



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



UN Matters

February - March 2021



Rotary Club of Perth and UNAAWA volunteers



The new conveners for the Education Committee



Students at Harmony Day

Inside This Issue:

From the President	2
Education Committee	3
Cambridge Oxford Society Annual Dinner	4
Gender Equality Committee	5
The Rotary Club: Governor's Backyard Cricket	7
Busselton Senior High School: Harmony Day Celebrations	8
The Zonta Club of Perth	9
A Thought for Our Healthcare Workers	11
Understanding Myanmar's Coup	11
A Thought on Peace Through Music	13
Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Part III	15
UN Observances	17
Upcoming Events	18



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

From the President

February in Western Australia began with a sad reminder of the kind of challenges most of the rest of the world has been facing on a daily basis. It was surely a relief to us all that our lockdown lasted only a few days, testament to a quick and effective response to a new COVID-19 case in our state.

Compared to last year when at least 91% of the world's population lived in countries with travel restrictions and almost half of the world's population was under lockdown, things have definitely gotten better. Yet, with cases surging around the world and several countries reimposing lockdowns to curb the spread, it can be easy to forget how hard things currently are outside Australia.

That being the case, I'd like to begin this message by urging you all to spare a thought for the billions of people struggling around the world today, and to express your solidarity with them in whatever way you can. The UN has long recognised that none of us will be safe until everyone is safe, so as much as it can be tempting to try to ignore the outside world and get back to life as normal in WA, there is much that we can and should still be doing to support one another.

The many of the engagements we had these past two months have given me so much pride for the work of the UNAANA, because time and time again this idea of international solidarity has been front and centre in our efforts. From my address at the Perth Rotary Club celebration for Chinese New Year's Day, through to speaking at the Cambridge Oxford Society annual dinner, much of this year has been focused on the importance of the SDGs and its promise to "leave no one behind". Together with the Perth Rotary Club, we participated in an event with The Pirate Ship Foundation to help raise funds for research into childhood brain cancer. Even in my discussions with event attendees and with our dedicated volunteers, this desire to reach across borders to help one

another has continued to give me hope as it brings out the best in all of us.

Furthermore, on International Day of Women and Girls in STEM, I was privileged to address students at Catholic Education WA on behalf of the UNAANA to talk about the importance of getting more women and girls interested in science, research and other STEM fields. The responses from the educators and young girls have truly inspired me.

With this in mind, I'd like to invite you to join us in person at the many events we have planned for the months ahead. Next up is our first SDG Business Forum of 2021, sponsored by Ernst & Young (EY), which will explore, together with industry and academic leaders, the definition of Globalism and the role it plays on achieving the SDGs. Shortly after that, we have an exciting workshop in partnership with the Women in Energy, as well as several planned meetups which we are in the process of finalizing. So if you haven't subscribed to our social media accounts I invite you to do so, so as to ensure you don't miss the latest news on our upcoming events.

As ever, if you have any suggestions for activities we should be organizing, please contact me at wapres@unaa.org.au or any of our committee conveners at one of our events. Finally, no letter from me would be complete without welcoming our newest members and thanking all of our amazing volunteers and sponsors. Everything we do is only possible because of your passion, dedication and hard work, and I am incredibly grateful for everything you have done and continue to do for the UNAANA.

Dr Sandy Chong
President of the UNAANA



Education Committee: Our New Education Committee for 2021

The Education Committee (EC) formed at the beginning of 2021 with the new leadership team of Dr Rachel Sheffield as Convenor, and joint Co-convenors -Dr Sonja Kuzich and Paul Moro. This committee honours the incredible legacy of Rees Barrett who led the Education Reference Group up until the end of 2020.

In 2021 the EC aims to continue well established programs such as the UNAA Global Citizenship and Sustainability WACE Endorsed Program, but also to seek out new ways to support students and educators build empathy towards the world we live in. Establishing programs to assist with achieving these goals at a local, state, and global level with a special emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals will be a priority.

The leadership team of the EC are passionate dedicated educators committed to the sustainability cause:

- Associate Professor **Rachel Sheffield** is a keen advocate of STEM education. Her work with the SDGs has been with pre service teachers at Curtin and also in a practical application through her service as a Rotarian in in developing countries. Rachel's experiences in Antarctica, as part of the Homeward Bound program for women, illuminated the climate change issues and the relevance of the SDG's for solutions.
- **Dr Sonja Kuzich** (Senior Lecturer at Curtin) has a PhD in Education for Sustainability. Sonja has also

served on the UNAAWA Environment Committee and has a special interest in the relationship between connection to nature and mental health and wellbeing, particularly of young children. Sonja is keen to support teachers in schools with their sustainability education particularly around the SDG's.

- **Paul Moro** has three decades' experience in the education and training industries, with specialised expertise in professional learning, curriculum development and building computing technology solutions for schools. He has managed a number of key strategic projects in education focused on building capacity for change through strategic leadership and extensive experience working with schools in the delivery of pedagogically grounded technology learning.

Sonja Kuzich

Lecturer in Education, Curtin University

Co-Convenor – UNAAWA Education Committee



L to R: Dr Rachel Sheffield, Dr Sonja Kuzich, Paul Moro

Cambridge Oxford Society Annual Dinner



On 19 March 2021, Dr. Sandy Chong, President of the UNAAWA, gave an address at the Cambridge Oxford Society Annual Dinner. She spoke of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’s promise of **“Leave no one behind”**.

At her address, Dr. Chong emphasized that SDGs matter because we all have a role to play in achieving them, and because a lack of them negatively affects us all. SDGs are important to create an equitable world and reducing poverty, improve health and education, spur economic growth, and tackle climate change and preserve the environment. The SDG is about recognizing that the contemporary world is fraught with new and developing socio-economic and natural challenges, and that it is going to negatively impact us all, whether to a greater or lesser extent. Adopting SDGs help us face changes in the natural world and in our social lives and tackle problems that might arise from these. Every sector of the modern society has a role to play in creating this world, from government and the civil society to academia and the private sector.

As for the UNAAWA, its committees cover all the primary aspects of the SDGs and are dedicated to informing, inspiring, and engaging the WA community and leaders, creating a more sustainable world through the work, goals, and values of the UN. By generating dialogue and sharing of best practices of SDG implementation, all of us could contribute towards tackling the social and environmental challenges present in today’s world.

There are opinions that the COVID-19 pandemic has made the SDGs unattainable, and that we need to scale back our efforts. Dr. Chong proposed a different perspective. Crises only serve to highlight the lack of equity for all in every aspect of our societies. Consequently, we must redouble our efforts in tackling these shortcomings rather than allow the challenges presented by crises to serve as an excuse to lower our sights and succumb. By directing and increasing our efforts along proven development pathways, we could together forge a society that is more resilient than it had been before the pandemic.



Amorith Tan
UNAAWA Chief Editor

Gender Equality Committee Update

The month of March is significant for the Gender Equality Committee as it marks **Women's History Month** (US) and **International Women's Day**. International Women's Day is an important opportunity to celebrate women's achievements and recognise the women who were before us, who stand beside us now and in the future. This year's IWD theme was 'Choose to Challenge' which focused on individual responsibility in calling out gender inequity, and the UN theme was 'Women in Leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world' to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of women in shaping a more equal future. I was honoured to share International Women's Day with Moore Accounting (Perth). We celebrated the key achievements of women over the past 12 months and visited the progress of gender equality under the 2030 Agenda, recognising the setbacks resulting from the pandemic and the urgent need for everyone to focus on delivering tangible improvements during the Agenda's last decade: the 'Decade of Action'. In line with the 'Choose to Challenge' theme, we also discussed the need for bystanders to play a more active role in preventing discrimination against women. Attendees were encouraged to challenge their own gender biases, to call out unfair treatment and to place effort into reviewing and refreshing the traditional workplace structures and processes that prevent women from thriving.



Hannah Brown speaking to Moore Accounting, Perth on International Women's Day

It is well known that investing in female leadership is critical in bettering outcomes for women. When leadership development is accessible during a girls' critical development years, her physical and emotional development benefits, as well as her career prospects and earning potential in adulthood. The Gender Equality Committee is planning a three-part coaching program for high-school aged females, the **Girls' Leadership Program**. This program is grounded in social and emotional learning and will support a cohort of girls to explore and expand their leadership skills. The program will be co-created with psychologists, community leaders and educators and expert facilitators will guide the students to find their inner-strengths, exercise their voice and feel confident in navigating life after high-school. It will also be an opportunity to establish professional networks and connect with local female leadership role models. This three-part program is free of charge for students via application. Further details will be released in the coming weeks.

In other news, some may recall the **Gender Equality Virtual Leadership Series** hosted by the committee in



<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

August last year. Distinguished leaders based locally and internationally joined us over three sessions to explore ways to strengthen young girls' leadership, how to empower women in early career, and strategies for leaders to create safe and inclusive workplaces. We are pleased to share that this series is still available for at \$20 for all three sessions for UNAA members, or \$30 for non-members. Find out more via <https://events.humanitix.com/gender-equality-leadership-series/tickets>. Booking fees are donated to girls' education programs.

The committee is also planning for the **2021 UN Day Excellence in Gender Equality Award**, which

celebrates the achievements of local champions who contribute to the advancement of girls and women in Perth. Nominations will open in April via the UNAA-WA social media platforms and email.

For further information or questions related to any of the initiatives mentioned, please contact gender.equality@unaa-wa.org.au.

Hannah Brown
Vice President (Strategy) and Chair of Gender Equality Committee.



United Nations Association of Australia WA Division

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

The Rotary Club: Governor's Backyard Cricket Match

In Australia, about [100 children aged 0-14](#) are diagnosed with a malicious brain or spinal cord tumor each year; in WA, two children on average are diagnosed with brain cancer every month. Childhood brain cancer kills more Australian children than any other disease. To help the cause, The Rotary Club of Perth, a close partner of the UNAAWA, assisted [The Pirate Ship Foundation](#) in running an event at the Government House.



L to R: President of UNAAWA Dr Sandy Chong, former District Governor of Rotary Club Graham Peden, and UNAAWA volunteers

Hosted on 20 March 2021 at the Government House gardens, the inaugural Governor's Backyard Cricket event was held to raise funds for research into childhood brain cancer and supporting The Pirate Ship Foundation, a local charity that works to support such research. To support our partners at the Rotary Club of Perth, UNAAWA volunteers turned up to assist in a number of logistical roles.

The event itself consisted primarily of a cricket game between the Governors, captained by Hon Kim Beazley



AC, Governor of Western Australia, and the Pirates, captained by Nick Gottardo, Head of Oncology at Perth Children's Hospital. It was attended by 1,000 people.

Amorith Tan
UNAAWA Chief Editor



Busselton Senior High School: Harmony Day Celebrations

On 1 April the Student Council at BSHS are running a series of events celebrating diversity and combating racism in our Harmony Day celebrations.

Members of the council have prepared multimedia presentations, made posters and run lessons to raise awareness of the threats posed by racism and far right extremism which often targets vulnerable youth on social media.

The council sought to frame this year's Harmony Day event in the broader context of threats to our social cohesion from race hate and the growing menace of far right bigotry in all of its forms.



Members of BSHS student council with parent volunteer Pradeep Ruwanpura prepare a Sri Lankan City to celebrate Harmony Day

Students came together to plan not just celebrations of diversity, but to educate their peers about the history of the UN and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a response to the atrocities of World War Two. They focused on the civil rights movements both here and abroad in the context of BLM, together with the challenges we face in striving for equality for all. The focus was also placed upon the ongoing struggle for land rights and social justice for the First Nations people of Australia.

The students prepared a video demonstrating their diversity including refugees among them who had come

here from conflict zones and also heard from Kellie Lewandowski, a teacher at the school whose father was born in a Nazi concentration camp in Poland in 1945 before coming to Australia as a refugee.



Teacher Kellie Lewandowski shared her remarkable family history from a Nazi concentration camp in Poland to freedom and opportunity in Australia as refugees.

Besides preparing lessons and presentations on these important issues, the council also focused on celebrating diversity in the Busselton community and had parental input preparing delicious Indian / Sri Lankan cuisine to be enjoyed at lunch time following staff a student dodgeball game and an eclectic mix of international music.

The events have been planned and run by members of the student council who have an unwavering commitment to combating bigotry and racism whilst promoting harmony in the school and wider community.

BSHS is a proud member of the UNAABA and was recognized for excellence in global citizenship in 2020.

Geoff Holt
Student Council Coordinator

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

The Zonta Club of Perth

As a new member of UNAAWA, the **Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc.**, is looking forward, on a more personal basis, to its involvement with the Western Australian Branch of the UNAA. As a Member of Zonta International, a leading global organisation of professionals empowering women worldwide through service and advocacy, the ZCPNS is well aware of the many UN agencies with which Zonta International works collaboratively.

The Zonta Club of Perth Northern Suburbs Inc., chartered on 22 June 1981, is Club No. 979 and belongs to Area 3, District 23 which encompasses Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory, Queensland, New South Wales, the ACT, and Tasmania. It will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary in June this year while Zonta International celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2019.

The current President of the Club, **Wendy Dowling AM**, also served as Vice-President of the Zonta Club of South of Perth in the 90s. She was awarded an AM for significant service to community health, particularly in WA, through support for people living with coeliac disease. Wendy's background is in administration and marketing. She has worked in Australia and New Zealand in the areas of training, administration, marketing, human resources, natural health, and tourism. She marketed a leading Western Australia wine throughout Australia, Japan and Europe and has worked as a Naturopath in natural health and women's health clinics.

Wendy is a director of *Ideology*, an International Tourism Planning, Training & Development company she and her husband instigated. Together they have delivered training programs giving specialist advice on

niche forms of tourism including cruise ships, geotourism, geoparks and ecotourism in Australia and many countries overseas.

At the recent International Women's Day Breakfast, attended by 100 guests, Wendy spoke about our Club's role -



Wendy Dowling,
President of the
Zonta Club

"This morning is even more significant for we Zontians. Our mission and vision are of a world in which women's rights are recognised as human rights and every woman is able to achieve her full potential. This means helping women to have full access to education, health care, legal and economic resources. Our major projects globally are concerned with Education and Equality.

In partnership with UNICEF, an Adolescent Girl's Health and Protection Program has been initiated in Peru. Closer to home, in Papua New Guinea and Timor Leste, we fund a program to assist survivors of domestic violence. In Madagascar, Phase 3 of the 'Let Us Learn Project' has been rolled out. Another key area in which Zonta is involved is the Prevention of Child Marriage. More than 1 in 5 girls are robbed of their childhood and so educating girls is the key to changing their world and this is a primary aim of our organisation. Zonta has contributed US\$26 million to projects and programs to empower women and girls and to expand their access to education, health care and safe living conditions.

In addition to supporting these ZI initiatives, the ZCPNS supports the 'Zonta Says No to Domestic Violence Campaign'. In November each year, we join with women and men across the City of Perth in the March against domestic violence. Through donations and practical help, we also support the Zonta House Refuge Association.

On a regular basis, members make cushions for women (and men) who have undergone surgery for breast cancer. These cushions are supplied, free of charge, to all the major teaching hospitals in Perth and other agencies. Assembling birthing kits, sent overseas to communities without hygienic facilities, is another important project for our Club.

To assist women and girls' education, the following awards and scholarships are in place. These awards are all designed to recognise women and encourage them in their chosen fields.

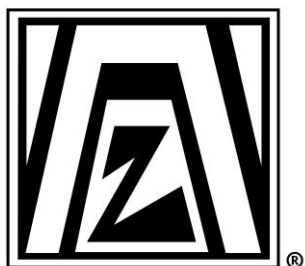
- Young Women in Public Affairs Award
- Women in Business Scholarship

- Amelia Earhart Fellowship (Amelia herself was a Zontian)
- Women in Technology Scholarship
- Lucy Bohan Nursing Bursary (Club award only)
- Women of Achievement Award (every alternate year we award a quiet achiever who has had positive impact in her community)

Of course, like all not-for-profits, our Club relies on fundraising events. We welcome partners, sponsors and individual donations and are always grateful for any assistance, in kind or monetary, that may be offered."

Further information can be sought through the Zonta International website – www.zonta.org, our Club's site – www.zontaperthns.org.au or enquiring through secretary@zontaperthns.org.au.

Dawn Newman
PR & Communications Committee
0428 196 406



ZONTA
 CLUB OF
 PERTH NORTHERN
 SUBURBS INC
 MEMBER OF ZONTA INTERNATIONAL
 EMPOWERING WOMEN
 THROUGH SERVICE & ADVOCACY



<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

A Thought for Our Healthcare Workers

It is 2021 and the world is somewhere between the response and recovery phase of the Covid-19 global pandemic. Whilst the majority of us have been forced into mandatory lockdowns from time-to-time, one of the many critical industry worker cohorts that have not had any respite from this disaster are those that serve for the health of the people of the world. Healthcare professionals have risen to the challenge on a daily basis of facing the unknown, putting themselves in the direct line of fire of contracting COVID-19 whilst rendering care to the sick and injured,



and facing one of the greatest challenges that healthcare providers hope they never have to find themselves in - mass casualty events with limited resources. This is not to mention

those whom have sadly seen their colleagues become unwell or make the greatest sacrifice in the line of duty.

It is no wonder that this combination of physical and psychosocial stressors have had a profound effect on the allostatic load of those that care for us, those who assume the responsibility of another's life in the face of danger. As the COVID-19 pandemic struck the world, our front line health workers and health workers in general became a cohort of the human population who developed significantly greater levels of mental health conditions including depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, often without seeking help for themselves. We should all take a moment to reflect on the dedication of those who served.



John Douglas Trewin MACPara
Registered Paramedic
Bsc(ParamedicalSc)
Western Australia

Understanding Myanmar's Coup

In 1991, Aung San Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, while still under house arrest, for being “an outstanding example of the power of the powerless”. In 2015, she led the National League for Democracy (NLD) to victory in Myanmar's first free and openly contested election in 25 years. In the November 2020 elections, the NLD was once again victorious.

What looked like a shift towards democracy was threatened, however, when the results of last year's election were opposed, with the military-backed opposition calling for a re-run of the election and accusing the NLD government of irregularities. The accusation was not the first; despite international and local observers agreeing that the election process was fair and transparent, the opposition claimed [“errors of neglect”](#) and [“widespread violation of laws and procedures”](#) in the lead-up to the election. On 1

February 2021, just before the ceremony for the party to be sworn in for another five-year term, a coup by the military of Myanmar – the *Tatmadaw* – saw Ms Suu Kyi, President Win Myint, and many of the country's top civilian leaders and critics of the military arrested.

The ordinary citizen of Myanmar was not spared from violence, either. As the Burmese people began to protest the coup and demand that their leaders be freed, crackdowns on protestors and [raids on homes](#) have resulted in [hundreds of deaths](#), many from deliberate gunfire.

Democracy in Myanmar: One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

Allegations of electoral fraud, however, was not the largest catalyst of the coup, nor the greatest obstacle to Myanmar's democracy. For that, one would have to look to the *Tatmadaw* and the country's history of military rule and the partial process of political reform it left behind.

In late 2010, a retiring generation of Myanmar generals initiated reforms after the year's national elections, bringing to power a hybrid system of government that shared political power between the military and elected politicians. Though the 2010 elections were neither free nor fair, with Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest and the NLD unable to participate, it allowed for then Commander-in-Chief Than Shwe to exit the political stage and led to a government of reformist ex-generals. From 2011 to 2015, the Thein Sein government pushed through unprecedented political liberalisation.

In attempts to preserve their own political privileges, however, the 2008 constitution, drafted by the military junta ahead of the political transition, was designed to safeguard the military's power and prerogatives. It guaranteed the military control of three powerful ministries, allowed generals to retain their veto power over constitutional matters, and

reserved 25% of parliamentary seats for the military. Such constitutional provisions would become the foundation of the struggle between the NLD and the military. Even after the free election of 2015, the NLD shared power with a new generation of generals, and tensions between the two groups existed as early as 2016.

Indeed, NLD-led attempts at reforming the constitution to [limit](#) the special powers of the military were rejected by the Parliament after the military leveraged its veto rights. The fact that the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) was unable to attain the 25% of votes necessary to win the 2020 election was sign of its slipping power. Thus, rather than risk its inability to prevent constitutional reform and see its authority erode further, the military chose to revert to military rule.

The coup, in short, is a legacy of military regimes in Myanmar emboldening a new generation of generals wishing to strengthen their political hold. Though moving in the general direction of democracy, democracy has never been realised in full in Myanmar, nor has the shadow of military rule truly left.



Protests in Bagan, an ancient city and UNESCO World Heritage Site in the Mandalay region of Myanmar

This autocratic climate has led to a string of protests

and activist movements, with the current Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) being the latest. The military, with its precedence of using violence against such movements, has responded no differently, leading to violent crackdowns against protestors and suspected dissidents and leading to hundreds of deaths.

Fortunately, the CDM has been gaining international traction. Of greatest note is the fact that six social sciences professors from the University of Oslo [nominated](#) the CDM for the 2022 Nobel peace Prize.

Troubled Horizons

And yet, Myanmar's troubles are more widespread than and indirectly exacerbated by its autocratic regime. The political crisis is taking place within the context of multiple other crises. Myanmar is a society that has been traumatized by over seven decades of violent conflict. Hundreds of ethnic-based militias and over two dozen non-state armed organizations, the

largest of which fields over 25,000 men, hold sway over much of the uplands. It is these internal conflicts between fractured groups, combined with rising tensions between these groups and Myanmar's government after the 1 February coup, that ultimately led to the air strikes on villages and towns in [recent days](#).

A million people are refugees, and hundreds of thousands of others are internally displaced. State institutions are extremely weak, and racial and religious discrimination exists alongside exploding wealth inequality. Its economy is increasingly dependent on China and a host of transnational networks far more powerful than any institution. Myanmar's socio-political and economic woes, in short, requires vast reforms, none of which are possible should they be continually hampered by its military control of the state.

Amorith Tan
UNAAWA Chief Editor

A Thought on Peace through Music

The importance of peace for the well-being of humanity was highlighted when the 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015 recognized that peace and security are pre-requisites for achieving sustainable development.

There are numerous wars taking place today, with several in Africa. There are major wars in Afghanistan, Syria, Ethiopia, Sahel-North Africa, Venezuela, Somalia, and Yemen. The six year civil war in Yemen demonstrates the devastating effects that war can bring.

Many people have been killed directly, including 20,000 in 2019, by air-strikes, shelling, and gunfire. Also many people have been dying from

preventable disease because the health system no longer exists. Medical facilities have been destroyed and the water and sanitation infrastructure is collapsing.

In addition, there is a massive famine and cholera outbreak, with 24 million people needing humanitarian assistance.

Australia has been almost continuously at war. Apart from World War 2 none of these wars were the result of a direct threat from another country. War is barbaric. It is about time humanity abandoned it, and peaceful measures were used to



<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

resolve problems and disputes within and between countries, using the prodigious intelligence we are blessed with.

In his best-selling book, "An Appeal to the World", the Dalai Lama pleaded with humanity to make the 21st century "the century of dialogue", unlike the 20th century which had been "the century of war".

He pointed out that the belief that problems can be solved by violence and weapons is a dangerous delusion. With rare exceptions violence always leads to more violence. He thought for a better and more peaceful world we need to become better ourselves.

We achieve this by "education of the heart" from kindergarten to higher schooling and university, teaching love, compassion, justice, forgiveness, carefulness, tolerance and a sense of oneness, that we are all brothers and sisters.



The Dalai Lama considered that children should grow up with the idea that dialogue, not violence, is the best and most practical way to solve conflicts.

John F. Kennedy had a similar point of view. He believed that "[Peace] lies in the hearts and minds of all people. So let us not rest all our hopes on parchment and paper. Let us strive to build peace, a desire for peace, a willingness to work for peace, in the hearts and minds of all our people. I believe that we can."

Peace needs to be a constant refrain in our hearts, so it will be our first impulse when we are confronted with a problem or dispute.

Music is a wonderful way to help bring that about. It heals and unifies us, and is often used to inspire people to raise funds for the needy. For instance, in 1984, the song "We are the World", sung by well-known musicians, was used to raise money for Africa. In 2020, "The One World Together at Home" online concert honored the world's front line health care workers fighting the coronavirus.

When faced with the enormity of bringing peace to the world, a small thing like music may seem ineffective. However, Theodore Roosevelt encouraged us to "do what you can, with what you have, where you are."

Beverley Dight
UNAAWA Member



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

GOALS

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Part III: Strengthening the Non-Proliferation Regime

This article is part three of a three-part series on nuclear non-proliferation regimes. Part II is published in the November 2020 – January 2021 issue of UN Matters.

Non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament are inextricably linked. Non-proliferation – stopping the spread of nuclear weapons to states that do not possess them – is not merely an act to preserve the status quo, but to facilitate the conditions under which disarmament could proceed. Nuclear disarmament requires a stable strategic environment where nuclear-armed states are confident that other nuclear-armed states will honour their treaty agreements, and that no new nuclear-armed states will emerge – that is, that non-nuclear states will also adhere to the treaty.

More than the spread of weapons themselves, the further spread of enrichment and processing of fissile materials is a crucial concern. To date, proliferation has involved undeclared nuclear programs; in the future, however, declared programs could prove destabilizing and provide rapid breakout capability, as safeguards alone provide only limited assurance of future intent.

Possible Solutions

Improved Verification and Enforcement

To aid in ensuring that proliferation is controlled, there must be an improvement in detection and verification. New detection technologies, training, and assistance could be provided; wider information could be provided, including the introduction of reporting requirements for dual-use items or export denials, and a generally greater transparency by states towards verification bodies like the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA). Safeguards, in short, should not be seen as an imposition but as a *partner* in helping the state demonstrate its compliance with non-proliferation commitments to the international community.



*An IAEA Meeting
Credit: Stringer Austria/Reuters*

To ensure compliance, enforcement must be improved, through better decision making process in the IAEA for greater consistency and transparency, and greater United Nations Security Council (UNSC) support for stranger verification and sanctions. There must be strategies to deal with them should they occur. Withdrawal should be seen as a potential threat to international peace and security, especially if the withdrawing state has violated the treaty. Current NPT safeguards agreements also lapse if the state withdraws from the NPT. This presents a significant deficiency, and strategies should be implemented to maintain non-proliferation and safeguards commitments on existing programs in case of withdrawal. Of course, making it more challenging to

withdraw from the treaty inherently provides disincentives to states in joining the treaty.

Increased Barrier to Proliferation

Nuclear disarmament depends upon a stable strategic environment, especially effective non-proliferation and effective regimes against other, non-nuclear weapons of mass destruction. Controls on the spread of proliferation-sensitive technologies are especially important. Proliferation risk can be minimized by developing a new institutional framework that complements the NPT, and new proliferation-resistant technologies.

Another priority is to establish a fissile material control regime – capping the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, establishing a quantitative limit, as in the Fissile-Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT), and working to bring excess military stocks under irreversible peaceful use commitment. Non-NPT states need to be drawn into the disarmament process and commitments, starting with imposing qualitative limits on the development of nuclear weapons.

Addressing Geopolitics

Most crucially, however, the underlying security concerns must be addressed – concerns that lead states to develop nuclear weapons, to be reluctant to dismantle the weapons, and to seek to rearm. Without addressing such issues, any disarmament efforts will always struggle against geopolitical and securitized incentives to arm and disincentives to disarm. Case-by-case solutions to do so will likely have to be sought; most obviously, however, efforts to create such solutions will be stymied by increasing geopolitical complexity on a multipolar global stage – for example, between the five nuclear weapon states; obligations to allies only increase these complexities.

However, the significance of geopolitics must not be understated. The correlations between geopolitical caution and disarmament could be seen in 1991, when the largest reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe took place. This was not a result of an arms control treaty but a perceived reduction in geopolitical threats. On 27 September 1991, President George H. W. Bush outlined sweeping changes to the U.S. nuclear force posture in response to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Only days later, President Mikhail Gorbachev announced that the Soviet Union will take similar steps to reduce, dismantle, and destroy much of its non-strategic nuclear forces. These Presidential Nuclear Initiatives (PNIs) were the most transformative change to the nuclear posture in Europe, resulting in a significant reduction in the number of nuclear weapons deployed and the easing of military tensions. Though short-lived, the success of the PNIs – and the geopolitical reasons for rearmament in the 21st century – demonstrate the significant role that geopolitics play in nuclear proliferation and disarmament.

On Nuclear Power

In addressing the issue of nuclear proliferation, a brief nod of acknowledgement will have to be made, as always, to the role of nuclear power. Nuclear power does not, in and of itself, present a proliferation problem. Proliferation risks arise only when the means to produce fissile material – that is, enrichment and reprocessing – spreads to further countries. This knowledge could serve as the basis for undeclared programs.

Amorith Tan
UNAANA Chief Editor

UN Observances

April

2: World Autism Awareness Day
4: International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action
5: International Day of Conscience
6: International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
7: International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda
7: World Health Day
12: International Day of Human Space Flight
14: World Chagas Disease Day
20: Chinese Language Day
21: World Creativity and Innovation Day
22: International Girls in ICT Day
22: International Mother Earth Day
23: World Book and Copyright Day
23: English Language Day
23: Spanish Language Day
24: International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace
24 - 30: World Immunisation Week (WHO)
25: World Malaria Day
25: International Delegate's Day
26: International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day
26: World Intellectual Property Day
28: World Day for Safety and Health at Work
30: International Jazz Day

May

2: World Tuna Day
3: World Press Freedom Day
6 – 11: UN Global Road Safety Week (WHO)
8: World Migratory Bird Day
8: Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives During the Second World War
10: International Day of Argania
15: International Day of Families
16: International Day of Living Together in Peace
16: International Day of Light
17: World Telecommunication and Information Society Day
20: World Bee Day
21: International Tea Day
21: World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development
22: International Day for Biological Diversity
23: International Day to End Obstetric Fistula
25 – 31: Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories
26: Vesak, the Day of the Full Moon
29: International Day of UN Peacekeepers
31: World No-Tobacco Day



**United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division**

UNAANA www.unaa-wa.org.au

 FACEBOOK UNAANAInc/

 TWITTER UNAANA

 LINKEDIN [company/united-nations-association-of-australia-wa-](https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-association-of-australia-wa/)

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

Upcoming Events



United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division

A NEW GLOBALISM AND ITS ROLE TO ACHIEVING SDGS

27TH
APRIL 2021

6.00-7.30PM

11 MOUNTS BAY
ROAD, PERTH,
WA 6000

TICKETS:

<https://tinyurl.com/2udcs7fz>

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

CONTACT: 9221 7020 or office@unaa-wa.org.au



<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

Upcoming Events



United Nations Association of Australia

GENDER EQUALITY LEADERSHIP SERIES

12, 19, 26
AUG 2020

REGISTER VIA HUMANITIX TO WATCH

STRENGTHENING GIRLS' LEADERSHIP

AVAILABLE FROM WEDNESDAY 12TH AUGUST

WOMEN IN EARLY CAREER

AVAILABLE FROM WEDNESDAY 19TH AUGUST

LEADING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE

AVAILABLE FROM WEDNESDAY 26TH AUGUST

REGISTRATIONS: To watch these events please register at <https://events.humanitix.com/gender-equality-leadership-series> to receive a link
PRICING: UNAAWA members \$5 per instalment or \$11 for 3
Non-members \$7 per instalment or 15 for 3.
Funds raised are donated to the UNAAWA.



PAUL FAIX
Honorary Consul of Slovak Republic in WA
Founder & CEO, Fortix



ARNOLD WONG (FACS, GAICD)
National Treasurer, Australian Computer Society



SCOVIA ANZOO
Youth Programs Coordinator, Edmund Rice Centre WA



MEESEN BROWN
Co-Founder, Behere (Canada)



JILL LATHAM
Organisational Psychologist and Lecturer, UWA



NEESHA SETH
Principal Organisational Psychologist, ALTA Corporate Psychology
President, UNAA YP



JASHAN BAJWA
Early Childhood Educator



KHAIRUL HILMI
Registered Psychologist



Upcoming Events



Women in Energy



United Nations
Association
of Australia
WA Division

'5 STEPS TO MOVE YOUR CAREER FORWARD' WORKSHOP

Take control of your career

There will be an opportunity for networking over drinks and canapés after the 1.5 hour workshop. Numbers are strictly limited, so sign up now!

Click [HERE](#) to register

14 April 2021

5:00pm - 7:30pm
Energy Policy WA
66 St. Georges Tce

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

Upcoming Events

Complimentary Yoga Meditation Sessions

Every Saturday, 8:30am

Gentle Yoga Class

Mr. Edgar Porras, RYT 200

Meeting ID: 898 5089 9334

Password: Gentle

Zoom meeting [link](#)

Every Sunday, 8:30am

Hatha Yoga Level 1

Mr. Atanasio Castro, RYT 500

Zoom meeting [link](#)

Meeting ID: 846 4502 8421

Password: Dharma



<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>

Upcoming Events



United Nations Association of Australia

2021

UN & Australia
SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

Forum

20 & 21 APRIL 2021

VIRTUAL EVENT

www.partnershipsforum.unaa.org.au



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

GOALS



United Nations Association of Australia
WA Division

UNA AWA www.unaa-wa.org.au

FACEBOOK UNAAWAInc/

TWITTER UNAAWA

LINKEDIN [company/united-nations-association-of-australia-wa-](https://www.linkedin.com/company/united-nations-association-of-australia-wa/)

<http://www.unaa.org.au/divisions/western-australia/>