



# United Nations Association of Australia WA Division



## UN Matters

November 2020 – January 2021



*UNAAWA Executive Committee members at the 2021 Planning Day meeting*



*Joseph Caruso, Remembrance Day*



*Rosalind Croucher, AHRC President*

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Chief Editor: Amorith Tan

# From the President

A year ago today, when I sat down to write my first newsletter introduction for 2020, I was excited to be embarking on a new year filled with great events which I couldn't wait to share with you all. It marked the beginning of our final decade of action to accomplish the ambitious agenda of the SDGs, and as such was an opportunity to dream of a better world.

But it did not turn out the way we had hoped. 2020 turned out to be a very difficult year. The COVID-19 pandemic had a profound effect on our society, and despite how well Australia has coped compared to much of the rest of the world, the disease has taken lives. Many have been infected, many have lost their jobs, and too many people have found themselves feeling lonely and isolated.

However, last year also brought out the best in us. Countless people put their own interests and dreams aside in order to protect one another. This has helped to save lives, and in Western Australia today, life has in many real ways returned to a form of normality. I am deeply grateful for, and proud of the many ways our members have handled the greatest challenge we have faced in recent times. We were there for each other when it really counted, and I know that I will always look back with admiration on the way the UNAAWA and all its volunteers have contributed.

As we look towards 2021, I am here to share my hope for this year: Better days are coming soon. I do not know how soon that will be, no one can, but I do know that we are extremely lucky here in WA compared to the rest of the world. Here we can see our friends, meet our family, go for walks and enjoy the beauty of our country. However, outside of WA most people can only dream of the opportunities we have here.

So, I have a request for everyone who is reading this; think of the countless people who are struggling around the world, who are back under lockdown, who are feeling isolated, who are worried. Think of them, and if you have friends, family or acquaintances in that situation, pick up your phone and give them a call. Find out how they are doing and reassure them that better days are coming soon.

The UNAAWA exists to spread and nurture the values of the United Nations, and those values are needed today more than ever. "Leave no one behind" is the central, transformative promise of the SDGs, and the COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated all too clearly the need to achieve this. We will not overcome this pandemic until we *all* overcome it, and global solidarity is critical to achieving this. So no matter what animates your passions, whether you choose to fight for good health and wellbeing, for gender equality, for reducing inequality or for climate action, we all have a role to play.

I hope that you will join us in person or online at the many events we have planned for you this year. At the UNAAWA, we aim to do our part in building back better from the many crises which the world is facing, and I look forward to meeting you in the weeks and months ahead as we strive to do just that. If you haven't subscribed to our social media accounts I urge you to do so, so as to ensure you don't miss the latest news on our upcoming events. While if you have any suggestions for activities we should be organizing, please contact me at [wapres@unaa.org.au](mailto:wapres@unaa.org.au)

I would like to end by once again welcoming our newest members, and to thank again to all the volunteers and sponsors without which none of what we do would have been possible. Our organization is only as successful as your support, and I am incredibly grateful for your time, your hard work and dedication. We are all in this together, and together, better days are coming.

**Dr Sandy Chong**  
**UNAAWA President**



## Human Rights Committee: Celebration of Human Rights Day

10th December 2020 has been designated as the UN Human Rights Day. On that day, the Human Rights Committee presented a letter commemorating the event and expressed its gratitude for the presentations made on video to mark it. The letter is attached for convenient reference.

2021 looks to be an exciting and productive year ahead. By early January 2021, the Committee had already made plans to establish contact with not one but two persons to highlight their involvement in human rights activities within Western

Australia, including children in need. Video presentations will be made about the persons selected. The Committee intends to follow up through our internal processes to select other nominees to highlight their human rights activities, which will continue on a monthly basis. January has started strong, and the Committee intends to keep up the momentum throughout the year, leading to the Human Rights Day and the Human Rights presentation awards.

The letter was as follows:

\*\*\*

10 December 2020

Dear members and well-wishers,

**RE: Celebration of Human Rights Day, 10 December 2020**

The United Nations has designated this day, 10th December of each year, as UN Human Rights Day.

The UNAAWA Human Rights Committee expresses its appreciation and gratitude for the video presentations from Rosalind Croucher (President of the Australian Human Rights Commission), Grace Forrest (UNAA Goodwill Ambassador & 2020 Young Western Australian of the Year), Rabia Saddique (International Humanitarian Lawyer), David Gainer (US Consul General for Perth) and Shaheen Hughes (CEO of Museum of Freedom & Tolerance).

For this day, one of the intentions of the United Nations was that the concept of Human Rights be reflected upon and acknowledged throughout the world.

As human beings, we each have inalienable rights to be free from oppression, to believe what we choose and to be who we are without fear, discrimination or apology.

Human Rights may be seen as not a gift to be granted in charity, but rather an act of recognition of the inalienable rights of another fellow human. When a person has their rights recognised by another, it will enable them to gain their dignity and to improve in their lives. Equally important, the person who recognises and acknowledges the rights of another will not only gain dignity by their act, but also by the resulting character development and ways of thinking,

and will play a role for humanity to improve and evolve in our mindset, attitudes and actions to make this world a fairer place for everyone.

The Human Rights Committee of the UNAAWA expresses its gratitude for the contributions made in the video presentations on this Human Rights Day, and aims to facilitate a more widespread recognition of Human Rights for a better future for all.


Yours Faithfully,  
Randhir Amoganathan

Convenor, UNAAWA Human Rights Committee, on behalf of the Committee members:

Dharshana Sivapatham  
Giri Sitham  
Charlotte Solomon  
Kaisha Champion  
Cosmas Onaney  
Adrien Lebelle



Human Rights Logo,  
unveiled 23 September 2011

 **United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
WA Division**

*Join us to commemorate*  
**UNIVERSAL  
DECLARATION OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

- President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Professor Rosalind Croucher
- US Consul General of Perth, David Gainer
- CEO of Museum of Freedom & Tolerance, Shaheen Hughes
- International Humanitarian, Rabia Saddique
- UNAA Goodwill Ambassador & WA Young Australian of the Year - Grace Forrest

**WATCH ONLINE:**  
[www.facebook.com/UNAAWAInc](http://www.facebook.com/UNAAWAInc)  
CONTACT: 08 9467 4050 or [office@unaa-wa.org.au](mailto:office@unaa-wa.org.au)


**10TH  
DEC 2020**  
**6.00 PM**  
**Virtual  
Event**

**ENDING  
DISCRIMINATION**

**ADDRESS  
INEQUALITIES**

**PARTICIPATION  
& SOLIDARITY**

**PROMOTE  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**

 **SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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

# Universal Declaration of Human Rights Day Event

On 10 December 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was ratified. To mark the occasion, the UNAAWA hosted a panel to address the issue of ensuring that human rights are central to recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic, overcoming inequalities and injustices made apparent by the pandemic. On the panel were Rosalind Croucher, the President of the Australian Human Rights Commission, Grace Forrest, co-founder and director of Walk Free, UNAA Goodwill Ambassador, and 2020 Young Western Australian of the Year, Rabia Siddique, International Humanitarian Lawyer, David Gainer, US Consul General for Perth, and Shaheen Hughes, CEO of Museum of Freedom & Tolerance.

The speakers emphasised that

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a milestone landmark document that proclaims and enshrines the inalienable rights which every person on the planet is entitled to enjoy regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, opinion, social origin, birth, or other status.
- Human rights, as set out in the Universal Declaration, begins with the assumption that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights; it is a vision that transcends politics and reaches across all societies and all nations.
- 2020 has raised unprecedented challenges for the human rights of all Australians, and the theme of 2020's Human Rights Day theme, "Recover Better; Stand Up for Human Rights", relates to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for human rights to be central to our rebuilding efforts.

Some key points to consider:

- National human rights institutions – independent monitors and watchdogs on human rights at the



*L to R: Rosalind Croucher, Rabia Siddique, Grace Forrest, David Gainer, and Shaheen Hughes*

national level – have a critical role to play in the pursuit of human rights.

- Sexism, racism, and inequality are still roadblocks to sustainable development for tens of millions of people around the world. The size and complexity of this problem should not stop us from tackling it; it is not impossible to end modern slavery, but it is impossible to progress as a society with so many people systematically held back. Amplifying survivor voices is crucial to fighting modern slavery and is necessary to break down systemic inequality. They must be included in the decision-making process.
- Human rights could serve as a foundation in emphasising hope and unity as drivers of recovery.
- Finally, we must go into 2021 with six human-centered values in mind – freedom, equality, dignity, hope, joy, and belonging.

Special thanks to the speakers for taking the time to share their thoughts on the anniversary of this landmark treaty.

You can watch the full recording of the speeches [here](#).

**Amorith Tan**

**UNAAWA Chief Editor**

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

## UNAAWA's Certificate of Recognition

An invitation to attend a morning tea reception on the 21 January 2021 at the Constitution Centre with the Hon. Paul Papalia, Minister for Multicultural Interests, turned into a pleasant surprise for the UNAAWA. The event was attended by over 60 leaders of the multicultural and small business communities, from the President of Chung Wah Association, WA Small Business Commissioner, to the CEO of WA Indigenous Tourism Council. The Minister delivered an update on the economic situation of local businesses and the social health of the migrant communities in WA. He extended his appreciation to the community leaders for their dedication and hard work in ensuring safety and helping the state to a steady recovery. After the address, a handful of guests, including the President of UNAAWA, were notified of a small presentation for the community service done in WA. A certificate of acknowledgement for the Lotterywest grants won in 2020 was presented by the Minister to the President.

The President expressed her sincere appreciation to the Minister, the WA Premier and Lotterywest on behalf of the UNAAWA, thanking them for their continued support to the UNAAWA during this challenging time. "This pandemic has disrupted lives and as Western Australians, we have been fortunate to be able to give back actively to those who have



*UNAAWA receives certificate of recognition from Minister of Multicultural Interests*

less." said Dr Chong. "This recognition is dedicated to our volunteers and partners who have been most selfless and committed to our cause in building an inclusive and resilient society. We aim to continue the work we do in 2021 so that no one is left behind".

*Photo credit: Office of Multicultural Interests (OMI).*

*Dr Sandy Chong (left), President of the UNAAWA and the Hon. Paul Papalia CSC MLA, Minister for Tourism; Racing & Gaming; Small Business; Defence issues; and Citizenship & Multicultural Interests (right).*



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

## HSWA: International Day of the Girl Child 2020

The United Nations' International Day of the Girl Child was celebrated by Haryana Society of Western Australia (HSWA) in a traditional Indian way, by organising a "Sanjhi Puja" on the 17th of October 2020 at Canning Town Hall, Cannington, Western Australia.



In Hindu mythology, women are considered more powerful and is regarded as the Goddess of *Shakti* (power of feminine). A female child is considered the most auspicious and clear soul. *Sanjhi* is the Goddess of common people, mainly peasants and their young children, especially daughters, to whom *Sanjhi* is considered as a friend who understands their problems. Sanjhi was a 10-day festival where women and young girls would worship the image of Sanjhi (the goddess of power, knowledge, and equality).



The event was attended by around 130 people. Through this event, HSWA tried to convey the United Nations theme of "My voice, our equal future" in a unique way. A poster-making event was also organised and gifts were given to young girls for their active participation. At the end of the event while having dinner, parents wrote beautiful messages for the girls.

**Sudhir Chowdhary**  
Chairman, Haryana Society of Western Australia  
+61 410 541 629



# Remembrance Day – 11 November 2020

## *Lest We Forget*

This date is the 102 year anniversary of World War 1.

Today we continue to commemorate the extreme sacrifices of those gallant veterans who served for us, who went to war in distant lands and those that died, the widows, and those who still live and bear the trauma, injury and scars of battle.

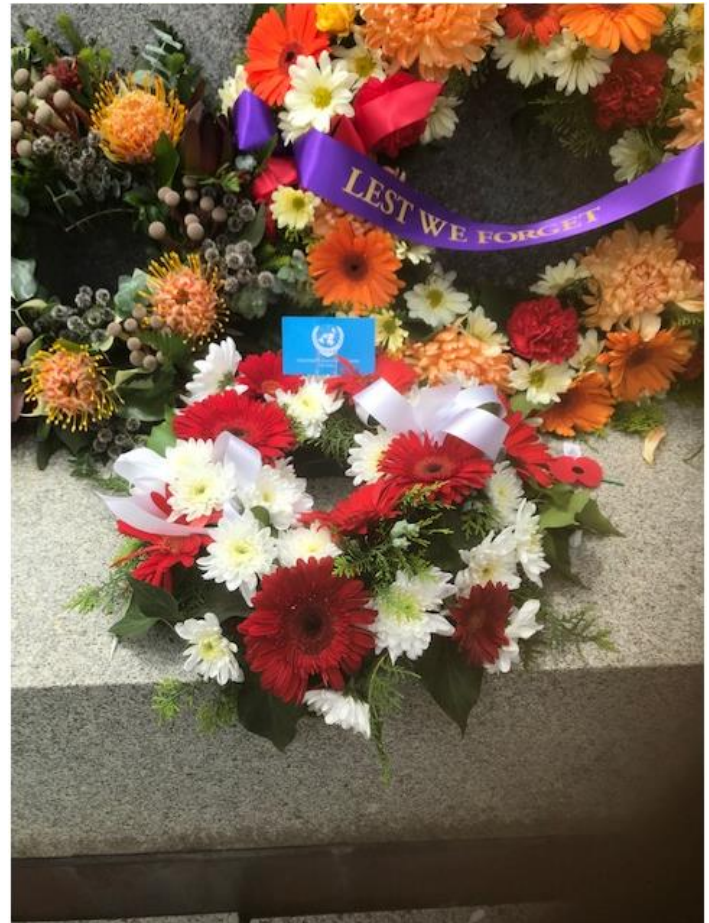
Today we still remember those everlasting words ...

*On the 11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month, We Shall Remember Them. Lest We Forget.*

My previous reports have been in more detail. However I have chosen to attach a small historical photo selection from the war archives and Anzac memorial in Albany, illustrating aspects from the beginning of WW1 and leading to signing of peace armistice in a railway carriage on the outskirts of Paris.

In Representing UNAAWA I have continued to attend these RSL services with wreath laying respect and dignity for over almost two decades my visitation to most the battle fields ,the lives lost have further provided a sombre reflection of the wasteful senseless purpose of conflict.

We owe so much to those that served for the freedom and life we all share today. Our United Nations Body and Red Cross have played their part in peace keeping



and the greater efforts in the preservation of Humanity.

**Joseph Caruso**  
**International Global Representative**



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



# Remembrance Day

11 NOVEMBER

## In Flanders Fields

poem by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, 3 May 1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

*lest we forget*



Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

[www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)

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

## Judy Collins and the World Health Organisation's Solidary Fund

In May 2020, singer/song writer Judy Collins sought out singers to join her with the Global Virtual Choir for a new version of her 1970's hit song "Amazing Grace". All proceeds would go to the **World Health Organisation Solidarity Fund**.



*Photo Source: The Telegraph (UK)*

The likes of Ringo Star, Steve Earle, Beth Nielsen Chapman and Alan Cummings and many more signed up. On the recording, the voices of Voices

International [Luxembourg], GOA University Choir [India], New York Choral Society, University of Luxembourg Choir and the Soweto Gospel Choir can also be heard.

How did this work?

Between 14<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, amateur and professionals from around the world were invited to a bespoke site, *Globalvirtualchoir.com*, where they could choose to learn either part A or B of the song, using the hashtag #JudyCollinsChoir. The singers then videoed themselves with the backing track and submitted it.

The original song was written by slave ship captain John Newton in 1772 who later became an anti-slave supporter.

Judy Collins became a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in September 1995.

**Lindsay Dorman**  
**UNAAWA member**



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# Environment Committee Update



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON  
**ECOSYSTEM  
RESTORATION**  
2021-2030

2021 marks the beginning of a new decade; the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. This calls for the undismissable protection and revival of global ecosystems, to put the world on track for a sustainable future for the benefit of both nature and people. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Generation Restoration creates a movement for the much needed restoration activities throughout the world, and our Committee is excited to lead the way in WA. If you would like to be involved prior to the global launch during World Environment Day (June 5<sup>th</sup>),

visit here  
<https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/join-movement>

This year, the committee's focus is on taking a hands-on approach in the environmental issues near and dear to us. We are looking forward to coming together and putting our energy into knowledge sharing events, and creating a platform for other people to feel empowered to make a long-term difference. Just around the corner we will be participating in the annual Clean Up Australia Day event, supporting a previous UNAANA Environmental Award Winner Stirling Natural Environmental Coastcare's clean up event at Trigg Beach. Two of our Committee members have also recently become members of the United Nations Association of Australia Climate Change Committee, so stay tuned for some nationally unified communications and events.

From our youth representative of the Environment Committee, we are looking forward to collaborating with Perth University Environment clubs to discuss their impact on environmental issues in the community, and how the youth of Perth can create a lasting impact to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.



*Members of the UNAANA Environment Committee with UNAANA President Sandy Chong at the UN Day Gala*

## *The SharkSmart App*

If you spend a lot of time in the water and share our love for the incredible WA coastline, we recommend you take five to download the SharkSmart WA app. It's important to be safe at the beach and this app allows you to be aware of shark activity alongside other beach safety features. You can also help by reporting shark sightings or whale carcasses! Great when planning a snorkelling trip at the beach.

**Melissa Arias**  
**UNAANA Environment Committee**  
**Sustainability and Comms Lead**

## Maddie McLeod: The Valuing Children Initiative



A passion for social justice has always been at the heart of my work: I am a social worker with more than 20 years' experience and I have worked with many vulnerable adults, children and families across my career. In late September 2020, I was appointed as the Development Executive for the Valuing Children Initiative (VCI) and I am loving the role. I recognise that there are systemic and attitudinal barriers that prevent many children from reaching their potential and I am interested in finding creative ways to effect positive change for children, and for society more broadly. With 1 in 6 children Australian children living in poverty and 36% of 15



year olds not having basic reading and mathematics skills it's clear that the SDG's are highly relevant in Australia. In fact there are many statistics relating to children that very concerning: Australian ranks 32/38 in OECD countries across four core domains of child wellbeing! Dr Sandy Chong is a VCI Ambassador and I am excited to continue the partnership with Sandy and others at the UNAA to progress the SDG's. Kids have no choice about the circumstances of their birth or their childhood so it's up to all of us to nurture, protect and listen to our youngest citizens! To learn more about the Valuing Children Initiative please visit our website <http://valuingchildreninitiative.com.au/> and follow us on socials:

*Facebook:*

<https://www.facebook.com/valuingchildreninitiative/>

*Instagram:*

<https://www.instagram.com/valuingchildreninitiative/>

*LinkedIn:*

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/valuing-children-initiative/>

**Maddie McLeod**  
**Development Executive**  
**The Valuing Children Initiative**



## Children's Books from the Valuing Children Initiative

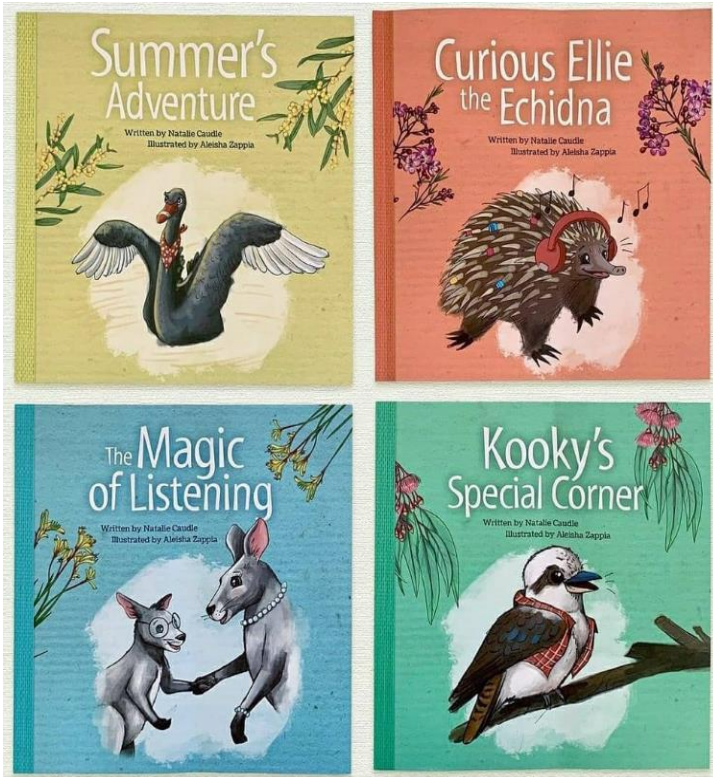
The Valuing Children Initiative is pleased to announce that we have printed four children's books! The books are based on VCI's four pillars of Listening, Voice,

Safety and Growth. They have been professionally printed and are absolutely gorgeous!

The Valuing Children Initiative commissioned the books to support children's literacy and to provide parents and teachers with opportunities to connect and discuss important issues with children. The questions on the 'reflection page' can be used by adults to initiate conversations with children in relation to each book's topic. In February 2021, 4000 books will be distributed as a free resource to WA primary schools and we hope that each book will initiate many thoughtful conversations between children and adults.

If you would like your own copy of the books they are available for sale at selected bookshops or can be purchased directly from the Valuing Children Initiative for \$12 each\* or \$38 per set\* (four books). \*Plus postage if buyer unable to collect from Perth CBD.

Please email [mmcleod@valuingchildren.com.au](mailto:mmcleod@valuingchildren.com.au) to place an order.



All profits go towards The Valuing Children Initiative's work to create a society that values all children.



## Gender-based Violence and COVID-19

Violence. It's not just on the battlefields; it's in the home, too - COVID-19 has fostered an environment that has seen a dramatic increase in domestic violence sweeping the globe.

1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime, with the outbreak of COVID-19 violence has intensified at distressing rates. Particularly in the domestic sphere.

While the attention capturing the globe is centered around containing COVID-19 – there is a shadow scourge growing, exacerbated by the very measures put in place by governments around the world in an attempt to mitigate the spread of the virus.

Following a report released by the United Nations, entitled “COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls,” statistics show the reports of domestic-based violence surged as COVID-19 took a stranglehold of the globe. In France, domestic violence increased 30 percent, in Spain 18 percent, in Singapore 30 percent and across the United States, domestic violence rose by 35 percent.

The proliferating spread of COVID-19 is forcing victims into the hands of their abusers with fewer opportunities to seek solace. This shadow scourge knows no borders, but the victims in our most impoverished countries, those experiencing humanitarian crises, are the most vulnerable in our global community. It is now the joint responsibility of International peace organisations to increase and intensify their efforts to address and prevent a global pandemic of domestic violence from emerging.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exploited many devastating effects on our global society but this

moment has exposed and exacerbated underlying, pre-existing structural violence conditions. The intensifying increase of domestic violence should generate a societal change with the presumption that a nuclear household is a place of safety, which should be preserved. However, to effect long-term systemic change, we as a society cannot think of the pre-COVID-19 prevalence of domestic violence and view it as a tolerable "normal" in which we aim towards. Instead, as a global society and international peace organisations, we need to offer longer-term responses of social and economic infrastructures and services that victimised women and children can depend on as a sound structure for safer cohabitation even survival.

The public statement delivered by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on governments spanning our globe to "put women's safety first as they respond to the pandemic." This public statement, accompanied by a set of recommendations that included – declaring women's shelters as essential services – a necessity to providing a safe haven for women and their children, in times of need.

If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that the long-term plague of domestic violence is far too grave and rampant to continue on the line of "responses" that amount to nothing. As philosopher Bernard Williams said, "To say peace where there is no peace, is to say nothing."



Not to say tackling this scourge will be an easy task; it requires the careful critique

of the nuclear household and the traditional family form. To renegotiate the very structure of a traditional family that we, as a society, have come to understand.

Looking beyond government restrictions and global spanning lockdowns. It is up to us, the next generation, to fight for policies that both socialize and, indeed, unify families, such as child care services. While, I recognise that there are more advanced and complex policies- to benefit the nuclear family and coupled homes. I believe a sound and unifying child care policy can provide women worldwide with the economic and social support they need. To provide them the flexibility not to rely on an abusive partner

for survival and enable the burden of care work not to be confined to the domestic sphere.

Perhaps, we should insist on the legitimacy of homes and living situations that are built on more than blood ties and coupledness.

It seems likely that whole communities will time and again — be forced into isolation. When that happens, the struggle for places of supposed shelter to be free from the threat of domestic physical and sexual violence will entail changing societal assumptions about what constitutes a good home.

**Susanna Panaia**  
**UNAAWA Member**

## Nuclear Non-Proliferation Part II: Challenges to the Non-Proliferation Regime

*This article is part two of a three-part series on nuclear non-proliferation regimes. Part I is published in the September-October 2020 issue of UN Matters.*

It is evident that the state of the non-proliferation regime as currently upheld by institutions such as the NPT should not be taken for granted. The challenges faced by the non-proliferation regime are myriad. Foremost among them is the lack of codification in dealing with treaty violations and withdrawal, which undermine the rules-based approach to international relations. If the international community is not prepared to take effective action to uphold treaty obligations, the non-proliferation regime will have a limited future. On the other hand, imposing penalties for withdrawal inherently raises disincentives to join the NPT in the first place. Other issues with the NPT, however, could be addressed.



*24 April 2000 – Review Conference of Parties to the NPT, United Nations, New York*

### *Failure to Enforce and Verify Non-Proliferation and Disincentivize Proliferation*

The great majority of states are NPT partners who observe their non-proliferation commitments. In most

cases, this is a deliberate policy, where states have concluded that the pursuit of nuclear weapons will not further their national security, and that they accrue greater benefit from the non-proliferation regime. However, some states may, rather than having made a conscious decision to not engage in nuclear proliferation, instead be held back by lack of capability, deterrence, or the high costs of a nuclear weapons program, and it is these states that are potential candidates for proliferation. This is a particularly dangerous state, as the greatest factor that reinforces commitment is the difficulty of producing fissile materials, rather than effective verification and consequential compliance enforcement action, while enrichment and reprocessing capability is limited to a relatively small number of states. In other words, should the high technological and financial barrier to states considering proliferation be removed, the NPT and similar regimes will be drastically threatened.

Similarly, stringent verification and enforcement is necessary to reduce the incentives for states to not adhere to the terms of the NPT. If it were thought that the non-proliferation regime is not working effectively, commitment will be weakened. Verification failures (where safeguards fail to detect treaty violations), enforcement failures (where effective action is not taken to enforce compliance), and the spread of break-out capability (where the enrichment and reprocessing capability becomes widespread) all lead to the weakening of commitment and thus increased proliferation. Indeed, the nuclear programs of Iran, Pakistan, and the DPRK rely at least in large part upon this justification.

The perception of insufficient commitment to the treaty by nuclear weapon states, at least, could be somewhat alleviated by better explaining what has been achieved, and by committing to further substantial reductions. With the U.S., Russia, and China all moving to rearm, however, the latter issue of

substantial reductions is not one that could be soon addressed.

#### *Armament by Nuclear Weapon States*

The second significant challenge to disarmament lies in states using nuclear weapons as a means of deterrence. Nuclear deterrence serves as a safeguard to national security in two broad ways. The first is to supplement inadequacies in a state's conventional military force against a real or perceived rival. The second manner of nuclear deterrence serves as a safeguard against nuclear threats and the expansion of nuclear weapons and nuclear use. Furthermore, nuclear weapons could be used as a political tool. That is, deterrence could be seen to serve as a response to military *and* political inequities between states and other international actors.

Conversely, the challenges provided by inequities are exacerbated by the possibility of a state's obligations to its allies and states that rely upon it to ensure regional stability. Such uses of nuclear weapons inherently discourages and even prevents states from disarming until all its rivals also disarm, and any threats to its and its allies' interests which require nuclear deterrence are also wholly and indefinitely removed.

#### *Role of Non-Nuclear Weapon States*

Further destabilizing the non-proliferation regime is the fact that many developing countries are attacking the NPT on political grounds, whether due to the perception that nuclear weapon states have failed to fulfill disarmament obligations, or on the grounds of the right to access technology. This perception, that the NPT is a "North-South" issue, relies upon the mistaken notion that nuclear states are solely responsible for upholding, and non-nuclear states have no responsibility to uphold, the non-proliferation regime. Non-proliferation is not only an issue between nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states. It is just as important as an issue for negotiations among



non-nuclear weapon states themselves. Proliferation, after all, inherently stems from non-nuclear weapon states, and so presents a greater threat to their security. There must be recognition and agreement of the dangers of the spread of technologies that could facilitate proliferation, as well as a need for the

governments of non-nuclear weapon states to appreciate the benefits that they gain from a strong non-proliferation regime.

**Amorith Tan**  
**UNAAWA Chief Editor**

## UN Observances

### February

- 4: International Day of Human Fraternity
- 6: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation
- 10: World Pulses Day
- 11: International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 13: World Radio Day
- 20: World Day of Social Justice
- 21: International Mother Language Day



### March

- 1: Zero Discrimination Day
- 3: World Wildlife Day
- 8: International Women's Day
- 20: International Day of Happiness
- 20: French Language Day
- 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21: World Poetry Day
- 21: International Day of Nowruz
- 21: World Down Syndrome Day
- 21: International Day of Forests
- 22: World Water Day
- 23: World Meteorological Day
- 24: World Tuberculosis Day
- 24: International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims
- 25: International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade
- 25: International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members



**United Nations  
Association  
of Australia  
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People in the **Perth, Peel and South West** regions should observe the following health guidelines:



Wear a mask at all times when you leave home



Practise physical distancing where possible



Stay at home and restrict all non-essential travel



Avoid unnecessary physical contact



If you are feeling unwell, get tested immediately



Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly

For more information, visit [www.wa.gov.au/covid19](http://www.wa.gov.au/covid19)



# Stay at home.

If you live in the Perth, Peel or South West region, there are only four reasons to leave your home:

1. Shopping for essential supplies
2. Accessing healthcare, or other compassionate reasons
3. Exercising within your neighbourhood, but only with one other person and only for one hour per day
4. Work for an essential purpose, where you cannot do so from home or remotely



***Note: masks must be worn at all times when you leave home, including at your workplace***



# The correct way to wear a mask:



## **DON'T**

leave your chin exposed

## **DON'T**

allow any gaps between your face and the mask

## **DON'T**

wear your mask below your nose

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