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**UNA LASER Newsletter
June 2021**

From our Chair, Trisha Rogers



Summer Council: The UN - Past - Present - Future?

We hope you will be able to join our (virtual) Summer Council on 17th July from 11am to 3pm. We are very grateful to the United Nations Association (UNA) Twickenham and Richmond Branch (TRUNA) for hosting this event. There will be an opportunity at the end for Branch announcements and requests.

Here is the main programme:

11:00: Welcome

11:10: UN Past: David Wardrop on the background and some highlights

11:40: UN Present: Professor Christine Chinkin on UNSC resolution 1325, Women Peace and Security

12:20: UN Present: Professor Paul Ekins on Climate Change

12:55: LUNCH BREAK

13:25: UN Future?: Professor Sir Richard Jolly on UN effectiveness and challenges

14:00: UN Future?: Dr Sara Pantuliano on meeting the founding principles, strengthening participation and accountability



For more information and to register, please go [here](#).

Climate Coalition

LASER is now a member of the Climate Coalition. This enables us to collaborate with the many other organisations working to make COP26 a success. For example, do write to your MP and encourage them to

engage with the [Great Big Green Week](#) on 18th - 28th September. If you would like advice and support on working with your MP on Climate Change, do join one of the Hope for the Future training events (on 9th, 14th, 19th July), listed [here](#)

Other Campaigning

Do keep an eye on the [News pages of our website](#), where we put our latest campaigns, often including letters you can adapt for your MPs or other leaders. We are very grateful to Brian Beeley for [background thoughts on the Israel-Palestine situation](#). (Scroll down below the letter.)

UN75 Health Security Assembly

If you have contact with any local secondary schools or sixth form colleges, do encourage them to use our Health Security assembly, based on the workshop at our UN 75 Building a More Secure World Festival. The assembly is available [here](#) on Youtube. It takes about 15 minutes (including some time for participant interaction). To find out more about the Festival, schools can go to [the festival website](#). We would warmly welcome feedback.

Support for Branches

Carbon Footprint

Our Environment Officer, Annesha Kar Gupta, has recently sent round the annual survey about our branches' carbon footprints, as agreed at our 2019 Policy Conference. As we prepare for COP26, this will help us share ideas on the action we can take.

Check your Entry on our Website

We want to encourage all UNA supporters to link up with branches, so it is important that the [descriptions on our website](#) are up-to-date, so people can choose the branch(es) that suits them best. Please check that your branch is well described and has the correct contacts listed. [Let me know](#) if you would like anything changed.

Date for AGM

We are proposing to hold our AGM on Saturday 20th November from 12 noon. Any face-to-face part will be in [Bermondsey Village Hall](#) (very close to London Bridge station).

Newsletters

Many thanks to Neville Grant for editing and Sarah and Peter Webster for sending out this Newsletter. Please send news and announcements for the next Newsletter to [Neville](#) by 31st August.

Ipswich and District UNA

We are sorry to report that Ipswich and District UNA's application for a stand in the Green Zone at COP 26 has not been accepted. So their request for suggestions about films that could be shown at the stand, good idea as it was, is no longer operative. Well done, Charles Croydon and his associates, for trying!

Launch of Aid and Development Website

United Nations Association L&SER Aid and Development Group have launched a new [website](#). This group is working to stop the cuts in funding for aid which are having devastating consequences. If you wish to join this group and/or help us develop this website please contact [Catherine Pluygers](#).

News from Branches

Westminster UNA

Saturday 21/Sunday 22 August: Westminster UNA will host a [Welcome United Nations Green!](#) party to celebrate the arrival of this new London landmark. Exciting activities are promised and, with the nearby Methodist Central Hall and the QE2 Centre offering refreshment and toilet facilities, UNA members can be assured they will have a good time.

The weekend also marks three important UN-recognised International Days: *Remembrance and Tribute to the*

Victims of Terrorism (21st); Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief (22nd); and Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition (23rd). NGOs linked with these initiatives will be invited and also members of faith and belief groups in London. More information will follow on the Westminster [UNA Future Events page](#).

Canterbury UNA

Forthcoming events include:

- **11th July:** recognising **World Population Day**.
- **Sept.11th: Democracy Day** meeting – highlighting democracy in all its forms.
- **Oct. 24th: UN Day: UN Flag raising by Canterbury City Council** and potentially our **Annual Peace Service in Canterbury Cathedral**, UNA Canterbury's contribution to the Canterbury Climate Action Week (25th -30th), preceding COP 26.
- **Dec 4th: UNA Canterbury AGM** with a speaker on **Modern Day Slavery** (Dec 2nd UN Day for Abolition of Slavery)

UNA Climate and Oceans

UNA C&O had over 600 bookings for the international event **Biodiversity and Climate Emergency Summit, on the Road to UN COP26** on June 2nd. The event generated huge global interest. UNA C&O will be launching the **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)** here in the UK, to combat climate change and biodiversity loss, in the same week the UN does. UNA Climate & Oceans has been coordinating this with the UN itself and UNA UK as well, to maximise the efforts.

On 12 June, to coincide with the G7 summit, UNA C&O Youth Council organised another international event called **Our Climate Crisis: Youth in Action**. There were over 450 bookings for this event, with young people signing up from the UK and overseas.

Women's Advisory Council of UNA– UK

Members, Guests, and Supporters, are cordially invited to attend WAC-UNA's Ordinary Council Meeting on Thursday 8th July 2.00 – 4.00pm, via Zoom.

We do hope you can attend and bring your friends.

Sally Spear, Chairman WAC-UNA

Rubi Bhattacharyya, Hon. Sec. WAC-UNA.

Our SPEAKER: Dr. Rahel-Ochido Ibilola Odonde, BSc (Hons), MBBS, MRCOG, MSc.

SUBJECT "**Mind the gap**" – **race matters in women's health**

Our speaker is an NHS doctor working as a senior specialist registrar in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. With an MSc in Global Health, she completed an internship within the Sexual and Reproductive Health unit at the WHO European Regional Office in Copenhagen. Ibi, as she likes to be known, will talk about the role of racism on health disparities with a focus on women's health.

The zoom link should be = Meeting ID 295 236 5697, passcode 080721 (There will be a reminder near the date.)

BOOKING YOUR PLACE – You must register before Monday 5th July 2021, by contacting [Mrs Rubi Bhattacharyya](#), Tel. 020 8959 2805 after 6 p.m. or post to 5 Reddings Close, London, NW7 4JL

Once registered you will be sent further details.

News from UNA London Trust Emergency Fund for Refugees suffering from the impact of Covid 19

The UNA London Trust has some funds for supporting work with refugees, and has decided to launch a special fund to assist with projects that are of benefit to them in the context of the Covid pandemic. Here are some examples of the kind of projects that could merit grant support. These are not exclusive:

- Helping provide food, clothing, shelter and access to basic services for refugees

- Providing access to services, housing, translation, legal help, education to refugees
- We are particularly keen to support unaccompanied minors and children. This could include help with legal fees.

Please note: You can't apply for money for yourself . Grants are available from £200 to £800. Please consult with us first if you wish to apply for a larger grant than £800. We particularly but not exclusively wish to support existing United Nations Association groups who are already working in this area, or who wish to extend their work with their local communities in order to help promote the values of the UN. If you are aware of other UNA members involved in this work that we can reach out to, we would be pleased to hear as well. Please contact [Catherine Pluygers](#), Chair London UNA Trust.



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