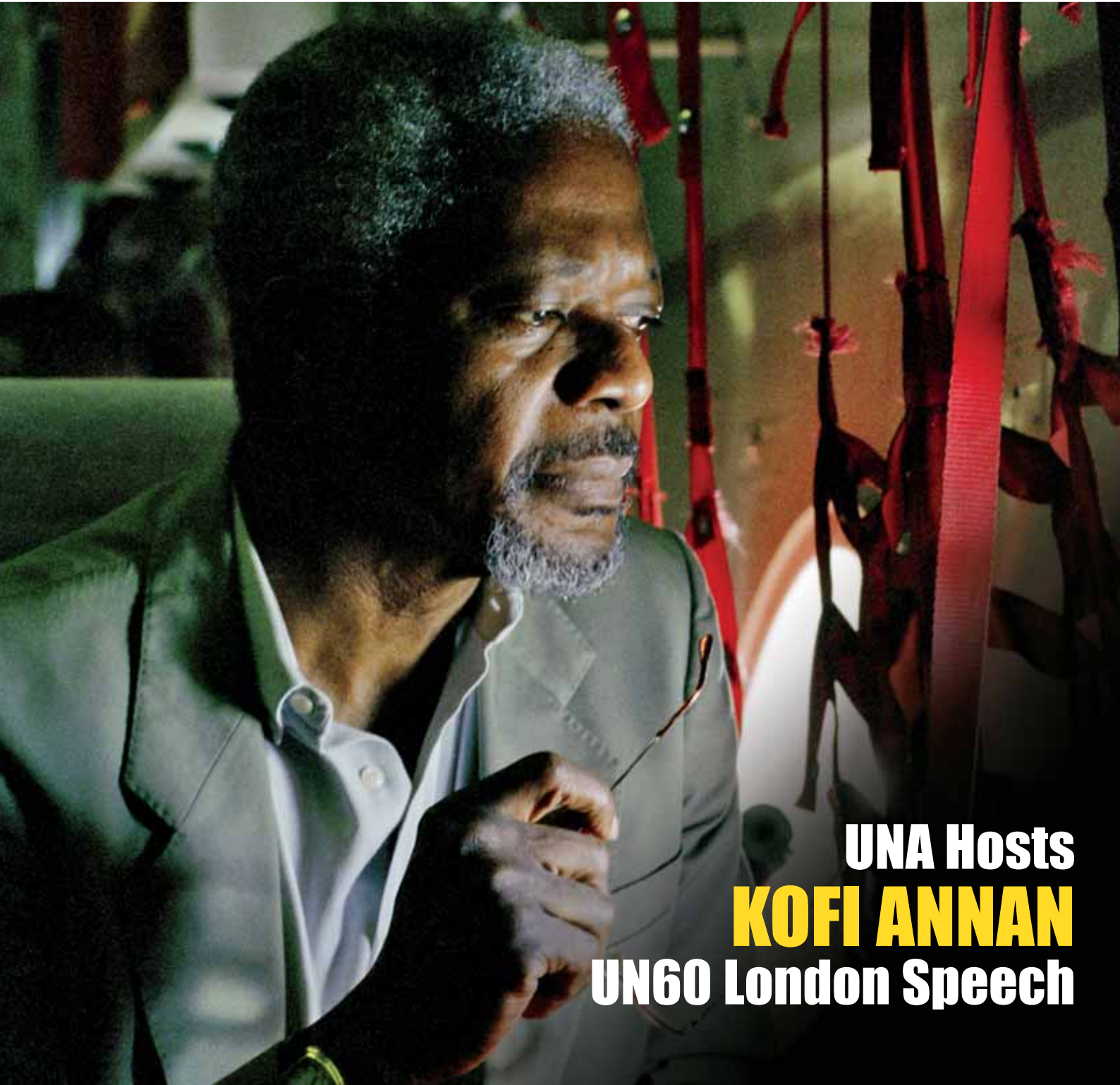




# NEW WORLD

News and comment on the United Nations and UNA

Jan-Mar 2006



## UNA Hosts **KOFI ANNAN** UN60 London Speech



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**60th ANNIVERSARY  
DOUBLE ISSUE: £6.00**

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## UNA's New Domain! [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)

In line with the majority of other UK-based NGOs and membership organisations, UNA-UK is standardising its website domain and e-mail addresses.

While the existing website and e-mail addresses will continue to work for the foreseeable future, please begin to use and promote our new web address, [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk), and note that our e-mails now follow the pattern [surname@una.org.uk](mailto:surname@una.org.uk). Over time, all our publications will carry these new formats.

We are most grateful to Gordon Glass and Bath UNA for securing and transferring the domain to UNA-UK.

### UNA-UK Directory

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The deadline for submission of material for the next issue of *New World* is noon on Wednesday, 1 March 2006. The next issue will cover the period 1 April to 30 June 2006. Please send all contributions by e-mail where possible to [lie@una.org.uk](mailto:lie@una.org.uk). Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi resolution.



# FROM SAM DAWS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**W**elcome to this special 'double' 60th anniversary issue of *New World*.<sup>\*</sup> UNA's successes have come from your collective efforts, and UNA's remarkable history as a vibrant membership organisation is one of which we should all be proud.

I am indebted to former UNA Director Frank Field for compiling a 60th anniversary report of UNA's history. The full report will be available on UNA's website and on paper from head office in February 2006. This issue of *New World*, which we hope will bring back vivid memories, contains samples from the report and members' recollections. It is illustrated throughout with photographs submitted by members.

UNA is entering a new phase of campaign and educational outreach, building upon our successful UK-wide consultation on the reform and strengthening of the United Nations. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has agreed to make a speech on UN renewal in London under UNA auspices on 31 January 2006. See page 5 for details on how to reserve tickets for this event.

We congratulate all UNA members who helped make the Mass Lobby for Trade Justice on 10 November 2005 such a success. Progress on trade issues remains elusive, and we need to maintain pressure on the government to do more to ensure that trade is harnessed for sustainable development. See pages 18 to 21 for more information on trade justice.

With the Non-Proliferation Treaty under severe strain it is vital that there is a well-informed national debate on whether the UK develops a new generation of nuclear weapons to replace Trident. Please encourage your MP to sign the cross-party Early Day Motion on this issue (see page 22).

The UN World Summit in September adopted the principle of the 'responsibility to protect' - arguably one of the most significant developments in international humanitarian law since the founding of the UN, with the potential to prevent tyrants from using state sovereignty as a shield for their human rights abuses or humanitarian neglect. However, the value of the principle depends on its implementation. UNA-UK, at the suggestion of London and SE Region, has urged the Foreign Secretary to use the UK's presidency of the Security Council to table a resolution on Uganda, on the basis of the responsibility

to protect, in the light of the atrocities being committed there. If you would like to get involved in any of the above campaigns please write to Veronica Lie at head office or e-mail [lie@una.org.uk](mailto:lie@una.org.uk)

We are delighted that Secretary-General Kofi Annan has granted *New World* an exclusive article outlining his personal appraisal of the September 2005 World Summit. Those of us who hoped that the Summit would produce a 'San Francisco moment' akin to the founding conference of the UN in 1945 will have been disappointed. But the Summit has nevertheless produced several concrete achievements and could yet lead to a fundamental transformation of the United Nations. I encourage all members to read UNA-UK's own report on the issues considered at the Summit. Entitled *In Larger Freedom in the UK* it was launched in Parliament on 28 November and features views from around the UK on the future of the UN in the areas of peace, human rights and development. Details on how to obtain a copy are included on page 39.

Thank you to all of you who donated so generously in response to the UNA Trust's UNA@60 appeal featured in the last issue of *New World*. Donations to the Trust have in the past helped inspire a new generation of young people. UNA is partnering with the UK Model UN Network to conduct 24 Model UN events around the country by July 2006, involving both university and sixth-form students. See page 38 for further details. If you would like to donate to the UNA Trust please use the reverse of the Annual Conference booking form.

Please redouble your efforts to recruit new members to UNA. A membership leaflet is included with this issue of *New World*. Encourage a friend or family member to join - personal contact has proven vital in convincing others of the benefits of joining.

We now boast a thriving youth and student wing but have had problems recruiting and retaining those aged 24 to 38. With the backing of the UNA Board a dynamic group of members have initiated a UNA Young Professionals Network, to be launched in Parliament on 19 January. We do not keep a record of members' ages at head office so need your help: please encourage those in your branch in this age range to join the Network (see page 39).

After a highly successful 60th Anniversary Conference at the LSE in London, I am delighted that the 2006 UNA Annual Conference will take place in the north of England, in the beautiful city of Durham from 21 to 23 April 2006. Following the much praised precedent last year, Annual Conference will again take place in parallel with the conference of UNA's youth wing, the UN Youth and Students Association. Please register early to guarantee your accommodation (see pages 30 to 31).

I am very pleased to announce that Mr Shashi Tharoor will deliver the pre-dinner keynote speech on Saturday, 22 April during Annual Conference. An inspirational speaker, Mr Tharoor is Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information at the UN in New York. He has frequently been mentioned as the leading 'internal' UN candidate to succeed Kofi Annan as Secretary-General in January 2007. See details of his career to date on page 32.

In the autumn UNA made two staff appointments. Veronica Lie has been promoted to the new position of Head of Advocacy and Special Assistant to the Executive Director. Veronica has a Master's degree in International and European Politics. She joined UNA in 2003 having previously worked in the education sector in Canada, and has coordinated the last two annual parliamentary lobbies on the UN. We have also appointed Simon Le Fevre as Interim Deputy Executive Director, pending the search for a permanent appointee. A Cambridge University graduate, Simon comes to us from a background of 20 years in City fund management alongside two decades as a charity trustee. He has an MBA and is completing a university diploma in Voluntary Sector Management. Simon has already instituted major improvements to UNA-UK's administrative and financial processes.

*\*This issue incorporates the September to December 2005 issue of New World, the publication of which was initially postponed in order to cover the results of the UN World Summit. In the autumn it was agreed with the Chair of the Board that it would be best to create a combined bumper January issue of New World. I hope you feel that this was the right decision (it has helped keep costs down at a vital time for UNA's finances) and that the wait has been worth it.*



# Key International Dates and Events 2006

1 Jan	Five members states to take up non-permanent seats on the UN Security Council following the expiry of the terms of Algeria, Benin, Brazil, the Philippines and Romania	21-23 April	UNA-UK and UNYSA Annual Conference to be held at Durham University in the north of England
9-27 Jan	The Committee on the Rights of the Child to meet for its 41st session at the UN in Geneva	1-12 May	The Commission on Sustainable Development to meet
16 Jan - 3 Feb	The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to meet for its 34th session at UN headquarters in New York	1-19 May	The Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights to meet for its 36th session at the UN in Geneva. The Committee against Torture to meet simultaneously, also in Geneva, and also for its 36th session
19-23 Jan	First meeting of the 2006 World Social Forum, in Bamako, Mali. WSF 2006 will be a 'polycentric' event, with meetings in cities on different continents.	22 May	International Day for Biological Diversity
24-29 Jan	WSF 2006 meeting in the Americas, in Caracas, Venezuela. The Asian meeting, which was to be held simultaneously in Karachi, Pakistan, has been delayed due to the effects of the earthquake earlier this year.	29 May	International Day of UN Peacekeepers
25-29 Jan	Annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland	5 June	World Environment Day, with the theme 'deserts and desertification'
31 Jan	UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and UK Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to commemorate the first meetings of the General Assembly and Security Council - held in London in 1946 - in a major event organised by UNA-UK. See page 5 for details.	20 June	World Refugee Day, focusing this year on the courage of refugees
8-17 Feb	Commission for Social Development to meet for its 44th session to review the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty	26 June	International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
20 Feb - 10 March	The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to meet for its 68th session in Geneva	July	G8 Summit in St Petersburg, Russia, with a focus on education and energy security
27 Feb - 10 March	The Commission on the Status of Women to meet for its 50th session	11 July	World Population Day
8 March	UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, or International Women's Day	12 August	International Youth Day
13-31 March	The Human Rights Committee to meet for its 86th session at UN headquarters in New York	13-18 August	International AIDS Conference to be held in Toronto
21 March	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	21 Sep	International Day of Peace
22 March	World Water Day, with a theme of 'water and culture'	2 Oct	World Habitat Day
27-29 March	3rd International Conference on Early Warning against Natural Hazards to be held under UN auspices in Bonn, Germany	16 Oct	World Food Day
7 April	World Health Day, with a focus on health workers	17 Oct	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
		24 Oct	United Nations Day, to mark the date on which the UN Charter came into force in 1945
		15-18 Nov	12th International Anti-Corruption Conference, to be held in Guatemala City and Antigua
		25 Nov	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
		1 Dec	World AIDS Day
		9 Dec	International Anti-Corruption Day
		10 Dec	Human Rights Day
		31 Dec	Official end of Kofi Annan's second term as UN Secretary-General

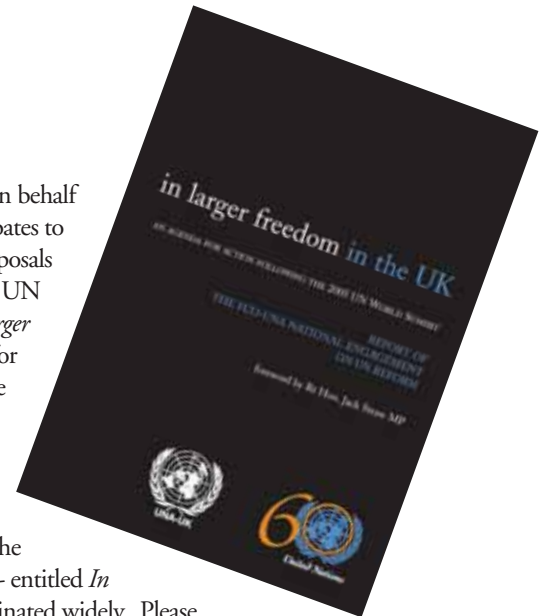


# In Larger Freedom in the UK

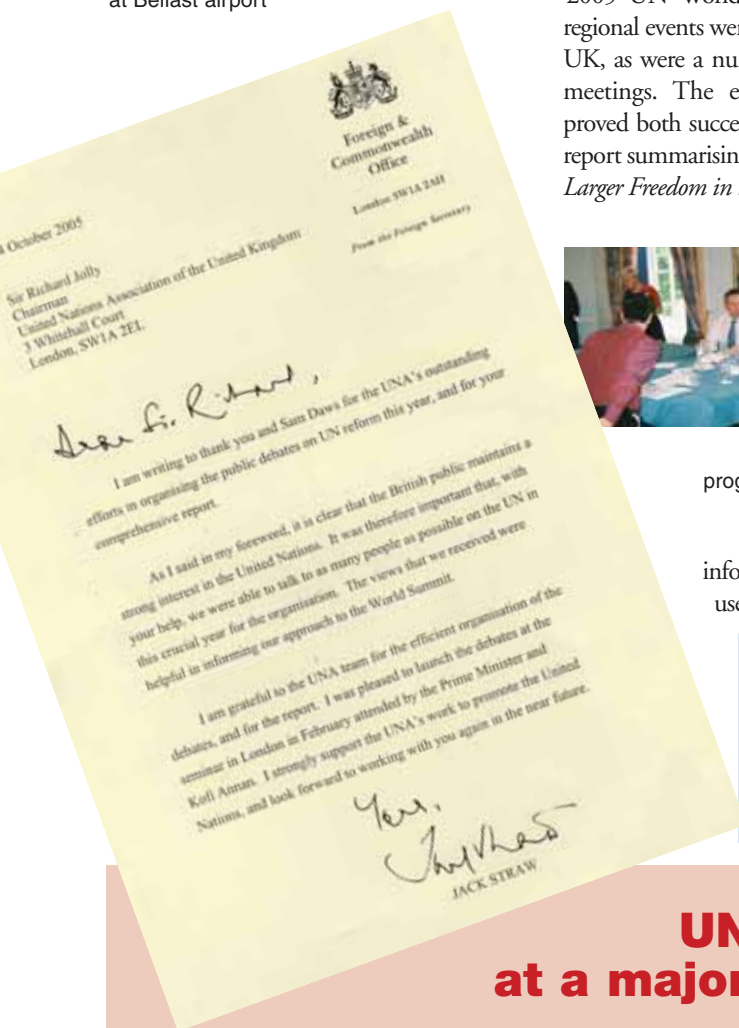


The UNA ILF Roadshow Team at Belfast airport

Throughout 2005 UNA-UK organised, on behalf of the Foreign Office, a series of public debates to gauge public and expert views on the proposals for UN reform put forward by the UN Secretary-General in his report *In Larger Freedom*. This report was used as a basis for the General Assembly's deliberations at the 2005 UN World Summit. Ten major regional events were held throughout the UK, as were a number of sub-regional meetings. The engagement process proved both successful and popular, and the report summarising the feedback gathered - entitled *In Larger Freedom in the UK* - is being disseminated widely. Please



see page 39 for details on how to obtain your copy.



A workshop in progress at Malone House, Belfast



Animated discussions over refreshments

In the run-up to the World Summit in September 2005, participants' views were relayed to the Foreign Office so that these could be taken into consideration as the government prepared for the negotiations in New York.

We hope that *In Larger Freedom in the UK* will help inform UNA-UK campaigns over the course of 2006, and that it will serve as a useful resource as UNA members prepare for Annual Conference 2006.

UNA head office is available to provide advice and support to UNA members in the formulation of Annual Conference resolutions. We can in particular point UNA members to up-to-date sources of information. Please direct any queries to Alexander Ramsbotham on 020 7766 3446 or [ramsbotham@una.org.uk](mailto:ramsbotham@una.org.uk)

## UN Secretary-General to speak at a major UNA event in January 2006

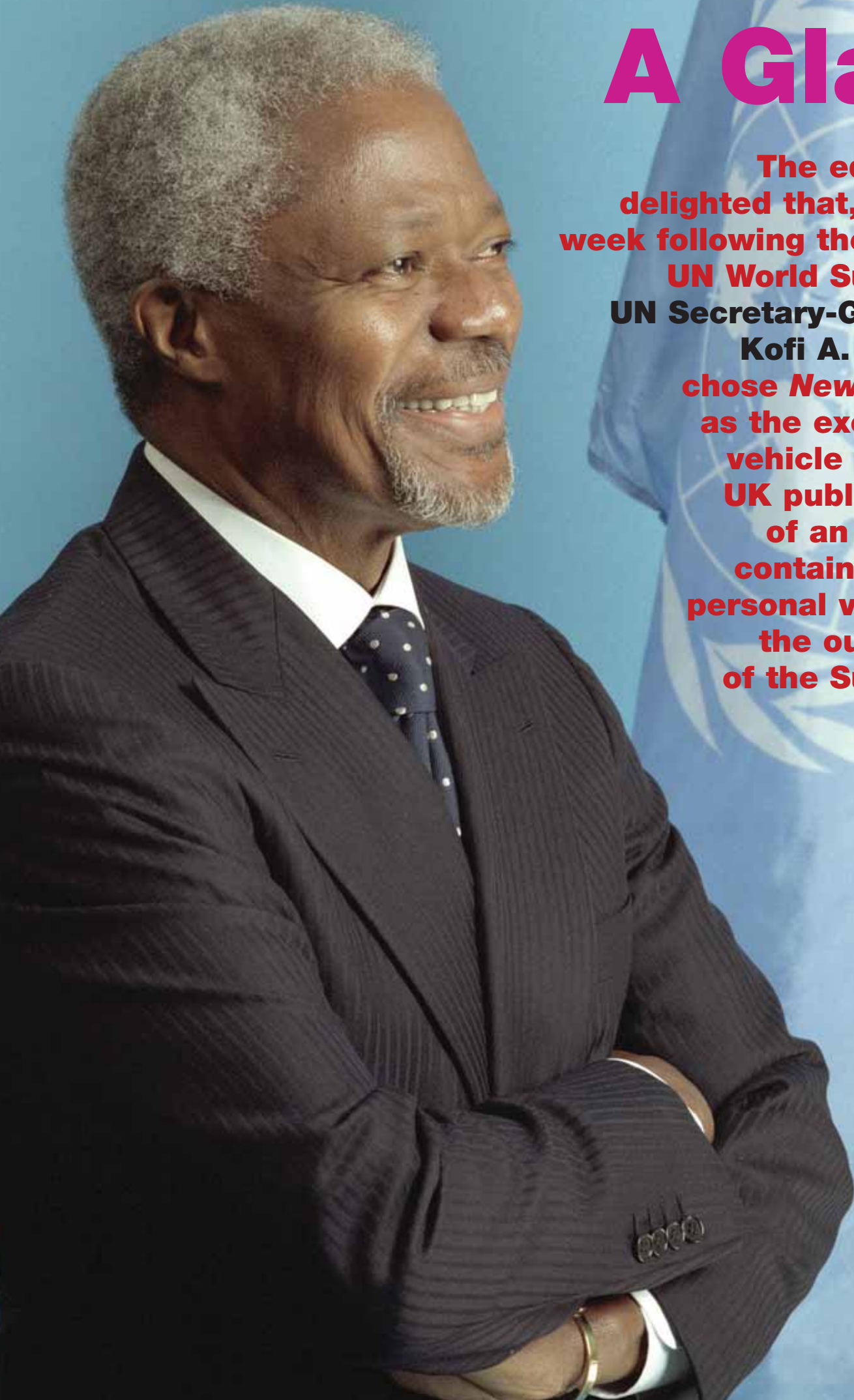
2006 looks set to be as eventful as 2005! We are delighted to report that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has agreed to deliver a major speech under UNA auspices. This event will take place on the evening of 31 January 2006 in London, and will commemorate the 60th anniversaries of the first meetings of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, both of which were held in Westminster, London in January 1946.

Tickets are free but places are limited. Initial priority will be given to UNA members. We encourage you to register for tickets on the UNA website ([www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)), the simplest and easiest method. If you do not have access to the internet please contact UNA on our dedicated UN60 event hotline (020 7766 3459).



# A Glass

**The editor is delighted that, in the week following the 2005 UN World Summit, UN Secretary-General Kofi A. Annan chose *New World* as the exclusive vehicle for the UK publication of an article containing his personal view on the outcome of the Summit.**





# At Least Half Full

**T**he "outcome document" adopted last Friday, at the end of the United Nations World Summit, has been described as "disappointing" or "watered down". This is true in part - and I said as much in my own speech to the Summit on Wednesday. But, taken as a whole, the document is still a remarkable expression of world unity on a wide range of issues.

And that came as welcome news, after weeks of tense negotiations. As late as last Tuesday morning, when world leaders were already arriving in New York, there were still 140 disagreements involving 27 unresolved issues. A final burst of take-it-or-leave-it diplomacy allowed the document to be finalised, but so late in the day that reporters and commentators had no time to analyse the full text before passing judgment. It is no criticism of them to say that many of their judgments are now being revised, or at least nuanced.

Indeed, I would not wish to criticise them, since most were very kind to me. They blamed the alleged failure on nation states - who, supposedly, failed to embrace the bold reform proposals that I had made. It is only fair that I set the record straight.

In March, when I proposed an agenda for the Summit, I deliberately set the bar high, since in international negotiations you never get everything you ask. I also presented the reforms as a package, meaning not that I expected them to be adopted without change but that advances were more likely to be achieved together than piecemeal, since states were more likely to overcome their reservations on some issues if they saw serious attention given to others which for them were a higher priority.

In the end, that is precisely what happened.

The outcome document contains strong, unambiguous commitments, from both donor and developing countries, on precise steps needed to reach, by 2015, the development goals agreed on at the Millennium Summit five years ago - which, now that President Bush has clearly endorsed them in his speech to last week's summit - can incontestably be said to have a global consensus behind them.

It contains decisions to strengthen the UN's capacity for peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding, including a detailed blueprint

for a new Peacebuilding Commission, to ensure a more coherent and sustained international effort to build lasting peace in war-torn countries.

It includes decisions to strengthen the office, and double the budget, of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; to create a worldwide early warning system for natural disasters; to mobilise new resources for the fight against HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria; and to improve the UN's Central Emergency Revolving Fund, so that disaster relief arrives more promptly and reliably in future.

It lacks the clear definition of terrorism that I had urged. But it contains, for the first time

**“ Perhaps most precious to me is the clear acceptance by all UN members that there is a collective responsibility to protect civilian populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity ”**

in UN history, an unqualified condemnation, by all member states, of terrorism "in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes", as well as a strong push to complete a comprehensive convention on terrorism within 12 months, and agreement to forge a global counter-terrorist strategy that will weaken terrorists while strengthening our international community.

Perhaps most precious to me is the clear acceptance by all UN members that there is a collective responsibility to protect civilian populations against genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, with a commitment to do so through the Security Council wherever local authorities are manifestly failing. I first advocated this in 1998, as the inescapable lesson of our failures in Bosnia and Rwanda. I am glad to see it generally

accepted at last - and hope it will be acted on when put to the test.

My proposal for a new UN Human Rights Council is also accepted, though without the details that I hoped would make this body a clear improvement on the existing Commission. These are left for the General Assembly to finalise during the coming year. Nations that believe strongly in human rights must work hard to ensure that the new body marks a real change.

Member states have accepted most of the detailed proposals I made for management reform. In the near future we should have more independent and rigorous oversight and auditing of our work; a cull of obsolete tasks and a one-time buy-out of staff, so that we can focus our energies on today's priorities and employ the right people to deal with them; and a thorough overhaul of the rules governing our use of budgetary and human resources.

But they held back from a clear commitment to give the Secretary-General the strong executive authority that I and my successors will need to carry out the ever-broadening range of operations that the UN is tasked with.

I had also suggested a reform of the Security Council, making it more broadly representative of today's realities. Here too there is agreement on the principle, but the devil is in the detail. The document commits nations to continue striving for a decision, and calls for a review of progress at the end of 2005.

By far the biggest gap in the document is its failure to address the proliferation of nuclear weapons - surely the most alarming threat that we face in the immediate future, given the danger of such weapons being acquired by terrorists. Some states wanted to give absolute priority to non-proliferation, while others insisted that efforts to strengthen the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) must include further steps towards disarmament. Thus the failure of the NPT review conference in May was repeated.

Surely the issue is too serious to be held hostage to this 'you first - no you first' act. I appeal to leaders on both sides to show greater statesmanship, and make an urgent effort to find common ground. Otherwise this summit may come to be remembered only for its failure to halt the unraveling of the non-proliferation regime - and its other real successes would then indeed be overwhelmed.



# UNA-UK in Parliament

## The United Nations All-Party Parliamentary Group

Following the elections in May 2005, UNA-UK worked closely with a group of parliamentarians to reconstitute the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations (UN APPG).

Parliamentary procedure for setting up an all-party group requires that at least 20 parliamentarians - reflecting a certain composition of party affiliation - become qualifying members. From among these, a core group are elected to serve as officers; as you will see from the officers' pro-

files, the UN APPG is being led by parliamentarians with an impressive history of experience with both the UN and international issues more broadly.

Interest in the UN APPG has thus far been strong, and we aim to ensure that membership continues to grow throughout this session of Parliament. Included on this page is a list of those parliamentarians that are registered members of the group. Is your MP's name on the list? Do have a personal or professional link to a Peer whose name is absent? Urge her or him to join!

In partnership with the UN APPG officers, UNA-UK has set out a strategic plan for the group for the upcoming parliamentary session. Our primary objective is to raise awareness among MPs and Peers - about the UN; about its myriad contributions across the areas of peace and security, development and human rights; about the scope of international law and its relevance to the UK; and, crucially, about the applicability of the UN to the people who make up the British electorate.

### All-Party Parliamentary Groups

All-party groups are informal and unofficial groupings of parliamentarians from both Houses of Parliament. As the name implies, membership of these groups is not based on party affiliation but rather on shared interest.

All-party groups - of which there are currently over 300! - vary widely in focus, ranging from beer and cricket, to war crimes, overseas development and human rights. Others bring together members interested in a specific country. Most groups are very informal and depend entirely upon the initiative of MPs and Peers. Some groups, like the UN All-Party Group, are supported externally by a non-governmental organisation, trust or comparable body.

Although All-Party Parliamentary Groups have no formal role within government policy-making, they perform a useful role in functioning as pressure groups, drawing attention to certain issues and working to keep the government informed of parliamentary opinion.

### The European Union's Role at the Millennium Review Summit

In June 2005, UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws gave evidence to a sub-committee of the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union. The Committee sought to assess the EU's role in the United Nations and outline possible contributions the EU could make in order to secure a positive outcome at the 2005 UN World Summit. A report has been published and is available both to read and order online at [www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldeucom.htm](http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld/ldeucom.htm)

Below please find the complete list of individuals who contributed evidence to the work of Sub-Committee C:

#### Lord David Hannay of Chiswick

Oral evidence (6 May 2004)

#### Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner

EU Commissioner for External Relations

Oral evidence (6 June 2005)

#### Sam Daws

Executive Director, United Nations Association-UK

Oral evidence (14 June 2005)

#### Sir Jeremy Greenstock

Director of the Ditchley Foundation

Oral evidence (15 June 2005)

#### Douglas Alexander MP

Minister for Europe

#### Tim Morris

Head of IOD, FCO

Oral evidence (23 June 2005)







As in the past, we will be organising speaker events featuring high-level UN representatives. However, we will also be working to engage with parliamentarians in other - and perhaps more meaningful - ways. We will in particular aim to help them exercise greater democratic scrutiny of UK foreign policy within the context of the UK's commitments to the UN. Parliamentarians will be, for us, a key partner in exerting pressure on the UK government to deliver on its development pledges, to ensure that defence policies are compatible with international law, and to uphold human rights obligations.

Parliamentarians will profit from exposure to key players within the UN, targeted access to leading policy experts on the UN, and a channel - through UNA - to a UK-wide network of thousands of individuals having an interest in the UN and international affairs. MPs and Peers will be provided, via our website, up-to-date information on the UN, including news and special briefings. We will be encouraging visits by parliamentarians to UN offices, both in New York and in the field,

so that they are able to appreciate firsthand the way the UN works and what it achieves.

Parliamentary interest in the UN has been growing, with a flurry of parliamentary activity around preparations for the 2005 UN World Summit. Both Houses held debates on UN reform, and the Lords recently debated the findings of a report on the EU and the UN, compiled by Sub-Committee C (Foreign Affairs, Defence and Development Policy) of the House of Lords Select Committee on the EU. This report, titled 'The European Union's Role at the Millennium Review Summit', is based in part on evidence given by UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws (see inset).

Alexander Ramsbotham, Head of UNA-UK's Peace and Security Programme, has also been working with the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union, and is acting as Specialist Adviser to Sub-Committee C to assist with its inquiry into EU relations with Africa. In late November, the Sub-Committee took evidence from the Rt Hon. Hilary Benn MP, Secretary of State for International Development, and Lord

Triesman, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, on various aspects of the EU's relationship with Africa. Their evidence helped to frame the focus of the rest of the inquiry, the terms of reference of which are to explore modalities for the effective implementation of the EU Strategy for Africa. A final version of the Strategy was agreed by the European Council in mid-December 2005. The report of the inquiry is due to be released in the spring of 2006.

As the UK engages in follow-up to the World Summit - inputting into the establishment of the Peacebuilding Commission, the replacement of the Commission on Human Rights and the practical application of the principle of the responsibility to protect - parliamentarians will have opportunities to represent public views on aspects of the process of strengthening the UN. UNA-UK will be posting, on a dedicated section of its website to be launched shortly, details of parliamentary debates of relevance to the UN. We urge you to keep apprised of these debates and encourage your MP to attend and participate.

## Membership of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations (as of December 2005)

### House of Commons

Gregory Barker (Con)  
John Baron (Con)  
Bob Blizzard (Lab)  
David Borrow (Lab)  
Russell Brown (Lab)  
Alistair Burt (Con)  
Dr Vincent Cable (LD)  
Rt Hon. Sir Menzies Campbell, QC (LD)  
Tobias Ellwood (Con)  
Mike Gapes (Lab/Co-op)  
Rt Hon. Bruce George (Lab)  
Cheryl Gillan (Con)  
John Grogan (Lab)  
Dr Evan Harris (LD)  
David Heath (LD)  
Doug Henderson (Lab)  
Paul Holmes (LD)  
Sadiq Khan (Lab)

Mark Lazarowicz (Lab)  
David Lepper (Lab/Co-op)  
Tony Lloyd (Lab)  
Peter Luff (Con)  
Christine McCafferty (Lab)  
Ann McKechin (Lab)  
Anne Milton (Con)  
Lembit Öpik (LD)  
Hugh Robertson (Con)  
Rt Hon. Sir John Stanley (Con)  
Rt Hon. Dr Gavin Strang (Lab)  
Joan Walley (Lab)

### House of Lords

Lord David Hannay of Chiswick (Lab/Co-op)  
Lord Douglas Hoyle (Lab)  
Lord Frank Judd (Lab)  
Baroness Pola Uddin (Lab)  
Baroness Janet Whitaker (Lab)

**Biographies of the officers of the All-Party Group can be read overleaf**



## Officers of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations



### Hugh Robertson

Conservative MP for Faversham and Mid Kent  
*Chair, UN APPG*

Before entering Parliament, Hugh Robertson was an army officer in The Life Guards. He saw service with the UN in Cyprus (UNFICYP) after having served in Northern Ireland, where he commanded a platoon in Londonderry and Fermanagh. He served also during the Gulf War as Adjutant of a main battle tank regiment and, in Bosnia, worked for the United Nations in Sarajevo during the siege of the city.

He was selected as Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Faversham and Mid Kent in March 2000 and elected to Parliament in June 2001. He was a Conservative Whip from 2002 to 2004 and became Shadow Sports Minister in 2005. He was re-elected to Parliament in May 2005 when he doubled his majority.

Throughout his time in Parliament, Hugh has taken a close interest in defence and foreign affairs. He was a special adviser to the Shadow Northern Ireland Secretary and is now Shadow Minister for Sports and for the Olympics.



### Mike Gapes

Labour/Cooperative MP for Ilford South  
*Vice-Chair, UN APPG*

First elected to Parliament in 1992, Mike Gapes has a long history of political activism, and has been involved with the Labour Party in various capacities since 1968 when he was 16. In 1977 he began full-time work for the Labour Party, starting out as the party's national student organiser. He soon moved on to become a research officer in the international department, specialising in defence, disarmament and international security issues. In 1988 he was promoted to Senior International Officer - a post he held until elected to parliament in 1992.

Since entering Parliament Mike has played a key role on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, on which he served from 1992 to 1997 and of which he is currently the chair. He has also twice been appointed to the Defence Select Committee, and in that capacity visited British forces stationed in Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Kosovo, Iraq and Bosnia.

Mike is the member of the Labour Middle East Council, Parliamentary Friends of Islam and several parliamentary country groups. He is also a council member of the Voluntary Services Organisation, a partnership which goes back thirty years - when Mike took a gap year as a VSO teacher in Swaziland.



### Lord David Hannay of Chiswick

Crossbench Peer  
*Vice-Chair, UN APPG*

Lord David Hannay entered the British Diplomatic Service in 1959. He had placements in Tehran and Kabul, and later in the Eastern Department in the Foreign Office in London.

He was Secretary to the UK delegation to the European Community (EC) and was in 1970 appointed 1st Secretary to the team negotiating the UK's entry into the EC. From 1973 to 1977 he was *Chef de Cabinet* for Sir Christopher Soames, Vice-President of the Commission of the EC, and from 1979 to 1984 was Assistant Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office for the European Community.

From 1984 to 1985 Lord Hannay was Minister at the British Embassy in Washington and, from 1985 to 1990, he held the post of Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the EC. From 1990 to 1995, Lord Hannay served as the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations and, from 1996 to 2003, he was the UK's Special Envoy to Cyprus.

Lord Hannay, a member of the House of Lords Select Committee on the EU, is also one of the 16 diplomats appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2003 to the UN High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, set up to assess current threats to international security and to propose recommendations for UN reform.



### David Heath

Liberal Democrat MP for Somerton and Frome  
*Vice-Chair, UN APPG*

David Heath's political career began in 1985, when he was elected to Somerset County Council as a Liberal. Awarded the CBE in 1989 for political service, he remained on the county council until May 1997, when he was elected MP for Somerton and Frome. David is currently Shadow Leader of the House; Lib Dem spokesperson for the Department of Constitutional Affairs; and a member of the Commons Modernisation Committee. He has in the past acted as the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for a range of departments, including Foreign Affairs, and has served on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee. Among David's political interests are the environment and education, and he is a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe.



### Baroness Janet Whitaker

Labour Peer  
*Vice-Chair, UN APPG*

Baroness Janet Whitaker was created a Life Peer in 1999 after a career in publishing and the civil service, where her last post carried national and international responsibility for gender discrimination; this included leading the national delegation to the Fourth UN Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. Baroness Whitaker was a member of the Select Committee on the European Union subcommittee on social policy and migration, the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the draft Corruption Bill. She is currently Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Labour Party International Development Committee and the Labour Party International Development Liaison Peer. She is also a member of the Advisory Council of Transparency International UK; the Council of the Overseas Development Institute; and the Advisory Board of the British Institute of Human Rights. She is a trustee of UNICEF UK and Vice-President of the One World Trust. In addition to her role as Vice-Chair of the UN All-Party Group, Baroness Whitaker is Vice-Chair of the All-Party Groups on Overseas Development and on Ethiopia.



### Peter Luff

Conservative MP for Mid Worcestershire  
*Secretary, UN APPG*

Peter Luff has been working for Worcestershire since 1992 when he became Conservative MP for Worcester. After major boundary changes, he was elected MP for the new Mid Worcestershire seat in 1997 and was re-elected with an increased majority in 2001. Peter is currently Chair of the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry. He was previously Chair of the Commons Agriculture Committee and has served in the Opposition Whips Office with responsibility, at different times, for Home Affairs, the Cabinet Office, the Foreign Office, Health and the Treasury. Peter is a member of the executive committee of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. In addition to serving as Secretary to the UN All-Party Parliamentary Group, Peter participates in several other parliamentary groups in Westminster, including the Overseas Development Group and the India Group.



# UNA Members Attract Media Spotlight

**LYMINGTON TIMES**  
 Milford-on-Sea and  
 INCORPORATING LYMINGTON  
 62, Old Milton Road,  
 New Milton, BH25 6EH  
 Tel: 01425 - 613384  
 Fax: 01425 - 610257  
 SATURDAY, JULY 9th, 2005  
 Full Weekly Sales 23,855



**Dame talks on UN**  
**D**AME Margaret Anstee visited Cheltenham to celebrate the United Nations' 60th anniversary. Dame Margaret served the UN for four decades, rising to the rank of Under-Secretary General in 1987. She talked to 70 people at the United Nations Association in Cheltenham about the relevance of the UN in today's world. Sue Thompson, chairman of the Cheltenham UNA, said: "It was a good turnout and a great success. "The UNA aims to establish a two-way link between the public and the UN so we can raise issues with them but also educate ourselves and others about how the UN works. "The UN is the most powerful force we have for preventing war and tackling global issues." The Cheltenham UNA will have a stand at the University of Gloucestershire fester's fair on September 29 with the aim of establishing a youth group in the area.

Major Brian Chaplin, Dame Margaret, Sue and Derek

## Lymington UNA 60th anniversary walk



**£650 boost for United Nations' Millennium goal**  
**M**EMBERS of Southampton and District United Nations Association raised £650 to help realise the UN Millennium goal of halving the number of people who don't have access to clean, safe water. The local association presented a cheque to Janet Blackten, chair of the North East Regional Council of the UN Association, which is working to provide wells in northern Afghanistan. Councillor Liz Towell said members had raised the money by holding an advent supper and organising fundraising events in their own homes and gardens. They also placed collection boxes by their homes to encourage people to make a donation every time they flushed - bringing a new meaning to spending a penny! PICTURE - Janet Blackten takes a cheque from the Southampton group's evening well. Also pictured seated are, from left, branch co-ordinators Liz Towell and Julie Cook and treasurer Naylor Robinson. Picture by Dawn Barry 05/05/05

### Association grateful for support

OCTOBER has been a busy month for our Harpenden United Nations Association and we are so grateful to the many people of Harpenden who have joined in with our commemorative of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations on October 24, 1945. Harpenden people contributed generally to the flag day collection in raising money for UNICEF and UNA's charter, they attended the commemorative raising of the UN flag at the Town Hall along with Peter Lilling MR, Deputy Mayor Councillor Clive Clifton, Deputy Mayor Councillor John Chambers, Councillor Bert Pwells and Towns Clerk Mrs Ann Pack. They listened to James Green from the Tree Fund at the UN Day special service, this year at Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church, this being led by Monsignor Harry Turner; they bought Christmas cards at the Charity Christmas Card Fair attended by members and a large group of members attended the UN commemorative service at St Paul's in company with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh, Tony Blair, Paddy Ashdown, The Bishop of London, the Dean of St Paul's and many other distinguished guests. The UN does have its failures but I have no doubt that the world is a better place because of the United Nations and because of the support given to its good causes by the many people who are members of its associations - including those of Harpenden. The next event local members and friends are looking forward to now in this special anniversary year is an evening of operatic highlights performed by the St Albans Chamber Opera on November 15 at Rothamsted Manor House and our UNA Chairman Trevor Evans and his TRUSTEES would love to talk to anyone in the community who would like to attend - and perhaps also become a member of the United Nations Association. Since we thank again to the people of Harpenden.



**Children fly the flag for UN's sixtieth**  
 children gathered to mark an event that the children from several primary schools took part in a celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of the United Nations outside Southdown House in Harpenden. The event was entitled "Share it with us" and featured a display of the United Nations' 60th anniversary from those groups in Harpenden - St George's, Tadworth and White Hall, Great Cornard and St Andrew's. The children were accompanied by their parents and other members representing all the groups. They included the Mayor, Councillor and Councillor.

## UN Association's top man pays a visit

**Executive director stresses importance of local grassroots work Lyn Barton reports**  
**A** LEADING player from the international stage came to Truro to share his vision of world peace. Sam Daws, the executive director of the UN branch of the United Nations Association, travelled to Cornwall to address the local branch of the group. During a fascinating evening at Truro's BC Church Hall, Mr Daws spoke of the UNA, his role within and the importance of grassroots groups. Roy McMillan, of the Mid-Cornwall UNA, said it had been a wonderful evening.





# UNA in UN60

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and

## UNA Scotland in action

UNA members in Scotland have been, as ever, extremely active.

On 15 October 2005 Edinburgh UNA's Annual General Meeting was held at the Friends Central Meeting House, in Victoria Terrace. A joint discussion, featuring Edinburgh University UNYSA members and the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, and focusing on the UN's record over the last 60 years, took place from 22 October in Augustine United Church. A service of rededication to the UN followed on 23 October at St Giles's Cathedral. On 24 October a UN60 children's workshop in City Chambers preceded a flag-raising ceremony in George Square. The UN flag was also flying from the Scottish Parliament on UN Day.

On 10 November, Peter Kessler, Senior Officer for External Affairs in the UK office of the UN High Commission for Refugees, met with the Scottish Cross-Party Group on International Development to speak about Afghanistan, clearing landmines and the Millennium Development Goals. UNA Scotland has also been doing valuable work with MEPs, to identify reasons for discrepancies between the European Commission's pledges to the least developed countries and the amount actually delivered.



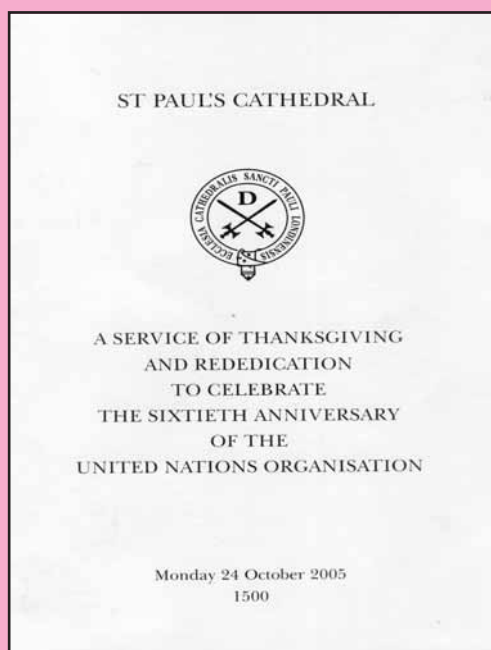
## St Paul's UN60 Service of Rededication

The St Paul's service, which was organised by David Wardrop of Westminster UNA, was a great success. Her Majesty the Queen was present, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh. Prime Minister Tony Blair, Lord Ashdown, the Bishop of London and the Dean of St Paul's participated in the programme, as did a group of UNYSA members who read sections of the UN Charter on behalf of the world's major religions.

The Ray of Hope choir, composed of pupils from schools in Belfast of different denominations, sang together, in a moving and fitting performance, for the first time since the Good Friday Agreement.

The Ray of Hope choir, composed of pupils from schools in Belfast of different denominations, sang together, in a moving and fitting performance, for the first time since the Good Friday Agreement.

Congratulations to David Wardrop, Sir Patrick Cormack and the Rt Hon. Jeremy Thorpe on such a superb and well-attended event.





# Some examples of how UNA branches, regions and individuals celebrated UN day in UN60

## 12 October

- Exeter UNA meeting at the University of Exeter featuring a lecture by Lord David Hannay, former UK Ambassador to the UN and member of the UN High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change

## 15 October

- Anne Sieve speaks at a Bournemouth UNA meeting at the local Friends Meeting House

## 22 October

- London & Southeast Region Annual Flag Day
- South Lakeland & Lancaster City UNA hosts Lord Frank Judd
- Harpenden UNA holds a Christmas card sale to raise funds for UNICEF in the UN's 60th year
- Bournemouth, Southbourne & Christchurch collaborate in a joint flag day collection in aid of UNICEF and the UNA Trust

- Purley with Sutton UNA runs UN60 Flag Day collection covering Purley, Sutton, Sanderstead, Selsdon, Wallington, Coulsdon and Carshalton

## 23 October

- Norwich UNA holds a UN Day service in Norwich Cathedral.
- Sunderland UNA holds service in Sunderland Minster
- Stratford-upon-Avon UNA holds a 'Wishes for Peace' ceremony opposite Ann Hathaway's Cottage in the grounds of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
- Chichester & District UNA participates in a multi-faith service at the Friends Meeting House in Chichester

## 24 October

- Exeter UNA hosts a flag-raising ceremony at Exeter County Hall
- Councillor Stephenson raises the UN flag at a Sunderland UNA event at the Civic Centre

- Harpenden UNA hoists the UN flag up the Town Hall flagpole
- UNYSA holds an all-day party, featuring a picnic in Embankment Gardens

## 25 October

- UNA-UK, with the invaluable help of Enid and Phillip Lodge of UNA Liverpool, holds an event in Liverpool Cathedral featuring a speech by Edward Mortimer

## 30 October

- Harpenden UNA holds its annual service at Our Lady of Lourdes Church with an address by Joanne Green of Tearfund on progress made by the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** campaign
- A tea party at Canterbury UNA at the Dominican Priory in St Peter's Lane and an introductory talk on how the UN relates to ordinary people and voluntary groups

## UNA Wales

Here are a couple of photos from the 2005 AGM of UNA Wales, held in Bangor. Executive Director Sam Daws with Stephen Thomas, Secretary of UNA Wales, and Sam listening to Frank Hooley.



## Harpenden UNA

MP Peter Lilley met UNA members in Harpenden to raise the UN flag. Mr Lilley read the preamble to the Charter of the United Nation. He is pictured here with Mayor Clennel Collingwood, Dr David Ayres, Sonia Ayres, Trevor Evans and Deputy Mayor John Chambers.





## Eastern Region

To mark UN60 a concert was organised by UNA Eastern Region. On 8 October 2005, in the packed Assembly Hall of the Friends School in Saffron Walden, the Sacconi Quartet gave a scintillating performance of Haydn's Sunrise, Schumann's opus 41, and Beethoven's 2nd Rasumosky.

UNA Eastern Region President Lord Phillips of Sudbury addressed the audience during an intermission, and was supported by the youngest members of the audience, Sara (11) and Anna (8) Cullen. He noted that, although the UN received "more brickbats than praise", it had remarkable achievements to its credit.

The concert was introduced by Eastern Region Chair Canon Michael Swindlehurst. UNA-UK Board member Andrew Boakes gave thanks to all those individuals involved in the organisation of the concert and, in particular, to the Friends School for so generously providing the venue and refreshments.



## Saffron Walden

In celebration of UN60, Saffron Walden Branch organised an art competition for junior school pupils. The competition attracted over 80 entries and was judged by Francoise Mouchet-Davis, who also arranged the display, in partnership with Elizabeth Charles and Gill Howe.

The winners are listed below, in alphabetic order:

- Ruby Carmichael (11), Friends Junior School
- Florence Davis (11), R. A. Butler School
- Jessica Gray (9), Friends Junior School
- Charlotte Ingle (7), Dame J. Bradbury School
- Daniel Parry (10), Friends Junior School

There were also a large number of entries which did not comply with competition rules regarding format. However, these works were of such high quality that the judges opted to evaluate them as a separate category. The winners in this category were as follows and are listed in alphabetical order:

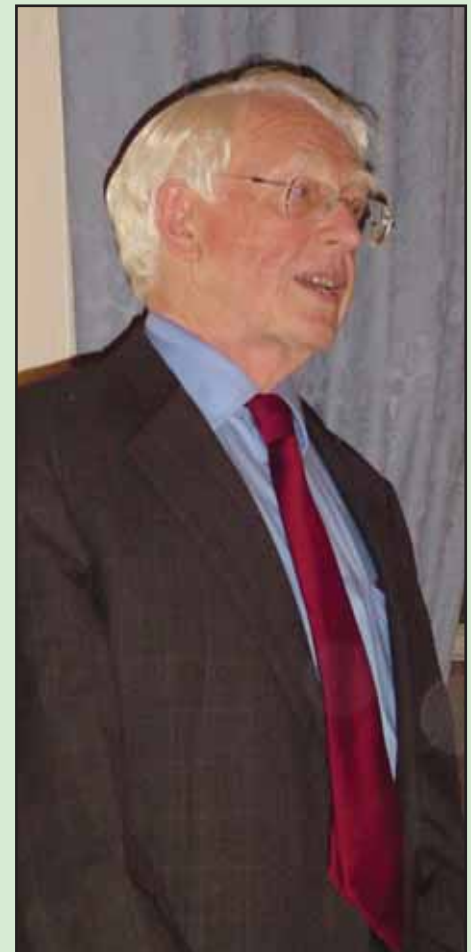
- Daisy Carpenter, Dame J. Bradbury School
- Olivia Mattick, Dame J. Bradbury School
- Harry Parnoe, Dame J. Bradbury School
- Rosie Shennan, Dame J. Bradbury School
- Bryony Spaxman, R.A. Butler School





## UN60 Reunion Dinner

To mark the UN's 60th anniversary, a reunion dinner was held at the Royal Overseas League in London on 19 October 2005. The dinner reunited many individuals who had taken part in the UK-UNA Junior Professional Officer scheme. Many of these then went on to hold high-level positions in the UN system. Hosted by UNA Chair Sir Richard Jolly and organised by former UN staff member Michael Asquith, the dinner was attended by 18 former volunteers as well as former UNA Director Malcolm Harper and current Executive Director Sam Daws.





# Stories from UNA Members Abroad

*We are always interested to hear from UNA members and friends about their experiences abroad and their work with UNAs from other countries. In this section we include accounts from Christa Clinchy (former UNA intern); Fiona Gow (UNA Board member); and Chris Dickenson (Secretary of East Gloucestershire Branch).*

## **Christa Clinchy with UNDP in Malawi**

*Christa Clinchy is a second-year MA student in political science at McGill University, and a former UNA-UK intern. She recently undertook an internship with UNDP in Malawi.*

It is difficult to imagine the kind of extreme poverty where people cannot afford a mere 14 cents to purchase a bag of maize for their family or why it is necessary for people to "queue up to die



three to a bed, two on top and one underneath, in a hospital just outside of Lilongwe."

One of my defining memories of my stay in Malawi is a conversation with a mother who had lost a child to malnutrition, while noticing to my left a garden filled with rotting vegetables. I asked why she did not use the vegetables. She responded that she was not permitted to eat from the garden. This woman earned a higher than average wage in Malawi (US \$30 a month), the sole income to feed a family of five.

This mother's plight is just one example of the harsh realities of poverty, the daily struggle it entails and the traps it sets. These are some of the reasons why, following my time at UNA-UK, I had to do another internship, this time in a developing country. I wanted to see the effects of poverty, disease and inequality firsthand - to flesh out my university work with the human element, all too often lost in the morass of theory and statistics. As I wanted experience working within the UN system before making any irrevocable career decisions, I applied - and was accepted - to undertake an internship in Lilongwe, Malawi with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Malawi is currently facing one of the worst food shortages in a decade, with more than four million people at risk of widespread hunger and malnutrition. Although I had no expertise in the area of food security I was asked by the head

of the UN system in Malawi to be on the drafting committee for the Consolidated Appeals Process, which is the humanitarian sector's key mechanism for coordination and strategic planning of crisis responses. My supervisor at McGill is largely to thank for this. I had participated in a peacebuilding simulation in April before I headed off to Malawi, and, although this exercise had been restricted to cyberspace, it provided me with the right kind of training to be involved at the real UN.

The UN appeal called for US \$88 million in response to the hunger crisis (by October 2005, only \$27 million of this had been received). The urgency and profile of the appeal received a boost while I was in Malawi by the visit of Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to Kofi Annan on the Millennium Development Goals, an individual whom U2 frontman Bono has described as having a "wildness to his rhetoric but a rigor to his logic". Initially the priority of the response was to meet the immediate humanitarian needs stemming from the food shortages, but Professor Sachs advised a longer-term approach which would ensure that the most impoverished farmers had access to free agricultural inputs in time for the growing season. This required another round of negotiations with the Malawian government, UN agencies in Malawi and UN headquarters, as well as a reorientation of the crisis response.

Although some of us go abroad to 'save the world', we end up learning more about





ourselves than about the people we went to 'save.' Living abroad teaches you about your own capabilities and limitations. It is important to remember that you can't change the world in one summer. After all, some of the greatest minds of the world have been trying for decades to end poverty and they still have not found the solution (unless of course you are Jeffrey Sachs).

To donate to the Malawi Appeal, visit the World Food Programme's website on [www.wfp.org](http://www.wfp.org)

### **Fiona Gow returns to Sri Lanka**

*Fiona Gow is the representative for Northwest Region on UNA-UK's Board of Directors.*

Sri Lanka has had a special place in my affections ever since I taught there with VSO in the early 70s; this August I paid a memorable return visit. One of the highlights of my trip was a meeting with UNA-Sri Lanka, at Panadura, a few miles south of Colombo, near the beautiful coast recently ravaged by the tsunami.

I was welcomed by Kumaran Fernando, Secretary-General of UNA-Sri Lanka, and other members of the Executive Committee at Mr Fernando's home, which is the nerve-centre of the organisation and houses the national office. The flagpole in the garden was flying the UNA flag and opposite the front door, beside the Sri Lankan flag, was a Union Jack to welcome the visitor from the UK. I delivered a card of greetings from UNA-UK, signed by members of the Board, and in the spacious (and pleasantly cool!) reception room we drank Sri Lankan tea and exchanged information about the activities of our two associations.

Both UNAs are celebrating the 60th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter, but UNA-Sri Lanka is also celebrating both its own 55th birthday and the 50th anniversary of Sri Lanka's admission to the UN. UNA-Sri Lanka actually predates the country's membership of the UN, and Mr Fernando, then a teenager, was one of the founding members and has been a key player in the organisation ever since.

UNA-Sri Lanka has around 1,000 members, who each receive a quarterly

newsletter. To encourage young people's interest in the UN there is a Study Circles Programme in secondary schools throughout the island; now, nearly 300 schools take part. At the Association's annual UN Day meeting, the keynote address is given by a school student speaking on the UN theme for the year. Last year the first Sri Lankan Model UN was held, organised by the UNDP and the Scouts and Girl Guides Associations, with support from the UNA of Canada.

Other recent initiatives have included reprinting the UN Charter in Sinhala and Tamil (the languages of the two largest ethnic groups on the island). Copies were presented to the President of Sri Lanka by a delegation of Executive Council members. Sinhala and Tamil versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were also produced. Both projects were sponsored by the Netherlands Embassy in Colombo.

UNA-Sri Lanka also ensured that the 60th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter was widely noted, by producing an article which appeared in Sinhala, Tamil and English newspapers. The Association was also planning a major event for 24 October 2005.

UNA-Sri Lanka has always been active in WFUNA and is one of its oldest members. One of WFUNA's greatest servants has been Horace Perera, a Sri Lankan, who served as its secretary-general for two five-year terms and later as its treasurer. Through WFUNA there are close ties with other UNAs, particularly those in the Asia-Pacific region. Recently four Sri Lankan undergraduates attended the first WFUNA Asia-Pacific Model UN in Beijing. The team manager was Mohamed Zawahir, Deputy Executive Chairman of UNA-Sri Lanka, whom some of you may have met when he recently attended the *In Larger Freedom* public debate in Wales.

I was impressed by the range of UNA-Sri Lanka's activities. My visit coincided with a time of political tension, but I noted that UNA-Sri Lanka stresses that membership is open to "ALL ... irrespective of man-made barriers, specially those relating to social status, education, colour of skin, religion, caste and race". It was very heartening too to witness, on this island which has major problems of its own, what its UNA was doing to raise awareness of international issues and the work of the UN.

UNA-Sri Lanka is keen to maintain and strengthen links with UNA-UK; I was reminded that relations with UNA-UK date back to 1951. As I was about to leave I was told a short ceremony was to take place - and soon I heard the strains of our national anthem followed by a recording of Sri Lanka's own. This is UNA-Sri Lanka's custom when they have foreign visitors. I found it a moving symbol of the many links between our two countries and UN Associations and a reminder that in our very different settings we are all working for the UN's goals.

In my own Northwest Region of UNA we have had contact with UNA Sri-Lanka in the past and we hope to build on this. If you are lucky enough to be going to Sri Lanka and would like to meet members of its UNA, I should be happy to provide further details. You can also find out more about its activities from UNA-Sri Lanka's website on [www.unasl.org](http://www.unasl.org)

### **Update from Chris Dickenson on UNA San Francisco**

*Chris Dickenson is Secretary of UNA East Gloucestershire. In the summer of 2005, he visited San Francisco, where the UN Charter was signed in June 1945. You can read about Chris's UN60 'birthplace tour' in the July-September 2005 issue of New World.*

Readers of *New World* will have seen an extract from my account of a visit to UNA San Francisco, during which I was given a tour of some key monuments to the early years of the United Nations. Our host, Nancy L. Peterson, who is President of UNA San Francisco, decided at short notice to pay us a return visit following a walking holiday in Scotland. A rapidly organised day of events included visits to Cotswold villages, Gloucester Cathedral and the Parliament Room. Some members were also able to join Nancy for lunch at Berkeley prior to her tour of its 900-year-old castle. Nancy, who lives near Berkeley, California, was assured by the castle guide that the American pronunciation of Berkeley was in fact the correct one!



# The Trade Justice Movement on the Injustice of International Trade

**Vicky Tongue** is Campaign Assistant for the Trade Justice Movement (TJM), and **Jenny Ricks** is Assistant Coordinator. Here they explain TJM's views on the international trade regime and outline some of their past and future campaigns.

*Trade justice for the developing world and for this generation is a truly significant way for the developed countries to show commitment to bringing about an end to global poverty.*

Nelson Mandela

Trade is a powerful force. It could play an important part in reducing poverty and improving people's quality of life worldwide. But the rules governing international trade are currently biased in favour of the richest nations and companies, while poor people and the environment are being harmed.

The facts speak for themselves.

## *International trade: the injustice*

- World trade has increased tenfold since 1970, and more food is produced per person than ever before, but the number of people going hungry in Africa has doubled.
- International trade is worth an estimated \$10 million a minute, but the poorest 49 countries (comprising 10% of the world's population) only account for 0.4% of this. Since 1980 their share of international trade has halved.
- 70% of world trade is controlled by multinational corporations, while developing countries are deprived of trade worth \$700 billion every year.
- The average European cow receives more than US \$2 a day in subsidies, whereas nearly half the world's population (2.8 billion people) struggle to survive on less than this amount per day.
- Only half the poor countries in the WTO, the powerful rule making institution governing international trade, can afford a representative at its headquarters in Geneva.

## *Trade Justice*

World trade rules rob poor countries of £1.3 billion a day, 14 times what they receive in aid. We are giving pennies with one hand and taking pounds with the other. If the unfair world trade system is not urgently addressed, there can be no long-term improvement in the dire conditions faced on a daily basis by around half the planet's population. Trade could provide an excellent way for the world's poorest to improve their lives and futures, but only if it is on fair terms.

Trade justice means campaigning for fundamental change to the unjust rules and institutions governing international trade, so that it is structured to benefit the world's poorest people and the environment. Rich country governments are currently pushing abroad for the liberalisation of markets, which is contradicted by the continuation of protectionism at home. Free trade forces rich and poor to compete on equal terms - like pitching Manchester United against the village football team. It's obvious who's going to win because one side has huge advantages over the other, even if the playing field is level.

Almost all rich countries use trade rules to force poor countries to open their markets to competition and uncontrolled foreign investment. This has led to a 'race to the bottom' in terms of workers' rights and often contributes to environmental devastation. Rich countries developed by protecting and supporting their own industries where it was needed. Now that they are at the top, they are kicking away the ladder for developing countries.

## *The Trade Justice Movement*

UNA-UK has recently joined the Trade Justice Movement, a rapidly-growing campaigning coalition with over 70 UK member organisations and comprising over 9 million supporters. Formed at the end of 2000, and a key

member in the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** coalition, the Trade Justice Movement includes aid agencies, NGOs, trade unions, and faith and consumer groups. By working together, these organisations have a much greater chance of bringing about real change in international trade rules, just as the Jubilee 2000 movement did for debt cancellation. Our aim is to inspire ordinary people to take action and demand that the UK government listen to, and act upon, their concerns.

We are calling on the UK government to:

- fight to ensure that governments, particularly in poor countries, can choose the best solutions to end poverty and protect the environment;
- end export dumping which damages the livelihoods of poor communities around the world; and
- make laws that stop big business profiting at the expense of people and the environment.

## *Mounting public pressure*

Years of increasingly successful large-scale public events with swelling numbers of well-informed supporters have had an impact. In 2005, during the Global Week of Action for Trade Justice in April, campaigners in the UK joined more than 10 million people in 80 countries around the world, all calling for the end to forced liberalisation of developing country economies. Towns and cities across the UK hosted over 150 local events, and over 25,000 people came to London as part of 'Wake Up for Trade Justice', a powerful overnight vigil held in Whitehall. This helped make international development an election issue for the first time in the UK.

On 2 November 2005 over 8,000 people from around the UK took part in the Mass Lobby of Parliament for Trade Justice, the largest parliamentary lobby in the history of modern British democracy, with 375 MPs lobbied in just a single day. Over 750,000 people have cast their Vote for Trade Justice, adding their names to a petition which was presented to the UK government in advance of the December 2005 WTO Hong Kong Ministerial Conference.

Decision-makers have been forced to respond to this mounting public pressure. Former Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt has said that 'the Trade Justice Movement has mobilised public opinion





## Examples of forced or inappropriate liberalisation

*Kofi used to be a tomato farmer in Ghana, but following IMF reforms, subsidised European tomato paste flooded his local market and destroyed his livelihood. Kofi now earns £1 a day breaking rocks to make gravel.*

Christian Aid

*The IMF and World Bank ordered Malawi to cut help to poor farmers and to remove price controls on agricultural goods (which ensure a decent return for poor farmers). The resulting corruption, grain hoarding and massive price rises for food, made the famine which struck Malawi a few months later even more devastating.*

World Development Movement

*In northern Ghana cheap imports of American rice have destroyed many farmers' livelihoods. As well as the farmers themselves, many other families that used to earn some extra money helping with sowing and harvesting have also lost out. In a poor region such as northern Ghana there are few other alternatives for earning a living and without an income people cannot afford to buy the imported products, even if they are cheaper. Al-Hassan, a local rice farmer says, "If I had my own way, I'd stop the US rice coming into the country - and I tell you, if it didn't come in, we would have prospered and we'd be out of poverty."*

Kicking down the door, Oxfam Briefing Paper. April 2005

nationally and internationally, reshaped the agenda of trade negotiations, and turned the debate into a public and ethical, as well as economic, debate'. Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown has commented that the Trade Justice Movement is 'a unique coalition that shows that we are each of us not powerless individuals but that acting together we have the power to change the world for the better.'

In response to the Trade Justice Movement's campaigning, the government has softened its rhetoric on trade liberalisation. At the WTO Ministerial Conference in Cancun, the UK government changed its position on the so-called 'new issues', which would have meant an expansion of the WTO's agenda against the wishes of developing countries.

Ongoing campaigning has helped, further-

more, to ensure that, in 2005, UK government policy states that poor countries should not be forced to liberalise their economies.

### *Political inaction*

However, the government has yet to turn its political promises into concrete reality. The world's poorest countries are still having to open their markets to foreign exporters as a condition of receiving aid, loans or debt relief from international donors and financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), and are also regularly forced to liberalise their markets in bilateral or regional trade negotiations with more powerful trading partners, including the EU bloc, the presidency of which the UK held throughout the latter half of 2005. Furthermore, developing countries are put under great pressure in negotiations at the WTO, with representatives facing the withdrawal of aid and trading preferences if liberalisation is resisted.

### *Plans for 2006*

In 2006, the Trade Justice Movement will continue to put pressure on the UK government to deliver on its promises, and we will be following up on the outcome of the Hong Kong Ministerial to ensure that trade reforms are geared to benefit the poor and do not harm the environment. A key focus of our efforts in 2006 will be a campaign on corporate accountability and, in particular, the role of the UK Company Law Reform Bill as a mechanism for holding companies to account with respect to their impact on the environment and relevant stakeholders, including local communities, employees and suppliers.

Additional information on the Company Law Reform Bill will be posted shortly on [www.tjm.org.uk](http://www.tjm.org.uk), where suggestions for taking action in support of trade justice can also be found. Alternatively, contact Veronica Lie at UNA-UK on 020 7766 3451.





# Fairtrade in the UK

**Eileen Maybin**, of the Fairtrade Foundation (UK), defines 'Fairtrade' and describes how British consumers can help guarantee a better deal for producers in poor countries.

**T**he FAIRTRADE Mark is an international certification label, licensed in the UK by the Fairtrade Foundation. The fundamental premise of the FAIRTRADE Mark is that, by harnessing the purchasing power of consumers in the west, inequalities in trading relationships can be rectified and a fair deal guaranteed for producers in the world's poorest countries.

The FAIRTRADE Mark is available on products sourced from the developing world that meet Fairtrade standards. Key sectors for Fairtrade are currently hot beverages (coffee, tea and chocolate drinks); fruits and juices (including bananas, pineapples, mangoes and grapes); and cakes, biscuits and confec-

tionery (using cocoa and sugar as the core ingredients but also incorporating honey, dried fruit and nuts).

Fairtrade guarantees a minimum price to producers for their crops, a price that covers the real, sustainable cost of production. In the Fairtrade system, 'sustainable' is defined as an income that allows producers both to meet basic living expenses and to make key investments - in, for example, family healthcare and education and cleaner, more efficient production methods - so that wider development processes are also supported. As Blanca Rosa Molina, a coffee farmer in Nicaragua, explains: "Fairtrade means we can invest in our farms and invest in our children's futures. We can at least keep a roof over their heads and keep them in school."

The success of the Fairtrade initiative depends ultimately on the strength of the link between consumers in countries such as the United Kingdom and producers in the developing world. Fairtrade products are now stocked in the UK by all the major national supermarket chains and are well-established in independent outlets, mainly in the specialist health and whole-food sectors. There are over 1,000 retail and catering Fairtrade products - a meteoric rise from



## FAIRTRADE

Guarantees  
a **better deal**  
for Third World  
Producers

### The FAIRTRADE Mark

Core standards and practice behind the Five Guarantees

- 1.** The FAIRTRADE Mark guarantees farmers a fair and stable price for their products
- 2.** The FAIRTRADE Mark guarantees extra income for farmers and estate workers to improve their lives.
- 3.** The FAIRTRADE Mark guarantees a greater respect for the environment
- 4.** The FAIRTRADE Mark guarantees small farmers a stronger position in world markets
- 5.** The FAIRTRADE Mark guarantees a closer link between consumers and producers

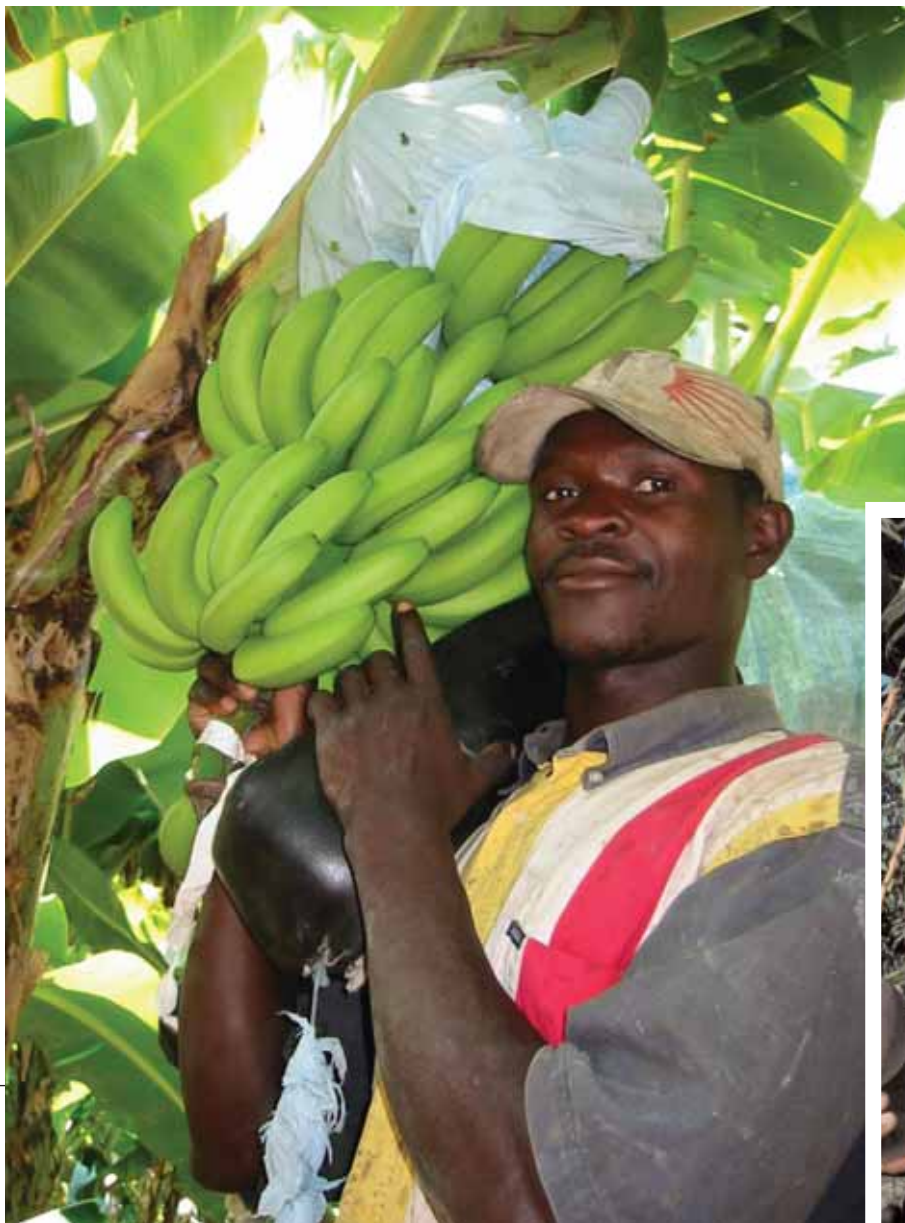


2003 when there were around 150. Last year, Fairtrade sales increased by 51% to a total of £140 million.

These achievements can be attributed to the tireless efforts of volunteers - in youth clubs, churches, workplaces and universities - who have played, along with celebrities such as the comedian Harry Hill, such an instrumental role in raising awareness about Fairtrade products and the tangible impact of consumer choices on the lives of producers in the developing world.

Our annual flagship campaign is 'Fairtrade Fortnight', which runs every March and which last year featured 7,500 highly varied activities around the country, including everything from Fairtrade parades, concerts and debates to tea dances, fiestas and family days. The theme for the upcoming Fairtrade Fortnight (6-19 March 2006) is 'Make Fairtrade Your Habit' - a call to consumers to stock up on Fairtrade products when they go shopping and take the message out to friends and family.

Grassroots initiatives are the heart-beat of Fairtrade. In 2000 Garstang, Lancashire declared itself the first Fairtrade Town. Since then the number has swelled to over 130, with a virtually equal number of towns, cities, boroughs currently working towards this status. The Fairtrade Foundation has developed criteria for Fairtrade Town status, requiring the ongoing engagement of local authorities, the creation of local steering networks representing a cross-section of the commu-



nity and an active public awareness campaign.

For guidelines on how you can launch a Fairtrade Town initiative, or how to elevate your school, university, church or workplace to Fairtrade status, visit the Fairtrade Foundation's website on [www.fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.fairtrade.org.uk)

*To obtain a Fairtrade Fortnight Action Flyer, which lists all of the resources available for Fairtrade Fortnight, please telephone 020 7440 7676.*





# The Future of Trident and the NPT

**Alexander Ramsbotham** is Head of UNA-UK's John Bright Peace and Security Programme.

## *Replacing Trident: The NPT and the UK's nuclear strategy*

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the cornerstone of the international nuclear regime, has been undermined by deteriorating support among its states parties. During this session of Parliament, it is likely that the decision will be taken whether to replace Trident, the UK's current nuclear weapons system. This decision has direct implications for the UK's legal obligations under the NPT, and thus also for the UK's ability to play a leading role in reviving support for an effective multilateral system for the regulation of nuclear weapons and nuclear technology.

### Box 1 **Trident Facts**

- The UK has four Vanguard class submarines. Each carries 16 Trident II D-5 missiles, each of which can carry 12 warheads, with up to a maximum of 48 warheads per submarine.
- Each warhead has a potential explosive power of 100 kilotons, seven times that of the bomb that killed an estimated 140,000 people at Hiroshima.
- The UK owns the warheads, but leases 58 missiles from the US government.
- The current Trident system cost £12.5 billion in 1996, and costs around £280 million per year to maintain.
- Estimated costs of replacing Trident range from £5 billion for the missiles alone, and up to £20-30 billion for missiles, submarines and research facilities.
- Taking into account planned increases, the government forecasts that, by 2007-08, the UK's expenditure on international development will amount to just under £6.5 billion per year.

## *What is the NPT?*

The NPT, which entered into force in 1970, represents the only legally-binding global instrument for promoting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. At the core of the Treaty is a bargain comprised of three elements: 1) non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS) undertake to forego the acquisition of nuclear weapons; 2) the nuclear-weapon states (NWS) undertake to disarm their nuclear arsenals; and 3) the NNWS receive assistance in the use and development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

With 189 states parties, the NPT has been ratified by more countries than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement. The Treaty aims to limit nuclear weapons to the NWS - those five states (China, France, Russia, the UK and the US) which had, prior to 1967, manufactured and exploded a nuclear device. Three countries - India, Pakistan and Israel - have never been party to the NPT: India and Pakistan are declared nuclear-weapon states, while Israel is widely believed to possess a nuclear weapons capacity.

## *The NPT under strain*

That there are only seven known countries with nuclear weapons, and one suspected, is testament to the success of the NPT in advancing nuclear non-proliferation. In the early 1960s it was estimated that from 15 to 25 nuclear-weapon states would emerge over the subsequent decade. However, its past successes notwithstanding, the Treaty is now under severe strain, having been undermined by the first withdrawal of a state party; by growing pressure on the Treaty's verification and enforcement procedures; and by the failure of states to reach agreement - at both the May 2005 NPT Review Conference and the September 2005 UN World Summit - on

ways to progress towards realising the objectives of the NPT.

This disintegration of consensus stems from the erosion of the bargain forming the basis of the NPT. In a trend which represents both a cause and a symptom of this gradual collapse, states are increasingly bypassing the multilateral framework of the NPT to pursue nuclear objectives by bilateral or unilateral means, a recent example being the conclusion by India and the US of a civilian nuclear cooperation accord. Strengthening the legal processes by which India, a non-NPT state, can be held to account in its use of nuclear technology is in itself positive, but the implicit marginalisation

### Box 2 **Early Day Motion 1113: Trident**

That this House welcomes the Government's decision to launch a public debate on the future of the United Kingdom's nuclear weapons; recognises the significantly changed international circumstances from those in which the current Trident missile system was conceived, designed and constructed; is aware that there are a number of options available to the Government in considering replacements for the current system; and, therefore, calls on the Government to publish a consultation paper setting out the issues, including threat assessments, estimated costs and all nuclear and non-nuclear options, as a basis for the public debate.

The six cross-party sponsors of the EDM are: David Chaytor and Joan Ruddock (Labour); Menzies Campbell and Michael Moore (Liberal Democrat); and Desmond Swayne and Tobias Ellwood (Conservative). As of 8 December 2005, 53 MPs were signatories to EDM 1113.



of the NPT could bode ill for the future of multilateral cooperation within the nuclear sphere.

The threats posed by nuclear weapons are both extreme and manifold. Many stockpiles are poorly secured and thus potentially vulnerable to terrorist infiltration, and more than 200 incidents of illegal trafficking in nuclear material have been documented over the last decade. To contain these threats, robust international cooperation is essential, and the existing multilateral framework needs urgently to be strengthened - if necessary through a radical revisitation of the tripartite bargain upon which the NPT is based.

The UK should take the lead in the process of strengthening the international nuclear regime. Its ability to provide this leadership depends in part upon the future direction of its nuclear strategy and the compatibility thereof with the spirit and letter of the NPT.

#### *The NPT and the UK: the question of Trident*

Article VI of the NPT requires the UK to "pursue negotiations in good faith on effective

measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament". The UK has taken some steps towards nuclear disarmament. It has since 1997 foregone all other nuclear weapons apart from Trident, mandating that only one submarine, with its missiles detargeted, be on patrol at any one time. The Nuclear Safeguards Act, which came into effect on 1 May 2004, provides legislation for implementing the NPT's 'additional protocol', which builds on existing nuclear safeguards agreements with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to allow the latter to inspect nuclear and related facilities.

The Trident system comprises around 200 operational warheads on four submarines [see Box 1]. As Trident is due to be replaced between 2020 and 2025 and experts anticipate a lead-time of up to 14 years to develop new weaponry, it is widely accepted that the decision whether to replace Trident will be taken during the current Parliament. UNA-UK will be exerting pressure on the UK government to ensure that the decision taken is in keeping with the NPT.

#### *What can you do?*

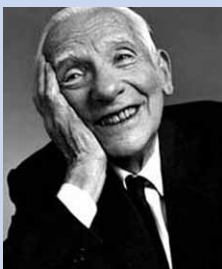
The government has agreed to launch a public debate on the future of the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent. With a view to ensuring that this debate is based on detailed and pertinent information, and is sufficiently broad in scope, there is currently in Parliament an Early Day Motion which calls on the government to issue a consultation paper setting out the key issues for discussion [see Box 2]. UNA is encouraging its members to write to their MPs, asking them, if they have not already done so, to support this EDM. To find out whether your MP has signed EDM 1113, visit [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk) or just ask her or him! The number for the House of Commons switchboard is 020 7219 3000. UNA will also be providing members with information about a project called 'Beyond Trident', being steered by a group comprised of the Acronym Institute, BASIC and the Oxford Research Group. This initiative is seeking to enhance the transparency of the UK government's decision-making with respect to nuclear strategy and to stimulate debate on Trident's possible replacement [see Box 3].

### Box 3 **Beyond Trident**

Beyond Trident is advocating that the government undertake a comprehensive strategic security and defence review to assess UK security objectives, priorities, policy and planning and explain how nuclear weapons fit into this broader strategy. Before any decisions are made, Beyond Trident identifies some vital questions for debate:

- What are the implications for global proliferation if the UK decides to renew its nuclear weapons system?
- What are the threats to Britain to which nuclear weapons offer a credible response?
- How much would the Trident replacement cost, and what are the opportunity costs if the money were spent on other defence or social priorities?
- Can the continued retention of nuclear weapons be justified on the basis that other countries retain them or might acquire them?
- Do nuclear weapons enhance or weaken the security of the UK?

More information on the project can be obtained at [www.comeclean.org.uk/index.php](http://www.comeclean.org.uk/index.php)



### **"Remember your humanity, and forget the rest."**

Joseph Rotblat (1908–2005)

Professor Joseph Rotblat, born in Poland in 1908, was living in Britain when he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1995. He was one of 11 scientists who founded the Pugwash Conferences, based on a 1955 manifesto put out by British philosopher Bertrand Russell and American scientist Albert Einstein, and he became the institution's major figure. He died in London on 31 August 2005.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's statement on the death of Professor Rotblat:

**"I was saddened to learn of the death of Joseph Rotblat, the scientist, veteran disarmament campaigner and Nobel Peace Laureate. In a long life, Mr. Rotblat went from working on the nuclear bomb to founding the Pugwash conference, and continued for the rest of his days to champion the principle of scientists taking responsibility for their inventions. He leaves a legacy of inspiration and courage to his many friends and colleagues around the world."**



UNA-UK congratulates Mohamed ElBaradei on winning the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize. The award not only celebrates Dr ElBaradei's remarkable personal contribution to the international control of nuclear weapons but also marks the efforts of the UN agency tasked with nuclear non-proliferation - the International Atomic Energy Agency.



# A Victory for Common Humanity?

## The responsibility to protect after the 2005 World Summit

**Professor Nick Wheeler** is Director of the David Davies Memorial Institute in the Department of International Politics, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. He is a leading expert on humanitarian intervention and the author of *Saving Strangers: Humanitarian Intervention in International Society* (Oxford University Press, 2000).

*Below is an extract from a paper presented by Professor Wheeler to a conference held in Toronto, Canada and entitled 'The UN at 60: Celebration or Wake?'. UNA-UK has received permission to reproduce the article from the journal in which it was published. The article can be viewed in full on [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)*

“Amidst the general disappointment that accompanied last month's world summit, there were several important rays of hope. One of these, and perhaps in the longer-term the most important, was the General Assembly's (GA) endorsement of the 'responsibility to protect'. 191 states committed themselves to the principle that the rule of

non-intervention was not sacrosanct in cases where a government was committing genocide, mass killing and large-scale ethnic cleansing within its borders. Moreover, some state leaders boldly claimed that, had such a declaration existed in 1994, this would have prevented the Rwandan genocide and the massacres a year later at Srebrenica. For example, the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Jack Straw, stated in his speech to the Labour Party conference on 28 September that, 'If this new responsibility had been in place a decade ago, thousands in Srebrenica and Rwanda would have been saved'. This paper seeks to critically reflect on this claim by consid-

ering how far the GA's adoption of the responsibility to protect significantly changes the parameters shaping humanitarian intervention in contemporary international society. I argue that the UN's endorsement of this new norm fails to address the fundamental question of what should happen if the Security Council is unable or unwilling to authorise the use of force to prevent or end a humanitarian tragedy, and that it fails to address the question of how this norm could be better implemented to save strangers in the future.”

*\*Volume 2, issue 1 (Fall 2005) of the Journal of International Law and International Relations ([www.jilir.org](http://www.jilir.org))*







# Developments at the United Nations

## UN human resources reform and the search for the next Secretary-General

UNA branches have been sent a list of 60 major achievements of the United Nations, which is currently available on our website or by request from UNA headquarters. It is important that recent criticisms of the Organisation do not obscure the remarkable progress that has been made in advancing humanity's welfare through multilateralism over the last 60 years. There is, however, no doubt that the UN's reputation has taken a battering over the last year. In particular, the 'Oil-for-Food' scandal has produced media headlines of UN corruption, incompetence and irrelevance. Much of this media coverage has been inaccurate or exaggerated but, where UN management was at fault, it is vital that fundamental reforms are undertaken. The UN Secretary-General has already taken some steps to strengthen the oversight mechanisms of the Secretariat, and to improve accountability, transparency and efficiency. But more needs to be done if maladministration in the UN Secretariat and agencies is not to become an excuse used by countries which already question the merits of multilateralism to weaken the United Nations. Much of what remains to be changed lies in the hands of the member states of the UN. Will they continue to interfere in the hiring and promotion of staff? Will they tie the hands of the Secretary-General on budgetary matters?

The appointment of the next Secretary-General is only months away. Traditionally it has taken place in October of the final year of the outgoing Secretary-General in order to allow a smooth transition. The world has been very fortunate in the leadership of Kofi Annan, and history will likely treat him more kindly than have some contemporary critics. But it is by no means certain that the traditional method of selection conducted in the smoke-filled Security Council consultation chamber will produce a worthy successor. The UK government, as a permanent member of the Security Council, has a veto over the appointment of any candidate. It should use this power wisely. This is an opportu-

nity to conduct, for the first time, a professional search for the right woman or man for the job - a search worthy of the status of the office. And it is a chance to give Mr Annan's successor the freedom to lead a modern and geographically diverse Secretariat adapted to today's global challenges, and free from micro-management by states. The April to June 2006 issue of *New World* will profile some of the leading candidates, as well as the campaign by the group Equality Now for the appointment of a female secretary-general.

## Final Oil-for-Food report issued

An odd quiet overcame the UN's more vociferous critics when the final report of the Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC) into the Oil-for-Food Programme was published in September 2005. The report's findings, running to over 1,000 pages, criticises the management shortcomings of the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General, but clears both of any deliberate wrong-doing. More importantly the report turns a spotlight on the failings of member states, both individually and as members of the UN Security Council. In this respect, the ICC's findings are damning. Member states, including P5 members, knew of the collusion of their companies with the Saddam Hussein regime over kickbacks but did nothing. They also knew of illegal oil smuggling outside of the UN programme but did nothing.

US government revelations of what has happened since the UN pulled out of Iraq are also sobering. After the Coalition Provisional Authority replaced the UN programme in Iraq, billions of dollars of Iraq reconstruction money has vanished unaccounted for. *The Independent* also reported that, under the new Iraqi government, advised by the United States, up to a billion dollars - the equivalent of the entire Iraqi government procurement budget - has gone missing, apparently spirited out of the country.

This comes at a time when funding is vital if Iraq is to build up its own security forces and hasten the departure of our armed forces. None of the findings excuse failings in the UN Secretariat, but they do

place its flaws in a wider context. UNA-UK supports calls for an extension of the IIC's mandate so that it can further investigate illegal activities by companies which helped the Saddam Hussein regime to bypass UN sanctions and solicit 'kick-backs'.

## The 'Low Level Panel'

An encouraging sign of pressure for change from within the UN system has emerged from the 'Low Level Panel', a growing worldwide network established in April 2004 and comprised of young professionals working in or alongside the UN system, including individuals from the private and national public sectors. The members - of whom UNA's own Executive Director is one - have been working on a voluntary basis over the last 18 months to propose practical, 'low level' recommendations to enhance the UN's working practices. Its first report, which is available from [www.lowlevelpanel.org](http://www.lowlevelpanel.org), addresses recommendations in the areas of strengthening staff performance, information and knowledge management, procurement, and coordination between the field and UN HQ.

## Elections change the political complexion of the 2006 UN Security Council

Five new non-permanent members join the Security Council this month for two-year terms. Ghana and the Congo secured the two African seats being vacated by Algeria and Benin; Slovakia was elected for Eastern Europe, replacing Romania; and Qatar now occupies the seat for Asia following the departure of the Philippines. The election for the Latin American seat was highly contested, with Peru eventually defeating Nicaragua. This victory was owed in part to active lobbying by China in protest over Nicaragua's diplomatic relations with the government of Taiwan. These five newly elected states join five existing non-permanent members halfway through their two-year terms: Argentina, Denmark, Greece, Japan and Tanzania. The Council's composition now looks more friendly to Western political interests than at any time since the mid-1960s.



# Women, peace and security

## 1325: Five years on

**Katherine Ronderos** is UNA-UK's representative on the London Committee of UNIFEM UK, and **Alexander Ramsbotham** is Head of UNA's John Bright Peace and Security Programme.

**O**n 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. This historic document was the first of its kind to address specifically the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict prevention, management and resolution. Resolution 1325 stressed the importance of bringing gender perspectives to the centre of all UN efforts related to peace and security, and recognised that women are not only victims of conflict but also key actors in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Resolution 1325 has had some positive impact as an advocacy and monitoring tool for gender issues. However, it still faces some significant challenges, not least

the continuing poor representation of women at decision-making levels, including within the UN itself. Resolution 1325 'urges the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations'. However, as outlined in the box adjacent, progress is so far inadequate.

At the September 2005 UN World Summit - five years after the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 - world leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the full and effective implementation of the resolution. More recently, in October 2005, in response to a request from the Security Council, the Secretary-General delivered an action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325 across the UN system. This is the first time that the UN system has embarked

on a planning effort of such breadth and complexity.

The action plan is designed to be used by UN entities to:

- prepare concrete strategies and programmes to advance the role of women in peace and security areas;
- guarantee more efficient support to member states and others in implementation of resolution 1325;
- strengthen the commitment and accountability of the UN system; and
- enhance cooperation among agencies.

Strategies and activities proposed in the action plan provide a long-term framework for action and for achieving concrete results in the period between 2005 and 2007.



Members of the Burundian military sign up to disarm under the auspices of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in Burundi. UN Photo



## The status of women in UN peace operations, as of 30 June 2005

- Women comprised 26.1% of professional staff (345 out of 1,324) with appointments of one year or more in UN peace operations, representing an increase of 0.4% since the previous year
- Two out of 27 peace operations were headed by women
- There was one female Deputy Special Representative of the UNSG in a peace operation
- Of 23 peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions with more than 20 professional staff members\*:
  - o four had more than 30% women
  - o 12 had between 20% and 30% women
  - o seven had less than 20% women
- Women represented 4.4% of civilian police contingents in 16 peacekeeping missions
- Ten missions had gender advisors and/or gender units

\*as of 11 July 2005

These figures were taken from the website of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues ([www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi)).

## Key documents

To view Security Council resolution 1325, visit the Security Council's website: [www.un.org/Docs/sc](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc)

To read the 2005 World Summit Outcome's section on gender, go to the dedicated section of the General Assembly's website: [www.un.org/summit2005](http://www.un.org/summit2005)

To read both the Secretary-General's action plan and other essential information on the status of women within peace and security visit the website of the Office of the Special Adviser of Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women: [www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi)

## East meets west: WACUNA welcomes Chinese women's group

**Suzanne Long** is the newly-appointed chair of WACUNA

On 12 August 2005, some members of UNA-UK's Women's Advisory Council (WACUNA) did their bit to promote international understanding, when they met with a delegation of Chinese women from the Guangdong Provincial Women's Federation - part of the All China Women's Federation. This east-west encounter was extremely interesting and valuable, although not all viewpoints were entirely sympathetic.

The All China Women's Federation is a fairly autonomous quango and quite powerful politically. It acts under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, providing a link between government and citizens. It manages women's trade unions, and lawyers' and managers' professional bodies, enjoying strong municipal support. It is not necessary to be a Communist Party member or to be involved in political activities to participate - all women are automatically members of the Federation at local level.

The Federation's structure is comprehensive and complicated, reaching from central to provincial, local and village levels. Financed by the government, it has 2,400 women staff, and it receives additional income from its own businesses, such as hotels, as well as from charities.

The Federation provides advice, promotes women's equality, protects their rights (especially those without strong social status), and encourages them to contribute to society. It has its own training school and college, as well as a journal, *Family*, which has the eighth largest circulation of any journal in the world.

The Federation also has an important international role: it was responsible for organising the non-governmental organisation section of the Beijing World Conference on Women in 1995, which some of the WACUNA delegation attended.

During our meeting, the Guangdong Federation's delegation (who, incidentally, comprised a commendably broad age range) were struck by the broad array of independent women's groups which exist here, and were impressed with these groups' capacity to challenge government, while also being able to work closely with it when appropriate.

WACUNA and the Guangdong Federation exchanged views, via the (male) interpreter, on matters of common (female) concern: family, poverty, equality *etc.* For instance, we were told that, by 2006, Chinese children will have access to free education for nine years, and that extended families - often consisting of four generations living together - were a good way of reducing the costs of childcare.

WACUNA expressed its concern about human rights difficulties in the UK, for example around asylum seekers and migrants, and the human rights implications

of counter-terrorism legislation. We then invited our guests to share their views on human rights issues in China. The leader of the delegation, Ms Zhao Donghua, noted that Chinese views on human rights needed

### About WACUNA

WACUNA was established in the 1970s by UNA-UK. WACUNA membership is drawn from women's national organisations and women's sections of relevant national or international organisations. It is a voluntary, non-party-political body which meets regularly to provide:

- 1) a programme of speakers and discussion on related women's issues and the outcomes of UN world conferences
- 2) a forum for information exchange through which to suggest areas of concern to UNA
- 3) advice on ways and means of supporting women individually and through organisations to achieve strategies approved for action by the UN

For more information on WACUNA and on women and the UN, visit [www.una.org.uk/women\\_main.html](http://www.una.org.uk/women_main.html)

to be considered in the context of both the country's enormous population and its concentration in poor rural areas.

One member of the WACUNA delegation posed a somewhat provocative question on the issue of capital punishment, which was met with a rather defensive reply from both the interpreter and Ms Donghua. We were told that, while there remains a strong belief in China that death is an appropriate price to pay for killing someone, the death penalty was being phased out as a punishment for 'economic' crimes. Is this a sign that pressure from the international community is beginning to have an effect on human rights in China?



## Policy Motions Adopted by the UNA-UK Board

**Annual Conference 2005 did not have time to debate those motions which were not considered with the 1,000-word UNA-UK Policy Statement. Therefore the Board, at its meeting on 23 July 2005, considered and adopted the following motions, which now become UNA policy.**

### Peace and Security: Climate Change

The United Nations Association,

*Believing* that climate change is a greater threat to our civilisation than terrorism;

*Recognising* that the UN has a unique responsibility in promoting and coordinating strategies to control it;

*Appreciating* the importance of the British public being consulted on the issues and supportive of effective strategies;

*Welcoming* the statements of the Prime Minister that the UK will make this a priority for its Presidency of the G8 and the EU in 2005; but

*Noting* that the UK is only 16th out of 22 EU countries in its performance on green issues, according to the 2005 Environmental Sustainability Index,

*Urges* the British Government to:

- a. encourage public debate about the issues;
- b. enlist the support of the media, local government and schools; and
- c. use its influence at international level to work for consensus on the need for action under the aegis of the UN.

### Misconduct by UN Peacekeepers

The United Nations Association,

*Welcoming* the developments in international law relating to the trafficking of human beings, especially the entry into force of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

*Encouraged* by the greater emphasis on accountability now placed on UN peacekeeping personnel; but

*Concerned* that cases of sexual abuse are still being alleged against UN peacekeeping personnel,

*Calls on:*

- a. the UN Security Council to include specific references to preventing trafficking and other abuses of women and children in the mandates of UN peacekeeping and similar operations;
- b. the British Government to urge troop contributing member states to pursue vigorously in their national courts accusations of misconduct made against their nationals serving with UN peacekeeping operations;
- c. the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to promote knowledge and use by all members of UN peacekeeping operations of the Protocol against trafficking.

### Youth Participation and the Millennium Development Goals

The United Nations Association,

*Recognising* global concern for the delay in progress in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) targets by 2015; and

*Noting* the importance of engaging youth participation as a highly effective means to a sustained, long-term commitment to achieving the MDGs and, in the light of the commendable developments in youth-engaging activities such as the Youth Forum held by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and the decision by the FCO to send a youth representative to the 60th session of the General Assembly,

*Urges* the British Government to collaborate with UNYSA-UK and other youth civil society organisations to investigate and report on how to advance the role of British youth in achieving the MDGs;

*Requests* that the Government, through educational curricula and other means, raise awareness among youth of how they can be more active in helping the UK Government reach the MDGs;

*Suggests* that the Government work through existing youth networks and mechanisms to engage youth both locally and abroad in international aid and development activities; and

*Further suggests* that the British Government build on the above recommendations by continuously examining the progress of improving the participation of youth in achieving the MDGs.

### Civil Society

The United Nations Association,

*Welcoming* the Report of the Panel of Eminent Persons on United Nations-Civil Society Relations (Cardoso Report);

*Noting* that it was endorsed in the December 2004 High-Level Panel Report 'A More Secure World'; and

*Alarmed* by the fears of some panellists that insufficient support from the UN Secretariat and member states will lead to the Cardoso Report being shelved,

*Calls on* UNA to promote, through the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, the Report to a wider audience in the UK; and

*Calls on* the British Government to espouse the main thrust of the Report in both the Security Council and the General Assembly, in particular to:

- a. institute far greater access for civil society organisations to the deliberations of the Security Council;
- b. advocate in the General Assembly that civil society be accorded better access to meetings and to Assembly committees;
- c. push for the streamlining of the accreditation process; and
- d. initiate consultations in the UK which may serve as a template for others, leading to the systemic implementation of the Panel's principal proposals.



## Palestinian State

The United Nations Association

*Urges* the British Government to work with others in the UN in calling on both the Palestinian militant resistance groups and individuals and the Israeli military and armed settlers to stop reciprocal violence forthwith in order to facilitate the establishment of a viable Palestinian state, in territory currently under Israeli occupation, with its capital in East Jerusalem.

## Youth Participation and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The United Nations Association,

*Noting* with interest the Youth Forum held by the FCO on 24 October 2004;

*Acknowledging* the role played by UNYSA-UK in helping to organise and staff this event, together with representatives from TakingITGlobal.org;

*Welcoming* the UK Government's decision to send a youth representative to the 60th session of the General Assembly;

*Recognising* the work of the UNYSA Youth Council, working in partnership with the FCO, to achieve this end; and

*Encouraged* by the FCO's interest in getting young people more involved in the workings of government and specifically in the field of international affairs,

*Congratulates* UNYSA for securing the support of the FCO to establish the position of youth delegate;

*Warmly welcomes* this action by the FCO as an important step to support youth participation;

*Calls upon* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to demonstrate their further commitment to young people by sending a youth representative to the United Nations General Assembly annually;

*Calls upon* the FCO to ensure that it follows up and pursues the commitments made regarding increased youth involvement at the Youth Forum; and

*Suggests* that a way forward would be for the FCO to create a 'Youth Advisory Council' which would include representatives from interested youth organisations (such as UNYSA-UK) which would be consulted by the FCO on relevant issues.

## Depleted Uranium Weapons

The United Nations Association,

*Concerned* at the effect on health of combatants and non-combatants, including unborn children, of the use of such weapons by British and US forces in various areas of recent conflict (Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq),

*Calls on* the British Government to work at the UN and elsewhere to outlaw immediately this type of weapon, including a possible UN Convention, in order to achieve:

- a. the immediate end to the use of DU weapons;
- b. an end to the development, production, stockpiling, testing and trade in DU weapons;
- c. disclosure and decontamination of all sites where such weapons have been used;
- d. a thorough health survey of all such sites and victims; and
- e. medical aid and compensation for the victims.

## Disaster Relief

The United Nations Association,

*Welcoming* the proposed Tsunami Early Warning System for the Indian Ocean;

*Acknowledging* that the tsunami disaster of 2004 has demonstrated that the UN is the best organisation for coordinating this kind of relief effort; and

*Aware* that it is vital not only that future destruction from such natural disasters be minimised, but that urgent rehabilitation and rehousing of all affected communities be effected at the earliest opportunity,

*Urges* the British Government

- a. to support the Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005-2015, which is intended to strengthen the capacity of disaster-prone countries to address risk;
- b. to invest heavily in disaster preparedness; and
- c. to support the Hyogo Declaration, which recommends, among other things, that a 'culture of disaster prevention and resilience' is fostered at all levels and which recognises the relationship between disaster reduction, sustainable development and poverty reduction.

## 1990 UN Migrants Rights Convention

The United Nations Association,

*Welcoming* the Gangmasters Act 2004, but concerned that it does not deal adequately with matters such as the exploitation of migrants as cheap labour;

*Also deploring* the very low benefits for refugees; and

*Disappointed* at the Government's attitude to the 1990 Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and their Families, even though it indicates it is not opposed to the Convention's broad aims,

*Calls on* the British Government to reconsider and ratify the 1990 Convention.

## Haitian Children

The United Nations Association,

*Concerned* about the continuing and largely forgotten situation in Haiti;

*Commending* the UN for trying with limited resources to bring the continuing instability under control;

*Feeling* especially anxious about the children in that society, particularly the continuing practice of a form of slavery involving them; and

*Understanding* that the current authorities/Government recognise that there is a serious problem involving children but lacking resources to deal with it,

*Urges* UNICEF to:

- a. investigate the plight of Haitian children and the extent of their exploitation; and
- b. alleviate their distress and seek practical means for removing them from the process of slavery by setting up safe havens where such children could find refuge.



# Annual Conference

**Andrew Boakes** on Annual Conference's new look for 2006

**A**ged 46, I have been a UNA member for 30 years, having joined as school boy in 1975. This is my second reincarnation as Chair of Annual Conference. Having attended Annual Conference 28 times, I consider myself reasonably well acquainted with its mysteries!

Some UNA members have attended Annual Conference since the days it was called General Council, and I know several who have not missed a conference in over 40 years. However, most UNA members have never participated. Costs are a significant deterrent: with travel, accommodation *etc.* the weekend can cost over £250. Although UNA Annual Conference costs much less than comparable professional conferences, most branches and regions cannot afford subsidies, and many members inevitably pay for themselves. This is one reason why it is so important to use our time at Annual Conference to maximum benefit and to ensure that members profit from the experience.

Last year, by making Conference a two-day event and dedicating an afternoon to detailed discussions, we had hoped to increase attendance and improve the quality of the debate. However, based on feedback received, we have reverted to the three-day format.

There remains room for improvement and, this year, UNA's Procedure Committee is proposing a few changes to Annual Conference, to give it a new look, whilst preserving and enhancing opportunities for members to participate in formulating UNA's policy.

Motions, which should be submitted in the usual way, will be grouped by the Procedure Committee according to topic, under eight categories or 'subject areas' (e.g. women, peace and security, human rights *etc.*). Branches will then be asked to rank each of the areas based on level of interest. The two most popular will be debated in the plenary; the other six will form the basis of smaller 'policy commissions' to be held outside the plenary and to be led by experts. Briefing papers will be prepared in advance to enable you to make an informed choice as

to which commission you would like to attend. The key points and recommendations of the commissions will be reported back to the plenary on Sunday. This idea has met with much favour as a means of improving the quality of the debates and increasing participation at Annual Conference.

In April 2006, as part of our commitment to move around the UK and attract a diversity of members, Conference will meet in the north of England at Durham University. Please find below the general programme planned for Annual Conference 2006.

If you are a UNA member, this issue of *New World* should contain a booking form for Annual Conference. Below you will find important information about Annual Conference 2006.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Procedure Committee for all their hard work and many hours in preparing for Annual Conference and without whom it would not happen.

For those of you who have never been to Annual Conference please give us a chance to show you UNA in action!

## Friday, 21 April 2005

The company AGM will be held at 2.15pm, to be followed in the afternoon by discussion reports and budgets and domestic motions, and then, in the evening, general discussion of campaigns.

## Saturday, 22 April 2005

In the morning we will group Conference attendees into six policy commissions. You will be asked to attend two of these. Three policy commissions will take place before the coffee break; three will occur after. In the afternoon the two most popular subject areas will be debated in the plenary, and in the evening the pre-dinner keynote speaker, Mr Shashi Tharoor, will address Conference.

## Sunday, 23 April 2005

Motions falling under the category of 'urgency and other' will be debated in the plenary. Rapporteurs from each of Saturday's policy commissions will report back to the plenary. UNA policy - as set by Annual Conference 2006 - will then be formally adopted. Conference will close at lunch time.

# 2006



## Annual Conference

Annual Conference is the supreme decision-making body of UNA-UK. All paid-up UNA members have a right to attend and vote. UNA regions, branches and national affiliates, or any six members (not all from the same branch), can submit motions and amendments. This is your opportunity to participate actively in the formulation of UNA-UK.

## Motions

If you or your branch, region or affiliated body is submitting a draft motion to Annual Conference, please note that each motion should be typed on a separate sheet of A4, have a heading, and be signed by two officials of the branch, region or affiliated body, or by six individuals (not from the same branch). Motions must be received at UNA head office by 20 February 2006.

Please mark the envelope containing your motion as follows:

'Motions'  
UNA-UK  
3 Whitehall Court  
London SW1A 2EL

## Overseas Delegates

Due to capacity restrictions, it is regretted that we will not be able to accept overseas delegates this year.

## Sunday Lunch

It is planned that formal Conference proceedings will finish at 1.30pm on Sunday. Lunch is available for delegates who would like the opportunity of taking a relaxed and convivial lunch with fellow delegates before returning home.

## Travel to Durham University

### *By car or coach*

Durham is 264 miles from London, 187 miles from Birmingham, 125 miles from Edinburgh and 67 miles from York.

Durham City centre is only 2 miles from the A1(M). Leave the motorway at Junction 62 on the A690 Durham-Sunderland road and follow signs to Durham City Centre.

There are several express daily coach services from most major cities. Durham is well-served by both regional express services and the local bus network. From Durham bus station - which is a short walk from the railway station - a bus service runs every 15 minutes past the Colleges on South Road.

### *By rail*

InterCity trains from most major centres in the country call at Durham daily. This includes 14 trains from London. The GNER high speed service takes under 3

hours from London King's Cross on the main East Coast line.

Durham is just over 3 hours from Birmingham; 2.5 hours from Manchester; 1.5 hours from Edinburgh; and 45 minutes from York.

A taxi will take you from the station to any College within 5 minutes, and you can walk to the city centre in 10 minutes.

## Contact information

Annual Conference  
UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court  
London SW1A 2EL

Tel: 020 7766 3444  
Fax: 020 7930 5893  
E-mail: [events@una.org.uk](mailto:events@una.org.uk)



## Important Dates and Deadlines

Last day for receipt of 'early bird' bookings (save £15)  
Deadline for receipt of motions by Whitehall Court  
Deadline for receipt by Whitehall Court of votes for Board members  
Preliminary agenda for Annual Conference to be sent out  
Deadline for receipt of ballot forms for topics and amendments  
Deadline for bookings  
Deadline for late bookings (add £15 surcharge)  
Deadline for notifying Whitehall Court of delegates to attend  
Final agenda for Annual Conference to be sent to delegates  
Easter  
Annual Conference

31 January 2006  
20 February 2006  
1 March 2006  
7 March 2006  
21 March 2006  
21 March 2006  
7 April 2006  
7 April 2006  
11 April 2006  
14-17 April 2006  
21-23 April 2006



# Shashi Tharoor

## Keynote speaker for UNA-UK Annual Conference 2006

*Shashi Tharoor, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, will deliver the keynote speech at UNA-UK Annual Conference. This lecture will begin at 6.15pm on Saturday, 23 April 2006 and will be held in Durham Cathedral. Coaches will ferry participants to and from the Conference's main venue at the University.*

*Anyone not attending Annual Conference is also welcome to attend the lecture, but they must register in advance by contacting Veronica Lie on [lie@una.org.uk](mailto:lie@una.org.uk) or 020 7766 3451.*

Shashi Tharoor is UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information and has led the Department of Public Information (DPI) since January 2001. In this capacity, he is in charge of the Organisation's communications strategy, with particular responsibility for ensuring the coherence and effectiveness of the United Nations' external message.

Prior to joining DPI, Mr. Tharoor served as Director of Communications and Special Projects in the Office of the Secretary-General and as Executive Assistant to the Secretary-General (1997-2001). As Special Assistant to the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations (1989-1996), he assisted two successive heads of United Nations peacekeeping operations in managing the challenges of unprecedented growth and evolution in peacekeeping at the end of the cold war. From 1991 to 1996, he led the team in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations responsible for the United Nations peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia. In 2003, the Secretary-General appointed him United Nations Coordinator for Multilingualism.

Mr Tharoor's United Nations career began in 1978 on the staff of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Geneva. He was Head of the UNHCR office in Singapore (1981-1984) during the peak of the Vietnamese 'boat people' crisis.

Mr Tharoor is the author of nine books, as well as numerous articles, op-eds and literary reviews in a wide range of publications. He is also the recipient of several journalism and literary awards, including a Commonwealth Writers' Prize.

In January 1998, Mr Tharoor was named by the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland as a 'Global Leader of Tomorrow'. Mr Tharoor is an elected Fellow of the New York Institute of the Humanities and a member of the Advisory Board of the Indo-American Arts Council.

Born in London in 1956, Mr Tharoor was educated in India and the United States, completing a PhD in 1978 at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, where he also earned two Master's degrees. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters in International Affairs by the University of Puget Sound, United States.

Shashi Tharoor is a national of India. He is the father of twin sons.







# Election for the Board of Directors 2006

## United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

*A company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales no. 2885557*

# Profiles of the Candidates

*The following profiles were submitted by the candidates. In accordance with the Association's rules the attendance records of those candidates seeking re-election are included. Those candidates who were not on the Board in the period 2005-06 have no meeting numbers included.*

### Rich Bartlett

Age: 25  
Attendance: 1/2  
Nominated by:  
Tom Spencer and Lin Yan

I am a graduate of the University of Leeds where I was a prize winner and was awarded a First Class BA (Hons) in International Relations. Since June 2004 I have served as a trustee of UNA International Service and, from May 2004 to April 2005, I was President of UNYSA, having founded and acted as President of the University of Leeds UNYSA branch. I am committed to the renewal of UNA and the active engagement and participation by all its members, young and not-so-young alike! I am currently working with former student members to establish the Young Professionals Network (YPN) and am playing a key role in the organisation of the YPN launch event at the Houses of Parliament in January. I work at Price Waterhouse Coopers, specialising in public sector and government.

### Ashish Bhatt

Age: 34  
Attendance: 1/2  
Nominated by:  
Sam Daws and Rod Fielding

I am Deputy Director of the Ditchley Foundation and former Special Assistant to Paul Boateng, now High Commissioner to South Africa. I previously worked for the European Commission Justice and Home Affairs Task Force, and was educated at Harrow School and Oxford University.

I am a trustee of both WaterAid and of 19 Princelet Street, the Museum of Immigration and Diversity. I am a former Chair of NAFSYYAT, which provides inter-cultural psychotherapy to asylum seekers, and was a member of the 'Low Level Panel' on UN Reform.

I am committed to the values and ethos of UNA, at a crucial time in its evolution and that of the UN itself.

### Joanna Birch-Phaure

Age: 26  
Attendance: 1/2  
Nominated by:  
Katherine Ronderos  
and Dorothy Havergal-Shaw

I have recently completed a Master's in Sociology with a major in Human Rights, and gained my degree in Geography.

From December 2002 to June 2004, I worked at UNA as PA to former Director Malcolm Harper. In April

2003 I was elected by the UNYSA Youth Council as campaigns officer. During my year in that role I spearheaded our successful citizenship campaign and, in April 2005, I was elected President of UNYSA by our members at the UNYSA conference. In that role I have attended Board meetings and UNA branch events throughout the year, working tirelessly for UNA and UNYSA, in support of the UN. For continuity with UNA and youth ideas I would like to remain on the UNA Board.

### Michael Blackshaw

Attendance: 1/2  
Nominated by:  
Suzanne Long and Betty Evard

My background is in local government working with the environment and public health and protection, my final position being Director of Environmental Services in Berkshire.

For many years I have chaired committees for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. My voluntary work includes providing transport for the less able (CAB etc.), and I have recently become a Parish Councillor.

Until my retirement in October 2004, I was employed as UNA-UK's Regional Development Officer for Southern Region, a position which allowed me to gain insight into the workings of UNA and headquarters. I remain on the Southern Counties Executive Committee and am Chair of UNA Reading. I have served for one year on the UNA Board (2005-06).

### Tris Brown

Age: 30  
Attendance: n/a  
Nominated by:  
Enid Lodge and Philip A. Lodge

Sam Daws and his team deserve applause for organising events consulting on the future of the UN. I want to support the continuation of this work to develop new branches to help all members get involved in the work of UNA.

My voluntary work includes promoting the work of the Red Cross's International Tracing and Messaging Service, and I am a Volunteer Champion for Liverpool Council for Voluntary Services. I am a board member of the New Politics Network and a participant in the British Council's UK-South East Europe Forum. From 1999 to 2001 I was Chair of the British Youth Council and from 2000 to 2002 was a member of the UK National Commission to UNESCO. In 2001 I was a delegate to both the UNESCO

General Assembly and the United Nations Youth Forum.

I am currently Public Affairs Manager for the Northwest Regional Development Agency.

### Chris Dickenson

Attendance: n/a  
Nominated by:  
Mary Wormington  
and Norma Dickenson

"We the peoples..." implies commitment and a team approach. In offering my candidature I can commit to taking part in the current UNA and UNYSA renewal programmes. A member for ten years, I founded East Gloucestershire branch in 2003 which steadily evolves. We are particularly proud of our developing relationship with UNA San Francisco and managed to visit each other in the UN's sixtieth year.

Professionally, I am a human resources manager in the public sector, enabling change and modernisation. I have also served on a variety of organisations in senior committee positions and am a member of the employment tribunal service.

### Kate Grady

Age: 23  
Attendance: 2/2  
Nominated by:  
Rich Bartlett and Tim Jarman

At present, I am undertaking a PhD in International Law at the University of Bristol. I play an active role in UNA in the following ways:

- as a Board member (2005-06);
- as a member of the Procedure Committee for two years; and
- as a member of the group steering the establishment of the Young Professional Network.

Since joining UNA in 2002, I have served as Vice-President of the Youth Council; written UNYSA's constitution; successfully lobbied the FCO to appoint UK youth delegates to the UN General Assembly; sat on the Board's appointment panel for the Executive Director; attended the WFUNA Plenary in Barcelona; and sat on the WFUNA-Youth Executive.

### Tim Jarman

Age: 23  
Attendance: 2/2  
Nominated by:  
Lin Yan and Kate Grady

In my six years as a UNA member I believe that I have contributed a lot to our organisation.

After joining via my (then) local branch in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, I joined the Youth Council, becoming its President in 2003. 2003 is also the year I joined the Board of Directors, so I already have several years of experience behind me. Most recently, I have become involved in the Young Professionals Network, continuing to help bring in new members and raise UNA's profile.

Outside UNA, I work for Ernst & Young, one of the 'big 4' global accountancy firms.

### Thelma de Leeuw

Age: 71  
Attendance: 1/2  
Nominated by:  
Brenda Lofthouse  
and Robert D. Smith

Now 'actively retired' I am a branch secretary and former branch chair, having been a member for 25 years. My UNA-UK Board membership has been as Chair of the Women's Advisory Council.

As International President of the service organisation Soroptomist International my commitments were to women's development, and I led delegations to the UN in New York, Vienna, Geneva, Paris, Rome and Nairobi. I am also past Chair of UNIFEM UK.

A wider focus came when more recently I served as a trustee for a registered educational charity, chairing the Policy and Communications Board, and working with parents and teachers.

### David Wardrop

Age: 62  
Attendance: 1/2  
Nominated by:  
Paul Mrazek  
and Patricia Orr

I am a current Board member of UNA and Chair of UNA Westminster.

In 2003, I launched the branch's annual International Law Lecture and, in 2004, its UN Peacekeepers Day conference. I also coordinated the UN60 service at St Paul's Cathedral.

I serve as Administrator of 'Strategies for Peace', a group of retired military officers promoting conflict prevention and conflict resolution. I am involved with my borough's environmental development programmes and with the Arab Reform Forum coordinated by the Alexandria Library with which I have been linked for a decade.

**31 December 2005**

**To:** All paid-up members of  
the United Nations  
Association

Kingston Smith –  
Registered Auditor



**United Nations Association  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

3 Whitehall Court - London SW1A 2EL  
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## **NOTICE OF COMPANY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that the twelfth Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, a company limited by guarantee, ("UNA-UK" or "the Company") will be held at 14:15 on Friday, 21 April 2006, in Sir James Knott Hall, Trevelyan College, University of Durham, Elvet Hill Road, Durham. All paid up members of the Association have the right to attend and vote.

### **AGENDA**

- A. MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 4 JUNE 2005
- B. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
- C. ORDINARY RESOLUTION 1  
That the audited Accounts for the year ending 30 June 2005, together with the Directors' and Auditors' Reports, be received and approved.
- D. ORDINARY RESOLUTION 2  
That Kingston Smith, having indicated their willingness to serve, be appointed Auditors to the Company for the ensuing year and that they be paid for their services a sum to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Company.
- E. ORDINARY RESOLUTION 3  
That those persons elected in the postal ballot, held in accordance with Rule 41 under Article 59 of the Articles of Association of the Company, shall be members of the Board of Directors of UNA-UK for a period of one year terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting of the Company in 2007.

*NOTE: The names of the successful candidates will be announced at the Annual General Meeting.*

- F. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ajay Vasa - Company Secretary



**Minutes of the eleventh Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ("UNA-UK") a company limited by guarantee: registered number 2885557, held at the Farmers Club, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL on 4 June 2005**

**Present:** Sir Richard Jolly in the Chair, and 46 members of the company.

**Welcome:** Sir Richard Jolly welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the AGM held on 2 April 2004 were AGREED as a correct record and signed. There were no matters arising.

**Ordinary Resolution 1:** "That the audited Accounts for the period ending 30 June 2004 together with the Directors' and Auditors' Reports be received and approved".

The Reports and Accounts were presented by the Treasurer, who explained that the deficit for the financial year arose as a result of the activities of Stakeholder Forum.

The meeting AGREED the resolution.

**Ordinary Resolution 2:** "That Kingston Smith, having indicated their willingness to serve again, be appointed auditors for the ensuing year and that they be paid for their services a sum to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Association".

In response to a question, the Executive Director explained that the audit costs reflected the complexity of UNA-UK's activities, including Stakeholder Forum. UNA-UK hoped that such costs would be reduced in future following the closure of this programme.

The meeting AGREED the resolution.

**Ordinary Resolution 3:** "That those persons elected in the postal ballot in accordance with Rule 41 shall be members of the Board of Directors of the Association for a period of one year terminating at the end of the AGM in 2006."

The meeting noted that a postal ballot had been unnecessary as only eight nominations had been received for eight vacancies. The meeting therefore AGREED the elected members as follows: Luckshan Abey Suriya, Michael Blackshaw, T Arwyn Evans, Kate Grady, Tim Jarman, Linda McCulloch, William Say and David Wardrop.

**Special Resolution 1:** "That, with immediate effect, the text at Article 26(i) (namely: '(i) The Chairperson of the Stakeholder Forum for our Common Future') be deleted."

The meeting AGREED the resolution.

**Date of next Annual General Meeting:** to be arranged within the programme for Annual Conference in 2006.

## Summary Accounts

### Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Members, regions and branches	164,381	202,362
Grants - UNA Trust	326,155	513,652
- Other	255,885	528,417
Other project and departmental income	18,459	49,151
Other income	33,149	44,780
	<u>798,029</u>	<u>1,338,362</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff costs	478,554	805,676
Other project and departmental costs	188,051	448,414
Travel and subsistence	5,228	12,147
Office costs	60,443	41,970
Printing and publications	1,176	2,555
Other costs	35,702	30,545
	<u>769,154</u>	<u>1,341,307</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) before Tax	28,875	(2,945)
Taxation	(4,920)	-
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year</b>	23,955	(2,945)
Reserves brought forward	(14,456)	(11,511)
<b>Reserves carried forward</b>	<b>9,499</b>	<b>(14,456)</b>

### Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2005

	2005	2004
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible assets	783	5,805
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	95,918	214,619
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>23,391</u>	<u>37,611</u>
	119,309	252,230
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	<u>(110,593)</u>	<u>(272,491)</u>
<b>Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)</b>	<u>8,716</u>	<u>(20,261)</u>
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>9,499</b>	<b>(14,456)</b>
<b>Reserves</b>		
General Reserve	<u>9,499</u>	<u>(14,456)</u>

The above Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet are extracted from the full accounts of the Association which are being audited by Kingston Smith but are not yet finalised. The full accounts will be available at the UNA-UK AGM, and also obtainable from the Association's offices at 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL in due course.



# LETTERS

## Hetty Bower at 100

*With the permission of the author, we have reproduced the letter below, in celebration of Hetty Bower's 100th birthday. As you will see, Hetty is a staunch advocate of UNA and an inspiration to us all!*

Dear Mr Daws,

My sister Celia and I enclose a cheque for £100 for UNA-UK to celebrate the 100th birthday of our mother, Hetty Bower, on 3 October this year.

On that day an announcement appeared in *The Guardian*:

*Hetty Bower says, 'Shalom, Peace, Salaam to the world on this - her 100th - birthday. She appeals to all people to work to find peaceful solutions to the world's problems.*

At the last and largest of her six (!) birthday parties she made an impassioned plea for people to support and influence the work of the United Nations as the best way to achieve peace and justice and to end poverty in the world.

### Margaret Dolan

P.S. She's still a very active lady. Just a month ago she raised £150 on a sponsored walk for Oxfam in Hertfordshire. She also marched all the way in all the anti-Iraq war demonstrations, including the recent one for Peace and Justice! We think she's wonderful!

## Protection of individual rights

Dear Editor,

Harold Stern, in his letter on reform of the General Assembly, admits to the inequality within the United Nations, with the five permanent members of the Security Council possessing overwhelming influence since 1945. Mr Stern then goes on to take a side-swipe at Nauru, because it is a minuscule country with no military might and a small GNP.

To me this is wrong and misinterprets what the aims of the UN should be about. The Organisation should not focus on the size of a country's population but rather on the protection of the individual, and on securing freedom from hunger, disease, slavery and torture, and on defending the right to a fair hearing in a court of law.

When the protection of the individual becomes in practice more important than the protection of the rights of states with vested interests, then rights of nations will in fact also be guaranteed.

**A. E. McLean-Bullen**  
Aberdeenshire

## Model United Nations

Dear Editor,

We are writing to propose some measures to ensure that A-Level students benefit as much as possible from involvement

in Model United Nations General Assembly events. At Wealdon UNA branch, we have learnt a great deal from our experiences in running three MUNGAs in different schools this year.

Efforts should be made to extend participation as widely as possible, as students gain so much in confidence and knowledge of world events and politics, especially if the UN is an issue outside their typical area of interest.

Specific recommendations include:

1. Proactive engagement by the school in question, including:
  - a time commitment from teachers and support staff to help students prepare; and
  - teachers' active involvement in the events themselves as chairs or vice-chairs of committees.
2. More comprehensive support from the local UNA branch, including:
  - preparing draft resolutions and briefing papers; and
  - organising practical arrangements for the event itself, such as country flags and labels, food and so on.

Joint MUNGAs involving a number of schools simultaneously also remain a valuable educational resource, which Wealdon branch continues to support.

**Nick Levine, Terry Baker  
and Rosemary Baker**  
Wealdon



## Brave New World

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on the July-Sept issue of *New World* - really good!

Cheers,

**Bruce Kent**

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Dear Editor,

I must add my voice to those expressing support for the improved *New World*. It's much more informative and appealing. Now a suggestion: among the most frequent criticisms of the UN are that it is costly and poor value for money. While some criticisms may be justified, many result from misinformation and it would be helpful to have some precise details about the way the UN is funded. What does the core budget actually cover? What are the staffing levels? What, for instance, is the cost of the IAEA and who contributes? Likewise the World Food Programme? And so on. Of course it would be impossible to cover all aspects of the UN's work, but details about those aspects which the general public are likely to have heard of would be useful. I know it is often said that the UN is no more costly to run than the New York fire service or the city of Stockholm, but these comparisons have been doing the rounds for years. Are they still valid? Any chance of including an item on the subject in a future edition of *New World*?

Something I find very useful is the list of member states in *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, especially their contribution to the UN budget as a percentage of population size. (This recently provided me with specific information for someone who asked me whether China wasn't rich enough to join the G8.) The edition I have gives dates as at July 2002. Not everyone will have access to *Basic Facts*, so could this information be added to a future *New World* as a form of appendix? I admit that a total of 191 countries does make for a rather long list!

**Margaret Rayner**

**Editor's note:** *This is a great idea. We will explore ways in which such information can be provided through the website, through briefings and, where space permits, through New World.*

*Please do keep such suggestions coming!*

## UNA's role

Dear Editor,

As a new member of UNA-UK (and prior member of UNA-USA), I recently received the July-Sept 2005 issue of *New World* and was encouraged to read about the future direction and strategy of UNA-UK resulting from the brainstorming session at the AGM in June of 2005. I was then dismayed

to turn the page and read Frank Hooley's letter suggesting that UNA-UK should focus only on peacekeeping, peace-making, and related areas of conflict resolution. This was even more perturbing since the footnote to this letter advised that UNA-UK has already now decided to 'streamline' its remit to concentrate on the promotion of human security.

I was under the apparently misguided belief that the role of UNA organisations was to promote all aspects of the United Nations organisation. This is indeed a tall order, but that doesn't mean we shouldn't do it! The reason for the current demise of the UN is in no small part due to the fact that we haven't done a very good job. The United States of America has been able to get away with denigrating the UN by focusing on just those areas of peacekeeping and peace-making (where lack of funds were to some extent responsible for the inadequacy of UN efforts on several occasions in recent years) and ignoring all the other areas where the UN has achieved so much over the past 60 years. (UN funding was in fact diminished by the USA which has withheld or reduced its dues payments for several years. I find it unconscionable that the USA still retained its place - and veto power - on the Security Council under these circumstances.)

The one way we can put the UN in its rightful place in the minds of the general population is by making sure all aspects of the UN receive the publicity they deserve. The Millennium Development Goals provide an ideal opportunity to highlight the scope of the UN remit.

We do not need to try to compete with Oxfam or Amnesty International for a place in the hearts and minds of the world community. The United Nations is the ultimate NGO. The role of UNAs worldwide should be to promote and support the UN. Let's not diminish this role because it is easier to concentrate on one aspect or another. If UNA Wales wants to take on Frank Hooley's recommendation to focus on issues related to peace, let it. UNA-UK does not have to follow suit. UNA-UK could focus its efforts on seeing that the Millennium Development Goals work.

**Denise Watkins**

Retired accountant Luckshan

Abey Suriya, born in Sri Lanka, but

now living in Grange, is Secretary of

UNA South Lakeland and Lancaster

City branch. He has written a booklet

about the possible reform of the UN

Commission on Human Rights.

Copies can be obtained from the

author on 01539 532 961.



## Campaign 24: A UKMUN-UNA Collaboration

**Hamish Jolly**, Secretary-General, UKMUN

United Kingdom Model United Nations (UKMUN) is proud to announce to the readers of *New World* the start of year-long Model UN initiative called Campaign 24.

Campaign 24 is a planned series of 24 one-day model UN events, to be held throughout the country and running until July 2006. It is intended that the events will mark the 60th anniversary of the first meetings of the Security Council and the General Assembly - both of which took place in London in 1946. The aim of Campaign 24 is to spread awareness among youth about the procedures of the UN and the invaluable contributions of the UN to peace, human rights and development over the course of its history.

UKMUN has already run or supported events in Oxford, Cambridge and Manchester, with a historic Security Council planned for London in January and Belfast in March 2006.

If you would like to host a UKMUN event please contact us at either [uksec@ukmun.org](mailto:uksec@ukmun.org) or [ukmun@hotmail.com](mailto:ukmun@hotmail.com). For more information regarding United Kingdom Model United Nations please visit [www.una.org.uk/education](http://www.una.org.uk/education)



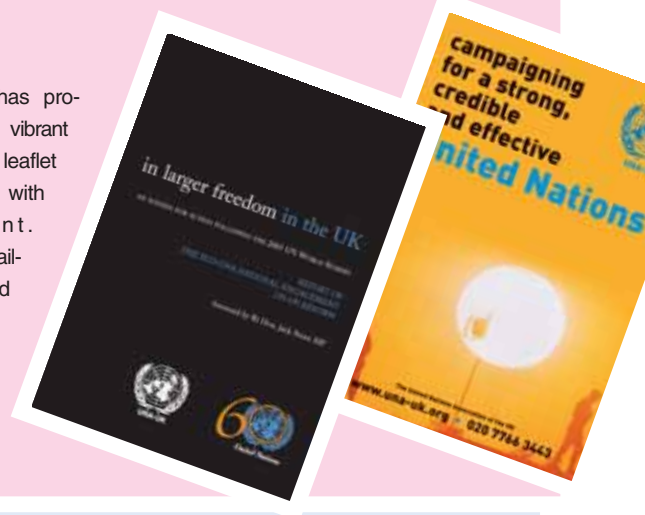


# BOOKS AND RESOURCES

## Now available from UNA-UK

*In Larger Freedom in the UK* is the final report of the FCO-UNA engagement process conducted earlier this year to gather feedback on major proposals for UN reform. The full report, containing both a foreword from the Foreign Secretary and the complete 2005 UN World Summit Outcome, is now available. (Please see page 5 for more information on the ILF in the UK consultation process.) Did you participate in one of the public debates? Then your copy of *In Larger Freedom in the UK* is complimentary. Simply e-mail Ed Brenton on membership@una.org.uk or call him on 020 7766 3443 to request that a copy be sent to you. The report is available to UNA members who did not attend one of the public debates for £3, inclusive of postage and packing. For non-members and external organisations the price is £6, again inclusive of postage and packing.

UNA-UK has produced a new, vibrant membership leaflet to assist with recruitment. Copies are available from head office. Please contact Ed Brenton to order.

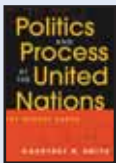


## New books



### MiniAtlas of Millennium Development Goals

Building a better world  
by The World Bank  
World Bank, July 2005



### Politics and Process at the United Nations

The global dance  
by Courtney B. Smith  
Lynne Reiner, October 2005



### Reforming International Environmental Governance

From institutional limits to innovative reforms  
Edited by W. Bradnee Chambers and Jessica F. Green  
United Nations University Press, June 2005



### United Nations General Assembly

by M. J. Peterson  
Routledge, October 2005



### The UN's Role in Nation-building

From the Congo to Iraq  
by James Dobbins *et al.*  
RAND Corporation, September 2005



### The United Nations System

A reference handbook  
by Chadwick F. Alger  
ABC Clio, November 2005



### UN Voices

The struggle for development and social justice  
by Thomas G. Weiss *et al.*  
Indiana University Press, August, 2005



### Women, Development and the UN

A sixty-year quest for equality and justice  
by Devaki Jain  
Indiana University Press, October 2005



The website of the  
**Young Professionals Network**  
is now live at

[www.una.org.uk/ypn](http://www.una.org.uk/ypn)

### Ambition with a Conscience:

Young professionals for  
peace, justice and  
sustainable development

The Network will be officially launched at  
an event at the Houses of Parliament on  
**19 January 2006. You can sign up for  
more information online.**



## The Millennium Project Task Force Reports

In February 2005, the UN Millennium Project - the team of development experts led by Professor Jeffrey Sachs - concluded its review of progress made thus far in efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals. The Team's findings were presented in a report entitled *Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals*. The overview report remains available from UNA head office and can be downloaded from the Millennium Project's website on [www.unmillenniumproject.org](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org)

Now also available on this website are the reports of the vari-

ous task forces established to analyse specific aspects of the MDGs. Among the issues covered are the role of trade in development; gender equality; education; urban poverty; and HIV/AIDS.

The reports of the Millennium Project Task Forces are ideal for those wishing to read in greater detail about individual MDGs and the challenges posed to each. The overview report and the reports of the task forces are also available for purchase as a set from Earthscan; see [www.earthscan.co.uk](http://www.earthscan.co.uk) for more details.

## Pax Warrior: the future of learning



UNA staff and volunteers recently met with Andreas Ua'Siaghail, President of 23 YYZee, a company which has created an innovative online interactive exercise aiming to promote citizenship and the power of individual responsibility. Based on the events 1994 genocide in Rwanda, this exciting educational resource, called Pax Warrior, adopts the wisdom of former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld who said, "We are not permitted to chose the frame of our destiny, but what we put into it is ours."

For more information you can e-mail [andreas@paxwarrior.com](mailto:andreas@paxwarrior.com) and read the overview reprinted below.

### Pax Warrior Overview

Pax Warrior is a subscription-based online activity that focuses on individual responsibilities and promotes global citizenship. Part interactive exercise, part history/geopolitics lesson, it was developed for the educational market and is based on General Romeo Dallaire's experience as UN commander in Rwanda in 1994. A decision-based simulation, it asks the student, "What would you do?" in difficult situations. In this way, s/he is engaged, given a role, given agency. Produced in collaboration with survivors of the

Rwandan genocide, human rights experts and the peacekeeping community, Pax Warrior focuses on the decision-making process, moral obligations and critical thinking. General Dallaire himself has verified the authenticity of Pax Warrior.

It is the first module in the Pax series which, inspired by documentary film and by the "serious game" movement, proposes that the application of narrative and game theory to learning is the next evolutionary step in digital media.





## UN CyberSchoolBus

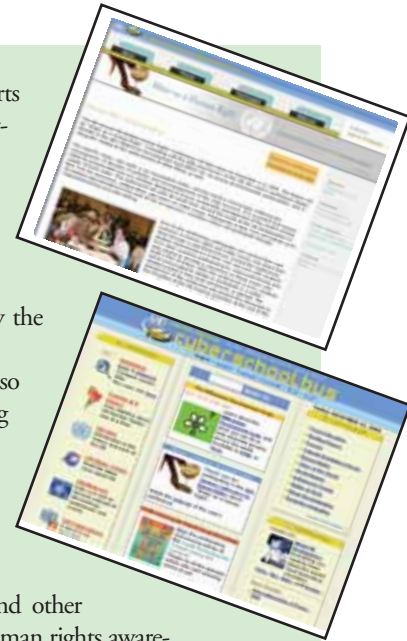
The CyberSchoolBus is the UN's global teaching and learning project, designed for young people and teachers.

The website features abundant information on the UN and UN-related issues. Details are posted about the December 2005 Student Conference on Human Rights. Curriculum guides for a range of subjects - from peace education, to racial discrimination and poverty - can also be accessed, as can Model UN Headquarters, a site dedicated to providing advice on running the 'world's most fascinating simulation'. Here Model UN enthusiasts can also participate in Ask an Ambassador, a new monthly feature which allows students and young people to quiz an ambassador on her or his country's policies.

Through the CyberSchoolBus website, browsers can view the superb new MDG Youth Website, which has clear and accessible information about all eight Millennium Development Goals, including progress thus far and the vital role of young people in achieving the goals. There are interactive maps which allow monitoring of the different MDG indicators - like primary school enrollment ratios, or

HIV infection rates - in different parts of the world. The website also encourages young people to speak up about the MDGs by providing an outlet for young people to share their unique experiences of poverty, HIV/AIDS, gender equality and the entire range of indicators covered by the goals.

*ABC: Teaching Human Rights* is also available on this dynamic and exciting website. Produced by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, *ABC: Teaching Human Rights* is a user-friendly tool for human rights education. It offers practical advice to teachers and other educators who want to encourage human rights awareness among primary and secondary school children. To see CyberSchoolBus for yourself, visit [www.un.org](http://www.un.org)



## Human Security Report 2005: War and Peace in the 21st Century

October 2005 saw the release of the first Human Security Report, an annual survey documenting trends in warfare, genocide and human rights abuses. The Human Security Report - produced by the Human Security Centre at the University of British Columbia, Canada - is based on the same core principle as the UN's Human Development Report: both reports focus on people rather than states and lay out the facts in a way which is accessible to non-specialists.

By presenting statistics specifically related to the security of the individual, this report fills a gap in mainstream coverage of global security issues and provides a means of evaluating conflict prevention and resolution policies against the experiences of the individual. The report's central conclusion is also somewhat novel, running diametrically counter to the received wisdom on the recent history of warfare and political violence: wars are in fact declining in frequency and fatality; civilians are not more affected than combatants; and women are not disproportionately victimised by conflict.

The following is a sample of some of the statistics presented to support these claim:

- since 1992, the number of armed conflicts has declined by more than 40%
- wars have become less deadly over the last five decades: in 1950, the average number of people killed per armed conflict was 38,000, while in 2002 the corresponding figure had dropped by 98% to 600

- between 1990 and 2003, there was a 33% drop in the dollar value of major international arms transfers, while global military expenditure and the size of troops also declined
- between 1994 and 2003 there was a net decrease in core human rights abuses in five out of six regions in the developing world

According to the Human Security Report, the demise of colonialism and corresponding fall in wars of liberation, as well as the end of the Cold War, are important elements in the explanation for these changes to the global security landscape. Economic progress, increased state capacity and the spread of democracy have similarly had a vital long-term impact and will continue to do so. However, the report posits that it is the United Nations - through spearheading in the post-Cold War era the increase in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding - which has played the most dramatic role in reigning in the incidence of armed conflict.

- between 1990 and 2002, the number of UN preventive diplomacy missions increased six-fold
- over the same period there was a four-fold increase in UN peacemaking activities
- from 1987 to 1999 the number of UN peacekeeping operations swelled four-fold, and the size and complexity of missions also increased

- between 1989 and 2001, the number of states subject to economic sanctions in support of peace agreements rose by eleven-fold

The Human Security Report shows that, as the UN increased its engagement in these areas, the frequency of crises, wars and genocides declined. The report also reveals that, at less than 1% of global military expenditure, the cost of the UN's contribution has been paltry.

By debunking contemporary myths about global political violence, the Human Security Report does not downplay the need for continuing efforts to secure the individual from violence. Its authors note, "That the world is getting more peaceful is no consolation to people suffering in Darfur, Iraq, Colombia, Congo or Nepal". The report thus warns against complacency, highlighting the continuing occurrence of human rights abuses around the world and the precariousness of peace accords - a fragility illustrated by the frequency with which peace agreements are unable to prevent a relapse into violence.

The Human Security Report 2005, published by Oxford University Press, was funded by the governments of Canada, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. It can be downloaded from [www.humansecurityreport.info](http://www.humansecurityreport.info). Details on how to order a hard copy of the report are available on the same site.



# WELCOME TO UNYSA

**Sumedh Rao**, UNA Youth and Student Officer

This is a shout-out to all UNYSA members, but especially to new members and those just starting up a branch. Welcome to the world of UNYSA!

So, what makes UNYSA different from other youth organisations and youth groups? Well, an important difference is the unique UN focus. UNA - of which UNYSA is the youth wing - is the UK's leading authority on the UN. We are independent of the UN system and receive no funding from it, and can therefore both support the work of the UN and push for changes so that the Organisation is able to meet today's challenges, which range from war to HIV/AIDS and which require multilateral solutions. If you want to show your support for effective multilateral cooperation, as opposed to ineffective and short-sighted unilateral action, then UNYSA is the place to do it!

Education is a key aspect of UNYSA's work. Several UNYSA members are on

the organising committee of UKMUN, which - funding permitting - will work with UNA to hold events to commemorate the 60th anniversaries of the first meetings of the UN General Assembly and Security Council, both of which were held in London in 1946. This initiative will serve to highlight the value of Model UNs as an educational tool for universities and schools, a means of raising awareness about the UN, and a vehicle for teaching key skills, such as negotiation, cooperation and mediation. For more information, please see both the article by UNYSA's Model UN Officer, Zanele Hlatshwayo, below, and the article written by UKMUN Secretary-General Hamish Jolly on page 38.

UNYSA has been making a huge impact through its campaigning work, in particular through its contribution to

**MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** and the Student StopAIDS Campaign. UNYSA members travelled en masse to Edinburgh to participate in the **MAKEPOVERTY-HISTORY** rally there, and we are also a key member of the Student StopAIDS coalition. See the articles by Djandark Wali, on page 45, and Dipti Patel, on page 43 for more information about these campaigns and on details on how you can get involved.

UNYSA, like the UN, depends solely on the strength and action of its members. As Gandhi once said, "be the change you would like to see in the world". If you care passionately about these issues here is a chance for you to make a real impact. If you want to change things, start here.



## MODEL UN

**Zanele Hlatshwayo**, Model United Nations Officer, UNYSA



Model United Nations events have become an increasingly popular way of educating students about the United Nations and global issues.

We at UNYSA are particularly keen to promote UKMUN, the forthcoming UK-wide Model UN event to be held as part of Campaign 24, as we believe it will provide a focus for students to engage in UN issues and for galvanising invaluable support for the UN amongst young people in the UK. UKMUN will also encourage students to utilise their research, communication and network-

ing skills effectively.

I urge those who are interested in global affairs and in meeting new people to take part.

For more information about UNYSA's MUN activities, please visit [ww.una.org.uk](http://ww.una.org.uk)

To find out more about UKMUN read the article by Hamish Jolly on page 38.



# UNYSA AND THE STUDENT STOP AIDS CAMPAIGN: THE WORLD IS WATCHING!

**Dipti Patel**, Campaigns Officer, UNYSA

In July 2005, the G8 committed itself to achieving, by 2010, universal access to AIDS treatment for everyone who needs it. Crucially, this pledge was reaffirmed by world leaders at the 2005 UN World Summit in September. This is a groundbreaking development with the potential to save millions of lives and start to turn the epidemic around. This is all great news. UNYSA, as key partner of the Student StopAIDS Campaign, should be proud of its role in making the coalition successful.

However, there remains much for us to do, and there is no time to rest.

At the recent replenishment conference for the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria - which was set up at the request of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan to attract, manage and disburse funds to combat these diseases - 29 international donors together pledged US \$3.9 billion for 2006-2007. However, the Fund's needs over this period are forecast to be US \$7 billion.

The amount pledged is sufficient to keep existing programmes going, but it does not allow for the type of expansion needed to make sure we meet the 2010 target for universal access. This is why the StopAIDS Campaign - and UNYSA's contribution to it - is so important.

In the previous issue of *Newer World*, it was noted that a StopAIDS resource pack, tailored for students, would be created. I am pleased to report that this valuable campaigning guide is now ready and available for branches and individual members. It can be downloaded or ordered online at [www.sacstudent.org](http://www.sacstudent.org), and contains an action guide, briefing materials, a DVD and postcards to use for lobbying MPs. The postcards are shaped - rather eerily - like eyeballs, to get the message across to the gov-

ernment that it is being watched, and that we will notice if the UK falls short on its commitments.

We encourage branches to take this unique campaign forward. In addition to sending out these postcards, you could also hold a 'watching you' media stunt, like the one which recently took place in Trafalgar Square. You could also coordinate a giant petition comprised of photographs of people's eyes. The StopAIDS Campaign aims to collect 8,500 of these photos - signifying the number of people who die of AIDS per day.

World AIDS Day was on 1 December. The theme of the day was 'Keep the Promise' - in keeping with the StopAIDS Campaign's emphasis on governmental accountability with respect to agreed targets in the fight against HIV and AIDS. There is a lot you can do to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. Organise a poster campaign, a local talk, a candlelit vigil or even a fundraising event - anything to raise awareness and to remind the government of its commitment.

UNYSA contributed a lot to awareness-raising about these crucial issues. On and around World AIDS Day several UNYSA branches across the country held innovative events. UNYSA Glasgow set up a stall during the university's sexual health awareness week and distributed Fairtrade chocolate, leaflets, ribbons and condoms.

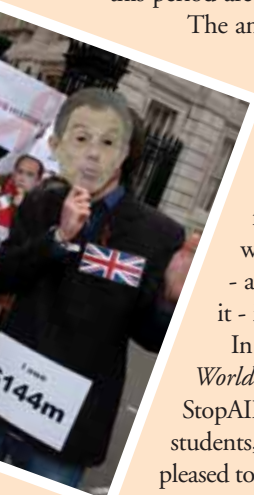
Imperial College London held a 'SHAG (Sexual Health and Guidance) Week' in the run up to World AIDS Day. Building upon their Model UN society origins UNYSA Imperial College members held a Security Council debate on 28 November entitled 'The Prevention of HIV/AIDS', as well as speeches and video presentations. UNYSA Lancaster ran a fundraising event with a stall distributing ribbons and condoms.

UNYSA York members helped cajole people into abseiling down one of the main university buildings for sponsorship. The activity was very successful and raised over £400 for North Yorkshire AIDS Action while other UNYSA York members were on hand with information on issues surrounding HIV/AIDS, leaflets on how to make a difference, and free condoms.

The two main campaigns - StopAIDS and **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** - tie in together more than would first appear.

Poverty and HIV are linked: over 95% of HIV positive people live in poorer countries. By working towards poverty eradication, therefore, we can help the fight against HIV/AIDS. Through active involvement in the **MAKE-POVERTYHISTORY** campaign UNYSA has already been working in support of poverty eradication. However, in recognition that more needs to be done UNYSA will be devoting a lot of energy to trade justice. We will be working closely on this campaign with UNA-UK; for more information see page 18 of this issue of *New World* or check out UNA's website on [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)

For more information about the fight against HIV/AIDS visit [www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk](http://www.stopaidscampaign.org.uk)





# AT LAST, YOUTH TAKES TO THE STAGE AT THE UN



In May 2005, **Frederick Bernas** was selected from over 600 applicants as one of three UK youth delegates to attend the 60th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Here, he writes about his experiences in New York and shares his views on the importance of youth participation.

*"No one is born a good citizen. No nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. A society that cuts itself off from its youth severs its lifeline."*

This is one of the least-known quotes from a political figure of international renown, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. The good news is that at this year's UN General Assembly there was finally some indication that these wise words are not being completely ignored.

During the week of 3 October 2005, young people from across the globe descended on New York City and the UN to participate in the ten-year review of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY). What is the WPAY? Tragically, this is a question asked all too often amongst young people and politicians alike. Meanwhile, 200 million youth - half of the global total! - live in poverty; 130 million are illiterate; 88 million are unemployed; and 10 million are living with HIV/AIDS. The case is clear for dispelling ignorance of WPAY and, more importantly, for making concrete progress on implementing its recommendations.

The WPAY, which sets out a new framework for international youth policy, was approved by the United Nations in 1995, after an extensive consultation process with young people around the world. WPAY elaborates ten priority areas and makes recommendations for what every young person should be entitled to: human rights, health, education and participation in decision-making - among other things - should not be denied to this social group so often overlooked by the rest of modern society.

2005 marked the tenth anniversary of the WPAY and it's sad to report that too little has been accomplished over this decade. Even in so-called 'developed' nations, there are still several priority areas in which national policy

is lax - youth participation is a prime example. But it's not all bad. In 2005, three young people from the UK were sent to the UN to attend the WPAY review and officially represent the views of youth in the UK. A key stage of our preparation was an extensive consultation exercise we conducted in the UK. In New York the UK's team were joined by some 50 other young people, all youth delegates representing their respective nations, who tried their hardest to give member states a wake-up call.

Throughout the week youth had a very strong presence, illustrated by opportunities to meet Kofi Annan and General Assembly President Jan Eliasson. Many national youth delegates and those representing NGOs hosted side-events on specific themes relating to the WPAY. The UK youth delegates' side-event concentrated on youth participation. We presented the findings of our UK consultation which was used as the basis of an interactive discussion among attendees, who were split into groups to produce recommendations for action. A key recommendation highlighted the importance of citizenship education: young people need to be taught about their rights and responsibilities in order to combat apathy and ensure they get their views heard in decision-making processes.

Three major events took place during the week. First was the launch of the World Youth Report 2005 - a 200-page document outlining the global situation of young people today, looking closely at the WPAY and its implementation, and setting out a number of recommendations, for example, on mainstreaming youth in poverty reduction strategies and on enhancing opportunities for youth contributions to environmental protection. The Report argues that, too often, government policies on youth are driven by negative stereotypes and looks at three clusters of issues (youth in a global economy, youth in civil society, youth at risk).

Second was an official interactive round-table session entitled 'Making Commitments Matter', focusing on recommendations for implementation of the WPAY. This meeting was a chance for representatives of NGOs to interact with member states, make their views known and put forward ideas on how the World Programme can be achieved. Many suggestions were made and the event was a great way for experienced young people to make productive use of their knowledge.

Third was the high-level plenary of the General Assembly (the UN World Summit). On the surface this session was another formal gathering with speeches, but its significance was huge. Over 20 national youth delegates took to the podium and addressed the General Assembly, eloquently describing the issues they feel passionately about and calling for action. A progressive youth resolution was adopted which, among other things, recommends the creation of indicators to monitor progress on the WPAY, urges more member states to send youth delegates, and adds five new priority areas to the existing World Programme. Hours of informal negotiations allowed the details to be hammered out so that all 191 states were satisfied.

So, the objective of youth participation still seems to have a hope. If international organisations as prestigious as the UN can involve young people in its most important processes, there's no reason this can't happen at national and regional levels. Young people are not only the future; they are also the present. To ensure that crucial global goals, such as the MDGs, are reached in the future, the unique needs and perspectives of young people must be acknowledged, in a meaningful way, now. Otherwise, policy-makers at all levels risk severing that vital inter-generational 'lifeline' upon which all societies ultimately depend.

To read about youth at the United Nations, visit [www.un.org/youth](http://www.un.org/youth). The World Youth Report 2005 can also be downloaded here.



# LEEDS UNIVERSITY UNA:

## A HISTORY OF SUCCESS AND A PROMISING YEAR AHEAD

**Toby Allen**, Vice-Chair, UNA-Leeds

Since it was established three years ago, UNA-Leeds has been very active, hosting a range of successful and exciting events and providing loads of opportunities for our members to get involved.

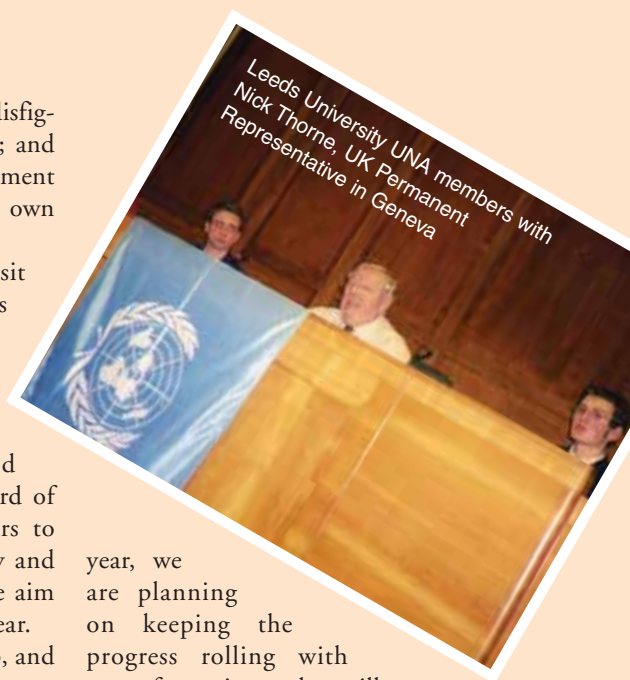
Over the last year alone, we participated in the North of England Model UN, and have hosted speakers such as Bill Rammel MP and Greg Mullholland MP, who helped win Leeds over to the Liberal Democrat Party. Our education programme, which teaches children basic conflict resolution and about the UN, has also been a great success.

To mark the 17th anniversary of the atrocities committed by Saddam Hussein's regime in the Kurdish village of Halabja, UNA-Leeds helped out with the promotion and setting up of the commemorative event at the university union. This brought many students face-to-face with the impact of Saddam's regime on the Kurdish people and the devastating effects of the 1987 chemical weapons attack on Halabja, which killed

5,000 civilians; maimed, blinded, disfigured or debilitated another 10,000; and constituted the first time a government had used these weapons against its own people.

We were also honoured by the visit of HE Nick Thorne, the UK's Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva, which gave the members a chance to put questions to a senior UN representative and hold an informed debate on key issues. The standard of these events have pushed members to become more active within society and politics - a level of engagement we aim to maintain and build upon this year.

A new committee has been set up, and we are working hard to plan a great programme for the year. We are already collaborating with UKMUN - a model UN initiative which looks set to be unique in size and performance - and we will continue our work in education and lobbying. With over 72 new members this



year, we are planning on keeping the progress rolling with some fantastic speakers, illuminating videos and internationally-themed socials. We are also looking at a possible trip to Geneva to visit the UN's offices there.

A great year lies ahead of us, so keep up with our news at [www.unaleeds.com!](http://www.unaleeds.com!)

## THE EDINBURGH EXPERIENCE: THE G8, THE REBEL CAMPSITE AND PORTABLE LOOS

**Djandark Wali**, Assistant Campaigns Officer, UNYSA

I was one of the 250,000 who went to Edinburgh on 2 July 2005 to take part in a historic event - the largest protest in the history of Scotland! I stayed, in a Stirling campsite, for the whole week, to participate in workshops, attend interesting talks and join peaceful protests.

The sight of so many people gathered in one place and united in purpose was an amazing experience, and being a part of it was an incredible feeling. People of diverse ages and beliefs, and different religious and ethnic groups, came together to tell the G8 leaders that enough is enough: it's time for justice and to make poverty history.

I was very disappointed with the lack of media coverage of the **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** event and bemused at the negative press directed at the campsite, in which most of the protesters (including me!) were staying. The campsite was, for example, labelled by one newspaper as the 'rebel camp'. We found this pretty funny, as most of us occupied ourselves by attending workshops, sitting around campfires, and taking advantage of the poetry readings, dancing and music (which ranged from rap to traditional Scottish music). Very rebellious, indeed.

Most of the people who stayed at the campsite came to demonstrate, through peaceful protest, their support for the aims of **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** and to expand their knowledge on issues such as climate change, HIV/AIDS and trade justice. The majority were young people proving that young people are not uniformly apathetic. Isn't this what the government - and the media - wants?

Apart from the portable loos, lack of shower facilities, and the chilly Scottish weather, it was an amazing and enlightening experience, and one which I will never forget!