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UNA LASER March 2022 Newsletter

From our Chair, Trisha Rogers



Margaret Rayner

I'm sorry to announce the death of Margaret Rayner, a leading light of the old Richmond UNA branch, and Vice Chair of LASER for a number of years. Her funeral will be at St Mary Magdalen's R. C. Church, 61 N Worples Way, London, SW14 8PR at 11:00 on Friday 22nd April, followed by a committal at Mortlake Crematorium at 12:40. There will be a funeral reception at The Victoria, 10 West Temple Sheen, London, SW14 7RT from 14:00; everyone is welcome. Please let [the organisers](#) know if you plan to attend.

New CEO for UNA-UK

UNA-UK has appointed Marissa Conway as our new CEO, with effect from 11th April. She is the co-founder of the Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy where she served as its UK Executive Director from 2016-2022. For further details see the [UNA-UK news](#). We welcome her to her new post and very much look forward to working with her.

Campaigning

Ukraine

We are campaigning to condemn the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and to support the people of Ukraine in their resistance and humanitarian needs. In the description of the situation [on our website](#) we list the actions needed by the UK government and encourage our members to write to their MPs about these. With Russia able to veto any resolution in the UN Security Council, it was important that the General Assembly passed [a resolution](#) condemning the situation and calling for action. UNA-UK has written to all its members, describing [ways in which we can help](#).

Post COP26

According to the Climate Coalition (of which LASER is a member) the impacts of climate change are getting worse and hitting those least responsible the hardest. It is important that we keep up the momentum, following COP26. Do [write to your MP](#) to keep up the momentum.

Branch Support

In these zooming times, many branches have found it helpful to run joint virtual events with other branches. But it is easier at in-person events to make useful contacts and pick up ideas. We therefore very much look forward to seeing many of you at our Spring Council (our Policy Conference) on 23rd April (see details below.) Do [use our website](#) to note the branches close to you and ask to be put in touch with them on that day. You might find it helpful first to look at the ideas we have collected

from branches of their wide range of activities and structures; these are [on our website](#). If you would like further support for your branch, please [contact us](#).

Policy Conference

Our **Spring Council** will be our **2022 Policy Conference**. This will be held at [Bermondsey Village Hall](#) (very close to London Bridge station) and by zoom on **23rd April 14:00**. Registration for Zoom is required in advance [here](#). In order to run a hybrid event, we shall need an additional digital projector. If you can lend us one, [please let me know](#). There are a couple of free parking spaces linked to the hall. Please [let me know](#) if you would like one, and why.

The text of the resolutions and the amendments we will be considering are [here](#). We have new resolutions on Ukraine, on Afghanistan's assets and on removing citizenship from those who fight in foreign wars. And we have updates on existing resolutions on peace, human rights, health, environment and development. If you would like to amend any of these resolutions before we vote on them, there is still time. You can [send amendments to Peter Webster](#) for the Policy Committee to include in the final agenda by **Wednesday 6th April at 5pm**

Newsletters

Many thanks to Peter and Sarah Webster for mailing out this Newsletter. If you might like to help with future mailing (including being given useful training in Mailchimp), or with editing the Newsletter, please [let me know](#). In order to allow time for Policy Conference resolution amendments to be collated and included, the deadline for announcements for the next Newsletter to [reach me](#) is **12th April**.

Forthcoming Events

Greater Lincolnshire UNA

On **Tuesday March 29th at 7pm** Greater Lincolnshire UNA will be discussing **SDG 8: Decent Work & Economic Growth** and it's central role in the achievement of the rest of the Sustainable Development Goals. Clive Wilson, Chair of UNA Harrogate will explore how businesses consciously defining and organising themselves to a achieve a wider purpose can align their workplaces with global goals. Please register [here](#).

Harpenden UNA

On **Saturday 2nd April at 11:00**, Harpenden UNA is hosting an in-person event on **My Experience as an MSF Paediatrician** at the Salvation Army Hostel, Leyton Green, AL5 2TG. The speaker will be Dr Ed Haworth, from Medecins Sans Frontieres. Please register [here](#). If you have any queries, please contact [UNA Harpenden Chair](#).

Westminster UNA

On **8th April, 14:00 - 18:00**, Westminster UNA, with the Foundation for Endangered Languages, marking its 25th anniversary, and the Aga Khan Foundation, will explore how UNESCO, Survival International, *Wikitongues* and other organisations can work to protect and preserve cultures, traditions, and the rights of indigenous communities worldwide. This event, **Celebrating Indigenous Languages - Defending Endangered Languages**, will be at the Aga Khan Centre, King's Cross, 10 Handyside Street, London N1C 4DN. It heralds the International Decade for Indigenous languages (2022-2031). For more information and to register, please go [here](#).

On **9th April, 14:00**, **BFI South Bank** will be screening **Cold Case Hammarskjöld**, a provocative documentary exploring the assassination of a UN Secretary-General and the shocking revelations that followed. UNA Westminster Chair, David Wardrop will lead the discussion following the film. For further information see [the BFI website](#)

On **26th May**, Westminster will host their **18th Conference and Ceremony to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers**. The conference will be online only. The ceremony at the Cenotaph will follow its traditional format. Military units returned from UN duties will participate together with the Band of Grenadier Guards. For more information on the events of this branch, see [their website](#).

Bexhill and Hastings UNA

On **Friday 22nd April at 11:30**, UNA Bexhill and Hastings will hold a Peace Pole gathering to at the Bexhill Peace Pole, Galley Hill.

On **Saturday 28th May, 10:00-12:00 and 14:00 - 16:00**, they will hold a coffee morning and **Open Organic Fruit and Vegetable Garden** at 13 Thornbank Crescent, Bexhill-on-Sea, TN39 3ND. Entrance costs £2, to include coffee or tea and home-made biscuits to raise funds for local UNA branch.

For more information on this branch see [their Facebook page](#).

Uniting for Peace

On **2nd April, 14:15-17:00** (following their AGM at 13:00) Uniting for Peace will hold their Spring Conference on **Climate Change, Militarisation and World Peace**. The conference will be chaired **Rita Payne**, President Emeritus, Commonwealth Journalists Association, and the speakers will include: **Lord Meghnad Desai**, Professor Emeritus at London School of Economics; **Vijay Mehta**, Author and Chair, Uniting for Peace; **Anthony Russell**, Cultural Historian & Advocate of CIVILISATION; **Frank Jackson**, Vice President, Uniting for Peace; **Jo Berry**, Founder, Building Bridges for Peace; For further information and to register, please follow [this link](#).

LASER Summer Council

The LASER Summer Council - **Climate Change: Impact, Reports, Solutions** - will be hosted by UNA Harpenden on **9th July, 10:30 - 17:00** at the Salvation Army, Leyton Green, Harpenden AL5 2TG. Entry will be free. Please register [here](#) to join us in meeting together as a region again.