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From Our Chair



Trisha Rogers

Congratulations to UNA-UK on their iconic Westminster Central Hall event, hosting an inspirational hustings to enable us to learn more about the [1 for 8 Billion campaign](#) and to meet 4 of the 5 announced candidates to become UN Secretary-General on 1st January 2027. [The UNA-UK Youtube channel](#) has recordings from the event, especially Lyse Doucet's expert interviews of each candidate, which included questions submitted by UNA members. Let's lobby our MPs that the UK uses its permanent seat on the Security Council (who select a candidate for approval by the General

Assembly). They need to choose a strong UN Secretary-General who will use all levers at their command to uphold international law and who has had the courage to present themselves for public scrutiny! Even better, the Security Council could put forward more than one name to the General Assembly, so the Assembly has a choice, rather than just rubber stamping or rejecting!

The [Britain Palestine Project](#) have kindly allowed us to share their recent conference's [presentation by William Dalrymple](#). In which he outlined 3,000 years of Palestinian history, vividly demonstrating the deep roots of the Palestinian people in the 'Holy Land'. He also reminds us of the UK's major role in recent history in shaping the structures leading to today's conflicts, as well as the contributions of the UN and international legal structures in addressing them. The heart-breaking humanitarian suffering and breaking of international law continue daily. The UK is in a unique and responsible position (for historical, as well as current reasons) to play a much stronger role in addressing current crimes and suffering. We suggest in the *Campaigning* section below some actions we can each take.

Campaigning

LASER Policies

Many thanks to the many of you who contributed to proposing, amending and selecting the new LASER policies, culminating in our recent Policy Conference in March. It was a challenge in our current turbulent world to know where best to focus in this single

day; we chose where we hope our lobbying can have most effect. The agreed resolutions are [on our website](#). Do [lobby your MPs](#) about any or all of them! The LASER Policy Chair has [shared the resolutions with the Foreign Secretary](#) and other relevant leaders; we shall share their responses with you.

The Holy Land

Here are some suggestions for action, some through our behaviour as consumers, most [through our MPs](#) (don't forget to give your full postal address in the relevant constituency!) or [through Ministers](#).

- Use the work of the [Don't Buy Into Occupation Coalition](#) (DBIO) to avoid supporting business involved with settlements declared illegal by the international Court of Justice (ICJ) or with Israel's military operations in Gaza; the DBIO database provides details of the extent of involvement in each case.
- Ask the UK government to:
 1. publish in full Attorney General Lord Hermer's legal advice to the government on its response to the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Israel (of 19th July 2024) and support the reintroduction of the lapsed [UK Bill](#) requiring steps to give effect to this ICJ advisory opinion;
 2. make a strong commitment to upholding the rule of law – especially the [4th Geneva Convention](#) (on protection of non-combatants) – a major consideration in the UK government's choice of UN Secretary-General candidate;
 3. widen the [English and Welsh Law of Universal Jurisdiction](#) (such as discussed in the [Clooney Redress Report](#) but, according to former LASER President Baroness Helena Kennedy, KC, opposed by a pro-Israel lobby in the House of Lords) to enable England and Wales to prosecute war crimes more widely;
 4. end all military and security cooperation with Israel that facilitates the continued occupation of the West Bank or operations in Gaza, especially, ending all arms sales licences and RAF intelligence flights over Gaza, as these

support actions illegal under international law;

5. greatly increase the number of Israeli citizens who are sanctioned by the UK (currently only five: Itaman Ben-Gvir, Bezalel Smotrich, Dabiella Weiss, Harel David Libi and Zohar Sabah) to include all those directing or encouraging the war crimes in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT);
6. suspend the UK-Israel Trade Agreement which allows the trading here of many goods manufactured in illegal settlements (falsely claiming to come from Israel);
7. sanction all UK business enterprises that, [according to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) (OHCHR), are involved in Israeli settlements in the OPTs;
8. urge the Israeli government to release all children under 18 from Israeli prisons and for Israel to stop breaching the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), of which Israel is a signatory;
9. urge the Israeli government to allow International Committee of the Red Cross visits to Israeli prisons to report on the treatment of Palestinian prisoners – including political prisoners and potential Palestinian leaders like [Marwan Barghouti](#) – on whom there are reports of serious mistreatment and torture, breaking international law;
10. call for the trials of all those accused of War Crimes committed in the October 7th attacks to be conducted according to international legal principles in criminal courts and excluding evidence gained through torture, rather than in special military courts (with their different rules of evidence and with the option of the death penalty), heeding the objections raised by Israeli human rights advocates such as the [Public Committee Against Torture in Israel](#).

Environment

Great Big Green Week 2026 will be on **6th-14th June**. It is an opportunity, coordinated by the Climate Coalition (of which LASER is a member), to join others around the country in local events to take action for their communities, for nature and for the climate. To find out more – about running events or joining others near you –

see <https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com>.

LASER Events

LASER Summer Council

Climate Change Imperatives

On **Saturday 4th July, 2026, 10:45-17:00**, UNA Eastbourne will host our hybrid Summer Council, at Eastbourne's **Victoria Baptist Church**, Eldon Road, Eastbourne, **BN21 1UE** (about half an hour's walk or short bus ride from Eastbourne station). The title is ***Climate Change Imperatives***, with global issues addressed by **Professor Terry Cannon** (University College, London) speaking on *The Ethical Imperative*, **Professor Steve Sorrell** on *The Energy Imperative*, and **UNA Eastbourne Chair, Ian Elgie** on *The Mitigation Imperative*. In the afternoon a panel of local experts will look at *The Adaptation and Affordability Imperatives*. The conference is free, but we welcome donations (both through Eventbrite and directly by [contacting us](#) for those joining on zoom) to help cover the cost.

In-person attendees will also have the option to pay £1 (cash, please) to support the planting of a climate-mitigation tree in Uganda. Please bring your own lunch (though there will also be some lunch snacks on sale for cash). Further information and in-person registration are available [here](#). Zoom registration is [here](#).

On the morning of **Sunday 5th July**, UNA Eastbourne will organise a free walk along the Peace Path to the Peace Memorial at Beachy Head. Please find further details and register [here](#). So plan to spend the whole week-end in Eastbourne!



LASER AGM and Presidential Address

The LASER AGM and the inaugural Presidential Address of our new President, **Sir Malcolm Evans**, will be on **14th November** in **Bermondsey Village Hall**. Further information and registration details will be sent in future editions of *Pulse*. Do, now, save the date, consider whether you might like to stand for our Executive Committee and [let us know](#) of inspirational activities being done by UNA Groups and of people standing down from their UNA service who should be considered for a Distinguished Service Award.

Other UNA Events

UNA Harpenden



On **6th June, 10:30**, UNA Harpenden is hosting a hybrid public lecture on ***Global Elites and American Power Today*** by **Professor Inderjet Parmar** (City University of London). He will examine how American power is sustained and projected through military force, state institutions, and also through dense networks of global elites (corporate, philanthropic, academic, and policy-oriented). He will outline a new theoretical approach to world politics – ‘Critical Multiplexity’ – to help explain ongoing global power shifts, as well as enduring oligarchical power in world politics. The lecture will reflect on what this means for global governance and the future of the United Nations: much turbulence ahead! The event will be online and also at [Salvation Army](#), Harpenden AL5 2TG. Refreshments will be available. For more information and to register, please go [here](#) and scroll down.

UNA Tunbridge Wells and Wealden

On **6th June, 14:30**, UNA Tunbridge Wells and Wealden will be holding their AGM (to share updates and discuss plans), followed by hosting ***A Conversation with Sanam Naraghi Anderlini*** (Civil Society Action Network) at **King Charles the Martyr**, 3 Warwick Park, Tunbridge Wells TN2 5TA. For further information and to register, please go [here](#).

UNA Global South

On **25th June, 11:00-18:00**, UNA Global South is holding a free day of speakers, live

music, food and open debate on *The United Nations at 80: a Global South Perspective*. It will be at **Hodgkin Building**, King's College London Guy's Campus, **London SE1 1UL**. For more information and to register, please go [here](#).

Groups' and Members' Information and Support

Group Descriptions and Activities

There is a list of LASER UNA Groups [on our website](#). Please check your entries and [let us know](#) of any changes you would like.

As well as publicising activities of our LASER Groups in *Pulse*, we also sometimes publicise other activities in our region that are relevant to our work, as well as activities outside our region that are accessible online or easily reached by people in our region. Please see the end of this newsletter for how to submit material.

Great Big Green Week Resources

Resources are now available for both primary and secondary schools. Whether schools are planning a whole-school celebration, an assembly, a lesson or an eco-club session during **6th-14th June**, they can find support and ideas at <https://www.greatbiggreenweek.com/schools>.

Sixth Form Speaker on the History of Israel-

Palestine

The British Palestine Project Trustee, Mike Scott-Baumann is available to give sixth form talks on the history of Israel-Palestine within 100 miles of Bristol or London. He is an experienced history teacher and public speaker, has visited the Holy Land several times and his book *Israelis: A Short History of Conflict*, has been translated into seven foreign languages. Interested schools should please contact [the Britain Palestine Project](#).

Educational Package on Food Poverty

Enfield and the Barnets UNA (EBUNA) has engaged in a review of food poverty in the borough of Enfield. The project consisted of desk research, case studies and participation in the Enfield Food Partnership, leading to a report being issued in June 2025. The group has now created a spin-off package of educational activities based on their research. The activities are based on small group role play and larger group discussion in a similar format to the UN Security Council simulations. The educational package is designed to underpin activities led by adult teachers, youth leaders or other volunteers, so the three activity booklets in this pack can be adapted to suit various audiences and locations; the prime target audience is young people aged 14 to 20. If your group would like a PDF copy of the *Food Poverty Educational Pack*, or for further information, please contact [Ali Hessami](#).

Inspirational Group Activities

You can find descriptions of inspirational activities from other groups on [our Groups'](#)

[page](#). Please [tell us](#) if you know of another inspirational activity by a UNA group that we could share.

UNA Working Groups

These Working Groups (which are also listed on the [LASER website](#)) bring together groups and individual members to work together on key areas. There are no set structures or required outcomes. They mostly meet online and might want to develop campaigns, awareness-raising materials, presentations, resolutions or reports. The groups can lead to further research, campaigning or other action.

If there is a topic you would like to research and take forward in consultation with other interested members, do [contact us](#) about starting a new UNA Working Group.

Beyond Sovereignty

This Working Group has the objective of identifying the drivers and inhibitors of a new global order – an order capable of ending wars of aggression between sovereign nation states, like the ones occurring now in West Asia, and having a UN governance that is fit for the 21st century – a UN that could meet the aspirations of the majority of the peoples of the world living in peace and harmony. Discussions will be moderated via a consensus-building tool developed by Ali Hessami. The convenor is **Suheil Shahryar**. To join the group, please register [here](#).

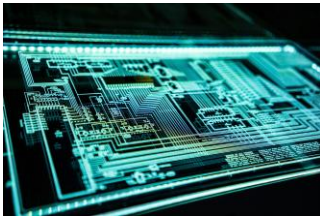
UN Article 109 General Conference

Many consider that the *UN Charter* of 1945 (little changed over 80 years, during which our world has changed in many ways) needs revision. *UN Charter Article A109-1* is

the provision for a General Conference of UN Members, if approved by 2/3rds of the General Assembly Members and 9 of the Security Council Members. In the UN's 80+ years history such a General Conference has never been held. The [A109 Coalition](#), within the auspice of the [Global Governance Forum \(GGF\)](#), aims to mobilise UN Member States to call this General Conference at which the GGF draft Second Charter would be tabled.

This new Working Group, convened by John Crowe, will explore how UK civil society, particularly UNA members, could promote – and respond to – the tabling of such an A109 motion. It is open to all. For further information and to get involved, please contact this group via A109@Freedomia.net.

Digital & Emerging Technologies



In December, the UN created the Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies, to support the newly adopted [Global Digital Compact \(GDC\)](#). The GDC is a framework that supports an open, sustainable, fair, safe and secure digital future for everyone. The GDC will seek to address governance, inclusion, and access across technology and AI. This new Working Group will investigate and decide in which areas of the GDC we can lend support, and develop plans and actions to advance its objectives. All are all welcome to join. People with experience in governance, community-led technology groups, open source software and experience in emerging technologies (e.g. blockchain, AI, BioTech, IoT) are encouraged to contact us. We expect to meet remotely every other month, with planned in-person gatherings occasionally. As we focus on particular topics, meetings may occur more regularly. Please contact [Cameron McAnsh](#) for more information and to join the group.

SDG Guidance and Use Cases



Since September 2024 this Working Group has been meeting every 8 weeks to exchange experience and collaborate to promote the adoption and implementation of the SDGs by UNA groups. One of the group's members is a UK representative at the ISO/UNDP PAS 53002:2024, *Guidelines for contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. The ISO/UNDP guidelines address: setting SDG impact objectives and targets; engaging with stakeholders; collecting data on impacts; generating options; making risk-based decisions; and understanding trade-offs to increase positive impact. We intend to generate an overview resource from this standard for the benefit of other UNA groups. We shall also discuss specific SDG adoption, research and use cases by various groups, including SDG initiatives on SDG2 (hunger) and SDG 13 (climate impact) in UNA Enfield and the Barnets. Please contact [Ali Hessami](#) for further information.

Achieving Peace in Europe

The group aims to develop a resolution on *Defending Europe Responsibly* for submission to a UNA LASER Policy Conference, to be accepted by LASER and then presented to the UK Foreign Secretary and other European leaders. The background

information to the formation of the working group can be found [here](#), with further information [here](#) in the paper *How does Europe defend itself responsibly?* by **Suheil Shahryar**. People interested in joining this group should please contact [Suheil Shahryar](#).

Tyranny, Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction - Interrogating the Draft Second United Nations Charter

The Group aims to assess how well this [Second UN Charter](#) (written by an international team of experts on UN reform) will strengthen International Law through a series of discussions each starting with an attempt to 'diagnose' the root causes of our unpeaceful world, which in its present course, is predicted to make itself extinct. It will then try to find, in each case, a 'cure' for this 'disease', working from our own experiences and our findings in the 'Second Charter'. Finally, in each case, and later in summary, it will attempt to expedite these 'cures' through the 'force of law' – as expressed in all the various forms of International Law. The group will be chaired by LASER Head of Policy, Peter Webster, and will convene by zoom. For more information and to join the group, please contact [Greta Vipond](#). Even if you do not want to join the group, [Greta Vipond](#) would be very interested to receive your responses to the following 3 questions, as this would contribute to the thinking of the group:

- What are the basic requirements now for effective, and dynamic World Governance?
 - What are the core principles you would like to see as the basis of a Second UN Charter?
 - Which core principles should we retain that are embedded in the present [UN Charter](#)?
-

Imagining and Exploring a UN Fit for the 21st Century

The classical and inflexible governance of the UN, built around classical institutional models of post war era, renders it unfit for a dynamic and new multipolar world order. The UN governance can and should be re-engineered for the brave new world. This Working Group is adopting a novel research method creatively to explore the drivers and opportunities for a reformed structure and governance, leading to a UN that will be agile, inclusive, representative, transparent, accountable and fair to the needs, rights and values of the international community in this century of exponential change and shifting power dynamics. It is intended to produce a consensus-based, ideal structure/governance/regulatory model and associated brief narrative for the UN in the 21st century, starting from a blank sheet, not reviewing the *Charter* and the existing formalisms about the UN. **The group has** held 10 sessions at fortnightly intervals so far. The group meets fortnightly on Thursdays at 17:00. To join the session **on 9th April, 17:00**, [here is the zoom link](#). For more information, please contact [Ali Hessami](#).

Financial Support for LASER

LASER does not ask for subscriptions from its members or groups, nor does it charge for attendance at its events in order not to exclude anyone for financial reasons.

We therefore welcome donations to our new Virgin Money UNA London and South East Region account. Please [let us know](#) if you want to make a donation.

How about a monthly 'cup-of-coffee £3.50' in the form of a standing order? Please [let us know](#) of any donation.

The Next Edition of LASER *Pulse*

Please send us any materials for the next edition of *Pulse* by **2nd July, 2026**. We suggest that events are initially publicised over a month ahead, as the *Pulse* mailing

date may have to be varied to fit in with other constraints. Please keep announcements short and, for forthcoming events, include all the information requested in [the Pulse template](#). We welcome pictures, but **please ensure that any pictures you send are not copyright-protected**, because we add each edition of *Pulse* to our website for public access and would be liable for copyright fees. Please note, too, that, since previous editions of *Pulse* are available on our website, **any announcements should include only information (such as contact details) that you are happy to have publicly accessible on the internet.**