

**London & South East Region  
Resolutions for discussion at Policy Conference  
on Saturday 23rd April 2022 from 2-5pm  
in person at Bermondsey Village Hall, SE1 3TD  
and on-line on Zoom**

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## A. Introduction

This year we will continue the practice of discussing policy resolutions from UNA members, supporters and groups at a Policy Conference open to all UNA members and supporters from London & South East Region plus invited guests from elsewhere. Any resolutions that are agreed will become the policy of UNA London & South East Region. They will be presented to the UK government and to UNA nationally with the suggestion that they become national UNA policy as well.

The Regional Policy Committee has met and combined (and in some cases shortened or edited) the resolutions submitted to form an agenda for discussion which is set out below. Resolutions focus on calls for action by the UK government or the UN.

We now invite members and branches to submit any amendments they would like to make in writing by **Wednesday 6th April at 5pm** to [webster.home@btinternet.com](mailto:webster.home@btinternet.com).

Amendments should state clearly which of the numbered clauses in a resolution they wish to delete or edit. In the case of "edits" they should say which words or phrases should be deleted or replaced by other words, and which words or phrases added. Additional clauses can also be added, as long as they are brief and on the same subject, rather than introducing new subjects.

The Policy Committee will combine these to form the final agenda.

Example amendment

Amendment to resolution 1. ("Name of resolution")

- a. Delete clause 4 ("to do X & Y")
- b. In clause 5 replace "what is says now" with "what you want it to say"
- c. Add a new clause "Whatever you want to add"

## B. Proposed new resolutions

### N1. Afghanistan's Assets

#### **UNA London & South East Region:**

- a. Noting that in February 2020, the US Trump administration and the Taliban signed the *Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan*, also known as the Doha Agreement,
- b. Noting that the US completed their withdrawal of its armed forces from Afghanistan on 30 August 2021, marking the end of the nearly 20-year long war in Afghanistan since 9/11,
- c. Regretting the decision taken by the US Biden administration in 11 February 2022 to allocate \$3.5B or 50% of Afghanistan's foreign currency reserves to cover lawsuits by US 9/11 families,
- d. Reminding the US that the Afghan people themselves were victims of 9/11 and according to UNHCR, 24m Afghans are in need of vital humanitarian relief of at least \$8B
- e. Concluding that the US position is fueling Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis, making an already serious situation, almost catastrophic,

#### **Calls upon the UK Government:**

1. To use its "special relationship with the US" to release the currency reserves of Afghanistan in full without delay;
2. To raise a motion to table a UN resolution to return the full \$7B foreign currency reserves to Afghanistan.

Proposed: Harpenden Branch

### N2. Stripping foreign fighters of their citizenship: International human rights and humanitarian law

#### **UNA London & South East Region:**

- a. Aware that some countries have abandoned their nationals involved in foreign conflicts, sometimes stripping them of their citizenship,
- b. Fearful that stateless individuals could represent a dangerous long-term threat to international security,
- c. Noting Article 8, paragraph 1 of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, states that "[a] Contracting State shall not deprive a person of its nationality if such deprivation would render him stateless",
- d. Noting also UN Security Council Resolution 2178 that states "Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism [such as deprivation of nationality] comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law",

#### **Urges the UNO to call on all states:**

1. For compelling moral, legal, and pragmatic reasons, to accept responsibility for all such individuals who claim citizenship;
2. To repatriate and bring to justice those accused of crimes, to rehabilitate where possible, and to treat humanely those who are innocent.

### N3. Ukraine Crisis

#### **UNA London & South East Region:**

- a. Reaffirming that Ukraine is a sovereign state and a full member of the UN,
- b. Outraged by Russia's invasion as a grave breach of international law, and the UN Charter,
- c. Asserting that the charges of fascism, genocide and aggression Russia has made against Ukraine are entirely false,
- d. Strongly condemning the criminal attacks on civilians and civilian targets, in complete violation of the rules of war,
- e. Welcoming the measures so far carried out by the UN and HMG,

#### **Calls upon the UK Government:**

1. To rigorously enforce sanctions against the Russian regime;
2. To support Ukraine without committing NATO to a military action that is more than defensive, citing R2P;
3. To **remove** unnecessary obstacles, and facilitate access to, Ukrainian refugees seeking refuge in the UK;
4. To abandon the requirement for online applications, recognising possible language barriers, and difficulties in accessing computers;

#### **Urges the UN**

5. To use all powers at its disposal to obtain an immediate cessation of hostilities;
6. To use its good offices to achieve a diplomatic solution.

## C. Brief updates: Peace & Security

### P1. Atrocity prevention

#### **UNA London & South East Region:**

- a. Welcoming the UK government's advocacy for the principle of the Responsibility to
- b. Protect (R2P) in relation to mass atrocities,
- c. Welcoming the existence of a Focal Point within the Foreign Office to co-ordinate the government's approach,
- d. Welcoming the call by Foreign Affairs Select Committee for the government to set out an atrocity prevention strategy,
- e. Welcoming the government's Integrated Review published on 16 March 2021 with atrocity prevention and strengthening fragile countries' resilience to external interference being one of the highest priority actions,

#### **Calls upon the UK Government:**

1. To develop a strategy for preventing atrocities detailing the measures and indicators that would lead the R2P Focal Point to declare that there is an imminent risk of atrocity crimes occurring in a given country and what mechanisms and actions this would trigger;

2. To elevate the role of R2P Focal Point to ministerial level to ensure full engagement with political decision making (including on military action);
3. To champion the doctrine of R2P across Government, making atrocity prevention a 'lens' to analyse and review policy in all areas including peacekeeping, arms exports, immigration and asylum policy.

Amendment Proposed: Harpenden

## P2. Cybersecurity

### UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting that UN Secretary-General António Guterres, in introducing his priorities for 2020 to the General Assembly on 22 January 2020, referred to the dark side of the digital world and to the work of the two UN ongoing initiatives, the Open-Ended Working Group on information and telecommunications in the context of security (OEWG), and the Group of Government Experts on advancing responsible behaviour in cyberspace and within the General Assembly (GGE),
- b. Noting further that the next Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in ~~May 2020~~ June 2022 intends to review policies developed since the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration (2018),
- c. Fearing that the coexistence of the OEWG and the GGE points to rival ideologies more than to a concerted effort to reach agreement to benefit all UN Member States, large and small,
- d. Welcomes recent initiatives by forty states to end 'dual track discussions' and establish a permanent UN forum to consider the use of ICTs by States in the context of international security',

### Calls on the UK government:

1. To support the proposed Permanent UN Forum
2. To take a stance in UN-led negotiations which primarily seeks to protect the victims of aggressive cyber-attacks;
3. To provide effective assistance to assist all Commonwealth Nations implementing national cybersecurity capacity reviews in order to become more cyber secure.

Amendment proposed: Westminster

## P3. How did Dag Hammarskjöld die?

### UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting that the UN General Assembly reached an open verdict (1962) on the causes of the crash of the plane carrying the UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld on a peace mission in the Congo in 1961, making possible an independent UK-led inquiry in 2013,
- b. Welcoming the ~~four~~ three UN General Assembly resolutions 69/246 (2014), 70/11 (2015), 72/252 (2017) and 74/248 (2019) which it triggered, pursuing newly discovered evidence of foul play,
- c. Regretting that the UK has not been diligent ~~acted slothfully~~ in its responses to the UN investigation, failing to co-sponsor any of the GA resolutions and resistant to sharing documents even though more than sixty years have elapsed,

- d. Further regretting the refusal of the FCO to respond to Westminster UNA's Freedom of Information Request (March 2019) seeking records documenting its decisions

**Urges the UK government:**

To cooperate fully with the UN investigator due to deliver his final report in September 2022s, and share relevant documents (after more than sixty years), held by MI5, MI6 and GCHQ, all of which were active in the region at the time of the event.

Amendment Proposed: Westminster

## D. Brief updates: Environment & Development

### E1. Climate change and its impact on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

UNA London & South East Region ~~notes in the context of the forthcoming COP26 that:~~

- a. Notes the outcome of the recent COP26 which endorsed~~in 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted both:~~
- i. the 'Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and
  - ii. the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS',
- b. Regrets States' failure at COP26 to address issues of 'loss and damage' caused by climate change
- c. Notes that tThe majority of SIDS are members of the Commonwealth,
- ~~d. A recent UNDP report records only 31 Member States who have submitted their National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change of which only 8 are Commonwealth members with only 6 SIDS,~~
- ~~e. At the Climate Adaptation Summit (January 2021) the UN Secretary General, warned of the need for a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience,~~
- ~~f.d. Further notes that~~ That the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) will take place in Kigali (Rwanda) in June 2022,

**Calls upon the Commonwealth Secretariat and Commonwealth Member States:**

To adopt a strategy at CHOGM which addresses effectively the issue of 'loss and damage'  
~~bold proposals in Kigali which address the particular challenges facing SIDS to table for discussion at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).~~

Amendments proposed by Westminster

### E2. Oceans

**UNA London & South East Region:**

- a. Acknowledging the call for ambitious co-ordinated action to protect the world's oceans in the Commonwealth's 2018 Blue Charter to protect and improve our oceans,

- b. Acknowledging the importance of SDG 14 “Life below water”,
- c. Welcomes and supports the Sussex Blue Charter launched in October 2021 at the Ocean Symposium

**Calls on the UK Government:**

- d. To work more forcefully at the UN, the IMO and the Security Council for a sustainable future for the world’s oceans and to strengthen international law against pollution, and the negative effects of armed conflict;
- e. To create Marine Conservation Zones covering at least 30% of in-UK Waters;

**Calls on the UN to work with member states:**

1. To create Marine Protected Areas including at least 30-40% of the World’s Oceans~~global oceans~~;
2. To carry out environmental impact assessments of all fishing fleets, stop activities damaging ecosystems; ensure that fish quotas are sustainable, strictly observed, and exclude endangered and protected species;
3. To require that all ocean-going commercial fleets be pollution free and CO2 neutral, whenever possible;
4. To curb and regulate industries contributing to the acidification of the world’s rivers and oceans;
5. To tackle all sources of ocean pollution especially plastic;
6. To progress SDG 14 significantly by 2032~~20~~, reporting back annually.

Amendments Proposed by Climate & Oceans

### **E3. Second Voluntary National Review of the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

**(replacing current resolutions 10 and 26)**

**UNA London & South East Region:**

- a. Noting that the U.K. government committed to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets in 2015 and in the 2019 U.K. Voluntary National Review (VNR), internationally and domestically,
- b. Noting the UNDP has emphasised a bottom-up localisation of the SDG’s using a multi-stakeholder approach, involving civil society, local government, academia and the private sector and that the U.K. government has committed to this approach,
- c. Noting that the UK’s first Voluntary National Review was released at the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2019 under DfID,
- d. Noting that the widely supported U.K. Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) SDG scorecard identified positive elements but concluded that none of the eleven areas identified by partners in U.K. SSD’s advocacy fully satisfied the expectations of a VNR process,
- e. Noting that the U.K. Parliament’s International Development Committee (IDC) stated in 2019 that there was an opportunity to use the UK’s first Voluntary National Review (VNR) as a launchpad for greater action on the SDGs, and to use them as a blueprint for domestic and international policy to 2030,
- f. Further noting that the IDC stated it is essential that an appropriate mechanism is created—at the heart of Government, in the Cabinet Office—to lead on communication and implementation of the SDGs,

### **Calls on the U.K. government**

1. To clarify its lines of co-operation with civil society;
2. To commit to prepare its second VNR by 2023 taking account of comments from civil society;
3. Alongside the formal report to publish a consumer friendly (public friendly) update on progress;
4. To provide financial resources to local SDG initiatives in the UK and globally, and to ensure the localisation of SDGs.

Combination of previous resolutions 10 & 26 proposed by: Policy Committee

## **E. Brief updates: Health & Human Rights**

### **H1. Our world after the pandemic**

#### **UNA London & South East Region:**

- a. Mindful that over nearly 6m people have died worldwide from COVID-19,
- b. Aware that lockdowns are economically ruinous and are impacting disproportionately the lives of the poor and vulnerable,
- c. Acknowledging that many countries were ill-prepared for the crisis,
- d. Regretting that member states gave priority to national action over a co-ordinated international response,
- e. Regretting that the EU and UK are delaying waiving Covid-19 vaccine patents to letting other nations create their own generic versions,
- f. Conscious that the WHO's mandate is to inform rather than to direct global health policy,

#### **Calls on the UN:**

1. To set up a task force to develop a blueprint for the management of future pandemic outbreaks, including:
  - i. The fair and equitable distribution of all available vaccines globally;
  - ii. Measures to mitigate the spread of the virus that are proportionate to the severity and limited to the duration of the crisis in conformity with the fundamental principles of human rights;
  - iii. Financial support for countries least able to withstand severe economic trauma;
2. To undertake an extensive audit of Member States' responses to the pandemic in order to explain its origins and causes and to propose ways of preventing similar catastrophes;
3. To strengthen the WHO to enable it to lead proactive monitoring and intervention to halt potential pandemics, as well as to coordinate pandemic responses;
4. To strengthen the legal obligations of all member states to take all possible steps to prevent the spread of communicable diseases (to safeguard their own residents, as well as the populations of other countries) and to give early full, accurate and honest information to the WHO to enable it to take appropriate action;

### **Calls on the UK Government**

5. To support and work to build consensus behind a rapid conclusion to the present WTO negotiations in favour of developing countries being able to manufacture Covid vaccines, testing and therapeutics without requiring the permission of patent holders for the duration of the pandemic.

Amendment Proposed by: Harpenden & Streattham & Clapham

## **H2. Palestine 100 years after the Balfour Declaration**

### **UNA London & South East Region:**

- a. Notes that November 2017 marked the centenary of the Balfour Declaration by the UK Government about the future of Palestine as a shared Jewish and Arab homeland which established the “dual obligation” that became part of the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine:
  - (i) the establishment in Palestine of a national home for Jewish people  
…
  - (ii) the clear understanding that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine,
- b. Believes that attention should be drawn to failure to respect or carry out the second part of the dual obligation as the land allocated to Palestinians has dwindled to tiny broken-up areas, and some three-quarters of a million settlers live in illegal Israeli settlements built on remaining Palestinian land,
- c. Denounces the discriminatory regime codified by Israel’s the-Nation-State law,

### **Calls upon the UK Government**

1. To oppose the continuation of the occupation and further settlement activity and any attempt at annexation of the Occupied Territories by Israel;
2. Whilst acknowledging Israel’s right to full membership of the UN, to work at the UN to achieve the recognition of the rights of Palestinians to be full citizens of a sovereign UN member state;
3. To encourage the Israeli government at the UN to give Palestinians now living in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory the same rights as their Jewish neighbours to ensure greater trust between both communities as a first step towards a more long-term durable resolution of the conflict on the basis of the two states solution in accordance with long-standing UN resolutions and international opinion or, if that cannot be achieved, to reconsider the practicality of all approaches that have previously been advanced to solve the problem, one of which could be a single democratic state.

Amendment proposed by: Tunbridge Wells

## **H3. The role of women in the UN**

### **UNA London & South East Region calls upon the UN:**

To take practical enabling action to address ~~reinvigorate~~ the issue of the representation of women at all levels in the UN (including the highest) as a matter of urgency.

Amendment proposed by: Wandsworth

## H4. Sri Lanka

We will be proposing amendments to existing [resolution 21](#) on Sri Lanka to welcome the adoption by the UN Human Rights Council of resolution 46/1 in March 2021 which mandates the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to collect, analyse, and preserve evidence of human rights violations in Sri Lanka.

Any further proposals to replace the calls for action (1), (2) & (3) in that resolution in the light of this development are welcome.

## F. Amendments for debate

### A1. Climate

#### UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Noting that climate impacts are rising rapidly, affecting people and wildlife, and that the IPCC has issued its bleakest warning yet on the accelerating climate breakdown: “any further delay in concerted global action will miss a rapidly closing window to secure a liveable future”, [HEBK]
- b. Noting that while fires, floods and droughts linked to climate change are increasingly widespread, the worst effects are felt in developing countries, who have been least responsible for its causes,
- c. Recognising that, from 2008 to 2019, the UK cut its territorial emissions by one-third, while the economy was still growing; and welcomes the net zero target for 2050 adopted in 2019 and the 2035 phase out of internal combustion engines for new cars,
- d. Noting that the UK still finances fossil fuel investments abroad,
- e. Noting the potential impact of population growth on climate,
- f. Noting the plans set out by the Ministry of Defence to reduce climate emissions in its 'Climate Change and Sustainability Strategic Approach', [HEBK]

#### Calls on all governments at ~~COP 26~~ COP 27:

1. To ensure the voices of the most vulnerable from impacted countries and communities are heard and responded to;
2. To prioritise the stewardship of freshwater resources and the protection of ecosystems as huge carbon stores of benefit to the climate, communities and wildlife;

#### Calls upon the UK government:

3. To lead a just transition to a zero-carbon world by 2050 limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C and to use its diplomatic weight to close the gap between existing Paris Agreement pledges for 2030 and those needed to limit global temperature rise to 1.5° C; [CB]
4. To put our Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on track to net-zero by 2050 and adopt policies, laws and investment approaches to match;  
~~To use its diplomatic weight to close the gap between existing Paris Agreement pledges for 2030 and those needed to limit global temperature rise to 1.5° C and to persuade the US to reverse its decision to leave the Paris Agreement;~~

5. ~~To champion increased, targeted financial support to cope with climate change impacts for those countries and communities who need it most;—To shift financial flows to support developing countries in their own fight against the devastating impact of climate change and ensure they become ‘climate resilient’;~~ [CB]
6. To halt all new investments in coal, oil and gas overseas, reviewing and phasing out existing investments and to achieve universal access to energy by scaling up support for renewable and efficient energy systems and for carbon capture;
7. To aim to stabilise our own population through advocacy of smaller families and to increase its assistance to family planning in developing countries;
8. ~~To ensure that the Covid19 economy stimulus package is consistent with achieving net zero by 2050. To~~ To promote ‘green’ infrastructure and ensure that both public and private buildings are equipped with necessary structures to be more energy efficient; [CB]
9. To include the emissions from military related activity in climate accounting and action;
10. To recognise that reducing warfare and diverting some of the \$2 trillion of global military spending to climate mitigation and transition and to conflict avoidance or resolution is the most sustainable way of reducing military emissions which might be achieved by redefining security, regulating the arms trade and promoting the aims of the UN in schools and among the public. [HEBK]

Amendments proposed by Canterbury [CB] and Hilary Evans & Bruce Kent [HEBK]

## A2. Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR)

(Complete replacement and update for current resolution 7)

### **UNA London and South East Region noting:**

- a. The introduction of a National Security Law on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and a Committee of Safeguarding National Security in Hong Kong,
- b. The new security law signed by President Xi Jinping criminalised four offences of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign and external forces to jeopardise national security,
- c. That since the UK government enabled holders of British Nationals (Overseas) passport to come to the UK under a Visa Scheme, almost 100,000 Hongkongers have arrived in the United Kingdom to seek a peaceful life here with their children,

### **UNA London and South East Region expresses deep concern:**

- d. That 15 pro-democracy legislators and activists were arrested and charged under the new National Security Law,
- e. That Chinese mainland agents have power to operate freely in Hong Kong and outside any supervision of local law enforcement, while a mainland Chinese security office will be set up in Hong Kong,
- f. That Beijing set up a liaison office to influence HK elections by approving “patriots” as Legislative Council candidates, by refusing opposition candidates their right to stand and coordinating key aspects of the elections in December 2021, such as by trying to make it easier for residents with Hong Kong ID cards living across the border in mainland China to vote,

#### **Urges the UK Government:**

1. To call on the Chinese government to fulfil the promises made in 1997, under “One Country, Two Systems” model;
2. To call for the right of candidates to stand for Legislative Council seats, and not be falsely accused of not being a “patriot”;
3. To restate the moral and legal responsibility of the UK and Hong Kong governments to support processes to ensure that democracy, the rule of law and human rights are upheld in Hong Kong;

#### **Calls on the UN and all member states:**

4. To ask the authorities in Hong Kong and China to enact gradual reform of the electoral system towards universal suffrage in the election of the Legislative Council;
5. To call for election monitoring by the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in future Hong Kong Legislative Council polls and election of the Chief Executive on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Proposed: Tunbridge Wells

### **A3. Nuclear weapons**

#### **UNA London & South East Region:**

- a. Applauding the ~~adoption, entry into force in January 2021~~ of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) ~~(7th July 2017) by 122 member states~~ which prohibits a full range of nuclear-weapon-related activities ~~including and gives nuclear weapons a similar legal status to biological and chemical weapons and~~ prohibiting the production, testing, use, threat of use, and assisting other groups in such actions, Congratulating the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on being awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize for its work towards this end,
- b. Regretting that despite being committed, since 1968, to negotiating the elimination of all nuclear weapons 'in good faith' by Article VI~~1~~ of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty the UK Government refused to participate in the multilateral negotiations leading to the TPNW treaty and has been dismissive of any suggestion that this country should sign up to it, ~~setting a poor example to other nations, d. Welcoming the joint statement by UNA-UK and the British American Security Information Council (BASIC) which criticised the UK government's failure to attend the Treaty conference, indicating a degree of indifference to the concerns of the 122 states who signed the treaty and setting a poor example to other nations,~~
- c. Noting that the UK government plans to replace our own nuclear weapons that will continue to be wholly dependent on a regular supply of missiles from, and regular maintenance by, the United States at a cost, including construction and running, of over £200 billion,
- d. Noting that disarmament and non-proliferation are both important aspects of the NPT, which has a Treaty Review conference due, now to be held in August 2022,
- e. Noting the declaration by the P5 in January 2022 that a Nuclear War cannot be won and must never be fought,

#### **Urges the UK government:**

1. To constructively participate in~~attend~~ future UN-led meetings ~~which seek~~ to take both the TPNW and NPT Treaties~~y~~ forward;
2. To give full support to the TPNW ~~is~~ treaty: to sign and then ratify as soon as possible;

3. To cancel the current Trident replacement contracts ~~4. To spend the billions of pounds saved on real human needs, both here and abroad~~ and publicly reactivate its commitment to the NPT;
4. To commit to No First Use of its nuclear weapons.

Amendments proposed by: Antony Vallyon & Keith Hindell

## A4. Refugees and Asylum Seekers in London hotels and elsewhere

### UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Concerned by continuing shocking reports of poorly organised hospitality in London hotels for asylum seekers and refugees awaiting determination of their status by the Home Office ([The Independent, 14 Feb 2021](#)),
- b. Welcomes the decision of the Home Office to ensure the transfer of these asylum seekers and refugees from these hotels to suitable long-term accommodation ([The Independent, 24 Feb 2021](#)),
- c. Determined to prevent any repetition of the chaotic decant of asylum seekers and refugees to those hotels in 2020 in the course of this new initiative,
- d. Dissatisfied with the continuing lack of an overarching strategy shown by the Home Office,  
**Resolves To join the London Initial & Contingency Accommodation Civil Society Forum;**
- e. Confident that as a member of the London Initial & Contingency Accommodation Civil Society Forum, the Region can closely monitor the process of assisting asylum seekers and refugees in acquiring secure safe, affordable, and appropriate accommodation,
- f. Alarmed that this process continues to be unsatisfactory,
- g. Regrets the apparent lack of will to improve the efficiency of the process,
- h. Resolves to maintain a close oversight and continue to call to account failures in policy and process, [WR]
- i. Notes that some asylum seekers and undocumented migrants are being charged 150% of the cost of NHS treatment assessed as non-emergency as a matter of policy, or in error, and that the fear of charges or of Home Office involvement in the NHS is deterring others from seeking treatment,
- j. Further notes that there are plans to make non-payment of NHS debts in the last five years a reason to reject otherwise valid asylum claims and to widen the scope of charging. [SC]

### Calls upon the UK Government:

1. To ensure that the Home Office works with NGOs experienced in asylum and refugee matters to resolve these matters and report upon the steps taken to the Home Affairs Committee before parliament recesses in July 2021;
2. To ensure that the Department of Health and Social Care - taking appropriate clinical advice - fully investigates and reports to the Health and Social Care Committee the health, financial and administrative impacts of the NHS charging policy on asylum seekers and refugees and upon public health and the NHS;
3. To abandon plans to link decisions on asylum and refugee status to whether applicants have been charged and not paid immediately for medical treatment and base such decisions solely on the merits of their claim;

4. To return to providing NHS care to asylum seekers and refugees on the basis of need, rather than immigration status. [SC]

Amendment proposed by: Westminster [WR], Streatham & Clapham [SC]

## A5. Syria

### UNA London & South East Region:

- a. Deeply concerned at the on-going suffering and misery of the Syrian people in the eleven ~~nine~~ year civil war and the scattering of many Syrians to other countries,
- b. Noting that in 2018 an agreement was reached to form a 150-member committee to write a new constitution, leading to free and fair elections supervised by the UN,
- c. Further noting that after the October 2021 round of talks the UN special envoy Geir Pedersen expressed great disappointment that the committee's members had not yet found a common path, commenting that "a military solution is an illusion" while a political solution is "perfectly doable if the will is there",
- d. Noting that Syria is among the countries in the world worst affected by the COVID pandemic with less than 8% of the population vaccinated,
- e. Further noting that, according to the UN in February 2022, 14.6 million people inside Syria required humanitarian assistance, with 5 million being in extreme or catastrophic need. More than 12 million people are struggling to find enough food each day - a 51% increase since 2019 - and half a million children are chronically malnourished, [TR]
- f. Particularly concerned at the intolerable position of those currently living in the Idlib province,
- g. Regrets the continuing stalemate in the UN Security Council which, throughout this period, has only adopted two resolutions on Syria (UNSCR 2533 (2020), UNSCR 2585 (2021) both equally weak and inadequate,
- h. Expresses its satisfaction at the progress made by the International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism (IIIM), established by UN General Assembly Resolution 71-248 (of 21 December 2016), to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the most serious crimes under international law, in particular the crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes,
- i. welcomes the IIIM's recent opening of new case files related to unlawful attacks involving use of chemical and conventional weapons, including attacks against medical facilities, [WR]

### **Demands that Security Council, led by the P5 working in partnership:**

1. Instructs the re-opening of all necessary crossing points into the Idlib region;
2. Demand the end of attacks on ~~n~~f medical centres, in line with Security Council Resolutions 1674 and 2286, whereby it not only condemns attacks but also demands compliance with international humanitarian law in armed conflict;
3. Convene a meeting of its members before the end of June, within the Idlib region, to demonstrate to the global community that, after 75 years, its members continue to honour and uphold the principles underpinning the creation of the United Nations as set out in the Preamble to its Charter;

### **Urges the UK government**

4. To press for a further meeting of the UN GA in which the Head of the IIIM can report on the Mechanism's progress; [WR]
5. To provide further humanitarian assistance to the 5 million in dire need within Syria, as well as supporting Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan in their current hosting of nearly 6 million Syrian refugees. [TR]

Amendments proposed by Westminster [WR] and Trisha Rogers [TR]

## **A6. UK Aid Budget**

### **UNA London and South East Region**

- a. Noting that the U.K. is one of the P5 at the UN and therefore must lead by example,
- b. Further noting that the Covid pandemic has decimated progress achieved by the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals and has increased poverty,
- c. Noting that in its Voluntary National Review (VNR) of progress towards the SDGs in 2019 the government restated its commitment to allocate between 0.15% and 0.2% of GNI to support the least developed countries,

### **Calls upon the U.K. government:**

1. To honour ~~To retain~~ its legal commitment to 0.7% of its GNI for aid spending and seek to resume its pre- pandemic spend;
2. To direct aid to where it is most needed rather than to pursue national interest;
3. To fully support the continued existence of a robust review committee on aid;
4. To improve capability and capacity to deliver aid effectively by FCDO as was the mandate of DFID;
5. To improve communication and co-operation with NGO's in order to enhance efficient, effective and equitable delivery of aid;
6. To reverse cuts in UN agencies and programmes Eg: UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS;
7. To immediately rectify the shocking cuts in aid spending announced in 2021 with special reference to humanitarian spending in Yemen, Afghanistan, and Africa, Education of Girls in Bangladesh and family planning (under the umbrella of United Nations Population Fund) and the Global Polio Initiative.

Proposed by: London & South East Region Aid Group

## **A7. Women, Peace and Security**

### **UNA London and SE Region:**

- a. Recognising that Security Council Resolution 1325 (and those which followed) are essential to the protection of women in conflict and to the achievement of international peace and security and welcoming the government's commitment to this agenda over time including the UK's 4th National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security,
- b. Welcoming the commitment to strengthen the UK capabilities in Strategic Outcome 7 of the National Action Plan, but concerned that no indication of the budget has been given for this important initiative,

### **Calls upon the UK government and the Security Council:**

1. To apply a human rights based approach as a framework for the future work on Women, Peace and Security including economic and social rights rather than focussing only on security considerations;

### **Calls upon the UK government:**

2. To include the role of the Arms Trade Treaty UNATT and also the post conflict situation in Northern Ireland within the scope of work on Women, Peace and Security;
3. To examine how upholding the rights of refugees and asylum seekers coming to the UK can advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda and make necessary adjustments;
4. To ratify the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence;
5. To appoint a special envoy for Women, Peace and Security at the new FCDO; To Provide adequate provision of funding for implementation of the National Action Plan;
6. To encourage implementation of gender training in all International organisations: Council of Europe, OSCE, etc.;

### **Calls upon the Security Council:**

7. To adopt a periodic review of resolution 1325 incorporating updates to reflect innovatory practice from local, regional and national level;
8. To support a significant and stable provision of financial resources to women's NGOs at all levels who are working to prevent armed conflict;
9. To provide emergency rapid response grants to women's human rights defenders;
10. To implement MURAD Code for survivors of sexual violence in conflict;
11. To make Security Council resolution 1325 legally binding;

### **On Mediation/Peace Building**

#### **Calls upon the UK government:**

12. To encourage funding, promote training and work towards the establishment of international professional standards for international peace mediation monitors;
8. To call for the provision of gender training for all UN peace mediators;  
~~To ensure greater use by the UN of women led negotiations;~~

#### **Calls upon the Security Council:**

9. To enable the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (UNDPPA) to strengthen partnerships with women NGO peace makers;
10. To insist Peace talks comprise 40% women;

## **On Peacekeeping**

### **Calls upon the UK government:**

11. To ensure a better gender balance in the UK armed forces, reserve forces and the UK Cadet Class Association;
12. To expand gender training conducted by the British Peace Support Team;
13. To show global leadership by both advocating the provision of, and providing more female peacekeepers;

### **Calls upon the Security Council:**

14. To encourage countries to allocate military and police officers to peacekeeping operations which include women at all levels;
15. To ensure standard and globally consistent training of peacekeeping troops. And to include gender training and awareness of sexual violence with ~~and~~ proper screening of peacekeepers in relation to past behaviour;
16. To ensure there is a verifiable independent monitoring and accountability of peacekeeping forces from different countries.

Amendments proposed by a group on UNA members/supporters