



United Nations
Association
of Australia
QLD Division



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MEDIA RELEASE

NOW IS THE TIME FOR GLOBAL ACTION AS UN MARKS 75th ANNIVERSARY

Former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd will be the guest speaker during a live webinar on Saturday to mark world United Nations Day, as part of celebrations to mark the 75th anniversary of the global organisation.

Mr Rudd, a former Australian diplomat and leading global thinker, will deliver the second annual Doug Everingham lecture during a live webinar hosted by the United Nations Association of Australia – Queensland Division (UNAAQ) on Saturday, October 24 from 6.30pm (AEST).

This will be the second annual Doug Everingham lecture hosted by the organisation, the peak body for promoting the United Nations (UN) in Australia and comes at a time of unprecedented global crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Rudd said the UN and its agencies were as critical today in protecting humankind as they were at their formation some 75 years ago, particularly in more marginalised parts of the world.

“The United Nations calls us to defend the intrinsic dignity of all human beings through the prevention of war, the building of a sustainable peace, the delivery of fundamental social and economic justice to all, the preservation of the planet that we all share and, in when catastrophe strikes, acting in solidarity to protect other members of the human family,” Mr Rudd said.

“The United Nations' values reflect a common progressive mission that is unapologetically directed at the betterment of humankind.

“The UN's agencies and their workers continue to do tremendous good, especially in marginalised parts of the world. However flawed the institution of the UN might be at any particular time, it remains an institution worth defending.”

UNAA Queensland Peace and Security Program Manager Annette Brownlie said the United Nations – formed in the aftermath of World War II which led to the death of more than 80 million people – was now more relevant than ever.

“The prime aim of the United Nations was to ensure there would never be another world war,” Ms Brownlie said.

“Now its brief is much wider: addressing the quality of life for people and the planet.

“The UN is the only global organisation equipped to manage global issues like pandemics, climate change and security. Now, more than ever, we need the UN as we face rising tensions between the US and China, a devastating global health crisis in COVID-19, and a rapidly rising global temperature.

“Rarely has there been a more urgent time for action. This year must be one of dialogue, when we come together to discuss our priorities as a human family and how we can build a better future for all.”



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UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter, the day the UN officially came into being with the ratification of the founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council.

To join in the conversation, register for the free webinar lecture at:

<https://unaaqld.tidyhq.com/public/schedule/events/31244-24-oct-kevin-rudd-doug-doc-everingham-peace-security-annual-lecture-un75>

Event access (Zoom) details will be emailed to all registrants. This one-hour, unmissable event will run from 6.30pm to 7.30pm (AEST). Details also available on Facebook at www.facebook.com/UNAAQLD

For more information on UN Day, visit: www.un.org/en/observances/un-day

For more information on the UNAA's activities in Australia, visit: www.unaa.org.au

For more information on the UNAA Qld activities, visit: www.facebook.com/UNAAQLD

Background:

The United Nations is an international organisation founded in 1945. It is currently made up of 193 member states. The mission and work of the United Nations are guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter. The main organs of the UN are the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice and the UN Secretariat. Other UN offices and bodies include the World Health Organisation (WHO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the World Food Program (WFP), among others.

The United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA) is the peak body for promoting the United Nations in Australia. The UNAA supports human rights for all peoples, working to reduce inequalities, protecting the environment, and actively promoting peaceful and inclusive societies. It does this by promoting sustainable partnerships and the Sustainable Development Goals, a framework which forms the basis of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Doug (Doc) Everingham was a medical doctor who entered politics representing Capricornia in Central Queensland in the late 1960s, serving as Minister for Health in the Whitlam Government from 1972 to 1975. He is affectionately known as the 'Father of Medicare' but contributed much more nationally and internationally, representing Australia at the United Nations Peace and Security and World Health conferences. The first Doug Everingham Annual Lecture was held in 2019, commemorating his passing in 2017 at the age of 94 years.

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