank to their lowest level for a decade. Even nations that pride themselves on a deep democratic history are slipping on the scale, as trust in institutions is eroded and checks and balances slip out of equilibrium. For example, the United States fell to 86 out of 100 on a scale measuring a wide range of political and individual rights and the rule of law, and the United Kingdom slipped to 94. This trend is a matter of real concern and gives us a call to action.

Human rights in Australia

There is also much we can do in Australia. Australia is the only developed country without significant constitutional protections of civil liberties or a statutory bill of rights. Currently, the Australian Parliament can legislate for apartheid-style laws and the High Court could uphold them as agreeing with the Constitution.

There are many other human rights issues that could be improved upon. For example, economic and social rights of Indigenous Australians require massive attention. Violence against women remains at significant levels. Anti-terrorist laws need to ensure both a proportional response to a threat and protection of civil liberties. Further changes are required to make Australia's immigration laws and practices compliant with international human rights standards.

All these changes are easily achievable with better leadership. We need leadership of the quality and vision provided by Eleanor Roosevelt during her work on the Universal Declaration.

Human rights education

Much more needs to be done to promote human rights culture worldwide. Australia, for example, needs to give a higher priority to human rights education. Culture regarding human rights is not automatically acquired. Human rights standards need to be learned by each generation and transferred to the next.

The UDHR, its history and the principles it exposes provide good focus for such education. The promotion of human rights culture is of special importance in diverse societies like Australia, as human rights provide an internationally recognised set of secular standards that apply to all peoples regardless of their culture, religion, gender or any other characteristic. Domestic bills of rights usually have a strong educational value, too.

And let us remember, that human rights education is not about preserving the status quo but about advancing a just and better society. The UDHR remains the best conceptual tool to oppose populism, nationalism, chauvinism and isolationism.

The ultimate test of a nation's commitment to human rights as a nation is, however, not what we aspire to, nor the conventions we sign and not even the laws that we set in place. Rather it is how we treat our most vulnerable and powerless. Human rights promote human dignity, justice and freedoms. They are the vehicle that enables people to flourish without fear, intimidation or persecution.

Professor Sev Ozdowski AM is Director, Equity and Diversity at Western Sydney University.

This article has been republished from the Australian Institute of International Affairs' *Australian Outlook*

SDGs Lunchtime Series: Indigenous and Eco-Tourism in WA

UNAAWA and DFAT hosted the first SDG Lunchtime series event on February 22nd to explore how Indigenous and eco-tourism can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the areas of economic growth, reducing inequality and life on land.

UNAAWA Vice-President Dr Sandy Chong moderated the event and guests were made up of a diverse range of stakeholders from the business sector, local government, tourism agencies and media professionals. Speakers included Former Rotary Club of Perth President Philip Skelton, WAITOC CEO Robert Taylor, UNAAWA Vice-President Dr Sandy Chong, WA-Singapore Business Connect President Terrence Cheong, DFAT WA Deputy Director Dr Kate O'Shaughnessy, Bindi Bindi Dreaming MD Marissa Verma, Boorloo Aboriginal Cultural Experience MD Olman Walley, Katie Lalor, and The Brand Agency CEO Gwyn Dolphin.



Photo/Credit: Cloud9Projects

Dr Kate O'Shaughnessy opened the session with some remarks on Australia's commitment to the SDGs and Australian-Indigenous connection to the land, its history and cultural conservation. UNAAWA President Dr Steve Lennon highlighted the importance of working alongside the SDGs and forming partnerships to ensure that no one is left behind.

It was acknowledged that Indigenous and eco-tourism is an undersold sector in Western Australia. 80% of visitors to WA have expressed an interest in Indigenous tourism and the sector contributed more than \$43 million to the state's GDP in 2016 and 2017. Encouraging the growth of this industry therefore holds the opportunity to not only strengthen a community that has historically been marginalised in Australia, but also of creating jobs and promoting entrepreneurship which will directly benefit the community and economy. The question is, how can businesses build on this unique opportunity to achieve



economic empowerment while conserving nature in a sustainable way?

High costs of labour, geographic distance and visa class limitations may pose challenges on the sector. There is also a lack of awareness within Australia's mainstream market about what Indigenous and eco-tourism is and what it has to offer. Improving its visibility in both international and domestic markets is therefore key to the sector's growth. Better training for small and medium-sized enterprises in this sector is also needed, as three quarters of the companies are not export-ready. Cultural exchange within the industry has demonstrated positive outcomes while both film and social media play an interesting role in generating mass interest in a short span of time.



Wonderful UNAAWA volunteers who helped make the event happen. Photo/Credit: Cloud9Projects

Within the timeframe that the event ran, the first event for 2019 was a success. Guests collectively had a clearer understanding of the SDGs, how they can contribute through connecting and partnering up with businesses and communities, and how Australians can drive the demand of this market by advocating it overseas. The event welcomed independent thought, ideas and experience. It also provided an environment where specialists within their field could share and learn. Overall, the event brought together education and inspiration throughout an incredible line-up, which collectively encouraged Indigenous empowerment within WA.

More information about the event can be found at www.facebook.com/UNAAWAInc or by contacting sandy.chong@unaa.org.au.

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

The Power of Resilience in International Relations

A positive mindset can help individuals and organisations overcome the most difficult situations. We all dream of making a difference, but speaking truth to power can have unintended consequences. Learning how to overcome them means the difference between success and failure, and how we achieve this in a practical sense is the focus of a chance meeting between two big fans of the United Nations.

On the 28th of November 2018, the subject was explored during a discussion between UNAAWA Vice-President Dr Sandy Chong and the Singapore High Commissioner to Ghana Dileep Nair. As the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services and head of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services from 2000 to 2005, he was instrumental in beginning the investigation of the Oil-for-Food scandal. Subsequently, he was threatened multiple times and was even embroiled in allegations from the UN staff union from which he was later cleared by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

So, what makes a man like Dileep Nair continue to believe in the importance of the multilateral system and wanting to serve his country and the world while facing one of the most challenging times of the organisation?



UNAAWA Vice-President Dr Sandy Chong with Dileep Nair at the Singapore Cricket Club. Credit: Dr Sandy Chong

When meeting Mr Nair, one is struck by the positive energy he exudes and his deep-seated belief in the goodness of others. Quick to laugh and with a wealth of stories about the inspiring women and men that he's worked with, it's easy to understand why



Singapore has trusted him in a variety of crucial positions in Government and the private sector throughout his illustrious career.

His career began in 1974 with a stint in Singapore's Housing and Development Board. From there he tackled a variety of challenging posts during some of the most formative years after Singapore's independence in the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and at the Ministry of Defence where he was Deputy Secretary. In 1997, he left the civil service to become the CEO of the Post Office Savings Bank of Singapore (POSB), and later was named Managing Director of the Development Bank of Singapore (DBS).

So, when he was approached to serve the United Nations in 2000, his ability to adapt and bounce back from painful experiences was crucial in allowing him to manage the stress and disappointments of working at the highest levels of the multilateral system. Traits such as courage, honesty, positivity and humour built up the resilience that enabled him to return to Singapore with his values intact, which later also served him well as an ambassador to several countries in the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Mr Nair views integrity as something that also needs to be approached from a proactive stance. It's not just about holding people accountable, it's also about being change agents to create an environment where people are encouraged and supported. After his stint at the UN Mr Nair was Singapore Consul-General to Dubai for six years. Mr Nair was responsible for opening Singapore's first Mission in the United Arab Emirates where he promoted strong political and economic ties between the two countries.

Later, he was Singapore's Ambassador to Laos, and this mindset contributed to Mr Nair being awarded a Friendship Medal by the Government of Laos in 2013.

Currently, Mr Nair is serving as Independent Board Director for three public-listed companies on the Singapore Exchange, one of which is the first pure-play data centre REIT listed in Asia.

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The Power of Resilience in International Relations

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Mr Nair looked back on his international career with a sense of humility and admiration for the UN staff who display a high level of dedication to their jobs and values.

It is easy to forget amidst all the negative stories and disappointments, that despite the arduous conditions in which many UN staff work under in the field, many keep on dedicating themselves to fighting for a better world.

So, as their meeting came to an end, Dr Chong asked Mr

Nair if, knowing what he does now about how he was affected and treated during the Oil-for-Food scandal, would he still have done the same. His answer was a prompt positive “yes, without a shred of a doubt”. His quiet conviction is driven by the belief in doing the right thing and his love for the UN. “Someone’s got to do it,” Mr Nair reflected with a hopeful smile in his eyes.

The dramatic Oil-for-Food episode resulted in one of the biggest reforms in the history of the United Nations.

Member’s Corner: Jenny Kang

Striving towards goals in international law

As an international law student in Australia with diverse cultural and educational experience, I began my career with legal firms and NGOs, and with the United Nations Association of Australia as a human rights officer at the community and state level. After I developed my knowledge and experience in human rights and the international legal system, I began to work at the international level at the Business and Human Rights Unit at the United Nations Development Programme Bangkok Regional Hub and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York from 2017 to 2018.



My responsibility and role was not limited to legal research or attending conferences and meetings of Business and Human Rights (BHR). I also managed knowledge materials including UPR and analysis of other international human rights law and policy to promote the UN guiding principles on BHR and arranged an important meeting with

the state partners for the development of a National Action Plan (NAP) on proactive approach. I successfully took the Ministry of Justice in the Republic of Korea and National Human Rights Institutions of Korea to present the implementation of NAPs to the international community last year. The feedback and advice from my colleagues on my assignment were great assets for my career development and



fundamental goal of contributing to international law and policy. Through the experience with UNDP, as I had planned, I extended my career plan to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York. My extensive legal research was enhanced in the area of international criminal law and peace operations during my internship with Justice and Corrections at the United Nations Secretariat. Working with other international partners and participating in international conferences and high-level meetings in the legal field expanded my intellectual interest towards peace operations and the public interest as a whole.

Through my past experience with the United Nations, I am now closer to the goal of my legal education. My fundamental goal is to contribute to peacekeeping operations and specifically to human rights law and related international policy.

Getting out of my comfort zone is sometimes not attractive but is rather difficult. However, the courage to attempt something new certainly turns into an opportunity that I will have in future. But I must be well prepared to take the opportunity to achieve my fundamental goal. At this stage, therefore, I am currently preparing to study peace and security law and international criminal law at higher education in the near future.

Photo/Credit: Jenny Kang

Member's Corner: Keith Makuni

Advocate for social justice around mental health



Keith Makuni, UNAANA Human Rights Committee Member, is a passionate advocate for social justice around mental health, depression and suicidal thoughts. His goal is to help create a space of redemption, remission, regeneration, relationship and restoration in supporting mental health crises. His prime mission is to diminish the stigma around mental illness and build healthy communities free from depression, isolation and suicidal thoughts.

Keith lost two friends who suffered from mental health issues, which led them to commit suicide. It is a very personal issue to him and after the experience he felt that no one must go through the pain alone. Hence, he is driven to turn this into a mission by helping others to overcome these issues.



Credit: Keith Makuni

Here are some stats about mental illness. One in five Australians aged 16-85 experiences a mental illness in any year. The most common mental illnesses are depression, anxiety and substance use disorder. Of the 20% of Australians with a mental illness in any one year, 11.5% have one disorder and 8.5% have two or more disorders. Almost half (45%) Australians will experience a mental

illness in their lifetime. More than half (54%) of people with mental illness do not access any treatment. This is worsened by delayed treatment due to serious problems in detection and accurate diagnosis.

People living with mental illness will often experience stigma and discrimination from friends, family, employers and the community as a whole. Sometimes the disadvantages and isolation felt can be more disabling than the mental illness itself. Mental illness stigma can lead to being:

- denied housing or accommodation
- refused employment
- discriminated against in the workplace
- shunned or excluded from family or friendship groups.

Stigma makes many people feel ashamed or embarrassed of their conditions. Keith wants to break down the stigma and empower people to support one another to overcome these illnesses. His work aims at mainly helping youths and young adults in the African communities here in Perth. The organisation that he leads runs a variety of workshops throughout the year, educating the community and providing peer support. He would like all youths in Perth to come and support the cause, as he believe that we stand to improve our communities when we work together.



Building healthy communities by raising awareness around mental health, depression and suicidal thoughts at the South Perth Learning Centre. Credit: Keith Makuni

To those who want to get involved or are interested in contributing to the cause around mental health, suicide prevention and depression, please get in touch with Keith via his email doctormakuni@gmail.com and mobile at 0469772291.



Member's Corner: Michele Villa

Supporting the economy's sustainable transformation

My entire professional career has evolved around sustainability issues. I have been lucky enough to be able to follow my dream to, through my work, try to make the world a better place to live in, as I saw my father, a geologist and environmentalist, doing. When I started as an environmental consultant specializing in waste management, I soon realized that advisors can play a pivotal role in steering the economy towards more sustainable production practices. This can only be done through changing company behaviours beyond just compliance with applicable regulations - it is done by impacting the organization's culture and helping them to focus on the material aspects of their interactions with the environment, the local and global communities, and their employees. It is very encouraging to see how this is happening across the globe and we start to appreciate the impact in developing countries. A good example was an assessment we performed in a large manufacturing site in Pakistan: at the beginning the site executives were just interested in a stamp certifying the quality of their environmental and safety management. During our work and a lot of discussions, they understood the value of our findings in helping them to continuously improve and reduce the risk of their operations.

When providing environmental auditing services during mergers and acquisition processes, I knew that there was an opportunity to highlight potential liabilities such as site contamination, and drive investments toward clean-up and remediation. When providing assurance to greenhouse gas reporting or sustainability reports, I knew that we were offering our clients the elements to estimate the cost of environmental and social impacts and therefore prevent and reduce the risk of wrongdoing and save resources. However, what I have really learned by providing sustainability solutions for large professional firms is the importance of a motivated team, which shares a common passion for 'doing the right



Credit: Michele Villa

thing'. The best consultants I have come across were those more passionate and committed. I find a perfect fit between the 17 SDGs and my personal beliefs and professional skills. I can see the interaction and the potential for integration between different goals, such as Climate Action, Affordable and Clean Energy, and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure. Many large companies are referring to the SDGs when setting up their own improvement goals and increasingly they are using them as a compass for their future growth strategies. DuPont, my last employer, which is a diversified manufacturing global corporation, has recently reviewed its entire strategy in light of the SDGs.

There is still a lot of work to do, though. How genuine are organisations in embracing the SDGs? To what extent are they driving innovation for future improvements? How strong and visible is the company culture towards sustainability? A recent initiative between DuPont Sustainable Solutions (DSS) and Curtin, which I was involved in, intends to promote corporate innovation in Western Australia to create more sustainable and resilient organisations. This is where I intend to focus my future professional efforts and I am keen to be involved with UNAWAA in supporting the achievement of the SDGs!

Glass Ceilings, Systemic Failure and Gender Justice

Unconscious bias is not only the way in which men in power perceive women as inferior, but also how women perceive themselves. The socialisation of women and girls in a world built to favour masculinity subsequently shackles their view of themselves to how they relate to men. This is also known as the glass ceiling. Unconscious bias puts in place an impenetrable barrier that is only strengthened by traditional masculine rhetoric, and withholds women from reaching further socially, politically and economically. This is not concluding that a reversal of this role would improve gender parity, but simply highlighting the fact that there is a conscious and unconscious global understanding that power is inherently male. We have seen it with Brett Kavanaugh, who in October 2018 was inducted into the Supreme Court in the United States despite copious allegations made against him for sexual misconduct. We have seen it with Harvey Weinstein not a year earlier in October 2017, whose unearthed misconduct bore the #MeToo movement and sparked a conversation, raised awareness and proved to women across the world that it was possible to speak out against past abusers and find justice. These cases, two in millions across history, are products of a shifting rhetoric. At last, women have a chance to be heard. They are not always listened to, but the opportunity to speak is a step forward in a greater war.

Women shouldn't have to reform every system in place simply to stand on equal ground to men. Yet, the fact of the matter is that men don't want to relinquish



their power, and why would they? To exist in a world built by you and for you, any suggestion to recalibrate from the ground up would seem like a personal attack. What lacks in our education is the empathy and understanding that living in a society in which you always play second fiddle as a default is another kind of personal attack. The world isn't going to change on a whim. There must be a gradual, meaningful shift in ideology and rhetoric in order to make a difference. While women and men still hold an unconscious bias of female inferiority, while the glass ceiling remains intact, and while abuse and misconduct still goes unpunished on the world stage, nothing can change. This is where every one of us who reads this and cares can make a difference. Teach the men, women and children in your lives about equality, about fairness. Teach them about kindness and compassion and respect. It is a journey that we all must take together and it is a long one, but not impossible. Together, we can all make the world better.

Tahlia Hudson-Campbell
Special Contributor



Tahlia Hudson-Campbell is a recent Bachelor of Arts graduate at Curtin University, a passionate writer and a lifelong activist for justice and equality. Tahlia is enthusiastic about gender discourse in particular and wants to build a world in which equality is at the forefront of every conversation. With her degree in Creative Writing and Screen Studies, be it through fiction or through education and advocacy, Tahlia hopes to bring gender justice to the main stage and help to create a better, brighter and stronger future for us all. Photo credit: Tahlia Hudson-Campbell

Economic gender equality will take more than 200 years

Women will wait 202 years until there is global gender equality in the workplace, according to the World Economic Forum.

Recent [data](#) shows it would take over a century to close the overall gender gap, with disparities in economic opportunities and political participation as the biggest challenges.

"I think it's almost a joke that it will take the world so long to create women empowerment, particularly as we know that there's an economic upside in empowering women in the range of US\$28 trillion," UN Global

Compact Executive-Director Lise Kingo said in an interview with UN News.

The WEF report measures gender parity across education, health, economic and political systems and assigns a score of 0 for disparity and 1 for parity.

Australia has an overall gender gap of 27 per cent, but suffers a massive 77 per cent gap for political empowerment. Iceland, the world's most gender-equal country, still has a 33 per cent gap before political parity.

Caleb Gorton
UN Matters Chief Editor

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

Bird Conservation at Yalgorup National Park



Two hours drive south of Perth, where the coastal plain meets the sea slightly north of Myalup Coastal Resort, is home to wetlands, canopied scrubland thickets of Peppermint, Tuart and Acia Wattle trees, and agriculture fields separated from the ocean by Lake Preston and Lake Clifton, forming Yalgorup National Park. Wild nature is very much accessible at our back door.

It is a pleasure to pen my ongoing personal involvement in community engagement over the past 20 years, from firefighting assistance in the devastating 2016 Yarloop fires, to environment awareness in the local community, and specifically to the conservation volunteering of founder and life member of Myalup Bird Observers (MBO) Tony France. By way of background our family owns property adjoining the coastal dunes and Lake Preston wetlands forming Yalgorup National Park, classified as a Ramsar wetlands under the Convention on Wetlands. It is a place of spectacular tranquillity and beauty that I share and retreat to on occasions from my busy and demanding working life with my family.



An aerial view of the coastal plains and wetlands at Yalgorup National Park. All photos credited to Tony France.

Tony writes “MBO has acted as a volunteer bird-conservation group since early 2000, despite inevitable casualties from among our oldest and most experienced nature-loving members who have since

moved on, or who have sadly passed away. Nevertheless, the remaining core group continues with monthly outings to monitor native bird life mostly in the Harvey District, sometimes assisted by guest birders from beyond the Harvey District. New MBO members would always be welcome. The Harvey District is blessed with a variety of ecological zones and much biodiversity: elevated forest, lowland woodlands and bush land, wetlands and open paddocks, with the Leschenault Inlet and the Yalgorup National Park within easy reach. The nearby Indian Ocean attracts Tern species, Sea Eagles, Ospreys and shoreline birds at largely undisturbed beaches.



At just one inland ecological zone, in just under two hours, it is possible to discover up to 53 different species of native birds. Of course, some of our favourites like Rainbow Bee-eaters and Sacred Kingfishers make their inland migration north during our winter months, but return to us again almost on the dot in the first week in October.

Almost since its inception, MBO has participated in Birdlife Australia’s annual count of shoreline birds. Part of Birdlife Australia’s national wader count was again conducted at the highly saline Lake Preston this year on 10th February. The MBO team’s bird count often takes more than six hours, as the meandering shoreline of the lake totals more than the 27.5km.

Of the migratory wader species arriving in Western Australia, up to 22 different species have been observed at west Lake Preston. Rivalling their total numbers are some thousands of endemic Banded Stilts, commonly crammed into tight ‘rafts’ close to the shoreline.

Continued on page 15

Bird Conservation at Yalgorup National Park

Continued from page 14

Far fewer numbers of Pied Stilts and Red-necked Avocets are commonly found to associate with Banded Stilts. Many native water birds, such as Shelducks, Musk Ducks, Black Ducks, Grey Teal and Black Swans are present at Lake Preston.

Some of the arriving migratory waders stay for a brief period at the lake before moving on, which are usually replaced with fresh arrivals, or later by those waders refuelling during their northern migration back to their breeding grounds as far away as Siberia. However, some juveniles stay over in the Yalgorup wetland system during the Austral winter. Most migratory wader species regularly use rest-and-refuelling 'stopovers' during their extraordinary seasonally long flights to and from Australia. Broad tidal river estuaries en-route provides the migrating birds with vital feeding grounds and relatively safe refuge from human populations. Incidentally, the Ramsar Agreement specifically relates to the protection of fauna and flora of wetlands. A wetland may qualify for Ramsar status under one of several categories. The Yalgorup qualifies under several of those categories, making its biodiversity very significant internationally. Broome in the northwest of WA is a major landfall for arriving migratory waders. Thereafter, most if not all those birds disperse to other parts of WA and beyond.

Sadly, some of the most important tidal estuaries along migratory birds' flyways abroad are undergoing massive seawall developments, or the mainstay of waders at those mudflats, such as clams and other marine crustacean marine life, are being overharvested. In consequence, some migratory wader populations are in steep decline.

Engaging Birdlife Australia's ongoing Shorebird 2020 strategy, MBO alongside other volunteer groups counting migratory birds around Australia try to assess how the numbers of each migratory wader species are holding up against threats that include global warming and climate change. These threats may undermine the waders' hitherto timely springtime arrival back at their Northern Hemisphere homelands at the birds' most propitious breeding time when their insect food source should be at its most abundant.

More immediate threats that face the shoreline birds at the ocean beaches in our southwest region are recreational horse riding, unleashed dogs and

unrestricted four-wheel-drive access, especially at low tide, seriously disturb feeding or resting migratory and endemic shoreline birds."



Myalup Bird Observers founder and life member Tony France at Lake Preston.

Following this year's bird count, Tony wrote "as was rather expected, migratory waders were few. Nonetheless, those interested in statistics might wish to take note of the result of our bird count at west Lake Preston: 14 Red-necked Avocets, 1 Grey Plover, 167 Red-capped Plovers, 6 Hooded Plovers, 491 Red-necked Stints, 4 Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, 47 unidentified small waders in flight. Also found: 10 Black Swans, 2605 Australian Shelducks, 30 Grey Teal, 2639 Pacific Black Ducks, 24 White-faced Herons and 332 Silver Gulls - a grand total of 8948 birds."

Mr France's dedicated work and observance in monitoring migrating bird species in our National Estate has heritage value. Tony ranks with the Lord David Attenborough of this world and documents with the authority of a wise judge and the precision of a surgeon. Without individuals like Tony our natural estate would suffer from deterioration, and vanishing biodiversity knowledge would remain in a vacuum. Tony in a true sense can be classified as a national environmental crusader.

Our Environmental Committee and others should avail to the opportunity to visit, meet the committed people that observe this pristine environment so very close to our city.

Joseph Caruso
UNAAWA International Global Representative

Visiting Chinese students participate in Model UN

A Chinese student study tour group participated in the model United Nations programme, which took place in the War Memorial Hall at Cottesloe Civic Centre in Perth on Sunday, 10th February 2019.

AIRIS Education and Training Exchange Center, an Organisational Member of UNAAWA, organised the study group. The program consisted of 20 primary school students between the ages of 10 to 12 years old who were visiting Australia for 10 days. As the member of Children Research Office (CRO), the main theme for the trip to Australia was about understanding the role of the Internet in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The students were invited by Curtin University to report and share their research outcomes in Australia as part of Curtin's China digital research project.



Students learn about the Sustainable Development Goals with a UN Youth representative. Photo: Cloud9Projects

UNAA and UN Youth were invited to support the study group's Model UN programme under the coordination of AIRIS. The students were deeply impressed with the introductions given by the Convenor of Education Reference Group Rees Barrett and UNAAWA Vice-President Dr Sandy Chong, who spoke about the work of the UNAAWA and the SDGs. The speeches inspired them to think a lot more about climate, poverty, human rights, equality and what must be done to achieve these goals. The experience had been very positive and all parties believed it was an effective way to get the students to learn more about the UN and its global values, and perspectives from a different part of the world.

"In addition to learning research skills and gaining in-depth knowledge about UN goals, students also enjoyed practising their public speaking skills," the student group's teacher Zhang Haibo said. "It's important for students to learn how to exchange and articulate ideas in

a different culture while they are young. The achievement of the SDG goals will be dependent on their abilities to participate as a global citizen."

Students were awarded certificates for their attendance on the training and workshop session, and the students expressed that they had a truly wonderful time.



Educational Reference Group Convenor Rees Barrett speaks to students about UNAAWA and its educational programme. Photo: Cloud9Projects

"We hope to work closer with UNAA and UN Youth in the near future for more Chinese students to have the opportunity to learn more about the UN during their visit to Australia," AIRIS Director Paul Huang said. "The students are challenged by having to think quickly on their feet, speak in front of delegates and debate about important social issues."

AIRIS is a non-profit organisation registered in both China and Australia focusing on delivering educational exchange programs between the two countries. Their biggest mission is to encourage learning while instilling meaning and fun for students.



UNAAWA Vice-President Dr Sandy Chong and representatives of UN Youth with the teachers and students from the study tour. Photo: Cloud9Projects

IMPORTANT DATES



'Networking for Change' Sundowner

Tuesday 9th April 2019

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Duxton Hotel Perth

1 St Georges Terrace, Perth 6000

\$15

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/networking-for-change-sundowner-tickets-59260246994>



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Do you want to make a positive and meaningful difference in the world?

Imagine what you could achieve with a network of passionate and engaged people.

UNAAWA's first 'Networking for Change' sundowner is a great opportunity to meet other individuals interested in international relations, human rights, equality and diversity, climate change and much more.

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**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

WHY THE NEW MODERN SLAVERY ACT IS LIKELY TO AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS

What you can do to prepare

Tuesday 30 April

Hyatt Regency Perth

K&L GATES



United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division



Fiona Lawrie

Sustainability and Indigenous
Affairs Manager | **Wesfarmers**



Dr Mark Andrich

Founder and CEO
Sustainable Platform



Jenn Morris

CEO | **Walk Free Foundation**

WHEN

Tuesday 30 April 2019
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

WHERE

Hyatt Regency Perth
Plaza Ballroom
99 Adelaide Terrace
Perth WA, 6000

RATES

Member

\$179.00 Per Person
\$1,432.00 Table of Eight (8)

Non-Member

\$239.00 Per Person
\$1,912.00 Table of Eight (8)

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Australia's new Modern Slavery legislation will leave few businesses and organisations untouched, and the time to start preparations is now.

Even if not directly captured by the new legislation - it is likely that your business or organisation will still find itself needing to provide supply chain information to help fulfil the newly imposed mandatory reporting obligations of others within your supply chains.

Join us for "Why The New Modern Slavery Laws are Likely to Impact Your Business" lunch on **Tuesday 30 April** at the Hyatt Regency.

We are partnering with law firm K&L Gates and AmCham for this lunch, which will feature guest speakers **Jenn Morris** (Walk Free Foundation), **Dr Mark Andrich** (Sustainable Platform) and **Fiona Lawrie** (Wesfarmers) as part of our Q&A panel. K&L Gates Partner Michael Hain will moderate the event.

By attending the event, you will be provided practical take-aways including how to start identifying the risks to your business or organisation, advice and tools to help obtain supply chain clarity, and guidance for you and your own suppliers to help get ready for what lies ahead.

By contacting AMCham directly on 08 9325 9540 and mentioning you are a client of K&L Gates or entering in the promo code **060063_MemberRateforNonMembers**, you can benefit from the members price of \$179 including 1 Legal CPD point for Practice Management.



United Nations Association of Australia



UNAAWA HUMAN RIGHTS SHORT FILM SHOWCASE

The UNAAWA Human Rights Committee in partnership with MosArt are hosting a short film showcase. This event will allow members of the public to be involved in raising awareness of continued human rights abuses through an artistic form that will be viewed by other members of the community.

HOW TO ENTER:

1. CREATE a film

Create a 5-10 minute film that focuses on any of the following themes:

- Multiculturalism
- Indigenous culture
- Equality
- Environment

2. SUBMIT your film

Films are to be submitted no less than 2 weeks before the viewing evening. Please upload your film via <https://woobox.com/aroeid> and complete and send application form to alex.kbailev16@gmail.com

3. VIEW your film

One production from each category will be selected by an external panel & screened at Camelot theatre on **22nd June @6pm**. Opening keynote speech to be presented by **Jane Lydon (UWA)**.

>DETAILS

SCREENING EVENING: 22nd of June 2019

TIME: 6pm – 8pm

VENUE: Camelot Theatre, Mosman Park

TICKETS: <https://www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=488368&>

SUBMISSIONS DUE: 8th June 2019



>SHOWCASE OUTLINE

- > **Application form:** Entrants to complete application form & submit film via <https://woobox.com/aroeid> to be considered by selection panel
- > **Selection Panel:** Is made up of filmmakers/producers/authors/academics
- > **Evening format:** Food & drinks will be on offer at Camelot alongside a human rights exhibition in the foyer with a keynote address given by Jane Lydon before screenings.
- > **Event INFORMATION:** Please follow our event page → <https://www.facebook.com/events/396295324283035/>



United Nations Association of Australia

Western Australia Division Incorporated member, World Federation of United Nations Associations
Ph:(08) 9221 7020 ABN 63106 415 035



UN Observances

March

1. Zero Discrimination Day
3. World Wildlife Day
8. International Women's Day
20. International Day of Happiness
20. French Language Day
21. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
21. World Poetry Day
21. International Day of Nowruz
21. World Down Syndrome Day
21. International Day of Forests
22. World Water Day
23. World Meteorological Day
24. World Tuberculosis Day
24. International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
25. International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
25. International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members

April

2. World Autism Awareness Day
4. International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
6. International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
7. International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda
7. World Health Day
12. International Day of Human Space Flight
20. Chinese Language Day
21. World Creativity and Innovation Day
22. International Mother Earth Day
23. World Book and Copyright Day
23. English Language Day
23. Spanish Language Day
24. International Day for Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
25. World Malaria Day
25. International Girls in ICT Day
26. International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day
26. World Intellectual Property Day
28. World Day for Safety and Health at Work
30. International Jazz Day



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<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>