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**Convention on the Rights of the Child**

*Call on President Obama to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect the rights of children everywhere.*

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**Spotlight on Human Rights**

*Learn more about our human rights organization of the month: Human Rights First*

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Dear Members and Friends of UNA-GP,

I am writing this on Earth Day, April 22, though it will be a few days at least before this reaches your inbox. Earth Day number one—1970—I remember vividly: I was in New York and it was an exultantly beautiful day of optimism and celebration. I think we felt at the time that consciousness of the need to protect the environment would lead to triumph. Indeed, the surge of enthusiasm generated by Earth Day did help to pass the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts and many other state and local regulations that have given us cleaner air and cleaner water over the decades. It has been a long time since the air in Manhattan was a visible brown cloud and the credit for that can go to the environmental movement and the support of the "breathing constituency". Now we know that the struggle is much more global and much more consequential than we realized on that first bright Earth Day. The Climate Accords negotiated last December in Paris created a climate action agreement involving nearly all of the 193 UN members, and today (Earth Day!) 175 countries gave their official signatures. This commits the global community to reducing carbon emissions to less than 2% more than pre-industrial levels and will go into effect when the countries (such as China, India, the US....) responsible for 55% of these emissions will have both signed and ratified the accord. The US unfortunately has a track record of signing but failing to ratify a number of important international treaties so those of us who want to see the US make a commitment to do our share on this crucial issue will need to keep alert and vocal. Since not all our current presidential candidates even acknowledge the scientific consensus that climate change is affected by increasing carbon emissions, this advocacy is needed urgently, immediately, and indefinitely.

Earth Day 1970, New York
(Course: BNW Pix)

Climate change has at least featured in the 2016 presidential debates, but
Dear Members and Friends of UNA-GP,

there has been little to no mention of an equally global and overwhelming concern: nuclear disarmament. When the UN held its first General Assembly meeting (London, 1946) the first resolution passed was for nuclear disarmament and to this day the UN committee for disarmament is the "First Committee" to indicate the founding priority of the United Nations. Disarmament is still one of the world's crucial issues but has become the invisible presence in the debates on foreign, defense, and energy policy (seeking to maintain non-partisanship I will not call it the elephant in the room!). UNA-GP will bring disarmament and its relation to other flashpoints of international policy to the forefront at our General Membership Meeting for 2016. Our guest speaker will be John Feffer of the Foreign Policy in Focus project of the Institute for Policy Studies and he will highlight the links of nuclear disarmament to conflict areas such as the Korean peninsula, the Middle East, Russia-Ukraine, and others. The General Meeting will be June 23rd, 5:30 pm, Friends Center, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia. In addition to our speaker we will review our budget for 2016-17 and greet new members of the UNA-GP Board. Please mark your calendars and plan to come!

Mary Day

Mary Day Kent, UNA-GP President
My desk is clean and I am going to take a break for a while. Make Peace; vote early.

Here is a picture to remind you all to SAVE THE DATE for the UNA-GP garden party 2016: **July 17**

Christiaan Morssink, UNA-GP
Executive Director
A Few Words From Our Volunteer Coordinator

UNA-GP’s Membership Committee has been meeting regularly in preparation for next year'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, UNA-GP Volunteer Coordinator

Spotlight on Human Rights

Committee to Protect Journalists

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is recognized as a leader in the global press freedom movement. Started 35 years ago, it is renowned for high quality reporting and political independence. Its staff includes international correspondents based around the world and regional experts who report daily on press freedom violations. CPJ maintains a running total of journalists killed, jailed and exiled simply for doing their jobs in all forms of print and electronic media. It advocates on their behalf with governments and private interests and offers direct financial aid and safety to journalists facing risks. Each year CPJ honors both professionals and the growing movement of citizen journalists reporting on human rights abuses at its International Press Freedom Awards. In 2015 awards were given to citizen journalists Zone 9 Bloggers from Kenya and Raqqua is Being Slaughtered Silently, a group based in Syria. CPJ also shines the light on situations where journalists and free speech face great danger such as Turkey, Egypt and Nigeria as well as maintaining a focus on challenges in the European Union, the United States and elsewhere. Along with the United Nations, CPJ will celebrate World Press Freedom Day on May 3. Those interested in CPJ’s work can stay connected by subscribing to its various email lists.
The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is the world’s framework for child rights. It is the most widely accepted human rights treaty ever. Yet the United States is the only country that has not ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In partnership with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF we would like to call on President Obama to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect the rights of children everywhere.

The United States signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child 21 years ago. The next step in the process is for the President to send the treaty to the Senate; with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, that never happened.

In order for the next Senate to consider the Convention on the Rights of the Child, this President must send the CRC to the Senate before he leaves office.

In doing so, the President would underscore the importance of child rights globally, at a time when children face heartbreaking threats from conflict, violence, and climate change.

Thanks for your support,
The Global Citizen Team
UNA-GP encourages you to learn more about the UNA-USA team, which works every day to promote UNA membership on a national level.

**Chris Whatley**
UNA-USA Executive Director
cwhatley@unausa.org
Works with the National Council to define and advance the mission and work of UNA-USA, leads the staff team, development strategy, outreach within the UN, and advocacy efforts

**Rachel Pittman**
Director of Membership
rpittman@unfoundation.org
-Manages membership recruitment and retention activities, staff liaison for Leadership Summit, CSW, and Members’ Day, oversees UNA Chapter & GenUN outreach, staff liaison for UNA Women Affinity Group and the Steering Committee

**Troy Wolfe**
Director, UNA Education Program
twolfe@unausa.org
Develops education agenda and strategic plans in collaboration with executive director, the National Council, and UNA members, forms partnerships and relationships to further the mission and purpose of UNA, promotes UNA as premier agency for innovation and global competences to students

**Amy Auguston**
Communications and UN Relations Manager UNA
aauguston@unfoundation.org
Leads on internal and external communications, both digital and traditional, for UNA. This includes op-eds, letters to the editors, and strategic communications plans. Leads on congressional learning trips for staffers and members of Congress to learn more about the UN
Meet Team UNA-USA

Wes Rogerson
Senior Associate, Chapter Development
wrogerson@unausa.org
Serves as UNA Staff liaison to chapters, divisions, and regions, provides leadership updates, trainings, and resources for chapters, develops programs to strengthen chapters, promote chapter events, and develop chapter-based membership retention and recruitment efforts.

Ryan Kaminski
Program Manager for Human Rights and Special Initiatives
rkaminski@unfoundation.org
Identifies opportunities to connect UNA advocates to the UN human rights system, leads implementer for a UNA initiative on Goal 16 of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development focused on justice, staff liaison for UNA LGBT Affinity Group.

Monika Johnson
Youth Engagement Manager
mjohnson@unausa.org
Leads the GenUN campaign, which engages young Americans in UNA-USA, manages the campus chapter network, GenUN website, and U.S. Youth Observer to the UN program.

Stephanie Rasmussen
Development Associate
srasmussen@unfoundation.org
Coordinates sponsorship for UNA-USA events, assists in grant research and writing for UNA funding, chapter report management, and Database upkeep for UNA-USA member records.
International Women's Day 2016

On Tuesday, March 15th, UNA-GP and several other local organizations came together to celebrate International Women's Day with an event about Global Perspectives on Women, Food Security, and Agriculture at the International House Philadelphia. The event included a performance by the Anna Crusis Women's Choir, the oldest feminist choir in the US, and a panel discussion.
On Wednesday, April 6th, students, professionals, and other interested individuals gathered at Temple’s Fox School of Business for Global Water Alliance’s 9th Annual Conference: WASH & The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2015-2030. The day of events featured a keynote speakers Tom Slaymaker (UNICEF), Rochelle Rainey (USAID), and Sarah Bramley (Save the Children).

Attendees learned about the new UN Sustainable Development Goals for WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) and initiatives by organization to attain them, saw examples of innovations and best practices in the WASH field, and networked with others interested in helping developing countries.
The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (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.

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.
Join us for the Annual Meeting, now known as the 2016 Leadership Summit, from June 12-14 at the National Education Association Building in Washington, DC. UNA-USA members from around the country will come together for three days packed with advocacy and action. You’ll meet with high-ranking U.S. Government and UN officials, learn from global experts, and urge Congress to make progress on key humanitarian issues.

Mark your calendar—this is a program not to miss! Early Bird registration ends April 25th. See more information here, and click here to register.
The Philadelphia we want, The city we need

We are preparing ourselves in Philadelphia for this conference, an opportunity offered only once every 20 years. Faculty and students on the different campuses are having workshops and seminars, and infusing the materials in class instructions.

At UNA-GP we have formed a working group: PHILLY PREPS FOR HABITAT III. The working group wants to bring the message of Habitat III to the classrooms, to the citizens, to the politicians.

Contact: info@una-gp.org

The official call for participation will be coming out in March. For more information, please see the Habitat III website.

THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Quito, Ecuador, 17–20 October, 2016

The Future We Want, the City We Need

Habitat III will be one of the first global conferences after the Post 2015 Development Agenda. It is an opportunity to discuss and chart new pathways in response to the challenges of urbanization and the opportunities it offers for the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

The conference brings together diverse urban actors such as governments, local authorities, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and all relevant interest groups to review urban and housing policies affecting the future of cities within an international governance architecture, with a view to generate a ‘New Urban Agenda’ for the 21st century which recognizes the ever-changing dynamics of human civilization. Habitat III offers Member States an opportunity to discuss a New Urban Agenda that will focus on policies and strategies that can result in effectively harnessing the power and forces behind urbanization. The Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented outcome document: the New Urban Agenda. Rethinking the Urban Agenda is embracing urbanization at all levels of human settlements. More appropriate policies can embrace urbanization across physical space, bridging urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and assist governments in addressing challenges through national and local development policy frameworks. And also it is integrating equity as an issue of social justice, ensuring access to the public sphere, extending opportunities and increasing the commons.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity/Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location/Info</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>May 12th</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5:30PM - 7:30PM</td>
<td>All are welcome to attend. Friends Center 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia PA 19102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat III Convening</td>
<td>May 17th</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9:00AM - 3:30PM</td>
<td>&quot;The City We Want &amp; Need&quot; Michael A. Fitts Auditorium, University of Pennsylvania Law School 3501 Sansom Street, Philadelphia PA 19104 See page 11 for details</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-USA 2016 Leadership Summit</td>
<td>June 12-14th</td>
<td>Sunday - Tuesday</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>UNA-USA Annual Meeting, 3 days packed full of advocacy and action National Education Association Building, Washington DC See page 12 for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Garden Party</td>
<td>July 17th</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Late afternoon and evening in northwest Philadelphia. Watch for details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNA-GP Board Meeting</td>
<td>October 15th</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10:00AM - 12:00PM</td>
<td>All are welcome to attend. Location TBD.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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@una-gp.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 and beyond!

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

Layout and design editor: Carolyn Curry
Board Liason: 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@ma-gp.org

www.facebook.com/UNAGP
www.twitter.com/UNAGP
www.una-gp.org