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**2023 - Issue No. 1**

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**Trisha Rogers**



**Trisha Rogers**

We celebrated the New Year by congratulating **David Wardrop** on his MBE for “services to the United Nations and its Institutions” in the New Year’s honours. David, a former Chair of UNA LASER and current Chair of UNA Westminster, has a remarkable track record of imaginative innovations in his UNA work.



In addition to having run a wide range of speaker events, conferences and study tours to UN centres around the world, his initiatives include: the annual Peace-keeping memorial at the cenotaph; the annual *International Law Lecture* at SOAS; the annual *We the Peoples* Film Festival with the BFI; naming of United Nations Green outside Westminster Central Hall; continuing investigations into the death of the second UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld.

**Well Done, David!**



## Campaigns

While climate change and the war in Ukraine continue to take much of our attention and media, our Campaigns Officer, **Valeria Minisini**, this month focuses on a more neglected crisis – that occurring in Peru, a longstanding close ally of the UK. You can read [on our website](#) Valeria’s analysis of the situation and the points she asks us to raise with our MPs, who have access to the relevant ministers in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.



While we will continue to campaign and run events on the headline issues, Valeria wants to widen our focus. She writes, "We want to hear from you: help us plan our next campaigns. We want to make sure that members have a voice in what LASER campaigns on.

If there are any key global issues or causes that you would like to see us campaign on over the next few months, [please get in touch with us](#).



Additionally, if you know of any ways that we can increase the reach of our campaigns we are keen to hear from you.

LASER is a member of *The Climate Coalition*, which guides us in pushing our government to keep to our commitments, following COP27.

In February, do join their annual [Show the Love campaign](#), calling for action to create a cleaner, greener world. The [Community Action Pack](#) is full of ideas, based on asking your MP to champion action on the climate, nature and cost of living crisis.

## Events

### UNA Twickenham & Richmond (TRUNA)



On **17th January** from 19:30 to 21:30 at The Community Church Hall, Werter Road, SW15 2LL (opposite Sainsbury's) TRUNA is hosting a meeting on

***The Mysterious Death of Dag Hammarskjold.***

The main speaker is **David Wardrop** MBE, Chair of Westminster UNA and Editor of Hammarskjold inquiry info looking into the sixty-year old mystery of the plane crash in which the UN Secretary-General and colleagues died.

### UNA Harpenden



UNA Harpenden invite you to a talk on the International *Protection of Minorities: From the League to the UN* by **Professor Jennifer Jackson-Preece** of the London School of Economics on Saturday **January 21st** at 10:30 at the [Salvation Army, AL5 2TG](#) (10 mins walk from Harpenden station). [Please register here.](#)

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## UNA Luton

On Thursday **19<sup>th</sup> January** from 14:00, UNA Luton is holding a virtual seminar on *Dementia/Alzheimer Awareness* (global, national and local): The speakers will be **Nazia Khanum**, Chair, UNA Luton and **Louise Buckingham**, Alzheimer's Society. [Here is the link](#); you might need the passcode 128849.

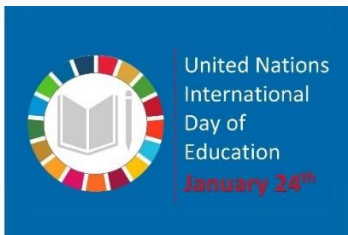
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## UNA Warwick

On Thursday **19th January** at 19:00, following a brief AGM at 18:30, UNA Warwick will host a webinar on *Iran - Its Politics and International Relations with its Neighbours*. The speaker will be **Professor Ali Ansari** from the Institute of Iranian Studies at University of St Andrews, Senior Associate Fellow at Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). [Use this link to join the meeting.](#)

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## UNA South London



UNA Wandsworth, Twickenham & Richmond, Streatham are holding a joint meeting on **28th January** at 12 noon at [The Adelaide, TW11 0AU](#) (2 minutes from Teddington station) to mark the *International Day for Education* (24th January).

**Olivia Darby**, co-founder of the [WONDER Foundation](#), will speak on Education as a route to thriving for women, girls and their communities. The meeting will also include the Twickenham and Richmond UNA AGM. Enquiries and registration to [René Smit](#).

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## UNA Luton



On Sunday **26<sup>th</sup> February** from 14:30 to 16:30, UNA Luton will be holding a virtual event, celebrating the *International Mother Language Day*.

For further details please contact [their Chair](#).

## Bring Your Climate Demands to Westminster

Hilary Evans of UNA Twickenham & Richmond has written:

“Readers will probably be aware that **Extinction Rebellion (XR)** has now decided to quit actions causing public disruption. This year the priority will be on encouraging attendance rather than arrest, relationships rather than roadblocks.



“An event is being planned for Friday **21st April** to which XR invites all people, all groups, all organisations to create a critical mass impossible to ignore. The target is for 100,000 people from all walks of life to gather peacefully at the nation’s seat of power in Westminster and encircle the Houses of Parliament. Planning is in its early stages but although the idea seems to be to maintain a presence at Westminster for several days, the main focus will be on a huge gathering on the 21st.

“I hope UNA members will feel able to support this action, with its opportunity of **demanding that our government take seriously its commitments to the UNFCCC**, and indeed take active steps to better support and strengthen the UN and promote its ideals, with the goal of achieving greater international co-operation in solving the immense problems faced by humanity.”

“Humanity has a choice: cooperate or perish. It is either a Climate Solidarity Pact – or a Collective Suicide Pact.”  
**UNSG Antonio Guterres** addressing COP27.

### LASER Pulse

Trisha Rogers and Salem Mezhoud have edited this edition of LASER Pulse; Suheil Shahryar has mailed it out.

For announcements for future editions of Pulse, please download and [fill in this template](#) and send it with any accompanying picture [to Trisha and Salem](#).

**The deadline for the next edition is 23rd February.**