



2026 Issue No. 8, July

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From Our Chair



Trisha Rogers

There's just still time to register for our Summer Council in Eastbourne (see below in *LASER Events*). See you there!

4th July is also the deadline to apply for consideration to be part of the UNA-UK delegation to the triennial WFUNA Plenary Assembly in August in Geneva, with the possibility of receiving a London UNA Trust (of up to £800) to help cover your costs. (See below in *Groups' and Members' Information and Support*.)

The summer is a good time to prepare for our AGM in November (see below in *LASER Events*). Do think about whether you would like to stand for our Executive Committee (or nominate someone else to do so)! We meet monthly on zoom for about 2 evening hours. [Let us know, too](#), of inspirational activities being done by UNA Groups that we can share at the AGM, as well as of people standing down from their UNA service who should be considered for a Distinguished Service

Award.

Campaigning

LASER Policies

Many thanks to the many of you who contributed to proposing, amending and selecting the new LASER policies, culminating in our 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.

Migration and Asylum



LASER is a founder member of [United Against Inhumanity \(UAI\)](#), a Europe-wide network of concerned civic society groups, on the committee of which we are represented by UNA Westminster. We welcome the UAI's recent [Statement](#) on the [EU Pact and Strategy on Migration and Asylum](#). Even though the EU Pact does not apply to the UK its impact will be felt here. The UAI's Manifesto to Stop the Inhumanity at Europe's Borders, endorsed by UNA LASER, focuses on 5 key demands: saving lives; humanising reception arrangements; ending containment; establishing safe routes; and enabling justice and redress.

Violence against Children

The recent publication of [the UN Secretary General's 2025 report on Children and Armed Conflict](#) noted 2 shocking records:

- Children living in war zones were this year subject to a record number of violations, including killings, rape, forced recruitment, abductions, attacks on schools, and the denial of humanitarian aid that could have helped them
- For the first time, the main perpetrators of horrors against children were governments, not armed groups.

For more information see [our website](#), using, with their kind permission, the report from [Proximities](#).

This links in with the finding this month of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (established by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021) that, [as summarised by to the BBC](#), Israel has deliberately targeted Palestinian children, resulting in genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Gaza, as well as war crimes in the occupied West Bank. The commission alleges that has reasonable grounds to conclude that those acts in Gaza "form part of a deliberate strategy to destroy the future of the Palestinians in Gaza by targeting their children".

Action

As a new government is being formed, draw the attention of [your MP](#) to your concern on these issues and urge that the government act. For example, addressing the breaches of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), the government should:

- 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;

- 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;
- 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;
- 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 the sharing of intelligence with Israel from RAF flights over Gaza, as these support actions illegal under international law;
- 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 OPT;
- suspend the UK-Israel Trade Agreement which allows the trading here of many goods manufactured in illegal settlements (falsely claiming to come from Israel);
- sanction all UK business enterprises that, according to the database of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), are involved in Israeli settlements in the OPTs;
- urge the Israeli government to release all children under 18 from Israeli prisons and for Israel to stop breaching the , of which Israel is a signatory;
- urge the Israeli government to allow full access for food, water and humanitarian assistance, in line with the [Geneva Convention 4 Article 23](#);
- 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 – on whom there are reports of serious mistreatment and torture, breaking international law.

You might also like to adapt the [UNA Enfield and the Barnets letter](#) that they have shared with us.

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, 11:00**, UNA Eastbourne will organise a free walk along the Peace Path to the Peace Memorial at Beachy Head, starting and ending at the Cadence Clubhouse Café. Please find further details and register [here](#). So plan to spend the whole week-end in Eastbourne!



LASER AGM and Policy Conference

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 Luton

On **6th July, 20:30**, UNA Luton, with Purbachal – The Eastern Sky, is hosting a free musical evening at **19 Blandford Avenue**, Luton, Bedfordshire **LU2 7AY**. It celebrates World Music Day, with musicians including **Sri Soumyen Adhikari** (multi-award winning singer, composer and director). The event – promoting the rich heritage of

Bengali music – recognises that music has a universal language and can be a powerful vehicle for promoting peace across the world. To attend, please confirm your attendance to the [Chair of UNA Luton](#).

UNA Streatham and Clapham

On **13th July, 19:00**, UNA Streatham and Clapham invites you to a free hybrid meeting at the **Mark Bennett Hall, Streatham Library**, 63 Streatham High Road, **SW16 1PN** (entrance Pinfold Rd, buses 133, 109, 159, 250, 333 from Brixton tube, Streatham Hill or Streatham rail stations). The meeting – after a brief AGM – will focus on ***What difference do women make to peace negotiations?***. The speakers are **Sanam Naraghi Anderlini** (International Civil Society Action Network) and **Gillian Dare** (former UK diplomat). Please attend in-person or register [here](#) for the online meeting.

UNA Harpenden



On **12th September, 10:30**, UNA Harpenden will host a public lecture on ***The Future of Neoliberal Capitalism*** by **Professor Radhika Desai**, (Visiting Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science). 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.

On **17th October, 10:30**, UNA Harpenden will host a public lecture on ***Economics Embedded in Nature*** by **Professor Sir Partha Dasgupta** (Cambridge

Emeritus). 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 Bexhill-on-Sea

On **19th September 13:45-17:00**, UNA Bexhill-on-Sea is holding a public seminar at **St Peter's Community Centre**, Church Street, Bexhill-on-Sea, **TN40 2HE** on ***Paving the Way to Sustainable Peace***, with keynote speaker **The Rev Dt Stephen Need**. Distressed by endless wars, in keeping with the UN *Sustaining Peace* Agenda, the group has been exploring and defining the nature of peace as experienced on all levels. In this next seminar, they will take a pragmatic turn to paving the way towards Sustainable Peace. To register or for more information please contact [the Chair, UNA Bexhill-on-Sea](#).

UNA Canterbury

On **25th October**, in the evening, in **Canterbury Cathedral**, UNA Canterbury will hold their annual event marking UN Day. More information soon.

UNA Climate & Oceans

On **14th November**, at **St Peter's Community Centre**, Church Street, Bexhill-on-Sea, **TN40 2HE**, UNA Climate and Oceans, with Sussex Dolphin Project, Sussex

Underwater, and Community Supporters, will be hosting an **Ocean Symposium and Marine Exhibition** inspired by the UN World Oceans Day theme, *Reimagine: Beyond the World We Know, a new Relationship with our Oceans*. Policy makers, government agencies, business leaders, non-government organisations, community representatives, scientists, educators, innovators and engaged citizens - all committed to the protection, restoration and sustainable management of our oceans – will share speeches, panel events, discussions, films, exhibitions and networking opportunities. More information soon; save the date!

Groups' and Members' Information and Support

Group Descriptions and Activities

There is a list of LASER 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.

Up to £800 for UNA Member to join WFUNA Delegation in August

The World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) has its 44th Plenary Assembly in Geneva on 26th-28th August.

Would you like to attend this year's WFUNA event as part of the UNA-UK Delegation?

At this triennial event about 40 countries worldwide are represented by their national

UNA's to discuss the UN, global challenges and policy. One lucky individual from the shortlist of five candidates submitted by the London United Nations Association Trust will be selected by UNA-UK to join their delegation.

- You could be a young UNA member wanting to know more about UNA, WFUNA and global issues and multilateralism in general.
- You might be an experienced, older person wanting to share your experience and contribute to the work of UNA and WFUNA, as well as gaining knowledge to feed back into your UNA group.

London UNA Trust is offering financial support of up to £800, depending on your financial circumstances. You would have to cover any additional costs yourself. If you are interested, please reply to the [Chair London UNA Trust](#), with your name, contact details, occupation, role in UNA and which UNA group you are in. Please include a brief statement about why you want to go and what difference it could make to you and/or your organisation, with an indication of the financial support you would need. **Deadline Saturday 4th July.**

Inspirational Group Activities

You can find descriptions of inspirational activities from other groups on [our Groups' page](#). Please [tell us](#) if you know of other unusual and 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.

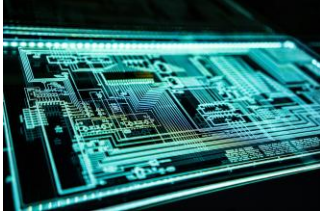
Beyond Sovereignty

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 would like 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 September, 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**.



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