



The United Nations Association
Bexhill & Hastings Branch

Tabling Proposal to UNA-London & South East Region's
Annual Policy Conference on Saturday, 23rd April 2022
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Re-Discovering the United Nations

In recent years, Peace and the malfunction of the UN Security Council has been pushed to the back burner as the world has focused the most urgent issues.

AND NOW LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENED!

At a time when it has never been more urgent, action on climate change has been undermined by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

And further to that, the Security Council's five permanent members are the main belligerents in the Ukraine War!

So what can we do now, about either peace or climate change, when
The world's lead **PROBLEM SOLVERS** have themselves,
Become **THE WORLD'S LEAD PROBLEM?'**

However, that is not to say that we in the Bexhill & Hastings Branch are not concerned and active about climate change. Quite the contrary, one of our members, Gonzalo, is the UNA's regional and national lead on Oceans and Climate Change.

But what we are doing as a branch, is to avoid making one issue more important than another.

Instead, we have appointed lead officers for our 3 areas of interest – The Environment; Peace & Human Security and Health & Human Development.

And so by deploying the division of labour method, we are able to move forward, at the same time, on all fronts.

This particular proposal is about our Peace and Human Security Programme.

Since 2018, we've held a series of annual speaker/discussion and workshop meetings to celebrate UN Day. This has enabled us to build a policy portfolio.

We now want to try something different because we suspect that the people who learn most from speaker/discussion & workshop type of events are the speakers and workshop leaders.

So ... on Bexhill & Hastings behalf, I've written this as a proposal, which I'm tabling here today.

In order to explain where we are coming from, I've written it as if no one knows who I am or much about either the UNA or the UN.

Therefore, it is quite detailed and full of footnotes, but basically, the main points are these:

1. The purpose of our UN Day Peace Event in 2022 is to make people more aware of how the UN affects their daily lives and how people in their local communities suffer the fallout from bad decisions and mal-functions of the UN Security Council.
2. Therefore, we plan to inspire people to want to know more about how the UN works and how it is supposed to work.
3. We intend to begin this venture by setting up an experimental on-line UN Library & Resource Centre called:

'Discovering the United Nations'.

4. And then to celebrate UN Day, we plan to introduce an active-self learning participant-led event.
5. People will be invited to take part in what we are calling a 'UN Treasure Hunt Quiz'. It will take place around an exhibition – a bit like the UN Roadshow that I used to do with the Region's support.

The answers to the quiz questions may be found through viewing the exhibits and talking with the stall holders. Also, participants may use their own lap-tops, iPads or smartphones to search for answers on-line, including our experimental UN Website.

This is not a quiz in the sense 'A' level exams or TV quiz shows. It is more like a treasure hunt for knowledge and revelations about the UN, which will, in themselves, be the 'prizes'.

And then after tea, we will hold a roundtable style session to give, discuss and comment, on the answers to the quiz.

Right from the beginning, we plan to consult far and wide and it's very likely that we'll need approval and authorisation from UNA-UK, when it comes to setting up a permanent on-line UN Library and Resource Centre.

This is after all, different from a branch website.

6. FINALLY, we believe that the key to making the UN work according to its Charter is to create and strengthen a well-informed and organised civil society that should be led and facilitated by the UNA.

Towards this end, our experimental UN website could be seen as a pilot or a test-case in public education that could then be adopted by other branches in their own local area.

And so we would very much like to hear from branches who may have similar ideas or indeed, have already set up some sort of website for public learning about the UN¹.

So... I'm tabling the hard copy, there are few more on the table, and I will be sending electronic copies of this proposal to the Region and to its branches.

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