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December 2022

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LASER Pulse

From Our Chair



Trisha Rogers

LASER AGM

This will be a **hybrid** event on UN Human Rights Day (**10th December starting at 12 noon**) at **Bermondsey Village Hall**, Kirby Grove, London SE1 3TD.



We hope many of you will join us in person. Directions to the hall from London Bridge mainline station are [here](#).

If you plan to come in person, please register [here](#) to help us judge numbers for refreshments, though last minute attendees are very welcome too! (Please bring a packed lunch.) If you plan to join us by Zoom, please [register here](#).

We shall email out the papers to those who have registered for the AGM on Friday, 9th December.

There will not be paper copies available for everyone at the meeting.

Celebrating Human Rights

At 2pm, we will hear from **Dr Maria Varaki** of the Department of War Studies at King's College. She has worked for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in New York and for the Legal Advisory section of the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. Since November 2017 she has been a member of the ILA Committee on human rights in times of emergency.

The event will finish at 3pm.



This year's Human Rights Day slogan is "Dignity, Freedom, and Justice for All" and the call to action is #StandUp4HumanRights.



Branch News and Forthcoming Events

UNA Streatham & Clapham

On **Monday December 5th at 7.30pm Streatham & Clapham** UNA will be hearing from **Wojtek Krakowiak** who attended the UN's World Urban Forum held in Katowice in June on behalf of UN House Scotland. Wojtek will be speaking on ***Making Cities Stronger, Greener and Better for all*** at around 7.45pm.

This will follow a brief annual meeting (AGM) where all are welcome to hear more and ask questions about the work of Streatham & Clapham UNA. You can register in advance for a Zoom link [here](#). The meeting is supported by the new South London UNA, which brings together Streatham & Clapham, Twickenham & Richmond and Wandsworth UNAs.

UNA Luton

To mark United Nations' Human Rights Day 2022 on **Sunday 11 December from 4.30 pm to 6.30 pm**, UNA Luton will hold a webinar focussing on ***Homelessness (global, national, local)***. The right to shelter is one of the most fundamental human rights.

According to the UN Human Settlements Programme, over 100 million people globally have no home, and the number is rising year on year for a variety of reasons including conflict, climate crisis, food shortages, commercial exploitation, government action and inaction. Please join the zoom meeting [here](#).

UNA Warwick

On **12th December at 6:45 pm, UNA Warwick** will hold a webinar on ***COP 27: experiences***,

achievements, and ways forward led by **Sarah Millar**, Programme

Director, Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG) and **Jason Garrett**, World Vision, both of whom attended the event. [Here](#) is the zoom link.

UNA Harpenden

On **13th December at 7:30pm**, UNA Harpenden is hosting a webinar talk on ***Privacy, Surveillance and the Internet*** by **Bruce Schneier** of Harvard University. We are living in a mass surveillance society of our own making.



But have we given up more than we have gained? Security expert Bruce Schneier offers another path, one that values both security and privacy. [Here](#) is the zoom link.

FCDO Association

On **14th December at 2:20pm**. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Association is hosting a webinar on “***Even the most impossible task offers opportunities***”: ***Dag Hammarskjöld’s diplomacy***, to be led by **Dr Roger Lipsey**, author of

Hammarskjöld: A Life (2013) and of ***Politics and Conscience: Dag Hammarskjöld on the Art of Ethical Leadership*** (2020).

A ticket costs £5. Please contact [Lucie Portman](#) to register and arrange payment (via bank transfer, cheque or [gocardless](#)).

UNA Coventry

On **11th January at 7:00pm**, UNA Coventry will be holding their AGM, reporting on 2022, and planning their future activities. [Join the meeting by clicking here](#)

South London UNA

On **17th January at 7:30pm**, Wandsworth UNA, Twickenham and Richmond UNA and Streatham and Clapham UNA (the three AKA South London UNA) are holding a meeting at **The Community Church Hall**, Werter Road, SW15 2LL (opposite Sainsbury’s)

on ***The Mysterious Death of Dag Hammarskjöld***, to be led by David Wardrop, Chair of Westminster UNA and Editor of [Hammarskjöldinquiry.info](#), the online news service used worldwide by those following the re-opened UN inquiry into the sixty-year-old mystery of the plane crash in which UN Secretary-

General and colleagues died.

UNA Bexhill & Hastings

Following their 2022 UN Day Peace Event, UNA Bexhill and Hastings have produced a report, ***If the United Nations was Founded for World Peace, Why is the World at War?*** They have now reached a 'crossroads' in deciding the next steps of their Peace and Human Security Project and would very much like to receive responses to their consultation on suggested ways forward, as described at the end of the report. Please send your responses to [Sheila Kesby](#).



LASER Pulse

Salem Mezhoud and Trisha Rogers have edited this edition of ***LASER Pulse***; Suheil Shahryar has mailed it out. For announcements for future editions of *Pulse*, it would help enormously if you could download and fill in [this template](#) and send it and any accompanying picture to [Trisha](#) and [Salem](#) (along with suggestions for improving the template). The deadline for the next edition is **6th January**. We look forward to seeing you at the AGM and hope you then have a happy holiday season.
