

## Programme and Briefing For UNA-London & Southeast Region's Summer Council 2024

Warfare is escalating all around the world that is belligerently divided as allies and enemies. In response, many nations (including the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council) are upgrading and increasing their military arsenals to implement their renewed aggressive, war mongering 'defence' policies. **And in so doing, they are beating their.....**

### Ploughshares into Swords!!



On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2024, at St. Peter's Community Centre, Bexhill-on-Sea,  
**We aim to reinstate the .....**

### *Swords into Ploughshares*



UN Building Garden  
New York City, USA

..... Approach, by finding new ways to replace wars with  
**Sustainable Peace as envisaged in the UN Charter**

# WELCOME

On behalf of the UNA-Bexhill & Hastings Branch, I would like to welcome you all to our hosting of the UNA-London & Southeast Region's Summer Council Meeting 2024. As you will see in the Briefing part of the Programme, the theme of today, is a continuation of our series of six annual UN Day Peace Events.

But first, here are the **Health & Safety and Housekeeping Details**.

If the fire alarm sounds, you should leave by any of 3 fire exits in corners of this main hall and make your way to the churchyard, which is just across the road.

For the toilets, go out of the main door to this hall and turn immediately left into a small corridor. They are located at the end of that corridor. Also, there is a disabled access toilet by the main entrance to the Community Centre.

The formal part of the morning's programme is too short for a mid-morning coffee break. Therefore, having provided coffee with Registration, there will be a one hour Lunch and Networking Break at 12.45pm and a 15 minute Tea Break at 2.55pm this afternoon.

Sheila Kesby,

Chair & Peace Project Coordinator

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<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
THE PROGRAMME: Morning Session	3
THE PROGRAMME: Afternoon Session	4
PLOUGHSHARES INTO SWORDS!! Background Information Introducing the UNA-Bexhill & Hastings Peace Policy Statement	5
RATIONALE FOR A NEW APPROACH TO PEACE Isaiah's 'Swords into Ploughshares' Prophecy The Purpose of the Conference	6
The Objectives of the Conference The Exhibition and Stalls REFERENCES	7

# PROGRAMME

TIME	MORNING SESSION	COMMENT
11am	<b>FREE REGISTRATION</b> Tea/Coffee and Light Refreshments Networking around the Exhibition and Stalls	Collect conference papers: 1. The Programme and Briefing for the Conference 2. Discussion Paper for Formulating a UNA Peace Policy Statement for the Workshops
11.30am	Welcome to UNA-LaSER Summer Council 2024 By Sheila Kesby Chair of UNA-B&H	Health & safety and outline of the day's programme
	<b>Choosing Humanity</b> Show Video <i>Christmas Truce 1914</i> Narrator: Sheila Kesby will give a very brief account of how we are following on from the main outcomes of our UN Day 2023 that addressed the question of: “Who wants War and who wants Peace?” Concluding with a reading of <b>the Preamble to UN Charter</b> By Cllr. Becky Jones, Faversham Town Council in Kent	
11.45am	<b>Understanding the ‘Enemy’</b> Chair, Sheila Kesby will introduce Speaker ... <b>Professor Emeritus Richard Sakwa</b> Today, 22nd June, is the 83rd anniversary of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union. In light of this and more recent events, Emeritus Professor Richard Sakwa reiterates his long held argument that empathy (understanding the adversary) is not the same as sympathy; and understanding in all of its meanings is greatly needed. And never more so than in the present day of a bitterly divided world at war. The hostile divisions have permeated and challenged the UN System so that now, it faces its greatest crisis since its inception.	Richard Sakwa is Emeritus Professor of Russian & European Politics at the University of Kent. Also, he is an Associate Fellow of the Russia & Eurasia Programme at Chatham House, a Senior Research Fellow at the National Research University-Higher School of Economics in Moscow and an Honorary Professor of the Faculty of Political Science, Moscow State University.
12.45pm	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b> BYO - hot and cold drinks provided Plus Networking and Viewing the Exhibition & Stalls	Book signing of ‘ <i>The Lost Peace</i> ’ by Richard Sakwa

<b>TIME</b>	<b>AFTERNOON SESSION</b>	<b>COMMENT</b>
1.45pm	<p><b>Achieving Peace through Alternatives to War</b></p> <p>To better use the UN's &amp; Governments' political and legal structures to resolve conflicts without resort to warfare</p> <p><b>Alyn Ware</b>  <b>Director, LAW not War Campaign</b>  Chair: Patricia Rogers, Chair UNA-LASER</p>	Alyn Ware's many roles as a leading global peace activist include being: Global Coordinator, Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament; Programme Director, World Federalist Movement/Institute for Global Democracy
2.45pm	<p>Introducing the Workshop Session by Sheila Kesby</p> <p><b>THE 'WARLESS' ROAD TO PEACE</b></p>	Reference to the Discussion Paper for Formulating a UNA Peace Policy Statement
2.55pm	<p><b>TEA BREAK</b></p> <p>People may, if they wish, take their tea to their Workshop</p>	Re-arrangement of the tables/chairs for Workshops
3.15pm	<p><b>WORKSHOPS SESSION</b></p> <p>There will be four workshops that will each discuss a part of the 4-part draft Peace Policy Statement as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Nature of Peace from the UN Perspective Facilitator: Bill Goddard</li> <li>2) The Security of People &amp; National Military Defence Facilitator: Richard Norman</li> <li>3) International Peace and Security Facilitator: Sheila Kesby</li> <li>4) Re-Enabling the UN Security Council Facilitator: Richard Sakwa</li> </ol>	<p>In view of the short 'report back' session, would each group please make written notes of their workshop discussion, for UNA-B&amp;H to use in revising the Peace Policy Statement (PPS)</p> <p>Further, after the conference, anyone may send in their comments about the PPS to Sheila Kesby.</p> <p>Her contact details are on the Welcome Page (No. 2) of this Programme-Briefing Paper.</p>
4pm	<p><b>COMFORT BREAK</b></p>	Rearrangement tables/chairs for Plenary Session
4.10pm	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION</b></p> <p>Chaired by Patricia Rogers and Peter Webster</p> <p><b>Report Back From Workshops</b></p> <p>Each facilitator will have 5 minutes to give the key points from their workshop discussion.</p> <p><b>Open Discussion with Alyn Ware</b></p> <p>In light of the workshop reports attendees may ask, or make, further questions, points and comments</p>	<p>Each group should note up to 3 key points to report back, as well as suggestions of action by international organisations, national governments, local organisations, individuals.</p> <p>Peter Webster will make electronic real-time notes of the Plenary Session.</p>
4.45pm	<p><b>CLOSE OF CONFERENCE by Patricia Rogers</b></p>	
4.50pm	<p><b>Informal Networking around the Exhibition &amp; Stalls</b></p>	
5.20pm	<p><b>CLOSE OF EXHIBITION</b></p>	
6pm	<p><b>CLOSE OF ST. PETER'S COMMUNITY CENTRE</b></p>	

# PLOUGHSHARES INTO SWORDS!!

## BACKGROUND

With the support of UNA-London & Southeast Regions (UNA-LaSER) and the UNA London Trust, we in the UNA-Bexhill & Hastings Branch (UNA-B&H) have carried out a series of six annual UN Day Peace Events 2018-2023. The objectives of the whole series were as follows:

- 1) To help people understand 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 (UNSC). Such as economic and social hardship and dealing with record numbers of refugees landing on our shores. They come from wars that the UNSC has failed to prevent and to resolve. A failure often caused by the five permanent members of the Council (the P5<sup>1</sup>) being involved in the wars on opposite sides to one another (!)
- 2) To strengthen civil society by promoting 'the Development of People' as opposed to the development of social, economic and financial infrastructure and institutions.
- 3) To inspire people to want to know more about the UN. And how as part of a motivated, informed and organised civil society, they can influence their government to make the UN work how it is supposed to work. That is, according to its Charter - an international treaty.

UNA-B&H concluded its 2022 UN Day Peace Report with a suggested **Collective Way Forward**<sup>i</sup>. This is based on our conviction that Abolishing Wars and Maintaining Peace, Healing our sick Planet Earth and coping with Climate Change, ending Poverty and Promoting Health & Welfare, are not separate issues subject to separate solutions. They are interconnected global problems that require integrated, sustainable solutions. Therefore, we believe that the only way out of the current catastrophic state of the World, is to unify and strengthen civil society to work together in devising the ways and means for dealing with interconnected global problems with integrated, sustainable solutions.

## The Draft UNA-B&H Peace Policy Statement: 'The Warless Road to Peace'

Towards this end, we have used our experience and the post-event reports of the series of UN Day Peace Events to draft a single Peace Policy Statement. Based on the UN Concept of Human Security<sup>2</sup>, this is a comprehensive Statement that as well as addressing all aspects of peace, deals with all other global problems including: social & economic well-being, health & education, and environmental damage & climate change. Therefore, the Statement has been drafted 4-part document as follows:

- 1) The Nature of Peace from the UN Perspective
- 2) The Security of People & National Military Defence
- 3) International Peace and Security
- 4) Re-Enabling the UN Security Council

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<sup>1</sup> The P5 are: the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the French Republic, the Peoples Republic of China (since 1971) the Russian Federation (since 1991)

<sup>2</sup> At the second UN World Summit in September 2005, the UN's entire membership (191 member states at the time) reaffirmed their commitment to the UN Charter, the UN Millennium Declaration 2000, thus accepting the Concept of Human Security, which they described in the following terms:

*"We acknowledge that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being. We recognise that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing."*

(Source: UN General Assembly, 2005, World Summit Outcome Document A/60/L.1)

## RATIONALE FOR A NEW APPROACH TO PEACE

In company with the UN and UNA and non-UNA groups, the UNA-B&H peace policies are founded on Isaiah's 'Swords into Ploughshares' prophecy (the Holy Bible Isaiah 2:4). More recently, we plan to enrich our approach to peace by using three documents that UNA-LaSER sent with its December 2023 Newsletter. The first is about LaSER's welcomed participation in the Law not War Campaign<sup>ii</sup>. The second is about the UNSC's 'Thematic Debate on the Rule of Law amongst Nations' organised by the Law not War Campaign, on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023<sup>iii</sup>. And the third is an account of the Secretary-General (Antonio Guterres) 'Remarks to the UN Security Council on the Middle East' presented to the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023<sup>iv</sup>.

### Isaiah's 'Swords into Ploughshares' Prophecy

In 1959, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics presented to the United Nations, a sculpture depicting a man beating his sword into a ploughshare. Inspired by Isaiah<sup>3</sup>, Evgeny Vuchetich created the sculpture in bronze entitled, ***Let us Beat Swords into Ploughshares***<sup>v</sup>

The sculpture stands in the UN Garden in New York City and the words of Isaiah's prophecy are inscribed on a nearby wall. Regardless of particular faith, belief or religion – or none at all – the 'Swords into Ploughshares' sculpture has come to symbolise human desire to put an end to war, and to do so by converting the means of destruction into creative tools for the benefit of humankind. It has given rise to many non-government peace movements.

The now entrenched War in Ukraine and the terrible Israel/Gaza War are only two among many that have been initiated or inflamed by the P5. This inhibits the UNSC in maintaining international peace and security under the terms of international law embodied in the UN Charter. But more than this, these two wars have the dubious distinction of confirming that the UN Security Council has now failed, which in turn, has led to a sharp escalation of warfare<sup>4</sup> with impunity, all around the world.

We have, therefore, entitled UNA-LaSER's Summer Council 2024 as ***Ploughshares into Swords!!*** To emphasise how the disunity and continued engagement in 'cold war' politics, among the P5 has forced the response to an outbreak of war with more warfare as a first resort. This is a violation of the UN Charter and indicates the overall purpose for this day.

### THE PURPOSE

We are aiming to reverse ***Ploughshares into Swords*** so as to reinstate the ***Swords into Ploughshares*** approach to maintaining sustainable peace as envisaged in the UN Charter. This necessitates finding new and better ways to resolve all wars & conflicts, which includes re-enabling the UN Security Council to undertake its functions in regard to peace and security in accordance with the UN Charter and associated international law.

In keeping with the Purpose, the Objectives for this event are as follows:

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<sup>3</sup> Between 750 and 700 BC, Isaiah prophesied that the House of God would be established as a place to where all nations would flow and all people would come to learn his ways and walk in his paths, and then ..... ***“He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning forks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”***

(Source: Isaiah 2:4, the Holy Bible, revised standard version, 1952)

<sup>4</sup> Warfare is defined as all activities involved in war or armed conflict. Such as the manufacture of weapons to be sold or donated as military aid, the use of weapons to harm civilians and/or to destroy civilian infrastructure, cyber wars and the weaponisation of trade, economic and financial systems.

## OBJECTIVES

- 1) To highlight that while governments of the P5 and of many other nations, are engaged in maintaining a world at war, many people in their populations are coming together - both intra- and inter- nationally – to restore and maintain a world at peace.
- 2) To explore how to better use the UN & UK political and legal structures to resolve conflicts without resort to warfare
- 3) To note that if an NGO organises a street rally or a protest march to support one country engaged in a particular war while demonising the other one, it is not seeking peace. Instead, it is participating in fighting the war and inhibiting the restoration of peace.
- 4) To discuss and revise UNA-B&H's draft comprehensive Peace Policy Statement: 'The Warless Road to Peace'.

## EXHIBITION AND STALLS

In order to facilitate and encourage informal discussion and networking, an exhibition will be formed by the UNA-B&H display stalls about the UN System, Language & International Communication and Think Global, Live Local/Community Land Trusts. In addition, there will be a book stall that may include a book signing by Professor Richard Sakwa of his latest book – *The Lost Peace*<sup>vi</sup>. And also, there will be an empty stall for those attending the event to display their own materials.

The day's programme will include the following times for viewing and for informal networking around the Exhibition as follows:

- 11am -11.30am: Registration and tea/coffee & light refreshment
- 12.45pm – 1.45pm: Lunch Break
- 4.45pm – 5.20pm: The time between Close of Conference & Close of the Exhibition

## REFERENCES

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<sup>i</sup> UNA-Bexhill & Hastings Branch, *If the United Nations was founded for World Peace, why is the World at War?* UN Day Peace Event, held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2022, unpublished Post-Event Report by Sheila Kesby, available on request at email: [s.kesby339@btinternet.com](mailto:s.kesby339@btinternet.com)

<sup>ii</sup> Law not War is a new global campaign to enhance the jurisdiction and use of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in order to assist countries resolve international disputes peacefully rather than through recourse to the threat or use of force. The Campaign has therefore, reactivated the hitherto underused facilities in the UN System for resolving war and pursuing peace through the international law courts.

[LAW not WAR - UNFOLD ZERO https://www.unfoldzero.org](https://www.unfoldzero.org) > [law-not-war](#)

<sup>iii</sup> The UN Secretary-General opens a debate organised by the Law not War Campaign for the UN Member States. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General. Remarks to the [UN Security Council Thematic Debate on the Rule of Law amongst Nations](#), January 12, 2023

<sup>iv</sup> Antonio Guterres (the UN Secretary-General) offer a good guide to negotiating peace in his Remarks to the UN Security Council – on the Middle East, 24<sup>th</sup> October (UN Day) 2023 [Secretary-General's remarks to the Security Council United Nations https://www.un.org > content > speeches > secretary-g...](#)

<sup>v</sup> [Let Us Beat Swords Into Ploughshares | United Nations Gifts https://www.un.org > ungifts > let-us-beat-swords-ploug...](#)

<sup>vi</sup> Richard Sakwa, 2023, *The Lost Peace: How the West Failed to Prevent a Second Cold War*, published by Yale University Press New Haven and London, ISBN 978-0-300-25501-0