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2023 - Issue No. 2

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Trisha Rogers



Trisha Rogers

Among the many ways in which UNA Groups engage with current events – like speaker events, book discussion, watching performances, study tours, campaigning, school assemblies – contributing to major international consultations is the most immediate. Congratulations, therefore, to UNA Climate & Oceans for securing a VIP Pass for [The World Ocean Summit & Expo 2023](#), hosted by *The Economist*. We look forward to hearing the reports from their representative, Michele Ivone-Rodriguez, a member of their Youth Council, who will represent them there and hopes to influence the draft of the *Global Plastics Pollution Treaty*.

Another immediately effective branch action is exemplified by UNA Eastbourne's [Mvule tree-planting project](#), with its long-term work on carbon sequestration. Here are two images describing briefly the essence of their scheme. Eastbourne UNA encourages us to spend 10 minutes to check out the detailed scientific evidence behind the Mvule Project.

 <p>PLANTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF THE ICONIC MILICIA EXCELSA TO SECURE OUR FUTURE</p>  <p>AGROFORESTRY BENEFITS</p> <p>CROPS PROTECT, YOUNG TREES, AND OLDER TREES PROTECT CROPS</p> <p>WITHIN A HUMAN LIFESPAN THIS TREE CAN SEQUESTER AN EXTRAORDINARY 40 TONNES CO₂ - 4 TIMES MORE THAN AN OAK TREE FOR THE PRICE OF 1/2 COFFEE PER MONTH PLANT 36 MILICIA EXCELSA & COMPANION TREES A YEAR Visit our website for details: www.unaeastbourne.org</p> 	<p>3 URGENT GOALS TO TACKLE GLOBAL WARMING:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. REDUCE YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT - CHANGE YOUR LIFESTYLE - AVOID HIGH CARBON EMISSIONS 2. BECOME CARBON NEUTRAL - SEQUESTER YOUR RESIDUAL CARBON FOOTPRINT 3. BECOME CARBON NEGATIVE - SEQUESTER SOME OF YOUR HISTORIC CARBON EMISSIONS <p>SUPPORT THE UNA EASTBOURNE MVULE PROJECT FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION</p> <p>WHY? Based on detailed scientific evidence our Tri-Species project has a focus on maximum carbon sequestration in a most effective region in the world, with multiple community benefits.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maximising carbon sequestration rates* b. Agroforestry benefits and enhanced soil fertility c. Reduction of deforestation rates d. Community well-being benefits, in short, medium & longterm <p>For further details of the MVULE PROJECT visit our website: www.unaeastbourne.org/carbon-offset-home or contact: unaeastbourne@yahoo.com</p>  <p>* THE EXCEPTIONAL 'Tree with Stones' UNA Eastbourne is currently the only organisation planting Mvule for its unique capacity to lock CO₂ into a long-term inorganic carbon sink through a process known as the oxalate-carbon pathway. We follow the science to guide the best way forward. Check-out the 'Scientific Evidence' on our website.</p> <p>HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? Sponsor 36 tropical hardwood trees a year for £1.50 a month (half the price of a cup of coffee) (12 Mvule/iroko; 12 Terminalia; 12 Musizi)</p> <p>To set up a standing order for a regular or a one-off payment, and to get your digital certificate of sponsorship see details below:</p> <p>Bank Details: UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION EASTBOURNE Sort code: 40-10-14 Account: 21511807</p>   <p>Picture on Left: A giant Mvule tree cut down in eastern Uganda in 2018 for road widening. UNA Eastbourne has been active in replanting such trees since 2012.</p>
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Campaigns

The Holy Land

The recent deaths and destruction in the Holy Land are shocking. Building on the expertise of Antony Vallyon and Brian Beeley, we have shaped our current campaign to try to protect the human rights of all who live in the Holy Land and to ensure that all UK organisations can use their economic influence to protest against abuses of human rights. It is also important that accusations of 'antisemitism' should not be conflated with valid criticism of actions of the Israeli government. We therefore are encouraging the use of the [Jerusalem Declaration on 'antisemitism'](#) not [that of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\)](#). There is more background on these issues [on our website](#), with suggestions for the actions we need from: the UK government; public bodies and companies; and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The most effective way of influencing ministers in our UK government is to write to our MPs whose communications are more likely to get into the Ministers' 'red boxes'.

Ukraine

Following discussion at our AGM and by our Policy Committee, we have agreed a resolution on [Using International Law in relation to Russia's Invasion of Ukraine](#). We have sent this to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and will share their response with you.

Climate Change

It is important that we keep up the pressure to tackle climate change. Recognising the major challenges facing us, the Climate Coalition (of which LASER is a member) [encourages us](#) to urge the whole Government to come together to tackle the climate, nature and cost of living crises.

Support for Branches

The **2023 Public Liability Insurance** that UNA-UK provides to support branch events is now available from UNA-UK and is also available [here](#).

Ways for branches to recruit new committee members include through their local Rotary Clubs and also through their local colleges. We are using these avenues to support some branches who need more committee members. Do [get in touch](#) if you would like us to support you in any way.

Events

UNA-UK

The **UNA-UK Policy Conference** will be held on **1st April. 10:00 – 16:30** at Resource for London, 356 Holloway Road, **London N7 6PA**, as well as **online**. Therefore UNA LASER will not be holding a Spring Council and Policy Conference; we encourage all our members to support this national event to consider key international issues. It will include an opportunity to meet the staff and Chair of UNA-UK. The cost is £5. Please register [here](#).

Note: *At the time of writing, a rail strike is proposed for 1st April. In order to enable as many people as possible to attend in person, some UNA London members are offering accommodation around the conference. Please [let me know](#) if you live within tube or bus reach of Resource for London – or plan to drive to the event – and would be able to host one or more UNA members from 31st March – 2nd April.*

UNA Wandsworth

On **7th March, 19:30**, to mark International Women's Day, UNA Wandsworth (a member of the South London United Nations Association, SLUNA) is hosting a public meeting entitled ***Afghanistan: Women and Girls – What Future?*** The speaker will be **Mollie Tant**, Rahela Trust for Afghan Women's Education. The event will be at the Community Church, Werter Road, Putney, **London SW15 2LL**. For further information, please contact [the Chair](#) or [UNA Wandsworth secretary](#).

UNA Harpenden

On **February 18**, UNA Harpenden hosted a talk on ***The Greatest Economists: How Their Ideas Can Help Us Today*** by **Linda Yueh**, Fellow in Economics, St Edmund Hall, Oxford University and Adjunct Professor of Economics, London Business School. [A video recording of the talk can be viewed here](#).

On **18th March at 10:30**, UNA Harpenden invites you to a talk at the Salvation Army, Leyton Green, **Harpenden AL5 2TG** on the ***Agonies of Empire: The Second American Civil War?*** by **Dr Michael Fox**, Emeritus Professor of International Relations, London School of Economics and Political Science. Please register [here](#).

UNA Luton

The UN theme of this year's **International Mother Language Day** is *Multilingual education: a necessity to transform education*. To mark this, UNA Luton – with Purbachal, the Eastern Sky, a Bangladeshi voluntary cultural organisation – is holding a virtual celebration of the contributions of mother-tongues to identities, cultures, enrichment and community cohesion on **26th February, 14:30-16:30**. [This is the zoom link](#). For further information, contact the [Luton Chair](#).

UNA Westminster

On **15th March, 18:30**, UNA Westminster, with the Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy at SOAS is hosting as their **20th Annual International Law Lecture** on **Brexit, the Good Friday Agreement & the Constitutional Future of Northern Ireland**. The lecture is being given by **Professor Colin Harvey**, Director, Human Rights Centre, School of Law, Queen's University, Belfast He has been an observer at the epicentre of Stormont's struggle following

Brexit and will comment on implications for the constitutional future of Northern Ireland. All are invited to stay for the post-lecture reception. The location is Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh Street, **London WC1H 0AL**. Please register [here](#)

On **23rd May**, UNA Westminster, with the Royal United Services Institute and UNA-UK is organising the **20th Annual Conference to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers**. It will feature a panel discussion on peacekeeping training followed by the Folke Bernadotte Memorial Lecture. More information and details for registration will be posted on the websites of [UNA Westminster](#) and [UNA LASER](#).

On **26th May, 13:15**, UNA Westminster, with UNA-UK, is organising the **20th annual wreath-laying ceremony to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers** at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London. Representatives of the UK government, the military, the police and members of the diplomatic community will lay wreaths at the Cenotaph, accompanied by short prayers. The Band of the Royal Marines will give musical support. All are welcome.

On **12th July, 18:30**, UNA Westminster will hold an event in **Room1, the House of Lords**, on ***Who cares about human rights beyond the horizon?*** The lead speaker will be **David Hammond**, Chief Executive of Human Rights at Sea, which is the world's largest organisation caring for seafarers, from those in mega-bulk carriers to refugees in small boats. Hear about the new *Geneva Declaration on Human Rights at Sea* intended to extend human rights under international law. More information and details for registration will be posted on the websites of [UNA Westminster](#) and [UNA LASER](#).

UNA Summer Council

UNA Canterbury is kindly hosting our Summer Council on **1st July, 10:30 for 11:00** in central Canterbury. The theme will be ***Migrants and Refugees***. Please put the date in your diaries and be ready to receive further information!

King's College Department of War Studies

Kings College Department of War Studies is holding a conference on **3 March, 09:00-17:30** in their Strand Campus, **London WC2R 2LS**, entitled ***Conflict, Security and Development***. The cost is £5-£10. For further information and to register, follow [this link](#).

Grants Available

The London UNA Trust (registered charity number 290951) exists to increase the understanding of global problems and the role of the UN in tackling them. They allocate some funds to provide bursaries for young people and others to learn more about the UN. They also allocate funds to support initiatives by United Nations Association groups – or others – to educate people about international issues, including the work of the UN.

The [trustees](#) meet periodically to consider applications; **to apply for a grant, please use the [application forms on their website](#). For further information, please contact the [Trust Chair](#).**

LASER Pulse

Please [send us](#) any materials for the next edition of *Pulse* by **23rd March**. For announcement of events, it is helpful if you can download and use [this template](#).



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