



United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia



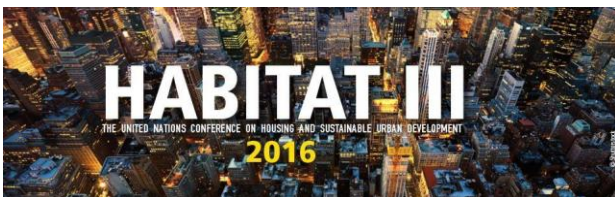
NEWSLETTER

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President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends of UNA-GP,

Still writing from Colombia, though beginning to look forward to returning in April to the excitements and realities of city living and US politics. I was thinking on March 8th of our planned Women's day event on the 15th, as I attended a most different IWD event featuring boleros, funny storytelling, and wine and cheese for all comers. It seems that in Colombia IWD has transformed into something more like Valentines Day, with flowers and dinner dates for couples. At the same time Colombia is a country struggling to overcome traditions of violence against women, with increasing leadership within the government at all levels bringing out the harsh facts of violence and making it no longer acceptable or hidden. A local anecdote I heard yesterday illustrates the ambiguous state of the culture in relation to violence against women. I was told that one of the reasons for a mayoral candidate losing by a landslide in the most recent town election was the collective memory of seeing this (tall, brawny) man hit his girlfriend in the face at a public event a few years ago.....a mixed message since no legal action or intervention was taken at the time, the girlfriend still lives with the politician, but his action did have consequences and this probably would not have been the case a generation ago. Change comes slowly.

Among the rewards of volunteer work on long shot causes like world peace is the chance to collaborate with wonderful people who share this cause. This month we learned of the death of one such person, (Dr.) Molly Roth who died of cancer on March 9th. Molly was an anthropologist and a builder of organizations and a joy to work with. She was essential to the networking that created the Global Philadelphia Association and was very helpful to UNA-GP as a volunteer facilitator for our Board planning retreat in January 2014. Her death is a loss to many, including her husband and two young daughters.

The spring brings lots of UNA-GP activity, among other anticipated events. Jun 18th we will be recognizing World Refugee Day and June 23rd we will have our annual membership meeting with a speaker still to be confirmed. However, hold the date! June 23rd, 5:30 pm at the Friends Center, 15th and Cherry Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19102. In addition to the speaker and the networking, this annual meeting is our chance to inaugurate our new members of our Board and to review our finances and the budget for the coming year. Please plan to attend!

Spring greetings,

Mary Day



Mary Day Kent, UNA-GP President

From Christiaan's Desk

A Few Words From Our Executive Director

The 60th annual meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN is coming to a close as I am drafting this text. They are debating the usual issues of empowerment and gender equality in human rights and socio-economic opportunities, but this year they are also promoting a new message: The next Secretary-General should be a woman, for the first time in the 70-year history of the UN. The process for enlisting candidates has been made much more open and input is sought early. So, to enhance transparency in the candidature process, which will ultimately be decided by the advice of the Security Council to the General Assembly, Member States are now publicly nominating candidates. So far, three women are on the list: Vesna Pusic of Croatia; Irina Bokova of Bulgaria; and Natalia Gherman of the Republic of Moldova. It looks that the focus is still on regional representation, with this time the bloc of Eastern European Nations doing most of the bidding.



Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has made gender equality a priority, appointing more than 150 women to Assistant Secretary-General or Under-Secretary-General positions in the past seven years, resulting in nearly one-quarter of political and peacekeeping mission in the field being led by women. We will see if his push is resonating with the member states when his successor is elected.

Those are the discussions at the top on how to break the ceiling. Our own Women's Day event, at the International House on Tuesday the 15th, focused on women who toil in the dirt. The rights, plights and opportunities for female farmers in the world's food production system were discussed. The discussions were broad, interspersed with good anecdotes, and clearly activist in tone. The main issues for women/farmers are how to develop commercial productivity above and beyond the traditional subsistence farming methods, how to obtain title to land and crops, how to obtain loans and financing without collateral, how to create or improve access to markets, and how to organize in order to resist the bedeviling calls for large scale farming that the large banks, national governments and neoliberal economists have been shouting the world over. The ghost of Gunnar Myrdal was hovering over the panel as they discussed the issues. Talks like that, where the focus is on women AND the sustainability of the world's agricultural processes, keeps my hopes alive indeed.

Meanwhile, the United Nations is gearing up to hold its first ever World Humanitarian Summit in May in Istanbul. In the context of the agreements reached between the EU and Turkey over returning refugees to Turkey, which is raising eyebrows among human rights activists all around the globe, the place and the timing will be of tremendous significance. I really hope that the Summit will be successful, but the current global dynamics are not boding well.

That's it for now. Vote early, vote only once and vote for the right candidate. You know who that one is.

A Few Words From Our Volunteer Coordinator



UNA-GP's newly formed Membership Committee has been meeting regularly in preparation for this Spring's Model UN conferences and could use your help! Membership support helps in bringing programming for the local community, its schools and university students. Members are more connected to world issues through their participation in Chapter events and their involvement in UNA-USA/UN program. They grow local support for United Nations ideals and its work in Philadelphia's community.

Manisha Patel
mpatel@una-gp.org

Spotlight on Human Rights

Girls Not Brides



[Girls Not Brides](#) is a global partnership of more than 550 civil society organizations from over 70 countries committed to ending child marriage and enabling girls to fulfil their potential. Its offices are in London. It is a leading organization aiming to reduce the approximately 15 million girls under 18 years of age who marry each year—many under 15 and some as young as 8 or 9. Child brides are often disempowered, dependent on their husbands and deprived of their fundamental rights to health, education and safety. Child marriage reinforces gender inequality, degrades

human rights and helps perpetuates poverty. While it is gradually being reduced, current marriage rates will result in an additional 1.2 billion girls married as child brides by the year 2050, according to Girls Not Brides. Ending child marriage is part of the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) [Girls Not Brides](#) works throughout the world to end this practice.

Individuals can receive newsletters about issues and advocacy opportunities by signing up at the website home page.



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of Greater Philadelphia



Philadelphia, March 14, 2016

Re: 4th Model United Nations Conference on the Rule of Law 1st Model United Nations Conference on Disarmament

DEAR TEACHERS and STUDENTS,

It is my privilege to invite you and your school to participate in the 2016 Model United Conferences organized by the UNA-GP and hosted at the University of Pennsylvania. Our conferences serve as interschool debate platforms to tackle global issues with action at the local stage. For example this year, we just finished on MLK day our conference on [Rainwater Management](#), which brought together students from seven high schools to critically analyze water use practices in the world and at home here in Philadelphia. The resolution drafted at this conference will be presented to Mayor Kenney's office within the next few weeks.

Our upcoming conferences have merged and are scheduled for April 2 ([The Rule of Law: Labor Relations/Fair Labor practices and Disarmament: Small Arms Trade Treaty](#)). We have developed three, one class hour, training modules to prepare students ahead of the conferences. We invite you to participate in the conference.

The Model United Nations experience at the *UNA-GP x Penn* really is unique. It is also free of charge. Instead of multi-day simulations that focus on and require both extensive rules and fees, we emphasize more the in-depth exploration of relevant current events over the course of one day. We prefer to focus on content and action over protocol and formalities. To underscore the action component, at the conference students will [represent different Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGOs\)](#), and will use their missions to debate specific issues in both large plenary sessions and breakout sessions.

The experience will not end with the Model United Nations Conference. A key message throughout is the active participation in NGOs in the real world. We are only a *model* United Nations in the sense that the discussions at our conference will prepare students to join, participate and act in these NGOs in the real world. We are excited to start. We hope you will join us.

Warmest regards,

Daniel Bu, Conference Coordinator at danieldb@sas.upenn.edu

Dr. Christiaan Morssink, Executive Director of the UNA-GP at morssink@una-gp.org



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION of Greater Philadelphia



Youth Building Roots Update

The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia (UNA-GP), in collaboration with NOVI, a non-profit organization which seeks to improve the quality of life of villagers in Benin and YONSO, in Ghana, is continuing its Youth Building Roots Program. See brochure ([here](#)). Also check out this poster about an evaluation of our program in 2013 ([here](#)). We invite your school to participate in this three-part program which has the goal of educating middle-school students on nutrition, food security, local food production, and global food sustainability problems.

On Friday, March 18th 2016, the Youth Building Roots program kicked off its first session of the year with 6th grade students at the McCall School. Two sessions were taught back to back by UNAGP work study student, Arame Niang. Each session began with introductions, where students had to introduce themselves by stating their name and their favorite food. The middle school students seemed, for the most part, to enjoy pizza and tacos. The second activity taught the students about global agricultural systems; the students had to match recipes to a region of the world after being given a crop diversity map. The students recognized how certain food items were located only in specific regions of the world. The third activity was a simulation of global food trade. Students were divided into five groups and assigned a country. After being assigned a country, the students were given money and food items to trade amongst each other. This activity taught students about imports, exports, interdependence and basic principles in microeconomics. The last activity introduced the students to urban farming. Each student was given a cup with soil and a seed to place on the classroom windowsill. The second session will take place during the first week of April and will be centered on local agricultural systems and local food politics.

If you are interested in participating in the Youth Building Roots program, please e-mail me at arameniang@una-gp.org with your school name, a school representative's/teacher's name, a phone number, and an approximate number of participating students; we would also like for you to forward the invitation if you know of any other teachers or schools you think would be interested in our program. We have several volunteers who can visit your school to address any questions and discuss possible scenarios that fit your school or your curriculum.

On behalf of the Youth Building Roots Team,
Arame Niang, Program Coordinator

9TH ANNUAL GLOBAL WATER ALLIANCE CONFERENCE

W.A.S.H. and the United Nations
Sustainable Development Goals for 2015–2030

SPEAKERS

Tom Slaymaker (UNICEF)
Rochelle Rainey (USAID)
Sarah Bramley (Save the Children)

[Click to Register for the Conference](#)

Also have students get involved by participating in the GWA Student WASH Competition! They are encouraged to propose innovative WASH projects and ideas for the year 2030. See below for more details.



GLOBAL WATER
ALLIANCE

WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 2016

TEMPLE
UNIVERSITY

FOX SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



Philadelphia Water Dpt





THE CITY WE WANT & NEED: *A Mid-Atlantic Regional Convening on Habitat III*

DVRPC is partnering with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Penn Institute for Urban Research, and the Perry World House to present **The City We Want & Need: a Mid-Atlantic Regional Convening on Habitat III**. The goal of this event is twofold: to raise awareness about the work underway to improve the nation's urban areas and to prepare for Habitat III, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held later in 2016. There are a limited number of seats available and we would like to invite you to join us to represent UNA-GP.

Issue experts from the **Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, University of Pennsylvania, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Planning Association, Urban Land Institute Philadelphia District Council, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, Next City, City of Philadelphia, William Penn Foundation, Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, WHYY, Citiscope** and others, are planning for a day of insightful discussions about how we can strengthen our urban areas. Session topics will include *Investing in People and Communities for Upward Mobility, Securing Housing Options for All, and Responding to Change and Building Resilience*.

EVENT: The City We Want & Need: a Mid-Atlantic Regional Convening on Habitat III

DATE: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

TIME: 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration/Networking begins at 8 a.m.

WHERE: Michael A. Fitts Auditorium, University of Pennsylvania Law School, 3501 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Please use the Sansom Street entrance for registration. A photo ID is required for entry.

DRESS: Business casual

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Advance registration is by invitation only. Space is limited and will be accepted in the order received.

[Click here to register](#)

UNA-GP Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Day	Time	Details/Location
Model UN Conference on Disarmament & Rule of Law	April 2 nd	Saturday	10:00AM – 3:00PM	Model UN Conference for local high school students. Please note that these two conferences have merged and there is no Model UN on April 9. Huntsman Hall 360, University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia PA
9 th Annual Global Water Alliance Conference	April 6 th	Wednesday	8:00AM – 7:00PM	Fox School of Business, Temple University, Philadelphia PA
UNA-GP Board Meeting	May 12 th	Thursday	5:30PM — 7:30PM	All are welcome to attend. Location TBD.
Habitat III Convening	May 17 th	Tuesday	9:00AM – 3:30PM	“The City We Want & Need”: Mid-Atlantic Regional Planning Convening on Habitat III Michael A. Fitts Auditorum, University of Pennsylvania Law School 3501 Sansom Street, Philadelphia PA 19104
UNA-GP Annual Meeting	June 23 rd	Thursday	5:30PM – 8:00PM	General meeting for all UNA-GP members. Location TBD, most likely Friends Center
Annual Garden Party	July 17 th	Sunday	Late afternoon	Details TBD, Location in Northeast Philadelphia.
UNA-GP Board Meeting	October 15 th	Saturday	10:00AM – 12:00PM	All are welcome to attend. Location TBD



United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia



You can help the United Nations Association!

Have any ideas for fundraising events? We're all ears! With the volume of projects the UNA-GP is constantly involved in, we are always in need of volunteers, no matter how much or how (seemingly!) little time you have to devote. Email Manisha Patel, Volunteer Coordinator and Board Member, with your suggestions or questions any time at mpatel@unagp.org.

The UNA-GP is in need of funds for upcoming projects. In order to continue our beneficial and enriching events, such as our Model United Nations conferences, we need your help! Please donate whatever you can to the UNA-GP, and in turn, Philadelphians.



The UNA-GP February 2016 newsletter is a collaborative effort:

Layout and design editor: Carolyn Curry
Board Liaison: Ed Gracely
President: Mary Day Kent
Executive Director: Christiaan Morssink

The UNA-GP is a chapter of the United Nations Association of the United States of American (UNA-USA). Our website offers information about our mission and upcoming events, and ways to get involved, including volunteering and becoming a member. Please take a look at our social media accounts and monthly newsletters!



Volunteers with all types of skill sets are welcome to work with the UNA-GP, short or long term. If interested, please contact Manisha Patel, Volunteer Coordinator and Board Member at mpatel@una-gp.org.