

# NEW WORLD

## UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



The impact of  
piracy

page 11



The downturn  
and the poor

page 12



Profile of the  
FAO

page 18



UNA-UK

PLUS Decriminalising homosexuality page 8 Security Council reform page 10  
R2P architect speaks in Parliament page 20 Annual Conference in Edinburgh page 23  
A round-up of UDHR60 page 28 YPN interview: social entrepreneurship page 33

# A WORLD WITHOUT THE UNITED NATIONS?

The UN is the only organisation equipped to overcome the biggest threats to humanity – problems without passports, like climate change, disease and war, which no country can address alone.

The UNA Trust strives to make a reality of the UN's aims. Through our public information and education work, we promote international cooperation and deepen understanding of the problems the UN acts to solve on our behalf.

Legacies are a vital source of support for our work. Please remember us in your will and help shape the world the next generation will inherit.

## GET YOUR WILL PROFESSIONALLY WRITTEN FOR FREE

In 2009, the UNA Trust is offering UNA-UK members the chance to have a simple will written completely free of charge by a solicitor in their local area. This service is offered as part of the UNA Trust's membership of the National Free Wills Network.

Members wishing to use the service should contact Natalie Samarasinghe on 020 7766 3451 or [samarasinghe@una.org.uk](mailto:samarasinghe@una.org.uk).



## Letter from the Editor

The UN has launched a global campaign to eliminate violence against women. This issue's Briefing argues that violence against women is not 'just' a grave rights violation. By sapping public resources and retarding the formation of human capital, it is catastrophic for economic development.

Development is also the main concern of the Essay, by Alex Evans of the Center on International Cooperation. His article sketches out the ways in which the global downturn is threatening the world's poor. Fifty million more people have been sunk into poverty: the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are at risk.

High food prices – another serious threat to the MDGs – persist, in spite of the recession. The UN's Food & Agriculture Organization, the subject of this issue's Profile, is at the centre of global efforts to tackle this challenge.

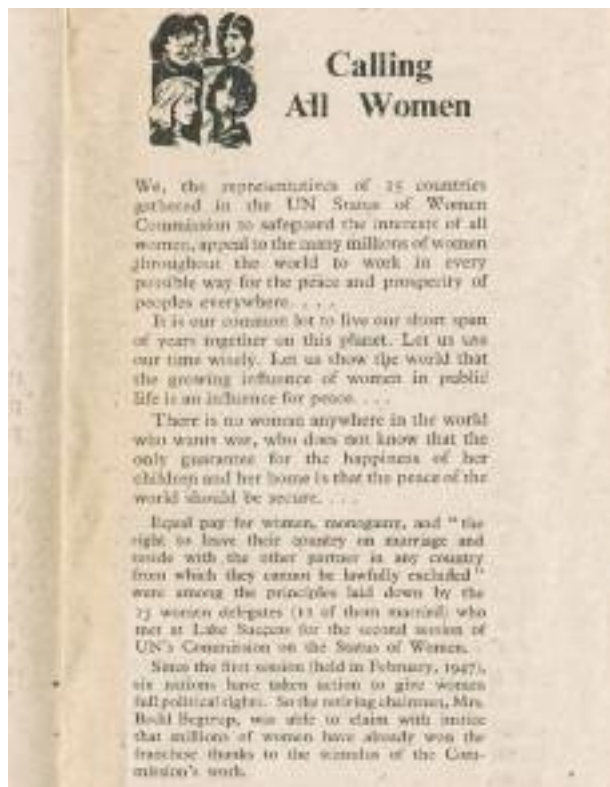
A few administrative points to note:

First, New World now comes out three times a year instead of four – a cost-saving measure introduced by our Board of Directors. Second, the magazine is getting 'greener'; we have switched to 100 per cent recycled paper (up from 80 per cent).

Third, this is the last issue of New World that I will edit. After nearly six enriching years, I am leaving UNA-UK for a new job. From now on, the magazine will be in the able hands of my colleague Natalie Samarasinghe. Her contact details can be found on page 4.

Veronica Lie, Editor

## From the archive – 61 years ago



From *United Nations News*, March/April 1948

## Contents

<b>DIRECTORY</b>	4
Staff changes	4
<b>UN MISCELLANY</b>	5
<b>DISPATCHES</b>	
The cause that needs a movement	6
Paul Hunt	
Older people have rights too	7
Richard Blewitt	
End the criminal treatment of LGBT people	8
Cary Alan Johnson	
<b>UPDATES</b>	
Security Council reform	10
Peacekeeping overstretch	10
Piracy	11
<b>ESSAY</b>	12
What does the credit crunch mean for development?	
Alex Evans	
<b>BRIEFING</b>	14
Violence against women	
Natalie Samarasinghe	
<b>DO SOMETHING</b>	16
Unite to end violence against women	
<b>PROFILE</b>	18
UN Food & Agriculture Organization	
<b>INSIDE WESTMINSTER</b>	20
<b>RESOURCES</b>	21
<b>LETTERS</b>	22
<b>ANNUAL CONFERENCE</b>	23
Keynote by UN humanitarian chief	
<b>UNA-UK</b>	26
Impact Report 2005-08	26
Membership at work	27
UDHR60 round-up	28
Listings	31
<b>YPN</b>	32
FCO discloses carbon	32
YPN Wales	32
YPN interview: Andrew Hunt	33
<b>UNYSA</b>	34
The outgoing Youth Council reflects	34
The new team	35



**First steps**  
A new chapter in US-UN relations

p.5



**A neglected group**  
Older people's rights need more protection

p.7



**Peacekeeping overstretch**  
Near breaking point

p.10



**Briefing**  
Women themselves are key to ending sexual violence

p.14

## UNA-UK

3 Whitehall Court  
London  
SW1A 2EL  
[www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)

### EXECUTIVE OFFICE

#### Executive Director

Sam Daws  
020 7766 3457  
[daws@una.org.uk](mailto:daws@una.org.uk)

#### Executive Assistant

Under recruitment

### MEMBERSHIP & FINANCE

#### Interim Head of Governance & Finance

Under recruitment

#### Finance Manager

Ajay Vasa  
020 7766 3454  
[vasa@una.org.uk](mailto:vasa@una.org.uk)

#### Membership & Fundraising Officer

Rich Nelmes  
020 7766 3456  
[membership@una.org.uk](mailto:membership@una.org.uk)

### POLICY & ADVOCACY

#### Head of Communications

Natalie Samarasinghe  
020 7766 3451  
[samarasinghe@una.org.uk](mailto:samarasinghe@una.org.uk)

#### Head of John Bright Peace & Security Programme

Tim Kellow  
020 7766 3446  
[kellow@una.org.uk](mailto:kellow@una.org.uk)

#### Communications Contractor

Helen Franzen  
020 7766 3448  
[franzen@una.org.uk](mailto:franzen@una.org.uk)

## UNA Wales | CCU Cymru

The Temple of Peace/Y Deml Heddwch  
Cathays Park/Parc Cathays  
Cardiff/Caerdydd  
CF10 3AP  
[www.wcia.org.uk/unawales](http://www.wcia.org.uk/unawales)

### OFFICERS/SWYDDOGION

#### Secretary/Ysgrifennydd

Stephen Thomas  
02920 228 549  
[stephenthomas@wcia.org.uk](mailto:stephenthomas@wcia.org.uk)

#### Assistant Secretary/Ysgritennydd Cynorthwyol

Ona Flindall  
02920 228 549  
[onaflindall@wcia.org.uk](mailto:onaflindall@wcia.org.uk)

Front cover photo © Lyndsey Addario  
Back cover artwork © Art Center College of  
Design/Benny Chu

## Changes at UNA-UK

As you can see from the directory there have been some important changes at 3 Whitehall Court. Here is a summary:

- At the end of May, Veronica Lie, Deputy Executive Director, is leaving UNA-UK (and London) for a new job in Norway.
- Natalie Samarasinghe, previously Executive Assistant to the Executive Director, has been promoted to Head of Communications. She will take over from Veronica as the focal point for all New World inquiries. A new Executive Assistant is being recruited.
- We are establishing a new, interim post, to oversee the management of UNA-UK's governance and financial functions.
- Tim Kellow's job title has changed. He is now Head of the John Bright Peace & Security Programme. He remains your first port-of-call for peace and security related questions.
- We are pleased to report that, after having accepted voluntary redundancy from UNA-UK, Mark Rusling has secured a new job at the Energy Retail Association. His UNA-UK responsibilities have been redistributed.

Visit [www.una.org.uk/directory.html](http://www.una.org.uk/directory.html) for profiles of staff and details of their respective responsibilities.

## Introducing Helen Franzen

Since February UNA-UK has been benefiting from the web skills of communications contractor Helen Franzen. She has already made a big impact at UNA-UK. In addition to updating and developing the website, she is responsible for putting together UNA-UK's suite of e-newsletters. A particularly noteworthy success has been her role in the creation of the first ever UNYSA e-newsletter.

Helen also works as a freelance journalist for ePolitix, where she produces regular news bulletins. She has two degrees from King's College London: an MSc in Organisational Management and a BA in European Studies with French. Fluent in both German and French, Helen combines a passion for languages with a keen interest in climate change and political economy.

## Join UNA-UK . . .

The United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK) is the UK's leading independent policy authority on the UN and a UK-wide grassroots membership organisation campaigning for a strong, credible and effective United Nations.

Every member of UNA-UK receives a free subscription to New World, containing news and comment on the UN. By joining you will also be invited to take part in campaigns and to attend conferences, seminars and other events.

This issue of **New World** is printed using vegetable-based inks on 100 per cent recycled chlorine- and acid-free paper from sustainable sources.



When you are done with the magazine, please recycle it or, better yet, pass it on to a friend.

**New World** is published by  
UNA-UK  
3 Whitehall Court  
London  
SW1A 2EL  
[www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)

**Editor of this issue:**  
Veronica Lie

**Research, drafting  
and copy-editing:**  
Helen Franzen  
Tim Kellow  
Rich Nelmes  
Natalie Samarasinghe

To advertise please call  
020 7766 3451

The deadline for submission  
of material for the next issue  
of New World is noon on  
3 August 2009

The next issue will cover the  
autumn 2009

All submissions should be typed  
and sent by e-mail where possible  
to [samarasinghe@una.org.uk](mailto:samarasinghe@una.org.uk).  
Photos should ideally be 300 dpi  
resolution

#### Subscription:

Copies of New World are  
included in the membership  
fee for UNA-UK

The United Nations  
Association of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland is a  
company limited by  
guarantee (registered  
no. 2885557)

#### Designed by **SoapBox**

[www.soapboxcommunications.co.uk](http://www.soapboxcommunications.co.uk)  
020 7766 3462



## A new chapter in US-UN relations

President Obama has so far made good progress on repairing his country's ties with the UN, famously frayed under his predecessor. An important signpost of this new direction is his appointment of Susan Rice as the US's ambassador to the UN and the elevation of her post to cabinet rank – a move lambasted by one of her predecessors, UN sceptic John Bolton.



Photo © UN/Evan Schneider

Ambassador Rice was Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs under President Clinton, and was foreign policy adviser for the presidential campaigns of both John Kerry and Barack Obama. An academic, with master's and doctoral degrees from Oxford University, Dr Rice has been an outspoken advocate of muscular international action on genocide.

According to the president, she shares his view that the UN is both 'indispensable and imperfect'.

## Other signs of change

This renewed engagement has manifested itself in other ways. The US has reinstated support for UNFPA, the UN's lead agency on reproductive health and population issues, pledging \$50 million of funding. (The Bush administration objected to UNFPA's advocacy of family planning in developing countries receiving US aid.)

The US is also going to ratify the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and stand for a seat on the UN Human Rights Council, overturning the arm's-length position of the previous administration.

## New UNDP chief takes over

UNDP, the UN's global development arm, has a new boss at its helm. Helen Clark, New Zealand's prime minister from 1999 to 2008, is the first woman to lead the organisation. A member of parliament since 1981, Ms Clark held New Zealand government positions in housing, conservation, foreign affairs, health and labour.

She has said that poverty reduction will be her priority at UNDP and that the global financial crisis offers the body an 'opportunity to look at fresh ways of doing things'.

## 'Acceptable' outcome to anti-racism conference

Iranian President Ahmadinejad used April's UN conference against racism as a platform from which to spout anti-Israel polemic, prompting several countries – the UK included – to walk out. The controversy didn't start there: the run-up to the conference was dogged by bad press.

Critics feared that this year's conference would rehash the experience of 2001, when the UN staged its first anti-racism conference. The international media branded the 2001 conference a 'hate fest' after anti-Semitic comments were made at a side event for NGOs.

That Mr Ahmadinejad managed to hijack proceedings is bad news. But, in the end, the conference's outcome was measured enough to gain the support of human rights organisations and governments alike. British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said that he considered the outcome document 'acceptable' and that he thought the UK 'did the right thing by remaining in the

conference' to ensure that the final text met the UK's red lines.

## ICC indictment has repercussions

In March President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan became the first sitting head of state to be indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC). The court's judges issued an arrest warrant for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in the war-ravaged region of Darfur, but ruled that insufficient evidence existed to charge him with genocide.



Photo courtesy of US Federal Government

The Sudanese government, which has not signed the Rome Statute that established the ICC, responded by expelling and seizing assets of 16 humanitarian agencies operating in Darfur, raising fears for the safety of remaining aid workers and the millions of aid-dependent civilians.

The UN has since secured Sudan's agreement to allow joint assessment teams to visit the region and has pledged to try to fill the gap left by the expelled agencies.

## Greenwood replaces Higgins as British ICJ judge

British barrister Sir Christopher Greenwood QC has taken up his new post as a judge on the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Elected by the General Assembly and the Security Council, Sir Christopher occupies the de facto British seat vacated by Dame Rosalyn Higgins, who stepped down in February. She was the first female judge to be appointed to the ICJ and served as its president.

Sir Christopher is formerly a professor of international law at the London School of Economics and a barrister at Essex Court chambers. His high-profile cases include the extradition of former Chilean dictator Pinochet. UK Attorney-General Lord Goldsmith consulted him in 2002 on the legality of the Iraq invasion.

# Dispatches



## The cause that needs a movement



Paul Hunt

**Every minute a woman dies in** childbirth or from complications of pregnancy. Each year, there are over 500,000 maternal deaths. Most could be avoided by a few well-known interventions. Ninety-five per cent of these avoidable deaths are in Africa or Asia. Women in some rich countries have a 1 in 8,700 chance of dying in childbirth; in some poor countries giving birth will kill on average 1 in 10 women.

For every woman who dies from obstetric complications, about 30 more suffer from injuries, infection and disabilities. Over 2 million women living in developing countries remain untreated for obstetric fistula, a devastating injury of childbirth. Fistula is easy to prevent and easy to treat.

These facts are especially shocking not only because the deaths and injuries they chronicle are mostly preventable, but also because they expose a number of profound health inequalities.

First, the burden of maternal mortality falls disproportionately on women in developing countries.

Second, in both developing and developed countries, the burden of maternal mortality falls disproportionately on ethnic minority women, indigenous women, and women living in poverty.

Third, there is no single cause of death and disability for men between the ages of 15 and 44 that is even close to the magnitude of maternal mortality and morbidity. In other words, maternal mortality and morbidity reveal stark discrepancies between men and women in their

enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health rights. (If men had to give birth, there can be little doubt that mortality and morbidity arising from childbirth would be taken more seriously, and attract more resources, than they do today.)

In short, maternal mortality highlights multiple inequalities – global, ethnic and gender. And a recurring theme across these is the entrenched disadvantage of those living in poverty.

In recent years, an increasing number of countries have made progress in reducing maternal mortality. But, in many of the countries with the highest rates, progress has stagnated or reversed. This is

**‘Women in some rich countries have a 1 in 8,700 chance of dying in childbirth; in some poor countries giving birth will kill on average 1 in 10 women.’**

despite long-standing international commitments and initiatives to reduce maternal mortality.

Millennium Development Goal 5 aims to reduce maternal mortality by three-quarters by 2015. The Millennium Project Task Force – charged with devising recommendations for meeting all the MDG targets – emphasises the role of human rights, including the right to health, in the struggle to beat maternal mortality.

The right to health has a major contribution to make to maternal health policies because of its emphasis on guaranteeing primary health care; ensuring adequate numbers of health professionals; enhancing access to good-quality health services for all; addressing the underlying determinants of health, such as access to information on sexual and reproductive health; and improving participation, monitoring and accountability.

In the 1990s, domestic violence was identified as a violation of human rights,

lending crucial momentum to the global campaign against this type of abuse. Maternal mortality needs the same kind of push. This is not just a health or humanitarian problem – it is a human rights issue. Avoidable maternal mortality violates women’s rights to life, health, equality and non-discrimination. The human rights community should take up the fight against maternal mortality with vigour equal to that deployed against extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and prisoners of conscience.

For the scale of maternal mortality is just as great – if not larger.

According to estimates, about 2,250 people received a death sentence and were executed in 2005. This is probably an underestimate. Let’s multiple this figure by more than four. Let’s say 10,000 people were executed in 2005.

How many maternal deaths were there in the same period? About 500,000.

Since 1980, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has taken up about 50,000 cases. Naturally the working group could not take up all the cases of disappearances over this 26-year period. So let’s multiply 50,000 by 20; let’s say there were 1 million disappearances over 26 years.

This is equal to the number of maternal deaths that took place in the last 24 months.

We all agree that disappearances are an extremely serious human rights violation. But so is maternal mortality, and it is time to recognise and treat it as such. It is a human rights catastrophe in the struggle against which many will need to be engaged: the international community, national governments, the managers of health facilities, families and communities. And donors, too, must play their part – not only by helping developing countries, but also by scrutinising their own domestic policies, where disaggregated data often expose discriminatory maternal health outcomes demanding robust action.

Of course, tuberculosis and malaria are even more prolific killers than maternal mortality. But if we are to beat maternal mortality, we will have to construct basic,



good-quality, accessible health systems from which all will benefit. In other words, tackling maternal mortality is a strategy for achieving a more ambitious, far-reaching goal: establishing effective, integrated, responsive health systems, accessible to all, which encompass health

care and address the underlying determinants of health.

Framing maternal mortality as a human rights issue could yield massive benefits. Such an approach would not only take us closer to achieving MDG 5; it would also help us make important

gains against all the health-related MDG targets.

*Paul Hunt was UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health from August 2002 to July 2008.*

## Older people have rights too



Richard  
Blewitt

It is often assumed that as people get older their contribution to society diminishes. Not so. Older people are all too often the backbone of their local communities. They feed, clothe and educate their extended families. They care for their grandchildren – many taking on an extra role for those orphaned by AIDS. Yet:

- One hundred million older people worldwide live on less than \$1 a day.
- In Africa and Asia, older people are more likely to be living in absolute poverty than the population as a whole.
- Four-fifths of older people in developing countries have no regular income.
- More older people die each year from malnutrition, respiratory diseases and tuberculosis than any other age group, including children aged 0-14.

Policy-makers often ignore older people, assuming them to be economically and socially worthless. Few older people receive any kind of pension. Many are discriminated against when applying for business loans or are excluded from income-generating opportunities. This is wrong – and short-sighted. The world's population is ageing rapidly and nowhere more so than in developing countries. In 40 years' time one in five people will be over the age of 60.

The United Nations has designated a special day – 1 October – the International

Day of Older People. This serves as a reminder to governments that they have responsibilities to this part of their population. It allows older people to have a voice. It allows them to participate in national activity and fight for their right to dignity and security in their later years. It empowers them through joint action.

So how does this special day fit into the wider UN picture? Well, in our view at HelpAge International, not very well. That is why, under the banner of our campaign 'Age Demands Action', we are joining forces with the international community to ensure that older people are reflected in three key areas.

First, within the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These set

**'Until information is collected on how older people are being affected by HIV, the UN's target of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support will not be met.'**

ambitious goals for tackling world poverty, targeting vulnerable groups such as women and children. But older people, among the poorest and most marginalised groups in the world, have been left out. We believe that social protection, including social pensions, need to be built into the MDGs and other poverty reduction strategies. This will provide income security for older people and other vulnerable groups, reducing poverty and accelerating overall progress towards the targets set by this vital initiative.

Second, in the UN's global indicators on HIV and AIDS. Again, older people are unrecognised, both as a group at risk of infection and as carers for those living with the virus. Key UN data measuring the impact of HIV and AIDS exclude



Photo © UN/Sebastiao Barbosa

people over the age of 50. Yet in highly affected countries, 60 per cent of children orphaned by AIDS are cared for by their grandparents, and 1 in 14 people living with HIV are over 50. Until information is collected on how older people are being affected by HIV, the UN's target of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support will not be met.

The third gap is in the UN's human rights machinery. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights says that everyone without distinction is entitled to the rights and freedoms it sets out, including the right to social security. But at present there is no instrument that specifically addresses older people's rights. What is needed is a new mechanism dedicated to the promotion and protection of older people's rights.

Only when older people are recognised and supported by national governments and the international community, and included in policy-making, will we create a society in which older people fulfil their potential to lead active, dignified, healthy and secure lives.

*Richard Blewitt is CEO of HelpAge International, a global network that helps older people claim their rights, challenge discrimination and overcome poverty. For more information visit [www.helpage.org](http://www.helpage.org)*

## End the criminal treatment of LGBT people



Cary Alan Johnson

**The right to dignity and respect by** government authorities extends to all people. Yet every day, around the world, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are singled out as targets for vicious harassment, abuse, arbitrary arrests, imprisonment (sometimes for life) and even death. A major factor contributing to these abuses are laws that, in essence, make it a crime for LGBT individuals to be who they are.

In January nine men (including the head of an organisation providing HIV prevention services to the LGBT community) were charged with criminal conspiracy and ‘engaging in acts against the order of nature’ in Senegal. They were sentenced to eight years in prison, more than the five-year maximum penalty for sodomy under Senegalese law.

Legal provisions in Egypt, which refer to ‘debauchery’, ‘contempt for religion’ and ‘shameless public acts’, have been used to prosecute men presumed to be gay. Within the last year, Egyptian police have arrested at least a dozen men believed to be HIV-positive and homosexual. At one point, some of the men were chained to their prison beds before being convicted and sentenced to three-year prison terms.

In Nigeria, gay men presently face up to 14 years in jail if they live in the Christian areas of the country, and death by stoning in those parts of Nigeria that apply Sharia law.

In Uganda in 2002, two lesbian women were arrested after having arranged a private engagement ceremony. They were not engaging in any sexual activity at the time of their arrest.

More than 80 countries retain laws that effectively criminalise LGBT people. Generically referred to as ‘sodomy

laws’, many of these provisions – including in India, Uganda, Singapore and Jamaica – are relics of British colonial rule. The prohibition of consensual same-sex acts was intended to rein in the varied sexual practices and traditions encountered in the colonies.

Today these laws are used almost exclusively to allow the state to arrest, convict and imprison LGBT people. They justify the state’s involvement in cruel and abusive treatment of anyone who is known or presumed to be gay. In fact, the laws are rarely used to arrest anyone who is actually engaged in sexual activity. Rather, homophobic police forces and political leaders use these laws to threaten and punish LGBT people because of who they are – especially those who dare to challenge discrimination. These threats and punishments are usually accompanied by violence.

**‘Decriminalisation is a vital step towards promoting respect for LGBT people and paving the way for legal equality. This goal requires not only public condemnation of those leaders and governments who violate the rights of a marginalised group of people, but also a demand for the state to actively protect all of its citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.’**

Countries often go beyond criminalising sexual activity, making gender nonconformity a crime as well. In 2007, 14 people were arrested in Kuwait under a new law making it a criminal offence to ‘imitate the appearance of a member of the opposite sex’.

In 1994, the UN Human Rights Committee, which monitors state compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), is-

sued an opinion stating that Tasmania’s sodomy law violated privacy and anti-discrimination protections enshrined in the ICCPR. Courts, human rights experts and defenders, political and religious leaders, and NGOs around the world have come to recognise that the brutal enforcement of these laws directly contravenes all we expect from the promise of human rights.

In 2006, a group of 29 international human rights experts released the Yogyakarta Principles. Drawn from existing international law and jurisprudence, these principles delineate how international human rights law applies to sexual orientation and gender identity. The principles stress that states should repeal criminal provisions prohibiting consensual same-sex activity between adults.

In December 2008, in the most promising victory to date, 66 states endorsed a statement in the UN General Assembly articulating support for LGBT rights. Drafted by a cross-regional group of states, the text condemns violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The signatories include Argentina, the Central African Republic, France, Gabon, Nepal, the Netherlands, and Timor-Leste. The Obama administration recently added the US’s signature, reversing America’s previous stance.

The elimination of laws that criminalise sodomy and gender nonconformity will not put an immediate end to homophobic violence. In March a prominent transgender activist from Turkey was murdered in Istanbul. In the past two years there have been 13 unsolved murders of transgender individuals in Colombia alone. In neither of these two countries is sodomy or gender nonconformity a crime, but violence remains prevalent.

Still, decriminalisation is a vital step towards promoting respect for LGBT people and paving the way for legal equality. This goal requires not only public condemnation of those leaders and governments who violate the rights of a marginalised group of people, but also a demand for the state to actively protect all of its citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. The UN should be at the forefront of this undertaking.

*Cary Alan Johnson is Executive Director of the International Gay & Lesbian Human Rights Commission.*



# **WOMEN ARE KEY TO POVERTY ERADICATION, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STABILITY.**

**YET THE UN CURRENTLY LACKS THE HIGH-PROFILE,  
HIGH-CLOUT BODY IT NEEDS TO EMPOWER WOMEN  
TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.**

**THAT IS WHY VSO AND PARTNERS ARE CALLING  
FOR THE CREATION OF A ROBUST NEW WOMEN'S  
AGENCY HEADED BY A LEADER AT THE RANK OF  
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL AND SUPPORTED  
BY AN ANNUAL BUDGET OF \$1 BILLION.**

**REFORM THE UN FOR WOMEN.  
SUPPORT THE VSO CAMPAIGN FOR  
A NEW UN WOMEN'S AGENCY AT  
[WWW.VSO.ORG.UK/WOMEN](http://WWW.VSO.ORG.UK/WOMEN)**



**Sharing skills  
Changing lives**



## Updates

### Security Council Reform at last?

The long-running deadlock over expansion might be loosening up



Photo courtesy of US Federal Government

**There are finally signs of movement** on UN Security Council reform. In February 2009, the UN open-ended working group set up in 1994 to reform the Council concluded its business. Known to weary diplomats as the 'never-ending working group', it wound up with no agreement.

Debating reform has now been elevated to a more significant, but still informal, General Assembly forum as a prelude to a possible vote on expanding the Council. A vote remains some way off: member states need first to find more common ground on four critical aspects of reform.

1. **Size and composition.** The Council is likely to be expanded to 21-25 members. Newcomers would be drawn principally from developing countries, and more non-democratic countries

are likely to occupy seats. This may make agreement on establishing new peacekeeping operations, or referring cases to the International Criminal Court, more difficult.

2. **Voting.** The veto remains contentious. It is unlikely that any new permanent members would be granted the veto, or that existing permanent members would lose theirs. Negotiators will concentrate instead on the voting majority – the number of votes needed for a resolution to pass. Currently nine out of 15 votes are needed for a 'non-procedural' resolution to pass. In a Council of 25 the voting threshold would likely sit at around 14.
3. **Categories of seat.** Until recently the focus has been on whether to add new permanent members, more elected non-permanent members, or both. Now, the possibility of an 'intermediate solution' – lengthening the two-year term for elected members, allowing the immediate re-election of non-permanent members, or creating a new category of semi-permanent members – is gaining ground.

Some aspirant permanent members, such as Brazil, Japan, Nigeria and Germany, privately accept that they will not secure perma-

nent seats right away. They are willing to consider intermediate seats until a review conference (in 15 or so years) decides whether to give them permanent status. India and the African Union reject this move, preferring to hold out for full permanent seats. Others, such as Italy and Pakistan, oppose any intermediate solution that appears to support the aspirations of their regional rivals to permanent status.

4. **Working methods.** Improvements in Council transparency and accountability have been introduced in the last two decades. For example, the Council now holds consultations with countries contributing troops to UN peace operations. Further changes are possible and likely.

These are all thorny issues. But the most formidable impediment to reform remains the high bar set by the UN Charter for amending its provisions. Finding a formula that can win the initial endorsement of two-thirds of the General Assembly and then pull off subsequent ratification by two-thirds of member states – including, at this second stage, the five permanent members of the Security Council – will be a tough quest.

### Peacekeeping Near breaking point

Can the UN handle any more missions?



Photo © UN/Stuart Price

**At the start of 2009 the UN had 16** peacekeeping operations in the field. With over 110,000 personnel, these missions cost over \$7 billion a year to run. Both the number of serving personnel and the annual budget are four times greater than they were in 2000, when fears of overstretch prompted a major review of UN peacekeeping. That review, led by UN diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi, recommended that the Security Council take on no more than one new mission per year.

Peacekeeping analysts are again worried that the strain on the UN is

becoming unbearable. In late 2008 the UN was tasked with reinforcing its beleaguered mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In early 2009 it was instructed to take on a new mission in Chad, to relieve a departing EU force. And it looks increasingly likely that it will be asked over the course of 2009 to deploy a new mission to volatile Somalia. These new commitments could add another 28,000 peacekeepers to the UN's books.

As it is, the UN is struggling to fulfil existing commitments. UNAMID

– the operation in Darfur – is under enormous stress. It lacks personnel (as of April 2009 only 60 per cent of the 26,000 troops and police promised by member states were in place); and it lacks equipment (UNAMID has only a small fraction of the 24 helicopters it needs). These shortfalls, compounded by the obstructionism of the host government in Khartoum and spoiler rebel groups, have left UNAMID exposed. Thirty-four of its peacekeepers have lost their lives. Darfuri civilians continue to suffer.

MONUC, the UN force in the DRC, is also contending with massive challenges. The largest and most expensive UN peacekeeping mission in history, it is nevertheless spread thin. The UN's peacekeeping chief, Alain Le Roy, has estimated that the ratio of peacekeepers to civilians in the volatile Kivu region of the vast country is 1 to 10,000. MONUC was unable to halt a rebel offensive last au-

turn, which drove 250,000 civilians from their homes.

Two new initiatives aim to address overstretch. The first, a Security Council review initiated by the UK and France, hopes to improve information flows to the Council to help it create more realistic mandates and give more informed consideration to alternatives to deploying a force. The second, a joint AU-UN panel set up by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, has recommended that support for AU operations be bolstered – a sound investment given that Africa hosts seven of the UN's 16 peace operations. One of the panel's central proposals says that UN-authorized AU missions should receive funding from the UN peacekeeping budget. (This recommendation reiterates one made in 2004 by UNA-UK's chair and his peers on the blue-ribbon panel of experts convened by then Secretary-General Kofi Annan to evaluate

emerging threats to international peace and security.)

Too often the Security Council reaches for peacekeeping as its first tool of choice in the face of crisis. But member states, in particular those with military clout, show little appetite for contributing the personnel and logistical support needed to make peacekeeping effective. The global economic downturn will likely tighten governments' fists further. The UK has already threatened to cut its contributions to UN peacekeeping.

The answer to overstretch is not as simple as 'The UN must learn to say no' – Bill Clinton's knee-jerk prescription after the debacle in Somalia in the 1990s. If the UN is asked for assistance it should render it. But if the Security Council continues to authorise deployments without giving missions commensurate personnel, funds and equipment, it will only be setting the UN up to fail.

## Piracy A symptom of a failed state

The international response has been forceful, but long-term success needs deeper solutions



Photo courtesy of US Federal Government

In 2008 there were 111 reported piracy attacks in the busy shipping lanes off the coast of Somalia – nearly twice the number in 2007. According to the International Maritime Bureau, the pirates managed to capture 42 vessels and take 815 crew hostage.

Not only have attacks become more frequent; they are becoming more audacious, with pirates capturing bigger ships farther from the coast. In November 2008 pirates hijacked a fully laden Saudi oil tanker, their biggest plunder yet. Passage through the Gulf of Aden is consequently getting riskier and costlier. Insurance pre-

miums have shot up ten-fold and, as freight companies opt for safer but longer routes, fuel costs are rising.

The ransoms paid for the release of captured vessels and crew are also steep, with companies handing over around £50 million in 2008. These dividends are attracting more recruits and, by lining the pockets of Somalia's warring clans, stoking the wider conflict. The UN envoy to Somalia has compared piracy to the trade of 'blood diamonds' which helped fuel West Africa's wars in the 1990s.

Piracy also threatens the flow of humanitarian aid to Somalia, where 3.5 million people depend on the UN and other agencies for food. Several ships operated by the UN World Food Programme, the world's largest humanitarian agency, have been seized. In May 2007 the threat of piracy prompted the agency to suspend aid delivery to Somalia.

So the stakes are high. Recognising this, the international community has responded forcefully. The UN Security Council has issued a flurry of hard-hitting resolutions, authorising

member states' navies to repel attacks and pursue pirates into Somali territorial waters. Coordination among navies has been tight, bringing together a wide range of countries, among them the US, Iran, Russia, France, India, China and Turkey. Both the US and the EU have set up multinational anti-piracy task forces to conduct patrols and protect ships.

The fall in attacks towards the end of 2008 suggested that these efforts were doing the trick. However, the downward trend proved shortlived. In the first three months of 2009, attacks spiked once again, with 60 reported attempts.

This resurgence may point to an inconvenient truth: that maritime security operations – however robust, however coordinated – treat the symptoms and not the real problem. Somalia is a failed state. As summed up by Roger Middleton, a piracy analyst at Chatham House: 'As long as a state with grinding poverty, hunger, no law enforcement and no effective government sits beside a rich trading route, piracy will continue.'



# Essay



## What does the credit crunch mean for development?



Alex Evans

It seems to be a cardinal rule that all global risks – whether climate change, HIV, food or energy price spikes, civil conflict or water scarcity – impact hardest on the world's poorest countries and most vulnerable people. As the credit crunch has moved from the financial sector to the real economy, it has become clear that the current global economic conflagration is no different.

At the top of the list of impacts is the collapse of global demand as the world's consumers batten down the hatch-

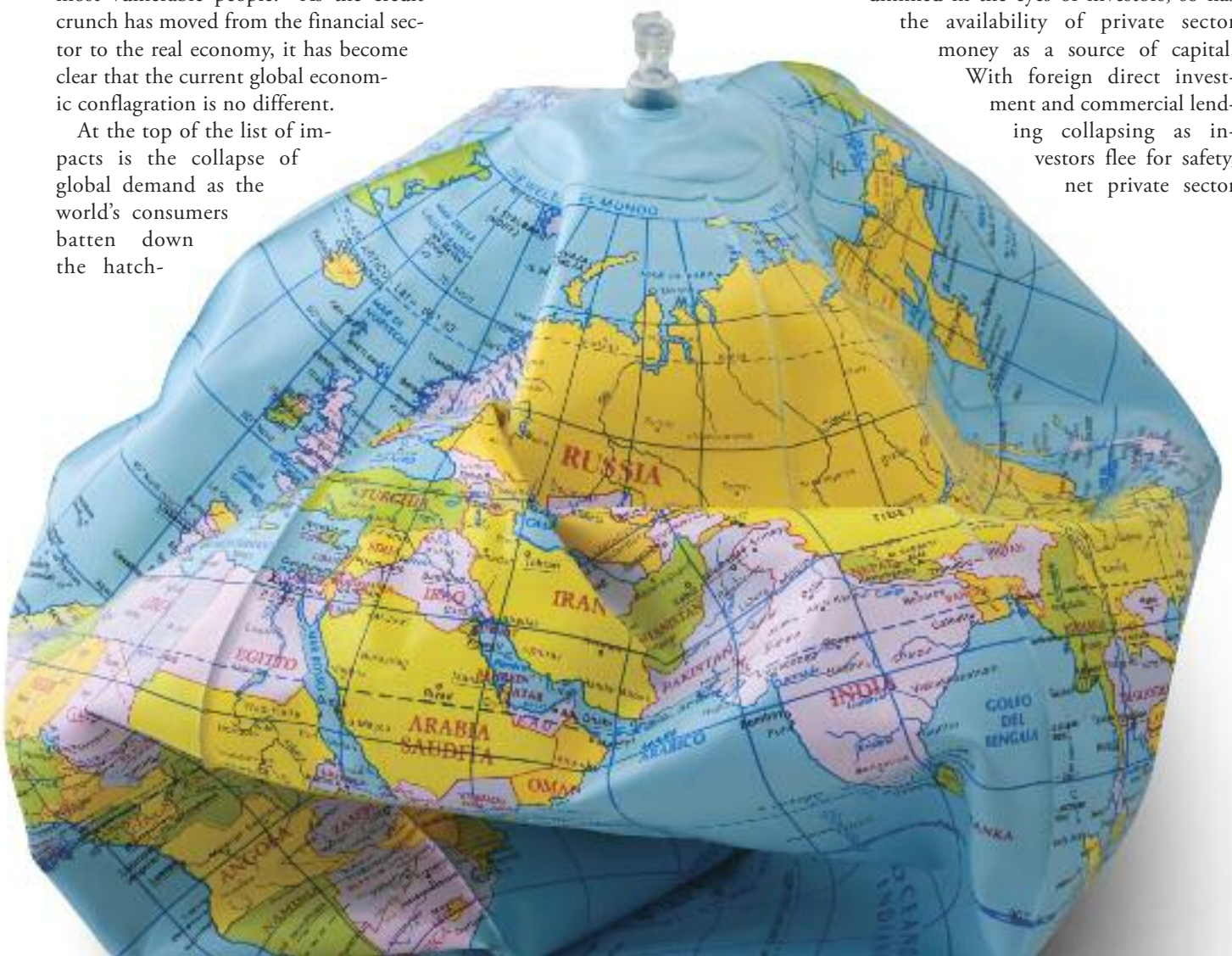
es. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) projects that world trade will decline by as much as 13 per cent in 2009, the first

fall in 25 years. Export-gearred economies will feel the pinch harder than most: in China, for instance, coastal regions are already witnessing a major migration of workers back to rural areas as rising unemployment hits the country's manufacturing sector. In the background, the risk of a slide into tit-for-tat protectionism further clouds the medium-term outlook.

The fall in demand has caused keen headaches for countries dependent on exports of commodities and raw materials. Oil exporters have seen prices plummet from \$147 a barrel to less than \$45 within just six months, causing serious problems for governments with budgets predicated on much higher prices. Mineral exporters face similar problems: mass layoffs of miners are already taking place in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Botswana, for instance.

As emerging markets' prospects have dimmed in the eyes of investors, so has the availability of private sector money as a source of capital.

With foreign direct investment and commercial lending collapsing as investors flee for safety, net private sector



capital flows to developing countries are projected by the Institute of International Finance to fall from \$929 billion in 2007 to \$165 billion in 2009 – a staggering 82 per cent decline.

As private sector flows contract, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – which appeared during the long boom to be heading for irrelevance – has found itself back at the centre of attention, with a lengthening list of countries in need of emergency bail-outs. April's G20 summit in London agreed a major new deal on IMF financing, which should help ensure it has the resources for the job – but development advocates are concerned that reform of the IMF to improve developing country representation may not be keeping up.

While the need for additional IMF finance is at the top of the global agenda, the same is unfortunately not true of other aid flows. Until recently, all the news had been positive: total official development assistance in 2008 reached \$120 billion, the highest level ever, accounting for 0.3 per cent of OECD countries' gross national income. But

with budgetary pressures rising in developed countries – and public support for development assistance falling – the outlook for aid spending now looks much less hopeful. The UN Millennium Campaign estimates that aid flows will fall by \$4.5 billion in 2009 as a result of the credit crunch; UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for a \$1 trillion 'bail-out' to help developing countries cope.

The outlook is similarly dispiriting on remittances home from migrant workers, which have in recent years exploded as a de facto source of development finance. Before the credit crunch, remittances had come to be worth around \$300 billion a year, according to the OECD fully three times as much as official development assistance. Now, though, remittances are projected to fall by \$20 billion over the coming year: in Kenya, flows are already down by a third.

In all, then, the credit crunch and the global downturn present an almost uniformly negative set of changes for developing countries – changes which threaten to push 50 million more people into

poverty, according to the UN. The *Economist Intelligence Unit*, meanwhile, has warned of the risk of conflict and civil unrest in many countries as a result of the downturn, noting that such risks are highly concentrated among the world's poorest countries.

Of course, the global downturn is not the only transboundary risk undermining prospects for development. While food prices have fallen since last summer's peak, the problem has not gone away: the Food & Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index is still only back at its May 2007 level, well above recent historical norms, and the FAO estimates that the global total of hungry people has risen from 850 million before the food price spike to over a billion today. Current low prices for oil, meanwhile, have led to a collapse in essential investment in new production – setting the stage for a new supply squeeze as the world emerges from the downturn. Worst of all, the credit crunch risks delaying action on climate change if policy-makers tackle the economy first and global warming second.

So how can policy-makers move towards a more positive approach? Two key areas for action stand out.

First, they urgently need to move towards a more integrated approach to managing global risks, one that starts from the recognition that economic and environmental recovery are two sides of the same coin. (To put it another way, as a senior IMF official recently said: 'The last thing we can afford now is another crisis creeping up on us.') Achieving greater integration will in turn depend on more effective multilateral decision-making structures. The growing role of the G20 is a step in the right direction – but only a step.

Second, international institutions must focus on building resilience in developing countries. Here, too, integration is the key challenge. Conflict prevention, peacekeeping, climate change adaptation, emergency relief and long-term development are all different facets of the same challenge – yet current institutional structures continue to treat them as though they were separate from one another. The problem of multilateral system coherence is hardly a new one; but rarely has it been more urgent.

*Alex Evans is a non-resident fellow at the Center on International Cooperation at New York University, where he leads the CIC's work on climate change and global public goods.*

## From financial crisis to human development catastrophe: a short step

For poor countries the global economic downturn could precipitate a crisis of human development in which the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) become but a lost cause. Flows of aid and investment to developing countries are contracting; the prices of commodities, on which many developing countries' economies are heavily reliant, are plunging; and remittances – in recent years forming a prominent share of developing countries' GDPs – are drying up as the global economy sheds jobs in response to falling trade.

These trends will sink more people into extreme poverty. Reduced income and high food prices will combine to inflate the number of hungry and malnourished. For poor countries, these trends also mean likely cuts to MDG-related public spending – for example, on health and education. The effects will be devastating. Studies of past recessions show a particularly tight correlation with infant mortality, to take just one of the eight MDGs. The UN Development Programme says that during a recession:

- For every 3 per cent drop in a developing country's GDP, 47-120 more infant deaths can be expected per 1,000 live births.
- A poor child in a developing country is four times more likely to die than a child who is not poor but lives in the same country.
- Infant mortality among girls in some poor countries increases five-fold.

On the eve of the G20 summit, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon issued this warning to world leaders:

**In good times, economic and social development comes slowly. In bad times, things fall apart alarmingly fast. It is a short step from hunger to starvation, from disease to death, from peace and stability to conflict and wars that spill across borders and affect us all, near and far. Unless we can build a worldwide recovery we face a looming catastrophe in human development.**

# Violence against women

## A neglected pandemic

At least one in three women worldwide is beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime. One in five women will become the victim of actual or attempted rape. According to the World Health Organization, women worldwide have a higher rate of dying between the ages of 15 and 44 from rape or sexual violence than from causes such as cancer, war or road accidents.

Violence against women is pandemic. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned on International Women's Day this year: 'No country, no culture, no woman, young or old, is immune.'

## The many faces of violence against women

Every week in the UK, two women die as a result of **domestic violence**. One in four women in the UK is **sexually assaulted** during her lifetime. These crimes often go unreported, their perpetrators protected by social acceptance and legal advantage. A recent survey by Amnesty International suggested that 74 per cent of men in the UK would report a dog being beaten but only 53 per cent would report domestic violence.

Earlier this year, the UN Office on Drugs & Crime released the first global assessment of **human trafficking**, another form of violence against women. The report, which evaluated 155 countries, confirmed that 80 per cent of victims are female and that most are exploited sexually. It also found that a significant proportion of traffickers are women. In Georgia and Azerbaijan for instance, females make up over 80 per cent of convicted traffickers.

Many acts of violence against women are accepted as a form of cultural expression. These '**harmful tradi-**

**tional practices**' include female genital mutilation, dowry murders, honour killings and early marriage. Around 130 million women alive today have undergone genital cutting, a non-medical operation performed by other women as part of a coming-of-age ritual. The practice can cause infection, infertility and even death. Other forms of marriage-related violence include honour killings and dowry murders, in which a bride is killed by her husband or in-laws – male and female – because her dowry is judged insufficient.

Violence against women manifests itself with staggering brutality during **conflict**: 500,000 women were raped during the Rwandan genocide, 64,000 in the civil war in Sierra Leone and 40,000 as part of the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo over a thousand women are raped every month; perpetrators enjoy near total impunity.

## A crime, a human rights violation, and a barrier to development

Violence against women is a crime and a human rights violation. Victims suffer injuries and traumas. They are unable to work or look after their families. They contract diseases such as HIV and give birth to unwanted babies. They are ostracised. They are murdered or die as a result of their injuries.

Violence against women also does serious damage beyond the victim, hurting families and societies, draining public resources and shrinking economic output. A 2008 study by New Philanthropy Capital, a British charity, put the total economic cost of sexual violence to England and Wales in 2003-04 at £23 billion. Women do two-thirds of the world's work, including in the pivotal areas of food production,

child-rearing and education. Healthy, educated, empowered women generate more money for their communities and bring up healthier, more educated children.

UNIFEM, the UN's fund for women, claims that countries with a high incidence of gender-based violence and discrimination are also more conflict-prone. This correlation has particular lessons for peace-makers: in countries emerging from conflict it is essential that women are brought from the margins to the centre of peace processes. Otherwise, the cultures and structures associated with violence against women risk getting recycled into the post-conflict set-up, increasing chances that the country will slide back into strife. The determinative role of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding gained formal international recognition in 2000 when the UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325.

## Women and men united to end violence against women and girls

Last year, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched an international campaign entitled 'UNite to End Violence against Women'. A central plank of the campaign is its bid to promote leadership among men and boys in the global effort to end violence against women and girls.

Though broadly targeted at individuals, civil society, the private sector, the media, the UN system and governments, the campaign is aimed primarily at the latter. Governments are asked to do the following by 2015:

- enact and enforce national laws to tackle violence against women and girls
- adopt and begin to implement programmes to eliminate violence against women and support the abused
- institutionalise the collection of data on the prevalence of different forms of violence against women
- mobilise a range of civil society actors to help raise awareness, prevent violence and support victims



- ensure that policies and funding in conflict situations are calibrated to address systematic rape

The UNite campaign builds on long-running efforts by various parts of the UN system. UNIFEM has given technical and financial support to local initiatives in over 100 countries aiming to end violence against women and girls. UNICEF, the global agency for children, plays an important role in data collection by tracking the impact of violence against women on development and the Millennium Development Goals. And the Security Council has in recent years stepped forward to provide stronger political leadership: in 2008, for example, it passed resolution 1820, committing the international community to ending the deployment of rape as a weapon of war.

The UN has also taken steps to reform its own systems and practices, to strengthen its capacity to defend women and girls against violence. Up for decision this year, for instance, is a proposal to overhaul the UN's gender architecture and equip it with a high-level, high-clout body to represent and champion women. The head of this new 'super agency' would be appointed to the rank of under-secretary-general and furnished with a bigger, stabler budget than that currently spread across the assortment of organisations working on gender in the UN system.

The shameful participation of UN peacekeepers in sexual abuse has presented a serious challenge to the UN's credibility in the fight against violence against women. The UN has adopted a zero-tolerance, zero-impunity policy to stamp out these violations. It has also made notable progress in increasing female representation in peacekeeping: women occupy 45 senior positions, up from 27 in 2007. In Liberia an all-female peacekeeping force is contributing in very tangible ways to the continued recovery of that country. In addition to carrying out standard policing functions, the force raises awareness of rape and is helping to boost female police recruitment.



A female member of the Nigerian battalion of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

Photo © UN/Christopher Herwig

### A universal truth

Statistics show that violence against women remains on the rise in many parts of the world. In part this is because efforts to improve reporting are bearing fruit. But the numbers are also proof that governments have not been doing anything near what is required to eliminate violence against women. For some women, limp political leadership will be costly. In March Afghanistan's president approved a recidivist law effectively legalising rape in marriage and preventing women from leaving the house without their husband's permission. UNIFEM estimates that over 60 per cent of marriages in Afghanistan are forced: nearly 90 per cent of Afghani

women, according to the UN Development Programme, are illiterate.

There is no blanket approach to ending violence against women. Each country must decide and devise its own strategies. But, as Ban Ki-moon has said, 'There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable.'

### Read more and take action:

[www.endviolence.un.org](http://www.endviolence.un.org)  
[www.unifem.org](http://www.unifem.org)  
[www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk](http://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk)  
[www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)



1 in 3: the number of women worldwide who are beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused over the course of their lives

1 in 5: the number of women who will be raped or subjected to attempted rape in their lifetimes

1,000: the number of women who are raped every month in the DRC

47: the average life expectancy of a woman in the DRC

# Do something.

Visit [www.una.org.uk/dosomething](http://www.una.org.uk/dosomething) to support the UN's campaign to end violence against women.



# For a world without hunger



The Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO), a UN specialised agency, leads long-term global efforts to secure freedom from hunger. Working with both developed and developing countries, it aims to improve fishery, forestry and farming practices. It also works to boost nutrition levels, better the lives of rural people, promote food safety and quality while containing animal health emergencies.

The FAO pursues these goals through four core activities:

- 1** The FAO acts as a thinktank. Its expert staff – comprised of agronomists, foresters, fisheries and livestock specialists, nutritionists, economists and other professionals – collect, analyse and distribute data to improve food production and aid development.
- 2** The FAO is a policy adviser. It shares its expertise with member states to help them devise effective agricultural policy and create national strategies to accelerate rural development and hunger alleviation.
- 3** The FAO is a meeting place for governments. It serves as a neutral forum in which policy-makers from around the world can meet to forge agreement on the full gamut of food and agriculture issues, from drought and forest management to food safety regulation and biodiversity.
- 4** The FAO helps deliver projects on the ground. The FAO lends its technical know-how to support field projects. It also distributes seeds, fertiliser, animal feed and farming tools in 81 countries. In crisis situations it works side by side with humanitarian agencies like the UN World Food Programme to help people rebuild their lives.

## How to feed a billion

The FAO began issuing warnings about the threat of rising food prices well before the media caught on. The number of hungry people in the world has since soared to over a billion. Despite the global economic downturn, food prices remain high. The FAO is working in over 90 countries to boost food production and make food accessible to the most vulnerable. Almost 7 million smallhold farmers (and their 35 million dependants) benefited directly from FAO assistance last year.



Photo © UN/Paulo Figueiras

**'World leaders looking for ways to save the global economy from disaster and to create jobs and income for millions of people in rural areas would be well-advised to invest heavily in agriculture.'**  
FAO head Jacques Diouf speaking on 19 April 2009 at a meeting of G8 agriculture ministers in Treviso, Italy



Photo © FAO/Giulio Napolitano

A group of women learning about integrated pest management at a farmers' field school in Bangladesh. The FAO works to strengthen the capacity of drought-prone and coastal communities to adapt to climate change and recover from natural disasters. The FAO believes that strategies to alleviate the impacts of climate change are more effective when they target women as well as men.

## A CLOSER LOOK: THE FAO IN AFGHANISTAN

A dairy project started by the FAO in Kabul and four provinces has helped 1,600 farming families increase their annual incomes five-fold – from \$130 to \$650. Since women do most of the work they are among the main beneficiaries.

With the FAO's assistance the participating farmers were able to raise milk production to 10,000 litres a day. This success is derived from improved fodder, better access to artificial insemination and more effective veterinary services. The FAO also showed the farmers how to organise themselves to achieve better results.

On the advice of FAO experts, the farmers formed cooperatives which have several important collective benefits. They provide veterinary services for members and operate processing plants for pasteurising milk and processing it into saleable products like yogurt, fermented milk and butter. By running retail counters in the main cities, the cooperatives also guarantee farmers an outlet for their produce.

Read more at [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)



From left to right: FAO Director-General Dr Jacques Diouf, UNA-UK Deputy Executive Director Veronica Lie, and Overseas Development Institute Director Simon Maxwell, after a parliamentary briefing by Dr Diouf in October 2008. UNA-UK co-hosted the event, which focused on soaring food prices.

Photo © UNA-UK/Marcus Dawes



# Inside Westminster



## New chair for UN all-party group

After over three years as Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the United Nations (which UNA-UK administers), Hugh Robertson MP has stepped down to concentrate on his work as Shadow Minister for Sport and the Olympics. UNA-UK is extremely grateful to Hugh for his able and dedicated leadership of the group over the years.

Succeeding Hugh is Peter Bottomley MP. Conservative MP for Worthing West, Peter is one of the 20 longest-serving MPs. Between 1984 and 1990 he held ministerial posts in the departments of employment and transport, as well as the Northern Ireland Office.

An industrial economist, Peter has wide-ranging interests in international affairs. He plays a leading role in several all-party groups, among them those on debt, aid and trade; the abolition of the death penalty; and refugees. He is also Vice-Convenor of the all-party group on global security and non-proliferation (of which UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay is Joint Convenor). You can read more about Peter Bottomley, and the rest of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on the UN, at [www.una.org.uk/parliament](http://www.una.org.uk/parliament).

## Lord Hannay presses the government on Gaza

The violence between Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza at the turn of the year prompted a series of exchanges between UNA-UK and the government. The first, a letter to the Foreign Secretary from UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay, condemned violence by all parties and called on the government to champion a cease-fire guaranteeing full humanitarian access to civilians in Gaza.

Lord Hannay was also vocal in the House of Lords, asking FCO Minister Lord Malloch-Brown whether Israel was cooperating with international inquiries into the alleged use of white phosphorous in heavily populated areas (a question he also put directly to the Israeli ambassador to London).

To read more about these interventions and others, visit [www.una.org.uk/parliament](http://www.una.org.uk/parliament).

## UN parliamentary group focuses on the responsibility to protect

In March, the UN all-party group held a provocative talk by Dr Gareth Evans, the outgoing president of International Crisis Group and Australia's former foreign minister. Dr Evans is widely considered one of the chief architects of the responsibility to protect. He sat on both the commission which first conceived the concept and (along with UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay) the UN panel which recommended its adoption as an international norm.

The meeting, hosted by new UN APPG Chair Peter Bottomley, attracted a large crowd, and the room was full to capacity. Parliamentarians were joined by humanitarian experts and practitioners, students and UNA-UK members.

To listen to a recording of Dr Evans's speech, visit [www.una.org.uk/parliament](http://www.una.org.uk/parliament).



Gareth Evans shakes hands with former Foreign Secretary Lord Howe. They are flanked by Lord Hannay and Baroness D'Souza.

## UNA-UK submission to non-proliferation inquiry

The House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee continues its inquiry into global security and non-proliferation. It has published the evidence received to date on its website.

In its submission UNA-UK voiced strong support for the Nuclear Security Project, a US-led initiative setting out the practical steps needed to rid the world of nuclear weapons. UNA-UK urged the government to champion these steps, which include pressing nuclear-weapon states to de-alert weapons and their means of delivery, deploying British nuclear-weapons expertise to work out stronger verification procedures, and pushing for the start of nego-

tiations on a fissile material cut-off treaty.

Read UNA-UK's submission at [www.una.org.uk/parliament/letters.html](http://www.una.org.uk/parliament/letters.html). No internet? Call Tim Kellow, Head of UNA-UK's Peace & Security Programme, on 020 7766 3446.

## UNA-UK urges UK to drop reservations to UN disability convention

The UK was one of the first countries to sign the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. UNA-UK was among the organisations which lobbied the government to support it. The convention creates no new rights; it seeks merely to ensure that the 10 million disabled people in the UK enjoy the same rights as everyone else.

The parliamentary process to ratify the convention began in March. But campaigners are concerned that the reservations the government is planning to levy on the convention will weaken the treaty. UNA-UK shares these concerns. In February Executive Director Sam Daws wrote to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Minister for Disabled People to urge the UK to ratify the convention without reservations and without further delay.

Read more at [www.equalityhumanrights.com](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com) and [www.officefordisability.gov.uk](http://www.officefordisability.gov.uk).



UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay in conversation with fellow panelists at the UN Day launch of 'Lobby for the UN 2008-09'. From left to right: Rebecca Holmes, ODI; Lord Hannay, UNA-UK; Louise King, Save the Children UK; and Andreas Persbo, VERTIC.

UNA-UK's Lobby for the UN 2008-09 calls for action on the Millennium Development Goals, human rights, nuclear disarmament and climate change. Visit [www.una.org.uk/parliament](http://www.una.org.uk/parliament) to download UNA-UK's lobby pack.





## The UN Online

- Watch daily UN webcasts on YouTube. UN Channel features video clips on current affairs, peace and security, development, human rights and much more.  
[www.youtube.com/unitednations](http://www.youtube.com/unitednations)
- World population will reach 7 billion early in 2012 and surpass 9 billion by 2050. These

are the projections set out in a recent revision of the UN's official population forecasts.

[www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/population/unpop.htm)

- Visit this UNDP website to discover 12 simple things you can do to reduce your carbon footprint.  
[www.12simplethings.org](http://www.12simplethings.org)
- The latest UN World Water Development Report explains how energy-use patterns,

rising living standards and changing diets are all playing a major role in making water management crises more widespread.

[www.unesco.org/water/wwap](http://www.unesco.org/water/wwap)

- This new database set up by the UN Secretary-General aims to improve information about the extent, nature and consequences of all forms of violence against women.  
[www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase](http://www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase)

## Books



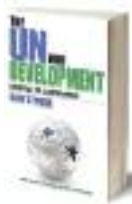
### Whose Peace? Critical Perspectives on the Political Economy of Peacebuilding

Michael Pugh, Neil Cooper and Mandy Turner (eds)

Palgrave Macmillan  
October 2008

What defines a political economy of peace in the aftermath of a civil war? Are prevailing approaches to peacebuilding geared to promote it? These are the central questions of this volume.

[www.palgrave.com](http://www.palgrave.com)



### The UN and Development: From Aid to Cooperation

Olav Stokke  
Indiana University Press  
July 2009

This book, the newest in the UN Intellectual History Project series, is the first major overview of the UN's development policies and activities over the last 60 years. The author outlines the history of the ideas that the UN system has generated and traces the trends in development from the 1940s to the present day.

[www.iupress.indiana.edu](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu)



### Abolishing Nuclear Weapons

George Perkovich and James Acton  
Routledge  
July 2008

In this Adelphi Paper, George Perkovich and James Acton take on the challenge of

abolishing nuclear weapons. The authors examine how best to verify arsenal reductions and explore ways of managing a civilian nuclear industry in a nuclear-weapon-free environment. The paper also assesses the type of international security architecture that would be needed to police a nuclear-weapon ban.

[www.routledge.com](http://www.routledge.com)



### The Responsibility to Protect: Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes Once and for All

Gareth Evans  
Brookings Institution Press  
November 2008

The author is one of the architects of the responsibility to protect (R2P), the new international norm aiming to protect people from mass atrocity crimes. In this book Evans untangles the misperceptions which stand in the way of implementing the norm, the most common being the fear that R2P is really a smokescreen for non-humanitarian intervention.

[www.brookings.edu/press](http://www.brookings.edu/press)



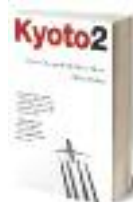
### Wars, Guns and Votes: Democracy in Dangerous Places

Paul Collier  
The Bodley Head  
March 2009

The author investigates violence and poverty in the small, poor countries which house the 'bottom billion' – a phrase coined by Collier in his award-winning book of 2007 to describe the world's most impoverished people. This follow-up work argues that the spread of elections to volatile countries has more often stoked violence than damp-

ened it, and that democracy needs more than ballots if it is to usher in genuine stability.

[www.bodleyhead.co.uk](http://www.bodleyhead.co.uk)



### Kyoto2: How to Manage the Global Greenhouse

Oliver Tickell  
Zed Books  
September 2008

This book argues that decision-makers should ditch country-based allocations of pollution rights. Instead, permits to emit greenhouse gas emissions should be sold off at a single global auction, with the total number of permits contracting year on year until the world is carbon neutral. Funds raised at auction could be used to finance the expansion of clean energy and schemes to help the poor adapt to climate change effects.

[www.zedbooks.co.uk](http://www.zedbooks.co.uk)



### Five to Rule Them All: The UN Security Council and the Making of the Modern World

David Bosco  
Oxford University Press  
October 2009

Billed as a 'colourful biography of the Security Council', this book chronicles the political battles that chequer the history of the world's most powerful diplomatic body. For all its many missteps, the author points out, the Security Council has achieved something great: the prevention of war between its five permanent members.

[www.oup.co.uk](http://www.oup.co.uk)



## The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations

### OUT IN PAPERBACK!

OUP is offering a 20 per cent discount to UNA-UK members and New World readers on the paperback edition of **The Oxford Handbook on the UN**.

That means that you can get your copy for just £22 plus £3 postage.

The Handbook, edited by UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws and Professor Thomas Weiss, is a seminal volume bringing together analysis on every aspect of the UN by the world's leading experts.

Visit [www.oup.co.uk/sale/socsci/OHUN08/](http://www.oup.co.uk/sale/socsci/OHUN08/) and quote code SSPROM20 to secure the discounted price.

## Free resources for New World readers

### DOCUMENTING THE UN'S SUCCESSES

Concise case studies that draw on hard-hitting statistics to illustrate that the UN works. A useful tool for explaining to the uninitiated why the UN matters.

### UDHR60 TEACHING PACK

A teaching handbook and ready-made lesson plans for use in secondary schools. Contains five modules on different aspects of human rights.

### THE ROAD TO COPENHAGEN

A paper by climate expert Alex Evans evaluating the chief tasks for negotiators of a new global deal to combat climate change.

All available at [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk)

For hard copies call Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456. Please note that stocks are limited.

# Letters

## send your letters to:

Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL  
e-mail: [samarasinghe@una.org.uk](mailto:samarasinghe@una.org.uk)



## Water for life

Water scarcity, a likely byproduct of climate change, was flagged up as cause for concern in the UNA-UK briefing paper assessing the relationship between climate change and other challenges like conflict and development ('How climate links to other issues', June 2008). The paper did not mention the fact that 2005 to 2010 spans the 'UN's International Decade for Action: Water for Life'.

The decade aims, among other things, to promote the sustainable and peaceful management of water resources – a theme also taken up by this year's World Water Day. Cooperation to manage water sources that cross borders helps foster peace and security, while also bringing the world closer to achieving the Millennium Development Goal target on improving access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

This, I believe, is a crucial issue, and worthy of our attention.

Yvonne Craig  
London

## Faith in UN peacekeepers

I very much welcomed the summer 2008 issue's excellent briefing on the UN's efforts to stamp out sexual abuse by its peacekeepers ('Tackling Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Peacekeepers'). The UN must come down hard on this inexcusable and hateful behaviour – it is the UN, after all, which sets the standards for others to follow.

I was very interested to read that a high degree of female participation in the UN's peacekeeping mission in Liberia has coincided with such a sharp decline in reports of sexual abuse by peacekeeping personnel there. The Liberian model should be replicated elsewhere.

Punishing perpetrators (and publicising the fact that they have been punished) will be key. The stakes are high. As the final sentence of the briefing states, if member states do not step up to punish troops guilty of such misconduct, trust in UN peacekeeping could erode. This would be extremely damaging for the UN – whose chief peacekeeping asset is its credibility – and for the besieged populations it is tasked with helping.

Gillian Briggs  
Birmingham

## Secession versus war

Last summer's conflict over secession in Georgia sparked the usual political turmoil, as though this was a novel situation. But secession is neither new nor rare. There are about 110 places in the world where the people of a region feel they are living in the wrong country. Of the 30-odd ongoing armed conflicts in the world, one-third has secession as their motivation.

Instead of responding to secessionist wars in an ad hoc way, the UN should lay down a framework of rules to enable negotiation to supplant warfare as a means of resolving disputes.

These negotiations would be complex and lengthy. No state wishes to lose bits of itself. But by permitting secession, the state avoids war, and all the financial and human costs that come with it. Politically, it gains a cooperative neighbour, instead of a hostile entity within its borders. By agreeing to negotiate, they may end up with an autonomous region rather than a total loss of territory.

Dr Richard Lawson  
Dolberrow, Somerset

# UNA-UK Annual Conference 2009

## Letter from the Chair of Annual Conference

### Only a few weeks until UNA-UK's 64th Annual Conference:

I am delighted to report that it looks set to be a stimulating and edifying event! Here are some highlights.

**Sir John Holmes**, the UN's humanitarian chief and the most senior British national in the UN system, will deliver the keynote speech, to be held on Friday, 5 June, in the Debating Chamber in the Scottish Parliament. Sir John has in recent months made headlines by demanding international action to alleviate human suffering in Gaza, Sudan, the DRC and Sri Lanka. His keynote speech will be followed by a hot buffet dinner in the parliament's Garden Lobby.

The rest of the conference is being held at Edinburgh University. On Saturday delegates will take part in **policy debates on the issues that matter most to UNA-UK members**. There will also be workshops, designed to help delegates become even more effective advocates of the United Nations. **In the evening after dinner, we will hold the annual UN quiz** – a fun and friendly competition to see who knows the most about the world body we support so avidly.

On Sunday morning delegates will re-convene to continue debating and to hear reports from UNA-UK's dynamic youth and student wing and its burgeoning Young Professionals Network. There will also be **a screening of an exciting new film**.

Does this sound like something you want to miss?

**Annual Conference is a fantastic opportunity for members to meet, learn more about the UN and help formulate UNA-UK policy on the burning issues of the day.** I realise that cost is a consideration. But at £215 the full residential package – including the conference fee, meals and en-suite accommodation in the heart of one of the UK's most beautiful cities – is actually a bargain. And day packages start from just £25.

**We've extended the early bird booking** to allow more members to take advantage of the low prices on offer. We are also offering bursaries to help members experiencing financial hardship with travel costs. For students, subsidies towards both the conference fee and travel are possible. Please contact Rich Nelmes at UNA-UK for more information.

**I urge you to book now! See you in Edinburgh!**

**Andrew Boakes**

Chair of Annual Conference 2009



A BOOKING FORM has been included in every member's copy of New World. This includes details of the packages and prices on offer.

Completed forms should be posted to Rich Nelmes, UNA-UK Membership Officer, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

### HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Reconciling national sovereignty with international responsibilities



**Sir John Holmes** will speak on the evening of Friday, 5 June at the Scottish Parliament

Sir John Holmes was appointed United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator in January 2007. He is the highest-ranking British citizen in the UN system.

A career diplomat, Sir John joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 1973. His overseas postings included Moscow, Lisbon and Paris. He also supervised the British aid programme in India.

His posts in London included serving as Assistant Private Secretary to the British Foreign Secretary (in 1982) and as Private Secretary and diplomatic adviser to Prime Minister John Major.

Sir John continued this role with Prime Minister Tony Blair, from 1997 to 1999, becoming Principal Private Secretary. He was also the British G8 Sherpa during this time, which included the 1998 British G8 presidency. He was awarded a knighthood in 1999, primarily for his role in the Northern Ireland peace process and the Good Friday Agreement.



# AGM notification

To: All paid-up members of UNA-UK  
Kingston Smith LLP, Registered Auditors

## Notice of Company Annual General Meeting


Notice is hereby given that the 15th Annual General Meeting of the United Nations Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ('UNA-UK' or 'the Company'), a company limited by guarantee (registered number 2885557), will be held at 4pm on Friday, 5 June 2009 in the Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP.

All paid-up members of the Association have the right to attend and vote. Every paid-up member of the Association who is unable to attend has the right to appoint another person as his or her proxy.

A proxy form is available from the Company c/o Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL (tel. 020 7766 3451). It can also be downloaded from [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk). Completed forms must reach Natalie Samarasinghe by 4pm on Wednesday, 3 June 2009. Any forms received after this time will not be counted.

## AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2008
2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
3. ORDINARY RESOLUTION 1
  - That the audited accounts for the year ending 30 June 2008, together with the Directors' and Auditors' reports, be received and adopted.
4. 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 agreed by the Board of Directors of the Company.
6. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS
  - Presentation of the UNA-UK budget for 2009-10



Ajay Vasa,  
Company Secretary

## Financial summary for the year ended 30 June 2008

	2008 £	2007 £
<strong>Income</strong>		
Grants		
Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust	134,000	175,000
UK Government	107,573	72,438
UNA Trust	110,805	130,599
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	25,000	30,000
Friends of WFUNA	-	9,563
Subscriptions	82,841	87,602
Donations	9,014	11,325
Regional & branch contributions	6,882	19,318
Legacies	5,996	3,678
Other project and departmental income	22,043	28,167
Other Income	74,241	58,726
Bank interest	1,213	1,919
	<u>579,608</u>	<u>628,335</u>
<strong>Expenditure</strong>		
Staff costs	298,808	333,794
Other project and departmental costs	106,479	132,485
Office costs	96,740	84,427
Other costs	58,645	70,930
	<u>560,672</u>	<u>621,636</u>
Surplus for the year	18,936	6,699
Taxation	(85)	(369)
<strong>Balance sheet as at 30 June 2008</strong>		
<strong>Fixed assets</strong>		
Tangible assets	8441	9,519
<strong>Current assets</strong>		
Debtors	92,619	81,844
Cash at bank and in hand	27,996	24,430
	<u>120,615</u>	<u>106,274</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(79,470)	(85,058)
Net current assets/(liabilities)	41,145	21,216
Total assets less current liabilities	49,586	30,735
<strong>General reserves</strong>	<u>49,586</u>	<u>30,735</u>

# Minutes of the 14th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on 28 MARCH 2008

at the Xfi Building, Streatham Campus, Exeter University, Rennes Drive, Exeter EX4 4QJ

Present: Lord Hannay of Chiswick (Chair)  
and 80 Members of the Company

## WELCOME

David Hannay opened the 2008 AGM and welcomed all those present.

## 1. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2007 AND THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2007

The minutes of the UNA-UK AGM held on 13 April 2007 and the EGM held on 27 November 2007 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

## 2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters of business arising from either set of minutes.

## 3. ORDINARY RESOLUTION 1

*'That the audited accounts for the year ending 30 June 2007, together with the Directors' and Auditors' reports, be received and approved.'*

The financial statements of UNA-UK for the year ended 30 June 2007, containing the Directors' and Auditors' reports and the accounts, were presented by Rod Fielding, Treasurer of UNA-UK.

The meeting **agreed** the resolution.

## 4. ORDINARY RESOLUTION 2

*'That Kingston Smith LLP, 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 agreed by the Board of Directors of the Company.'*

The meeting **agreed** the resolution.

## 5. ORDINARY RESOLUTION 3

*'That the election of Richard Broadbent, Katherine Grady, Patricia Rogers and Andrew Smith be approved. These individuals have accepted their nominations for the four elected places on the UNA-UK Board of Directors. [There are no other candidates.]'*

The meeting agreed the resolution. In accordance with Articles 26 and 35 of UNA-UK's Articles of Association, including changes passed at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 27 November 2007, these persons shall be members of the Board of Directors of UNA-UK for a period of two

years terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting of the Company in 2010.

## 6. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

- Ordinary Resolution 4 to nominate a Trustee to the UNA Trust: *'That the election of Tim Jarman be approved. Tim Jarman has accepted his nomination for election to the UNA Trust. [There are no other candidates.]'*

The meeting **agreed** the resolution.

- Presentation of the UNA-UK budget for 2008-09  
Rod Fielding, as Treasurer of UNA-UK, presented the budget for the Company's forthcoming financial year running from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

He drew attention to the following:

- UNA-UK is on track for the fourth year running to end the year with a small surplus
- This surplus is a result of careful budgeting and the Secretariat's rigorous monitoring of expenditure, also reflected in the 2008-09 budget
- UNA-UK has increased its funding from the FCO but that this income could not be used for core costs
- Through increasing income from other sources, and by reducing expenditure, UNA-UK had been able to seek smaller grants from the UNA Trust over the previous year, allowing the Trust's reserves to be replenished
- UNA-UK is now better able to budget for two years ahead, but more predictable funding is necessary to be able to do this with any certainty
- Continued difficult financial conditions for the organisation due to a continued dearth of legacy income, static membership income despite a slight increase this year, and the approaching end of two substantial three-year core grants from charitable trusts
- The outstanding fundraising efforts of the Executive Director in securing those substantial grants and searching for new sources of funds, and the important role of the Chair in encouraging FCO funding for UNA-UK programmes

In response to questions, the Treasurer and Executive Director explained that:

- The 2008-09 budget anticipated a small decrease in membership income because the slight increase this year had been due to a sudden spike in the take-up of life memberships
- In 2006-07, UNA-UK had been able to reduce core costs and put those savings towards educational and policy programmes. It is expected that this trend will continue and it is hoped that increased programme activity will in turn help secure additional funding

## UNA-UK has impact



**Sam Daws**  
UNA-UK Executive  
Director

UNA-UK



### Within the next month UNA-UK

members will each be sent a copy of 'UNA-UK Impact Report 2005-08'. Just under 90 pages long, this glossy, full-colour report chronicles UNA-UK's headline achievements over the past four years – from our role in securing a ban on cluster munitions, to the inspiring number of events and initiatives organised by our branches and regions each year. See below.

The Impact Report is primarily a fundraising tool, both a means of reporting on past funding and a platform for making

new applications. But the report – effectively an 'encyclopaedia' of UNA-UK success stories – was also produced to help local volunteers build support for UNA-UK in their communities.

The lead author of the report was Veronica Lie, who is leaving UNA-UK at the end of May for a prestigious climate change-related private sector job in Norway. Over the last five years Veronica has played a pivotal role in transforming UNA-UK into an influential and strategic organisation, and we wish her every success with her new challenge.

### National, regional and branch activities, 2005-08

Category of activity	Number of activities
Millennium Development Goals (excluding climate change)	102
Climate change and environmental issues	68
Peace and security	119
Human rights and humanitarian action	119
Gender (if not covered in other categories)	9
General promotion of the UN and respect for international law	181
UN reform	38
Promotion of friendship between countries, and religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity in the UK	70
Education in schools and universities	48
Fundraising for the UNA Trust and UN causes	118
Other activities	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>932</b>

Taken from UNA-UK's Impact Report

### Deaths



**ELNORA FERGUSON**  
UNA-UK is very saddened to report the death of Elnora

Ferguson, who died suddenly at her home in December 2008. She was 79.

Elnora, the late president of UNA Central Region and a long-serving member, was a prominent Quaker and a tireless peace campaigner who helped distribute millions to academic institutions and good causes.

A staunch advocate of education, she studied economics and statistics at Newnham College, Cambridge, at a time when women were not recognised members of the university. She went on to attain a master's in social work from the London School of Economics.

With her husband John, Elnora traveled to Nigeria in the 1950s. There she taught remedial maths and helped set

up one of the country's first sixth-form colleges for girls. Both Elnora and John were banned from South Africa during apartheid.

Elnora's charity work earned her honorary degrees from both Coventry and Birmingham Universities. Before her death she served as the chair of the Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, one of the most important funders of UNA-UK's work in recent years.



**JOHN CHITTY**

'We shall not see his like again.' Words of appreciation by Jas Weir, Chair of UNA

Purley with Sutton, for his former branch colleague, John Chitty. News of John's death was printed in the summer 2008 issue of New World.

To obtain a copy of the tribute contact Rich Nelmes on 020 7766 3456.



# Membership at work

## UNA Gloucestershire Rural

The secretary of the branch, Chris Dickenson, keeps us updated on nomenclature

UNA East Gloucestershire branch has been renamed UNA Gloucestershire Rural, to reflect the branch's westward expansion into the Forest of Dean. The members chose the name from a shortlist at the annual general meeting in Nailsworth. Members also accepted a new constitution, which was later endorsed by the UNA Central Regional Council and then the Board of Directors of UNA-UK.

## UNA Cheltenham

Martin Horwood MP, Vice-President of UNA Cheltenham, presented a copy of *The Oxford Handbook on the United Nations* to Cheltenham Public Library. Ron Allen of Gloucester County Council received the book on behalf of the library and expressed its thanks.



Left to right: Ann Riley, Library Manager; Katie Smith, Library Communications; Ron Allen; Martin Horwood MP; Alex Hawkins, UNA Cheltenham

## UNA Edinburgh

Branch convenor Gari Donn explains how Edinburgh is getting ready for 2010



Attended by just under a hundred people, this all-day event at the Scottish Parliament concentrated on ways of ensuring success at next year's Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

After a welcome by Bruce Crawford MSP, Minister for Scottish Parliamentary Business, an introduction was delivered by Ambassador Boniface Guwa Chidyausiku, who is chairing the UN body tasked with producing recommendations for the review conference.

The keynote lectures followed, with the first given by UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay. He outlined what needed to be achieved at the review conference for it to be considered a success. General Sir Hugh Beach spoke next, on the principal challenges to verifying non-proliferation and disarmament commitments. Representatives from key nuclear-weapon states India, Russia and China – along with Japan – presented their countries' positions for the review conference.

Our conference concluded with this vision:

*'What is needed to preserve the NPT and free the world of nuclear weapons is a truly multilateral approach built on trust and confidence, with a stronger emphasis on verification procedures. The review conference in 2010 is a unique opportunity which the international community must seize.'*

Read the final report of the conference at [www.edinburghuna.co.uk](http://www.edinburghuna.co.uk).

## UNA Cornwall

Joy McMullen, branch officer, recounts how Cornwall came to build schools in the Congo

Our link with the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) started when one of our founders, Toni Olsson, met Sadiki Byombuka at UNA-UK's Annual Conference in April 2004. Sadiki is the coordinator for UNA-DRC. He also works for British charity Tearfund – which brings him to the UK from time to time.

In July 2004 Sadiki visited the branch as a guest speaker. He described the conditions in Lumona School in Mboko, a village in the war-ravaged eastern DRC. The pupils had to sit on stones and pieces of wood. In the rainy season, the roof, made of dry grass, invariably leaked.

The pupils' parents had decided to take action. Initially they were going to build three classrooms, to be used in two shifts; they planned to build three more later on. The bricks the parents could make themselves, but they needed money to buy cement and corrugated iron sheets for the new roof. Branch members began raising money immediately, financing the re-roofing of four classrooms.

Over the years this partnership has evolved. UNA Cornwall has raised funds to equip Mboko village with a reliable water source. And our projects organiser, Toni Olsson, has initiated a letter exchange between children in Cornish primary schools and their counterparts in Mboko.

## Raise money for the UNA Trust

Rich Nelmes, UNA-UK's Membership & Fundraising Officer, suggests two ways you can put your old curtains and old printer cartridges to good use

1. Through a new fundraising initiative by eBay and MissionFish, you can sell your unwanted items online and donate between 10 and 100 per cent of the proceeds of your sale to charity. All you have to do is this:

- Visit [www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk).
- Login or, if you don't already have an eBay account, register.
- Click 'Sell', select 'Advanced Sell' and then click 'Start Selling'.
- Choose a title and write a description for your item. Remember to select the UNA Trust as your beneficiary!
- Once your item is sold, MissionFish collects your donation and send it to the UNA Trust.

Items being sold on eBay to benefit the UNA Trust can be viewed at [www.una.org.uk/eBay](http://www.una.org.uk/eBay).

**Tip:** The more unusual your item, the more likely it is to sell. Don't underestimate the appeal of an old pair of curtains, some 1970s sports memorabilia, or an obscure board game – these really do sell!

2. Old printer cartridges and mobile phones account for as much as 15,000 tonnes of waste plastic and metal in the UK alone. The plastic used in each printer cartridge is estimated to take a thousand years to decompose.

By recycling these items you can help the environment and raise money for the UNA Trust. For every acceptable item received, Each One Counts will donate money to the UNA Trust.

The service is completely free; and recyclers are entered into a weekly competition to win £100 of Halfords bike vouchers.

This is how you do it:

- Visit [www.eachonecounts.co.uk](http://www.eachonecounts.co.uk) to see if your printer cartridges and mobile phones are recyclable. If they are, follow the on-screen instructions to order a bag and select the UNA Trust as the beneficiary.
- Once the bag arrives, go to the website and register its number.
- Pop your recyclable items in the freepost bag and put the bag in the post.

### ANY QUESTIONS? NEED HELP?

Contact Rich Nelmes, on 020 7766 3456 or [membership@una.org.uk](mailto:membership@una.org.uk)

## UDHR60 round-up

### 2008 was a year of big events.

A new American president was elected, Israel invaded Gaza, and economic turmoil rocked the world. The year also marked the 60th year of the document that is the bedrock of human rights law: the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UNA-UK, along with its members and supporters around the country, used the anniversary as an opportunity to improve understanding about human rights and remind the UK government about its human rights obligations.

The centrepiece of UNA-UK's 'UDHR60' commemoration was an educational campaign. In partnership with the UK National Commission for UNESCO, and with funding from the Department for International Development and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, we produced a series of lesson plans to support teaching about human rights in British secondary schools. See inset for more information.

Another pillar of UNA-UK's UDHR60 campaign was a competition to stimulate debate about the contribution of individuals to the defence of human rights around the world. Thupten Palden, a member of UNA-UK's youth and student wing, took first prize for his entry, in support of Tibetan blogger Tsering Wooser. See page adjacent for Thupten's submission and a list of the runners-up.

UNA-UK also sent a delegation to the UN's annual conference for NGOs. Held for the first time outside of New York, the conference, staged at UNESCO's Paris headquarters, focused on the contribution of civil society to promoting human rights. See page 30 for more details.

UNA-UK's members were unstoppable advocates of the declaration in its anniversary year. See page 30 for snapshots of their UDHR60 initiatives.



**'Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. Yet they are the world of the individual person; the neighbourhood he or she lives in; the factory, farm or office where he or she works...Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere.'**

These words, by Universal Declaration of Human Rights co-author Eleanor Roosevelt, neatly sum up UNA-UK's logic for producing a teaching pack to support learning about human rights in British schools. People need to know their rights before they can claim them.

'**Learning about human rights**' has won praise from human rights organisations, students and teachers. David Barrs, headteacher and Chair of the Association of Citizenship Teaching, said, 'Sixty years on since the declaration's inception, UNA-UK's teaching pack provides the opportunity for reflection as well as action. It will prove a valuable resource for citizenship teachers'.

The teaching pack was sent to every secondary school in the UK. The pack, which is made up of a teaching handbook, student factsheets and ready-made slide presentations, has five modules. These are:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Child rights and armed conflict
- Child rights and climate change
- Human rights and international development

'**Learning about human rights**' is available online at [www.una.org.uk/learnabouthumanrights](http://www.una.org.uk/learnabouthumanrights)

# And the winner is...

UNYSA member takes first prize in human rights hero competition. Here is his winning entry.

## 'If I didn't write I might get sick.'

Tsering Woesser

The compulsion to write runs through the work of acclaimed poet and journalist Tsering Woesser. Her writing, banned in China, catalogues the history and present of her native Tibet and gives expression to a culture often hidden from the mainstream.

Born in Lhasa at the beginning of the Cultural Revolution, Woesser never learned to read or write in Tibetan. She describes her education as 'red'. It was only through translations of foreign books that she discovered an alternative narrative to her history lessons. 'We had been taught that the old Tibet was dark and backward...and that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) came and gave us a better life.'

Inspired by a desire to share this 'other' history, Woesser's first work, *Forbidden Memory: Tibet during the Cultural Revolution*, is a collection of rare photos taken by her father, a PLA officer. But it was her second book that got her into trouble. *Notes on Tibet* is an anthology of historical vignettes, religious reflections and Tibetan folk tales. A best-seller in China, it was banned for expressing opinions 'harmful to the unification and solidarity of our nation'. The following year Woesser was dismissed from her job and lost her flat. But she had found her calling.

Woesser now works from her small apartment in Beijing. In her singular style – which blurs the boundaries between journalism, fiction and poetry – she writes about human rights violations, Tibetan artists, AIDS and Buddhism. She circumvents the ban on her work by publishing in Taiwan and on the internet.

Ironically, the assimilation policies to which she was subjected during childhood have widened Woesser's reach. By writing in Chinese, her words have touched Chinese as well as Tibetan hearts. She has also attracted international recognition. Comparing her to intellectuals like Arthur Miller and Harold



Photo © FCO

Thupten Palden, winner of UNA-UK's 'Human Rights Hero' competition, accepting first prize. Foreign Secretary David Miliband presented the award on behalf of UNA-UK at an FCO open-day to celebrate UDHR60. Thupten is an IB student at Hastings College of Art and Technology and a member of the UNYSA there.

Pinter, Robert J. Barnett, a professor of Tibetan studies at Columbia University, calls her 'a poet who forgot to be afraid'. Tseten Wangchuk, a Tibetan journalist in the US, agrees: '[She is] the first one who really brought [Tibetan issues] from private conversational circles to the public domain.' It was Woesser whom the world turned to for information during the March 2008 protests.

This attention has brought trouble. Woesser has been harassed and detained, and put under house arrest, heavy surveillance and travel restrictions. Her blog 'Invisible Tibet' ([woesser.middle-way.net](http://woesser.middle-way.net)) is in its fifth incarnation. It was repeatedly shut down in 2006 and 2007, and has been hacked into and closed twice. Her fans are fearful that she will be arrested again.

Woesser – whose name means 'ray of light' – has become a source of hope for Tibetans around the world. This comment, from a blog dedicated to translating her work into English, is typical: 'Thank you for your sad and true words...and thank you for who you are.'

*UNA-UK worked together with Thupten to produce this profile of Woesser. It is an expansion of his original 100-word submission.*

### PICKING A WINNER WAS DIFFICULT!

Many of the submissions were excellent. Here are the three runners-up:

#### SAMREEN ASLAM

FOR: Asma Jahangir, UN special rapporteur of freedom of religion

#### UNA WEST OXFORDSHIRE BRANCH

FOR: the 233,000 people who voted for the opposition in the run-off presidential election in Zimbabwe in June 2008

#### MOLLIE WHITEMORE

FOR: Sir Ludwig Guttmann, founder of the Paralympic Games



## UNA-UK members in UDHR60

UNA-UK branches and regions took on UDHR60 with enthusiasm and determination, holding a raft of events across the country throughout the declaration's 60th anniversary year. Here is a flavour:



Photo © London Metropolitan University

A coalition of north London branches banded together to host a UDHR60 panel discussion at London Metropolitan University. The coalition pulled together an impressive line-up of speakers, including (pictured above, left to right) Tim Hancock of Amnesty International, Professor Philip Leach from London Metropolitan University, Gareth Peirce of solicitors Birnberg Peirce, and Baroness Vivien Stern of the joint parliamentary committee on human rights. One theme was particularly prominent: have the principles enunciated by the framers of the declaration 60 years ago taken root in our culture in the UK?



London & South-East Region is very thankful to the South African High Commissioner, Her Excellency Dr Lindiwe Mabuya, for allowing the region to host its flagship UDHR60 event at South Africa House (above).

The speakers grappled with a number of issues, among them the human rights situa-

tion in North Korea, the meaning of the declaration to women in the DRC and the right to asylum.



UNA Westminster commissioned a special UDHR60 play, 'How the Universal Declaration was won'. A 20-minute piece written for six actors, it imagines Eleanor Roosevelt and her fellow UDHR architects in 1954, sharing their memories of drafting the declaration and their disappointments about its uneven implementation. The play is interactive, ending with an audience simulation of the historic vote in Paris in 1948 when states brought the declaration into existence.

The play is available by e-mail from David Wardrop on [info@unawestminster.org.uk](mailto:info@unawestminster.org.uk). It includes the play itself, a synopsis and director's notes.



Photo © Louise Cairns

This photograph, commissioned by the UNA-UK branch in Poole, shows a copy of the declaration hanging in the foyer of Poole Civic Centre.



Members raise the UN flag at Woolwich Town Hall with the mayor of Greenwich to mark Human Rights Day 2008.

## UNA-UK sends team to UDHR60 conference in Paris

UNA-UK sent five delegates to the 61st annual UN NGO conference, which celebrated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our delegation joined over 2,000 NGO representatives at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris – a departure from the traditional New York venue. The change of location was symbolic – the declaration was signed in Paris in 1948 – but also practical, as it enabled NGOs from over 90 countries to attend.

Through a demanding schedule of roundtables and workshops, participants evaluated the legacy of the declaration. All the speakers – including Stéphane Hessel, one of the original drafters of the declaration – praised the pivotal contribution of civil society to the advancement of human rights. That NGOs have led the way in the area of human rights is evident from their contribution to the conference that set up the UN in 1945. More than 40 civic and religious groups attended. It was they who argued most fiercely in support of the inclusion of human rights in the UN Charter.

Kiyo Akasaka, UN Under-Secretary-General for Public Information, drove home the point of the conference when he said, 'The need for NGOs to bring their creativity, energy and passion to educating peoples about their human rights is as crucial today as it was 60 years ago'.

**Visit [www.una.org.uk](http://www.una.org.uk) for a full report of the conference.**

### The UDHR60 Team:

- Rasha Albazaz, UNYSA member and UNDP Higher Education Project Analyst
- Kate Grady, member of the UNA-UK Board of Directors and PhD candidate at Bristol University
- Suzanne Long, Chair of the UNA-UK Women's Advisory Council and member of the UNA-UK Policy Committee
- Natalie Samarasinghe, UNA-UK Human Rights Coordinator
- Mohamed Tarraf, President of Leeds University UNYSA

## Listings

### 13 May

#### UNA BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH

The branch is holding a Hustings meeting in the run-up to the European elections. MEP candidates from all the main parties will be available to answer questions. The meeting will take place from 7.30pm at the Old Bakehouse, Bennett Park, Blackheath Village SE23 9LA.  
**Contact:** [Neville Grant on 020 8858 8489 or neville.grant@gmail.com](mailto:neville.grant@gmail.com)

### 19 May

#### UNA CHELTENHAM

Peter Penfold, former High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, will give a talk on 'International Law and Criminal Justice'. This event will take place at 7.15pm at Parmoor House, Lypiatt Terrace, Lypiatt Road GL50 2QJ.  
**Contact:** [Sue Thompson on 01242 235 072 or suethompson682@hotmail.com](mailto:suethompson682@hotmail.com)

### 20 May

#### UNA EXETER & DISTRICT

The branch will host a talk entitled 'Witnessing Reality: Experiences in Israel/Palestine'. The speaker, Paul Raymond, will report on his recent work with the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme – an organisation working for a just peace in accordance with UN resolutions. This event will take place at 7pm at Exeter Friends Meeting House, Wynard's Lane, Exeter EX2 4HU.  
**Contact:** [Noel Harrower on 01395 271 731 or n.harrower@btinternet.com](mailto:n.harrower@btinternet.com)

### 21 May

#### UNA WESTMINSTER

The branch's sixth annual conference to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers will take place at the Royal United Services Institute, Whitehall, London SW1. The event will include a wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph with musical support provided by the Band of the Scots Guards. This event starts at 10am. See below.  
**Contact:** [David Wardrop on 020 7385 6738 or info@unawestminster.org.uk](mailto:info@unawestminster.org.uk)

### 5-7 June

#### UNA-UK

This year's UNA-UK Annual Conference will be held at the

Scottish Parliament and Edinburgh University. Sir John Holmes, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, will be this year's keynote speaker. See page 23 for more details.

**Contact:** [Rich Nelmes on membership@una.org.uk or 020 7766 3456](mailto:Rich.Nelmes@una.org.uk)

### 7 June

#### UNA SHEFFIELD

This joint meeting with Muslim Christian Dialogue will feature a screening and discussion of the film 'The Imam and the Pastor'. The event will take place at 2.30pm in the Broomhall Centre, Broomspring Lane, Sheffield S10 2FB.

**Contact:** [Cliff Crellin on 01142 302 102 or patriciciff@gmail.com](mailto:patriciciff@gmail.com)

### 13 June

#### UNA HARPENDEN

At this public meeting Professor Ian Crute, Director of Rothamsted Research Institute, will speak on 'Feeding 9 Billion: where will all the food come from?'. This event will take place from 11am to 12.30pm at St Nicholas Church Hall, Harpenden AL5 2TP.

**Contact:** [Trevor Evans on 01582 713 895 or jandt.evans@ntlworld.com](mailto:jandt.evans@ntlworld.com)

UNA-UK branches, regions and nations and external organisations wishing to publicise events in New World should ensure that the information submitted is accurate, clear and complete. Events listings must include the following points of information:

- Title/purpose and date of the event
- Start and end times
- Venue details
- Contact point (full name, telephone number, e-mail address and, where applicable, web address)

Events listings should be sent to [website@una.org.uk](mailto:website@una.org.uk) or UNA-UK, 3 Whitehall Court, London SW1A 2EL.

UNA-UK takes no responsibility for the events and/or campaigns organised by UNA-UK branches, regions or nations, which are legally and financially autonomous from UNA-UK.

### 22 June

#### UNA EDINBURGH

A Model United Nations General Assembly will be held for schools in and around Edinburgh. It is an all-day event which will take place in Edinburgh City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1YJ.  
**Contact:** [Dr Gari Donn on g.donn@ed.ac.uk or Oliver Lane on mentionmentor@aol.com](mailto:g.donn@ed.ac.uk)

## International Day of UN Peacekeepers Sixth Annual Conference

**From 10am  
Thursday, 21 May 2009  
RUSI, Whitehall,  
London SW1A 2ET**

### 'UNDERSTANDING AND EFFECTIVELY TACKLING NEW PEACEKEEPING CHALLENGES'

Organised by UNA Westminster branch in partnership with the Royal United Services Institute, this one-day conference marks the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

This year's keynote speech will be given by Dr Bruce Jones, Director of New York

University's Center on International Cooperation (CIC). Drawing on his work as editor of the CIC's Annual Review of Global Peace Operations, Dr Jones will warn that further demand on UN peacekeeping will lead to overstretch. The keynote lecture will be chaired by former Foreign Secretary Lord Hurd.

Three sessions will follow. The first, to be chaired by UNA-UK Chair Lord Hannay, will assess the security strategy of EU missions, in the Balkans, the Middle East and elsewhere. The second will concentrate on Jordan's growing importance as a contributor of well-trained troops and police to UN peace operations. Under the chairmanship of Lord Judd the final session will determine whether humanitarian aid agency Comisión Cascos Blancos can offer any lessons for international crisis response.

Participants are invited to take part in the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in Whitehall. The ceremony, to take place at 1pm, will pay tribute to the peacekeepers from 117 countries who have lost their lives while serving on missions. The Band of the Scots Guard will provide musical support.

The conference fee of £40 includes lunch and refreshments. UNA-UK members and students are eligible for a discounted fee of £20. Attendance at the wreath-laying ceremony is open to all.

A booking form is available online at [www.rusi.org](http://www.rusi.org). Please direct queries to David Wardrop on 020 7385 6738.

UNA Westminster is grateful to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office for its generous support.

## Making it happen



Susannah  
Anastasi  
YPN Advisory Group

### YPN is not just another network.

It is a vehicle for change. Read on to find out how YPN member Tom Carnac convinced the Foreign Secretary to commit his department to carbon disclosure.

As YPN's reputation grows so does its reach. Our membership sits at nearly 3,000, and a host of interesting organisations – from TV channels to multinational corporations and legal NGOs – continue to express interest in collaborating with us. And with the ascendancy of YPN in Wales,

we hope that the network will soon come to thrive in other parts of the UK.

In June, YPN parent organisation UNA-UK is holding its annual membership conference in Edinburgh. Kicking off with a keynote speech by UN humanitarian chief Sir John Holmes, the conference is a chance to debate and vote on UNA-UK policy positions. We hope for a strong YPN presence. You must be a paid-up UNA-UK member to attend. See page 23 for more details.

## FCO leads Whitehall on carbon disclosure

In March last year, as readers of New World will recall, YPN held a reception at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, in its grand Locarno Rooms. The guest of honour was the Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, who mingled with network members after delivering his remarks.

YPN member Tom Carnac of the Carbon Disclosure Project was among those who snatched a conversation with Mr Miliband, who blogged about the encounter the following day:

*I was cornered by someone working for the Carbon Disclosure Project about why the FCO was not yet committed to carbon disclosure on all its suppliers and activities. What could I do but agree that we should aim to become the first government department to achieve carbon disclosure?*

A few months later Tom e-mailed YPN to confirm that the FCO had indeed become the first government department to disclose its emissions. DEFRA and the Treasury have since followed suit. In his message Tom wrote, 'I can confidently say that this would not have happened were it not for your event.'

Well done, Tom!



Photo © UNA-UK/Marcus Davies

The Carbon Disclosure Project is a non-profit organisation which collects and publicises information to motivate investors, corporations and governments to take action to prevent dangerous climate change.  
[www.cdproject.net](http://www.cdproject.net)

YPN  
Young Professionals Network



## Lift-off in Cardiff

We are delighted to report that UNA Wales has its very own YPN up and running. YPN Wales's meetings take place in a pub on the last Thursday of every month. The topic up for discussion at each event is set and introduced by the members themselves, enabling the group to draw on its own interests and expertise.

Though the network is geared mainly at professionals in their 20s and 30s, YPN Wales is an inclusive outfit. The only criteria are that you have an interest in the UN and that you sign up to the mailing list.

YPN Wales is still in its formative stages: those who get involved now will have the chance to shape the future of an organisation with exciting potential. The network is currently looking for a volunteer steering committee.

For more information, or to get involved, contact Ona Flindall on [onaflindall@wcia.org.uk](mailto:onaflindall@wcia.org.uk) or 02920 228 549.



## THE YPN INTERVIEW

**Name:** ANDREW HUNT

**Place of work:** WEST AFRICA  
AND OXFORD UNIVERSITY



**Andrew Hunt is a social entrepreneur and manager of an award-winning fair trade project in West Africa. He is currently an MBA student at Oxford University's Saïd Business School.**

### What do you do?

Until very recently I was living in West Africa, running a fair trade marketing company called Gambia is Good. Its mission is to provide the missing link between small-scale rural farmers and the high-value tourist market. Absurdly, the industry had been sourcing the lion's share of its fresh produce from overseas. At this point I would normally launch into a diatribe including phrases like 'value chain' and 'backwards linkages', but I don't want to lose your interest so early on!

I guess the important thing is that my three years in Gambia got me inspired about the power of business to deliver sustainable development and alleviate poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. So now I am doing an MBA at the Saïd Business School at Oxford University, with a focus on social entrepreneurship.

### What's that?

A tricky one to answer. Social entrepreneurship means different things to different people. For me it is about using markets to unleash the energy, efficiency and innovation of the private sector to solve the world's most pressing social and environmental problems. Two obvious examples are Grameen Bank's pioneering work in microfinance and Vodafone's innovative use of SMS technology in Kenya.

Social entrepreneurship has other strengths. It is a social movement which is able to attract talent which would have otherwise been turned off by the word 'charity'. I used to work in advertising, an industry pulsing with misdirected talent. Imagine what all those razor-sharp strategic planners and project managers could achieve if they were harnessed to tackle real social issues.

### So how did Gambia is Good come about?

The venture is unusual in that it was born out of a partnership between an international charity, Concern Universal, and a private horticultural company called Haygrove. Concern Universal provides the link with communities on the ground, and Haygrove supplies the commercial acumen. We also work the Travel Foundation, an NGO which specialises in responsible tourism.

Gambia is Good makes an important contribution to the eighth UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG), which calls for a global partnership for development. This contribution and its unique partnership model have earned the project interest and plaudits. Last year it won the UK National Charity Award for International Development as well as the UN Development Programme World

Business and Development Award, which recognises core business practices that help advance the MDGs.

### What were the best things about the job?

Living and working in West Africa was one of the most uplifting experiences I have had. The people are so welcoming, and the job itself was extremely varied: I worked with everyone from farmers and local business people to the international development and diplomatic communities. But the best thing was the knowledge that if I did a really good job then people would be empowered to change their lives for the better.

The experience also made me aware of the value of the skills I had acquired in advertising. On the UK job market my strategic-planning, project-management and creative skills were nothing special. Applying them in a developing country, however, was a completely different story. It was incredibly stimulating; though I'd never put in more hours in my life, it rarely, if ever, felt like work.

### How did you get started?

If I'm honest it came out of an early mid-life crisis – a phenomenon which, I think, is becoming more and more common in London.

When I left university I secured a place on a graduate scheme at a major advertising company. It didn't take long for me to become disillusioned. The work was creative, but my productivity was being measured against sales of frozen ready-meals and nasal decongestants. Sunday evenings were gloomy, pervaded with a sense of pre-week depression. I started to feel as though I was squandering my time on earth!

So, after three years, I quit. I became a scriptwriter for TV, but after two series I was once again confronted by the same lack of fulfilment. Then Angus Davison, the founder of Haygrove and an inspirational innovator, offered me two months' voluntary work on his project in Gambia. That was a massive stroke of luck and an opportunity that I will always be grateful for. I stayed for three years.

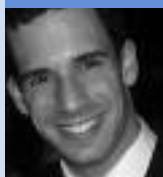
### Any advice for those interested in a similar career?

First, don't undervalue your skills. They may abound in the UK private sector, but they are almost certainly scarce within the emerging social enterprise sector.

Second, if any of this has struck a chord with you, don't hesitate to act. I have too many friends who have stayed in careers to which they are indifferent, paralysed by a fear of falling off the 'ladder'. If you work for unappreciative clients on projects that you don't believe in, you are wasting your potential. And at a time when the world is in desperate need of change, that is almost criminal.

I can guarantee your skills and energy will be hugely appreciated on the other side of the fence; you will be given licence to express yourself. What's more, you will never regret it.

## Passing on the baton



**Marco Moreas**  
UNYSA President  
2008-2009

In late April a new set of Youth Councillors was elected to lead UNYSA through 2009 and into 2010. An exciting event to be sure, but for me also a sad one: my term as Youth Council president has come to an end.

Leading the Council has been an enriching experience. I have thoroughly enjoyed representing UNYSA on the UNA-UK Board of Directors, in the process gaining first-hand insight into the governance of an energetic civil society organisation. I have relished my contact with UNYSA volunteer groups around the country as well as the chance

to work closely with the impressive individuals with whom I served on the Council.

Below you will find reminiscences from my colleagues on the outgoing Youth Council – their personal reflections on their time as leaders of UNYSA. On the page opposite you will find a photo of the incoming team. The next issue of the magazine will contain profiles of the new members.

Under this fresh leadership, UNYSA will no doubt continue to make swift progress. I wish the new Youth Council all the best for 2009-10!

## The year that was: reflections from the outgoing Youth Council

### Noorin Dahya, coopted member

Working side by side with my fellow Youth Council members has strengthened my belief that we really can make a difference. Being on the Council has allowed me to champion the causes I am passionate about, while giving me insight into the intricacies of diplomacy. I will miss being part of it but can't wait to see what our successors will achieve under the wing of UNA-UK.

### Tuuli Hongisto, Campaigns Officer

This year has taught me a lot. It was incredibly rewarding to be part of such a great team and to work on projects like the first European Model Arab League. Personally, I am most proud of my role in organising the UNYSA conference on water, development and conflict – which turned out to be a great success!

### Avnish Raichura, Education Officer

Serving on the Youth Council has been an inspiring experience. I am especially proud to have played a role in enhancing UNYSA's outreach to secondary schools. I hope that my successor will be able to build on my efforts and expand the education programme to cover all UNYSA branches.

### Luke Harman, Regional Development Coordinator

Working closely with branches to set up regional UNYSA 'hubs' in the South and North has been immensely rewarding. It has made clear to me just how much there is to gain by improving communication. By learning from each other's experiences, we can achieve the common goals that all UNYSA groups share.

**UNA-UK is offering subsidies to paid-up UNYSA members who wish to participate in Annual Conference**

To find out more, contact UNA-UK Membership Officer Rich Nelmes on [membership@una.org.uk](mailto:membership@una.org.uk)

**Setting up a new UNYSA group?  
Have a question about membership?  
Need resources for your freshers fair stall?**

For advice, contact UNA-UK Membership Officer Rich Nelmes on [membership@una.org.uk](mailto:membership@una.org.uk)



## Introducing the new Youth Council

From left to right: Hao Chen, Chris Day, Nick Boucher, Morris Marah, Pranav Sawhney, Sagal Ali, Alex Walton, Luke Harman



Photo © UNA-UK/Marcus Davies

### Leicester UNYSA impress in Mostar

We are proud to report that Magda Cheang, a law student from Leicester University UNYSA, was named best delegate at the 2009 'MOSTIMUN' – the Mostar International Model UN. Magda impressed judges through her performance in the model Human Rights Council. The award was presented by Christine McNab, UN Resident Coordinator for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

MOSTIMUN broke ground in two ways. It was Bosnia and

Herzegovina's inaugural university-level Model UN event as well as the first time a Leicester University delegation had travelled abroad for Model UN.

Leicester University UNYSA is already gearing up to take part in MOSTIMUN 2010. If you are a student at Leicester and are interested in being a part of the delegation, please contact Iva Angelova on [ia68@le.ac.uk](mailto:ia68@le.ac.uk).

To read Leicester UNYSA's full report of the conference go to [www.una.org.uk/youth](http://www.una.org.uk/youth).

# GLOBAL MODEL UN

5-7 AUGUST 2009, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

Preparing student leaders to have a voice on international issues

The first annual Global Model UN Conference is being held this summer in Geneva. Organised by the UN Department of Public Information, the conference will concentrate on the following theme: 'The Millennium Development Goals: Lifting the Bottom Billion out of Poverty'. Students from approximately 70 countries will assume the roles of diplomats and represent countries in simulated sessions of the UN General Assembly and other UN bodies.

The UN is now accepting applications from university-level students aged 18-24 at the time of the conference. Applicants must have some Model UN experience and be fluent in English and/or French. The deadline is 20 May 2009.

An estimated one million students from around the world participate each year in Model UN simulations. Many of today's leaders – in government, law, business and the arts – took part in Model UN programmes during their youth.

'Forty years ago, my participation in a Model UN conference in Kyoto, Japan, inspired me to work on global affairs and try to make a difference in the world. It is our hope that the Global Model UN conference will build on lessons learnt and accomplishments of Model UN programmes worldwide to increase support for the United Nations' efforts to make the world a better place.'

Kiyo Akasaka, UN Under-Secretary-General for Communications & Public Information

To find out more and apply visit [www.un.org/gmun](http://www.un.org/gmun)

Photo © iStockphoto



# Human Rights = Equality

Human Rights = Equality

All human beings are

born free and equal in

dignity and rights.

They are endowed with

reason and conscience

and should act towards

one another in a spirit

of brotherhood.

Over 10 million people in the UK are disabled.

The new UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

will help them realise their rights.

UNA-UK and disability rights

organisations have been lobbying the UK government to ratify the

treaty without reservations and without further delay.

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

UNA-UK

