

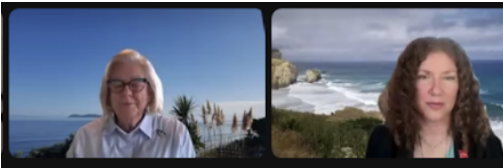
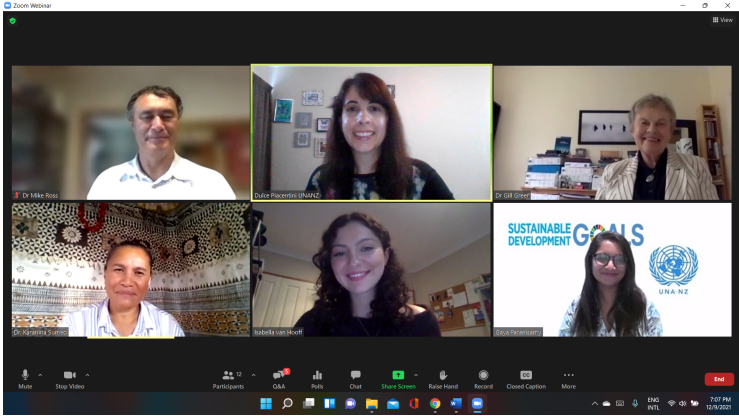
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2021-2022

UNA NZ NEWS

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND
TE ROOPU WHAKAKOTAHİ WHENUA O AOTEAROA



About the UNA NZ News

The UNA NZ News is the annual printed publication of the United Nations Association of New Zealand. UNA NZ welcomes articles, short letters, and images from outside sources for our e-newsletters and other publications. If you would like to submit something for consideration, please send it to the editor at office@unanz.org.nz



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Contents

INTRODUCTORY MATERIALS

President's Introduction	1
Patron's Message	4
Vice-Regal Patronage	5

UNA NZ EVENTS

United Nations Day 2021	7
Secretary-General's message (2021)	9
Roundtable discussion on fulfilling the obligations of Te Tiriti O Waitangi	10
Human Rights Day Webinar 2021: Can a gendered approach to human rights challenges boost sustainable development?	12
'Code Red for Humanity' – Climate Change Virtual Panel	14
Youth Perspectives on Carbon Neutrality in Aotearoa	15
Transport Minister Hon Michael Wood's keynote speech at the event	16
Climate activist Sophie Handford shares her reflections	19
United Nations Association Annual Conference – Marking 75 years of UNA NZ	21
Reflecting on 75 years of the United Nations Association of New Zealand	30

UNA NZ ACTIVITIES

UN Commission on the Status of Women 65 th session	33
WFUNA – The International Work of the World Federation of United Nations Associations – Our Global Network	37
Special Officer for Humanitarian Affairs Jean-Paul Bizoza reflects on World Refugee Day	40
Speech award 2021	41

UNA NZ RESEARCH ARTICLES

UN and APEC: Separate paths to bolster business engagement	44
Migrant women in New Zealand: Gender inequality challenges and possible contributions to sustainable development	47
Climate change report: a reminder of UN's clout	51
New Zealand and ILO Convention 190	54
Let's BEAD the change we want to see in the world	56

CONCLUDING MATERIALS

CODICIL	59
Our People	60

President's Introduction

This will be my second year as the National President of the United Nations Association of New Zealand, and it is my pleasure to contribute my reflections to the fifth edition of our magazine.

As President, I am accountable to the National Council to ensure the organisation is run in the most effective and efficient manner possible. I am also responsible for managing the finances, events, people and making sure that every activity delivered is geared towards promoting United Nations engagement to the people of Aotearoa New Zealand. Obviously, none of this would be possible without the support and guidance of our National Executive where we make democratic decisions together.

Let me start by thanking the efforts of our many volunteers who contribute willingly to achieve our goal in 'Promoting Engagement with the United Nations'. I can't thank our former Executive Officer, Maisy Bentley, enough for being the backbone in supporting us managing the day-to-day work. Maisy continuously delivered amazing work which included office administration, managing internships, providing support in organising the national speech competition, preparing newsletters, the magazine, organising events and the list goes on. My heartfelt appreciation to our Treasurer Pete Cowley who stepped in during the times of crisis to support us in our financial management.

I also acknowledge the support and guidance of the National Council Members which we meet twice a year to make important decisions for the best interest of the organisation. I highly commend and thank our Branch Presidents and their committees for their dedication in running the Branches independently. We were all very excited with our new Branch being formed in Southland Otago which was formalised during our National Council Meeting this year.

I thank the Special Officers and volunteers who have dedicated their time to keep our organisation going. Many thanks to all of you!

Last year was a roller coaster for all of us, being in and out of COVID-19 lockdowns. Despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic, there are many achievements we can all feel proud of.

The Muslim Community organised a beautiful event, Umah Day, last year in March to commemorate the Christchurch Mosque Attack.

I was invited to speak on behalf of the United Nations Association of New Zealand. It was a great opportunity to acknowledge that we, people of Aotearoa, all stand as one against terrorism.



We held the UNA NZ Conference along with a reception to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations Association of New Zealand. Our conference theme was 'Building Back Better'. Kudos to our Events Officers for putting effort in organising the event and bringing people together. The event consisted of speeches by key people such as Member of Parliament Vanushi Walters, Her Excellency Nina Obermaier, Ambassador of European Union to New Zealand, Her Excellency Dell Higgie, New Zealand's Ambassador for Disarmament and Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the Conference on Disarmament, Associate Professor Mere Skerrett and panel discussions by industry leaders. Let's not also forget the video address from Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Nanaia Mahuta.



Gaya Paranisamy (President of UNA NZ) with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon Nanaia Mahuta



Gaya Paranisamy with MP Vanushi Walters during 75th Anniversary of UNA NZ reception.



From left – Sunniva Fredstad – UN ANZ, Professor Siah Hwee Ang – Victoria Uni, Megan McCoy – Ministry of Health, Gaya Paranisamy – UNA NZ, Chris Dunlop – Beca, Dr Karanina Sumeo – Human Rights Commission, Peter Nichols – UNA NZ, Karim Dickie – UNA NZ, Maisy Bentley – UNA NZ and Phoebe Slee – UNA NZ.



Gaya Paranisamy with Ambassador of EU Nina Obermaier during UNA NZ conference

We faced challenges in August as we went into lockdown. We had uncertainties around planning for our events and meetings. Thanks to technology, we were agile and able to move many events and meetings online – thereby keeping the organisation functioning during uncertain times.

We commemorated United Nations Day on 24 October 2021 with an elegant function at Shed 5. Our guest speaker was The Rt Hon Sir Kenneth Keith, the first New Zealander to be elected to the International Court of Justice (2006–2015).

As part of our initiative to focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we organised webinars and a Youth Panel Discussion on Climate Action. Last November, our Minister of Transport Michael Woods gave a keynote address on climate action related to transport.

We also had a successful year with our long-standing national speech competition. My heartiest congratulations to Isabella Etherington from St Paul's Collegiate in Hamilton for winning the UNA NZ Speech Award 2021.

For my part, I remained committed to strengthening the relationship between UNA NZ and other civil societies, diplomatic missions and Government. I strive on devising and developing ways to move forward on common interests. A great method is through collaboration on events such as with diplomatic missions to encourage multilateralism.

I will continue to work on expanding relationships to engage with other organisations on shared global issues, especially in promoting the Sustainable Development Goals. The momentum is growing, and I am committed to doing my utmost to keep it moving.

For my part, doing this role as a volunteer apart from my full-time job, I try to take healthy breaks and short holidays to rejuvenate myself. My method is also connecting with nature or “forest bathing”.

On behalf of UNA NZ, I also want to take this opportunity to thank ‘We the Peoples Foundation’ for all their support. Without their fiscal management and astute investments, we would not be able to deliver the outcomes we strive for.



Gaya Paranisamy during a walk at Aoraki Mount Cook

It has been an absolutely challenging but rewarding year. Doing this voluntary role in addition to my full-time job is a big undertaking, however, I have never been so grateful to have been given this amazing opportunity to serve the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

I am absolutely thrilled to continue serving all of you as the President of UNA NZ and look forward to the challenges of another year promoting engagement with the United Nations.



Gaya Paranisamy

UNA NZ President

Patron's Message

As Patron of UNA NZ, I am happy to support its continued efforts to promote understanding of and engagement with the United Nations throughout New Zealand.

As a former head of the UN Development Programme and a former Prime Minister of New Zealand, I have seen first-hand in a number of ways the importance and benefit of New Zealand's commitment to the UN and its ideals.

For 75 years, UNA NZ has worked throughout New Zealand to bring awareness to the work the UN does, give civil society a voice on UN activities, and develop New Zealand's relationship with the UN through research, education, and advocacy programmes.

In 2021/22, the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to expose structural inequalities globally. There is a need for major reform in the global architecture around pandemic preparedness and response to ensure that the world can avert another catastrophic pandemic emergency. Member States of the United Nations and its organisations must come together to make those changes. An informed constituency in New Zealand, such as the UNA NZ membership, can also champion the needed reforms.

Despite the challenges of operating in the context of a pandemic, UNA NZ has continued to run its programmes, events, research, and advocacy activities. Many of these activities and insights are highlighted throughout this annual publication. I applaud UNA NZ for its work, and wish it all the best for the coming year.



Rt Hon Helen Clark,
Patron UNA NZ.

Vice-Regal Patronage: The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, Governor-General of New Zealand

We warmly welcome our new Patron, Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, 22nd Governor-General of New Zealand.

Dame Cindy Kiro is the first Māori woman to hold this office. Prior to her role as Governor-General, she was the Children's Commissioner. In this role, she created an influential taskforce for Action on Family Violence. Dame Cindy Kiro has also held senior positions at New Zealand universities including as Pro-Vice Chancellor (Māori) at the University of Auckland and Head of the Public Health School at Massey University.

The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro joined UNA NZ as a Patron in 2022 for the duration of her term as Governor-General. We would like to thank the Governor-General for her work advocating for education, criminal justice reform and public health. We also thank the Governor-General for supporting UNA NZ and look forward to working with her in the future.



We would also like to acknowledge former Governor-General, Dame Patsy Reddy, who served as our Patron from 2016 to 2021. Dame Patsy and Sir David Gascoigne hosted United Nations Day 2016 and the 70th Anniversary of UNA NZ at Government House in October 2016.

UNA NZ EVENTS

In this section, we reflect on key UNA NZ events throughout 2022 by sharing their concept notes, banners, summarising the remarks from speakers and providing some longer reflection pieces from our organiser

United Nations Day 2021

UN Day marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being.

There is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. Today, the urgency for all countries to come together, to fulfil the promise of the nations united, has rarely been greater.



At our UN day reception, hosted at Shed 5, guests heard from Sir Kenneth Keith about his time on the International Court of Justice. He echoed the urgency for all to recommit to the goals of the United Nations. Sir Kenneth Keith is a Professor Emeritus and has held academic roles at a number of universities. He had been a judge on the New Zealand Court of Appeal, New Zealand Supreme Court and a Judge of Appeal in Samoa, the Cook Islands and Niue a Judge of the Supreme Court of Fiji and was the first New Zealander to be appointed to the International Court of Justice.

UNA NZ EVENTS

Alongside an in-person event, we also ran a 'fly the UN flag on UN day' campaign. This campaign is aiming to get the UN flag flown around New Zealand (mainly by local councils/authorities) to demonstrate their commitment to the UN and its ideals.

In 2021 we didn't only celebrate the achievements of the UN at our Annual UN Day reception in Wellington but called on the whole of New Zealand to demonstrate their commitment to the ideals of the UN Charter. We ran a campaign calling for local and national government bodies to "Fly the UN flag" on UN Day. This included both literally, at council offices or other official buildings, and virtually, with people posting on social media about UN Day and its significance.

The campaign allowed public bodies across the country to highlight the ways in which they progress the ideals of the UN, whether it's multilateralism, peace and security or any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The flag was flown across the country, including at the New Zealand Parliament.



Secretary-General's message (2021)

Seventy-six years ago, the United Nations was created as a vehicle of hope for a world emerging from the shadow of catastrophic conflict.

Today, the women and men of the UN carry this hope forward around the globe.

COVID-19, conflicts, hunger, poverty and the climate emergency remind us that our world is far from perfect.

But they also make clear that solidarity is the only way forward.

We need to come together to tackle great challenges and advance the Sustainable Development Goals.

By ensuring that every person, everywhere, has access to COVID-19 vaccines sooner rather than later.

By securing and upholding the rights and dignity of all people — especially the poorest and most disadvantaged, girls and women, and children and young people.



By seeking an end to the conflicts that scar our world.

By making bold climate commitments to save our planet — and living up to them.

And by building global governance that is more inclusive, networked and effective — as detailed in my recent report, Our Common Agenda.

The values that have powered the UN Charter for the last 76 years — peace, development, human rights, and opportunity for all — have no expiry date.

As we mark UN Day, let's unite behind these ideals, and live up to the full promise, potential and hope of the United Nations.

Roundtable discussion on fulfilling the obligations of Te Tiriti O Waitangi

Annie Wu

To promote the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2021, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16, the Wellington Branch arranged and hosted a roundtable discussion on fulfilling the obligations of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti O Waitangi at 5:30pm on Thursday 7 October 2021 at St Andrews on the Terrace, Wellington. This event also combined the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with Te Tiriti o Waitangi to explore how these two documents ensure the rights of the Māori people (iwi and hapu).

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a comprehensive document on the rights of indigenous peoples. It covers a broad range of rights and freedoms, including the right to self-determination, culture and identity, and the rights to education, economic development, religious customs, health and language. In New Zealand, we have one indigenous group – New Zealand Māori. The Treaty of Waitangi was signed on 6 February 1840. It was an agreement between the leaders of many Māori tribes and the British Crown. It accepted British governance over New Zealand, while guaranteeing Māori control over their lands, resources and taonga (treasured possessions). The third clause of the Treaty gave Māori the rights and privileges of British subjects.

"The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is a comprehensive document on the rights of indigenous peoples"



Photo Back Row: Dr. Rangī Nicholson, Dr. Mere Skerrett, Dr. Carwyn Jones, Dr Paul Hunt. Front Row: Dr. Anne Philips, Annie Wu, Robin Halliday.

The four roundtable speakers discussed the relationship between the Treaty of Waitangi and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the rights of Māori including self-determination, cultural values, language preservation, and the right to decent homes. All the speakers provided insightful and solid viewpoints on these topics. One of the speakers was the Chief Human Rights Commissioner of New Zealand, Paul Hunt. Before and after the meeting, there was a karakia for opening and closing the event. At the end of the event, representatives from UN Youth gave each speaker a book and a traditional Māori greeting (a Hongi) to thank them for supporting UNA NZ and the Wellington Branch. The audience also enjoyed the opportunity for networking.

It was a great event with a very good atmosphere for a roundtable discussion. I especially thanked Robin Halliday and John Douglas Morgan who greatly supported me in organising this event. Special thanks to Wajirani Adhihetty, Pat Metham, Mira Karunanidhi and the whole Wellington Branch. I also thank Gaya Paranisamy and Karim Dickie for supporting UNA NZ and the Wellington Branch.

Human Rights Day Webinar 2021: Can a gendered approach to human rights challenges boost sustainable development?

Dulce Piacentini

The United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNA NZ) marked the 73rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 6th anniversary of the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development (the 17 SDGs) with a seminar entitled "SDG5: Can a gendered approach to human rights challenges boost sustainable development?"

This seminar was an online event, held on Thursday, 9 December 2021, 5.30pm-7pm. We were delighted with a panel of excellent speakers from different walks of life, who presented us with their varied but equally enlightening perspectives: Dr Karanina Sumeo, Human Rights Commissioner for Equal Employment Opportunities; Dr Gill Greer, former Chief Executive of the National Council of Women of New Zealand, and co-writer of the Civil Society SDG People's Report 2019; Dr Mike Ross, lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington, where he teaches courses on Māori language and customs, and Isabella van Hooff, Monitoring Agency Relationships Adviser at Department of Corrections National Office and intern of UNA NZ.

The President of the UNA NZ Gaya Paranisamy chaired the event and Special Officer for Human Rights, Dulce Piacentini, moderated the seminar.

We know the Sustainable Development Goals are interrelated: when one improves, other SDGs will improve too as a consequence.

With an SDG Alliance being formed in New Zealand with the participation of all different sectors of society – public, private, not-for-profit, academia, individuals and communities –, a critical debate on which SDGs may take a lead in boosting sustainable development turns out to be fundamental.

With this in mind, and considering that women and girls are frequently the most affected population when it comes to human rights challenges, we promoted the following discussion: Is the SDG5 – Gender Equality a goal with the power of making several other SDGs improve to a greater extent? Having a gendered perspective when formulating public policies to the numerous social challenges we currently face can improve sustainable development further? How can New Zealand benefit from adopting a gendered approach on its public policies?

After Gaya Paranisamy opened the event with a karakia and welcoming words, we had the first kōrero by Dr Saunoamaali'i Karanina Sumeo, who brought up, among other things, the matter that a gendered approach is not enough and should be intersected with an ethnicity approach. She gave the example of the pay gap. When we also use an ethnicity approach, it becomes clear the differences that exist in the pay gap among Pākehā women, Māori women and Pacific women. "We can't be distracted by the averages, we need to look at the diversity of the realities for our women. Women aren't equal unless all women are equal." She mentioned the impact that these differences have on the families, especially children.

Dr Gill Greer, after emphasizing the interconnectedness of all SDGs, presented to us a series of thought-provoking, but very real, facts, like the evidence that women are 25% more affected by climate change than men, for example. She criticised the fact the LGBTQIA+ community have been omitted from the SDGs, which hold a very binary model of gender. Gender equality should embrace all genders. But when the subject is women's rights, Gill stated that in order to improve a country's economy and well-being, we must invest in women as a priority. Women will return close to 90% of what they earn back to the community, in comparison to 30-40% from men. As they raise themselves up, they raise their family and community with them. To finish, Dr Greer suggests that Aotearoa starts using the SDGs as a measuring tool, matching them with other indicators. So we'll be part of a global movement.

UNA NZ EVENTS

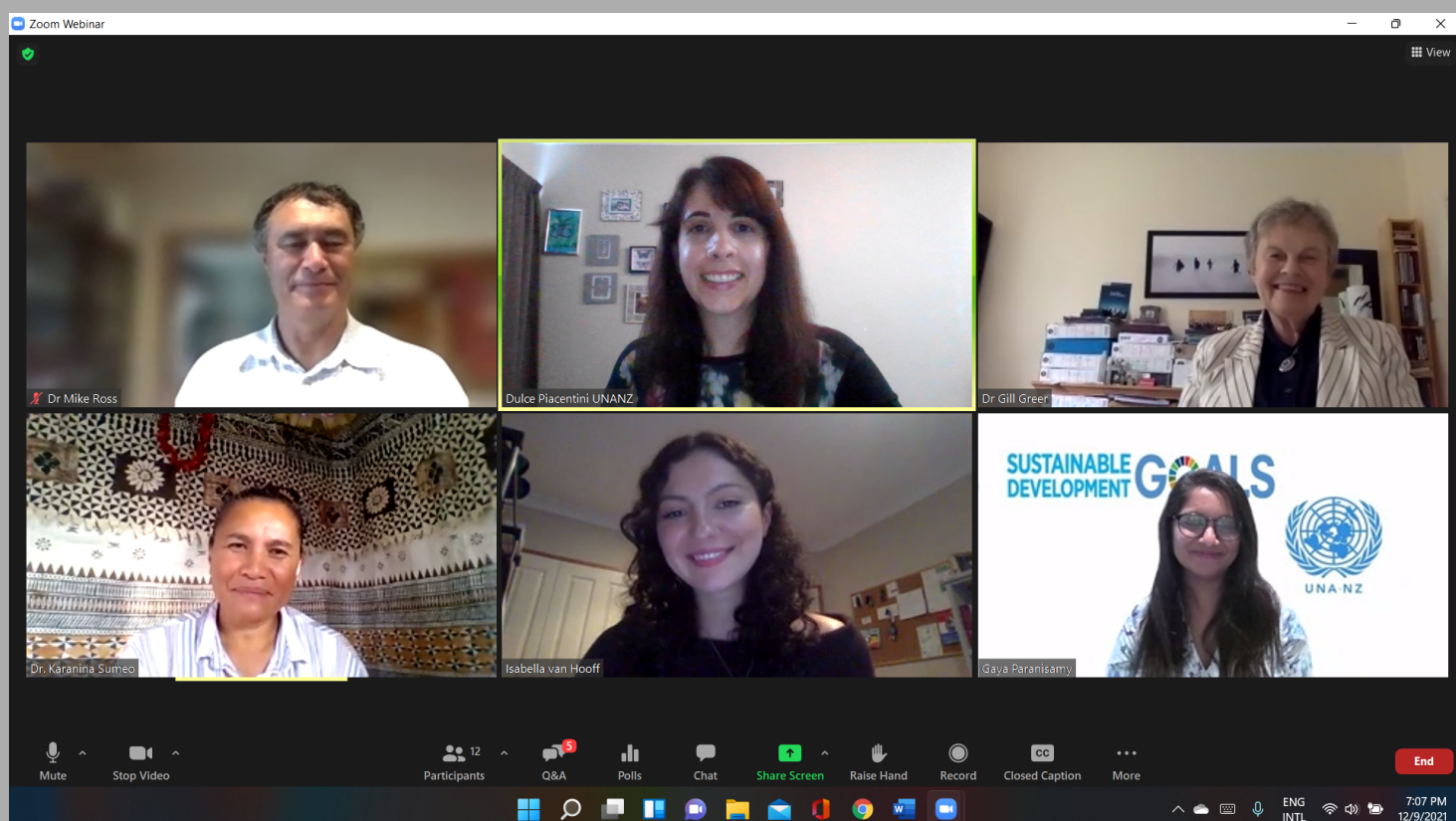
Dr Mike Ross presented the four elements of Tikanga Māori that would be useful when dealing with human rights challenges: first, there's a moral-ethical part to what is right, the reason why it's the right thing to do; secondly, it's about procedure, what's the right way to do things; thirdly, it's about the people, who are the right people to do the right thing (and there's a role to everybody in this discussion); lastly, it's about a timing issue, when is the right time for the right people to do the right thing because it's the right thing to do. This could be applied to a gendered approach to sustainability: it's the right thing to do, everybody has a role, and it's time to act. Regarding the role of women in Māori societies, Mike says this is something for Māori women to discuss, but there are so many challenges to be addressed in Māori communities that this discussion ends up being peripheral.

Isabella van Hooff brought up a practical example of when a gendered approach to public policies can actually improve sustainable development. She studied the case of migrant women, and she showed how they can contribute to sustainable development when given opportunities to settle and grow in the destination country, as long as gender barriers are not in place. She precisely cited SDGs 4, 5, 8, 10 and 17 as those directly affected by migrant women when immigration public policies have a gendered perspective. You can read more about Isabella's research in this issue of our magazine.

After the four kōrero, we had time for questions and answers, and the audience contributed immensely to what was a great discussion that touched several aspects of women's rights and sustainability: the future of SDGs and the Pacific communities, access to land, economic resiliency, matrilineal societies, customary rights, patriarchy, values of society, job market and marginalised people, subjectivities, biases, pay transparency, migrant support, among others!

After so many great contributions, as a conclusion we can say: yes, a gendered approach to human rights challenges and public policies is very important and makes a difference to achieving sustainable development. It might not be enough, as we can't forget there's diversity among women, and we want to consider all different groups and genders. While stereotypes are harmful for everybody, a more equal society will also benefit us all!

If you'd like to watch the recording of the seminar, please write to dulce.piacentini@unanz.org.nz and you will be given access to it.



'Code Red for Humanity' – Climate Change Virtual Panel

On September 23rd, UNA NZ hosted a Zoom panel, titled 'Code Red for Humanity'. After the IPCC release of the Assessment Report in August 2021 that warned of 'code red' for human-induced climate change, and with the then-upcoming COP26 in November 2021, this was a timely event. The panel was a forum to discuss the key takeaways from the IPCC report, and how the report could be utilised for an effective COP26 in November.

The panel was moderated by Hon Julie Anne Genter, list MP for the Green Party. The panellists were Dr Olaf Morgenstern, a NIWA climate scientist; Pip Best, a Sustainability Services Leader and Oceania Partner in EY; and Professor Priya Kurian, a Political Science and Public Policy professor at the University of Waikato.

The panellists all engaged and conversed smoothly on interesting topics, and attendees sent through a number of questions that were answered well.

Discussion areas between the panellists included:

- key takeaways of the IPCC report for their respective sectors
- sector representation in international forums like COPs and the ability of sectors to collaborate domestically to support reaching international goals and expectations
- developing a sustainable finance and business model in the private sector and the potential of an international approach to support the transition
- the role academia can play in bridging gaps between domestic and local initiatives and international forums
- the respective sectoral support for engagement with the various climate change perspectives, particularly indigenous communities.



Youth Perspectives on Carbon Neutrality in Aotearoa

The United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNA NZ) was proud to host a Climate Change event, focused on providing a platform for young people to discuss the goal of carbon neutrality in Aotearoa with industry, academic, and policy leaders. The goal of the event was to open a dialogue between young and engaged stakeholders of climate reform and a panel of notable speakers from academia, policy, and industry. UNA NZ appreciates that young people will inherit the burden of climate change, and consider it the defining issue of their generation. We were eager to provide them with a platform to begin a dialogue with key stakeholders in climate reform. Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport, opened the event with a keynote address. We then hosted a panel of key stakeholders in climate reform which will included: Benjamin Priest, Meridian Energy, Electric Vehicle Product Manager Sophie Handford, Kapiti Councillor for Climate and Youth Dr Alex Lo, Climate Change Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington Richard Briggs, Manager Transport Programme, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority. We are also delighted to be joined by Nkaya Paulsen-More (Te Mana Ākonga), Liam Davies (NZUSA), Jaistone Finau (Tauria Pasifika), and Grace Cowley (Generation Zero) as our youth representatives to drive the dialogue.



Transcript of Transport Minister Hon Michael Wood's keynote speech at the event

Tena koutou katoa, good evening everybody. I am pleased to be here tonight, talking to you about climate change, and our opportunity to do something meaningful about it. There are a number of areas where we need to look at reducing greenhouse gas emissions as a country. As Transport Minister, I can talk to what we're doing in transport.

Climate change and transport

This Government recognises that climate change is one of the biggest threats we face. It's a priority for the Government because it's a threat to our environment, our economy, and our everyday lives. As the next generation of caretakers of the world, the ones who will need to deal with the consequences of the decisions made by generations before you, it's clearly a priority for you. Transport is our second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions and accounts for 20 percent of gross domestic emissions and 43 percent of total domestic carbon dioxide emissions.

Aotearoa has the fifth highest per capita rates of CO₂ emissions from road transport in the 43 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries with data for road transport emissions. There are a lot of opportunities to reduce transport emissions - but the longer we delay action, the more difficult it gets. And the more expensive it will be for later generations. And we are already bearing the brunt of years of inaction. This is why we declared a Climate Change Emergency and why this Government has prioritised action to mitigate climate change by taking meaningful action to reduce transport emissions.

We must take action to decarbonise the transport sector. Decarbonising a transport

system requires people to travel smarter, to use active-modes where they can, to use zero or low emission vehicles for the rest. It's not without challenges, but we should focus on the opportunities generated from this change.

COP26

It's timely that this forum gathers today, following the UN Climate Change Conference that finished last month. On the eve of COP26, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and Climate Change Minister James Shaw announced that New Zealand will significantly increase our contribution to the global effort to tackle climate change by reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030.

Over this time we will need to cut carbon pollution from nearly everything we do - from the way we grow our food, to how we generate energy to heat our homes, to the way we get around our towns and cities.

During COP26, youth climate leaders from all over the world joined ministers and senior figures. The views of over 40,000 young people like yourself were presented. Your voice is being heard, and action is being taken.

What the government is doing

I stand here knowing that for you, it may look like the pledges and declarations we make from the Beehive, or on the other side of the world, are just words and lack real action. I get that. But they are really important, because they draw a line in the sand, so we can start making real changes to our transport system now. And we are.

UNA NZ EVENTS

We recognise that transport is more than having a car to get from A to B. So we're looking at ways to improve safety for footpath users, encourage active modes of transport, and support the creation of more liveable and vibrant towns and cities. This is a key part of the Accessible Streets programme, one of the actions from our Road to Zero strategy.

We're working to incentivise the uptake of other low-emission ways to travel. This involves working with our transport agencies, like councils, local government and Waka Kotahi to make major investments in better public transport, walking and cycling and rapid transport. This includes the Auckland Transport Alignment Project and Let's Get Wellington Moving.

To help decarbonise our transport fleet, we have introduced a range of initiatives this year, including the Clean Car Standard, a discount on clean cars, and consulted on a biofuels mandate. The Government has also committed to decarbonising the public transport bus fleet by 2035. This could prevent up to 4.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions by 2050, and will help make our inner cities more liveable by reducing noise and pollutants. We are doing a lot. At the same time we recognise that there is much more to be done.

Transport decarbonisation will stall unless we make a real effort to redesign our cities with public transport, walking and cycling in mind and move on from a mindset that everyone needs a car. We will stall if we don't make cleaner vehicles or cleaner modes of transport more convenient, affordable and easier to access in new and innovative ways – like through making public transport cheaper or ride-sharing initiatives. There is no one silver bullet, but all of these actions add up to big steps towards achieving the emissions reductions targets we must meet.

Te hau mārohi ki anamata – Transitioning to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future

In the first half of 2021, the Climate Change Commission consulted on their draft emissions reduction advice, including emissions budgets, and in May they delivered

their final advice to the Government. Under the Climate Change Response Act 2002, the Government must respond to the Climate Change Commission's first emissions budget through the development of an all-of-government Emissions Reduction Plan.

The Emissions Reduction Plan, due in May 2022, is the first of many plans that must respond to ongoing emissions budgets. Transport has a very significant role to play. Transport emissions need to drop by 41 percent in the next 14 years if the Commission's first set of emissions budgets are to be met. This will need to be done alongside reductions in other sectors. Sectors that transport also intersects with such as energy, building and construction, housing. Transport is a part of a much wider story.

Climate Change Minister James Shaw recently released the Government's discussion document 'Te hau mārohi ki anamata - Transitioning to a low-emissions and climate-resilient future'. The final plan will set out future policy and regulatory change, as well as actions that can be taken by businesses, towns and cities, and every community. It will also set out how we can make the transition in an inclusive and equitable way.

Four transport targets

In Te hau mārohi ki anamata there are four transport targets that are being consulted on.

They are:

1. Reduced vehicle kilometres travelled by cars and light vehicles by 20 per cent by 2035. This will be achieved through providing better travel options – public transport, EVs, e-scooters – particularly in our largest cities.
2. Increase zero-emissions vehicles to 30 percent of the light fleet by 2035.
3. Reduce emissions from freight transport by 25 percent by 2035
4. Reduce the emissions intensity of transport fuel by 15 percent by 2035.

UNA NZ EVENTS

Achieving these targets, with a package of actions and policies, will generate a 41 percent reduction in transport emissions by 2035 from 2019 levels. This is the reduction that the Climate Change Commission recommends.

Achieving these bold and ambitious targets not only has huge benefits to the environment, but also means that New Zealanders will have better, cleaner and more efficient transport choices. It'll also mean we have cities and towns that are more liveable, with less congestion and improved air quality. It'll put people at the heart of communities – not car parks and roads.

Conclusion

As I mentioned earlier - we are already bearing the brunt of years of climate inaction. The longer we delay action, the more difficult it gets. The longer we delay action, the more expensive it becomes for all New Zealanders and the more inequities we create.

As a nation, we need to accept that our transport system is not just about moving people and things around. We need to accept that our transport choices can have a negative or positive impact on our climate and local communities. The challenges are immense, but we have a once in a generation opportunity, and an obligation, to make real change.

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Sophie Handford, a climate activist who participated in the event shares her reflections.

Ko wai au? Who am I? Ko Sophie Handford tōku ingoa, no Paekākāriki ahau. My name is Sophie, from the beautiful seaside community of Paekākāriki.

I am an activist and politician; leading, acting and giving life to people and our planet, our collective home. Through my mahi, I am aspiring to be a good ancestor and create positive change for our next generation. That's my 'Why'. I had the chance to bring this, through the perspective of an activist and Councillor, to the [UNA NZ 'Youth Perspectives on Carbon Neutrality event'](#) in November 2021.



We know that the climate crisis is a defining issue of our time, requiring transformational and ambitious action now. This global crisis puts so much at stake. We have an 8 year window of opportunity to halve our emissions. If we do not, safeguarding this planet for the next generation slips further out of our grasp. The 8 year window is not only an opportunity to save ourselves but to save the creatures we share this home with, nature and everything we love, but it's a window in which we can all be a part of creating an Aotearoa that we'll feel proud to pass on. We can center sustainability and intergenerational equity, as we work together to tackle this crisis which threatens everything we love.

It is this opportunity that we have which excites me and gives me hope. It ignites a sense of possibility that we can connect with hearts and minds, alter mindsets and build on the momentum for climate justice and the many positive impacts we can create through this vision. This will only be achieved through open and honest dialogue, listening and understanding. There are people on the front lines of the climate crisis impacts right now, such as those in the Pacific, and it's time we open our eyes to the power of carbon neutrality here and abroad, materially helping to change and save lives right now.

In 2019, I found my tribe. We found each other; all united by the same mission of creating a clear conversation at the society and Government levels about the importance of climate justice now and ensuring ambitious, transformational action. We collectively created [School Strike 4 Climate NZ](#). The young people I had the opportunity to work alongside were absolutely incredible.

Visionary energy, sense of possibility, deep understanding and hope shone through as we developed campaigns, organized events and spoke with the media. We need all of these things if we are to meet this rising tide of both challenge and opportunity. It became crystal clear to us, and we hope to you too, that young people aren't just the voices of the future, but of today.

UNA NZ EVENTS

Young people inherit the consequences of action or in-action taken now, which consequently means an increased stake so for this reason too, it's vital that our perspectives, fears and hopes are meaningfully incorporated. More than this though, we have the skills and capability to be at those decision making tables.

So - It's time we all bring our baskets to the same table; across generations, to create a vision for a future of Aotearoa. Which will transcend those of us living right now. On September 27th of 2019, the School Strike 4 Climate movement in NZ [mobilized 170,000 people](#) in an intergenerational climate strike to demand climate justice. This is 3.5% of our entire population.

The importance of working collectively and collaboratively has never been more evident, as we strive to tackle a crisis which will affect all of us. He waka eke noa, we are all in this together. Our approach and ways of working must not be siloed, so we are able to create and see the shared vision, and then take steps towards it in a full and transformational way.

affordable and clean energy (Goal 7), that will contribute to our achievement of Goal 13, climate action. If we prioritize climate action, we can in-turn create better health and wellbeing outcomes through our solutions and thus contributing to achieving Goal 3.

What does this all mean in practice? It means we have a huge responsibility, being alive at this pivotal moment in time, but also the greatest opportunity. We can and need to work collectively, across disciplines, age, roles, levels of 'influence', age, perspective and lived experience to work to safeguard this beautiful planet that we share for the next generation. It means we do have a 'Why' and we know exactly what needs to be done. So - time to continue the mahi!



[The Sustainable Development Goals](#) offer a unique framework to grow understanding of the interconnectedness of challenges and opportunities related to the well-being of our people and planet. For example, if we invest in

United Nations Association Annual Conference – Marking 75 years of UNA NZ

Summary written by Sunniva Fredstad

We were fortunate to host our annual National Conference in-person at the Parliament Buildings in August 2021. The Conference provides an environment for discussion about the work of the United Nations, global governance and international collaboration. This year's theme was *Build Back Better*, which was interpreted in a number of ways by speakers, but had an underlying emphasis on COVID-19.

As the world was in the second year of the COVID-19 Pandemic we thought it would be a good time to reflect on how we should be building back during such a major worldwide event. Instead of focusing on building back to the status quo, we wanted to reflect on how the world, and us as individuals, can contribute towards ensuring we are building back better. This year's theme therefore gave room to discuss how this can be enabled across the various sectors that the speakers represented.

The Conference was held over two days, with a cocktail evening on Friday 13th August, and a full-day programme on Saturday 14th August. We were hosted at the Parliament Buildings by MP Vanushi Walters from Upper Harbour.

Friday 13th August

Held in the Grand Hall in the Parliament Buildings, our cocktail evening included an opening address by Joy Dunsheath, who spoke on behalf of UNA NZ, acknowledging our momentous 75th anniversary. Joy spoke to the development and history of UNA NZ, and the potential future and influence the organisation could continue to have.

Our host, MP Vanushi Walters (who has a background in human rights law), gave an insightful keynote address that approached human rights and global governance with a

contemporary outlook, outlining how international organisations like the UN could be updated to be more fitting for the current international environment. A special thanks must be given to MP Vanushi Walters for her willingness to host us and her commitment to her keynote address that evening.



Saturday 14th August

Dell Higgle delivered the Dame Laurie Salas Memorial Address, drawing on her extensive diplomatic experience in nuclear disarmament and counter-terrorism. Building back better, from this perspective, requires strengthening in diplomatic relations and international organisations like the UN to counter international pressures, such as nuclear arms race and terrorism.

Associate Professor Mere Skerrett, an expert in early childhood and primary education sectors, spoke to New Zealand's colonial history and the requirement of acknowledging and working to right the wrongs of this history and inequalities in order to build back better beyond what was the status quo.

Honourable Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Foreign Affairs and of Local Government, and Associate Minister for Māori Development, provided a virtual keynote address. She discussed complex global issues, such as humanitarian and climate pressures that are currently being heightened by the COVID-19 pandemic.

UNA NZ EVENTS

Minister Mahuta acknowledged the commitments to international rules and norms, especially with a focus on human rights areas like gender equality, indigenous rights, and democratic freedoms, as well as New Zealand's unique positioning culturally, geographically and politically. All of these factors influence Aotearoa New Zealand's approach to build back better and the role Aotearoa New Zealand should play internationally.

H.E Ambassador Nina Obermaier, EU Ambassador to Aotearoa New Zealand, spoke to the theme from a diplomatic perspective. She discussed the unique relationship New Zealand has with the EU, how it could be strengthened, and how cooperation and engagement should be developed further despite the trend of nations turning inwards in response to COVID-19.

A unique aspect of this year's National Conference was the Bead and Proceed workshop. Bridget Williams, the CEO and founder of Bead and Proceed, delivered a high-energy presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and why they matter. Bridget brought a new and contemporary energy to engaging people in discussions about the SDGs, which included painting beads to represent peoples' goals which they wanted to

personally commit to. The beads were woven to symbolise the joint commitment of the attendees towards the SDGs.

A panel with representatives from different sectors closed off the National Conference. UNA NZ's Peter Nichols moderated the panel. The panel members were:

- Megan McCoy, Ministry of Health General Manager of Global Health and Director-General Advisory, and WHO former Technical Officer
- Chris Dunlop, Beca Regional Manager
- Dr Karanina Sumeo, Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner at NZ Human Rights Commission
- Professor Siah Hwee Ang, Professor of International Business and Strategy at Victoria University of Wellington, and Director of the Southeast Asia Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence.

The variety of the panellists provided a flowing discussion of different perspectives. Topics included how the different sectors could engage and coordinate to build back better, whether there is a resurgence for sustainable development in the face of COVID-19, and what barriers exist in their respective industries to build back better.

UNA NZ EVENTS





Nuclear Disarmament and Multilateralism in a Post-Pandemic World

Dame Laurie Salas Memorial Address

A transcript of Dell Higgin's address given at the UNA NZ annual conference in August 2021

Madam President, members of the UN Association of New Zealand, and distinguished guests – a marae. Nga mihi nui and warm congratulations to UN ANZ on this, its 75th anniversary.

I am honoured to have been asked to give this year's address in memory of Dame Laurie Salas. I cannot actually claim to have known Dame Laurie - but I do recall meeting her on one of those quite numerous occasions when she came into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade to share her views and concerns. It was early on in my career with the Ministry but I knew enough about her even then to know that she was widely regarded as a force for good – including in her push for progress on disarmament and peace-related issues and her advocacy for women and children – and a force to be reckoned with!

Dame Laurie served on the first 'intake' of the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control (PACDAC) – a Committee, as many here will know, established by New Zealand's nuclear-free legislation of 1987. Amongst a range of other important memberships and interests, she was an active supporter of the highly-respected Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and a staunch anti-nuclear campaigner.

She would certainly have been proud to be here today to join UN ANZ – of which she was a past national President and a Life Member – in celebrating its 75 years. She would have been delighted, too, to see what good heart the Association is in. But that might be as far as her satisfaction extends: as a

committed believer in the need for global solutions for global problems, she could well be disheartened were she to survey current progress in addressing long-standing challenges on the international community's agenda, let alone in moving forward to tackle new and emerging ones.

She would, undoubtedly, be horrified by the advent of COVID-19. Most obviously, on account of the direct effects it is having right now on the lives and well-being of millions around the world but also because of the impact it could yet come to have in complicating – or, worst case, derailing – forward movement on many pressing items on the multilateral agenda. And it could certainly imperil achievement of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

COVID-19 has reminded us that there is a third threat – pandemics – to be added to the double billing of climate change and nuclear holocaust which, at least until recently, were typically cited as the truly existential risks facing life on earth.

I have no intention of belittling in any way the gravity of COVID - or of any prospective future pandemic – nor, for that matter, of questioning at all the seriousness and need to redress climate change which is also already delivering havoc to communities around the world.

But even a very cursory glance at photos from Hiroshima and Nagasaki (alongside testimony from the hibakusha), or the most rudimentary awareness of the dangerous legacy of nuclear testing close to us in the Pacific (not to mention elsewhere), illustrates the unique horror and destructive power of what were - in comparison with the explosive yield of most of the 13,000-plus weapons held in today's arsenals - rather small nuclear detonations.

The recent HBO miniseries, "Chernobyl", whilst not exactly to be taken as an authoritative source (!) for events in 1986 at that nuclear power plant, documents accurately the extensive regional impact of the radioactivity accidentally released from a single civilian reactor.

I doubt we need a tv series for us to visualise the truly global consequences of even a limited exchange - let alone all-out use - of nuclear weapons. Nuclear war would kill millions directly; billions would be caught up in the subsequent impact (including from 'nuclear winter') on agriculture.

UNA NZ EVENTS

Maybe the risk of nuclear war no longer keeps us awake at night in the way it did many during the Cold War years but its risk remains real. Indeed, the threat of a deliberate use of nuclear weapons is widely regarded, in current geostrategic circumstances, as very much on the increase. At the same time, we know now so much more about the full range of risks associated with nuclear weapons - about their vulnerability to system malfunction or cyber-attack, about the possibility of terrorist acquisition, and about the danger of mistaken or accidental use.

Professor Stephen Hawking believed that it was virtually certain that civilisation would face at some point a catastrophic event, such as nuclear war. His remedy was to recommend that humans leave earth and settle on other planets such as Mars.

You probably have to be a very special sort of theoretical physicist and cosmologist to think that a viable plan! Instead, I propose to evaluate more earth-bound efforts to safeguard future generations from the threat of nuclear weapons - and to direct my recommendations, as indeed Dame Laurie did throughout her life, to the framework and treaty processes of the United Nations.

If the purpose of the founding of the UN was - in Dag Hammarskjöld's words - "in order to save us from hell", how right it was that nuclear disarmament should have been the subject matter of the very first resolution of the UN General Assembly in January 1946. Nuclear disarmament has been on the UN's agenda ever since - but actual progress over the Organisation's existence has been patchy.

A high point was certainly the adoption at the UN in 1968 of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). After that, the NPT became the primary vehicle for efforts to advance a nuclear weapon-free world. Its success in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to new possessor states - so-called horizontal proliferation - has been remarkable (notwithstanding that four of the world's nine nuclear weapon possessors remain stubbornly outside the Treaty). Without the NPT, the number of states with nuclear weapons would surely have been many more than nine.

Also on the positive side of the ledger has been the dramatic reduction in the number of warheads from those held in the arsenals of the United States and Soviet/Russia during Cold War days. It would, however, be a considerable stretch to say that it is the NPT, as such, which has driven these reductions - just as it would be a stretch to assert that the NPT is proving able today to constrain a renewed nuclear

arms race or halt the modernisation of weapons and development of new capabilities now underway.

The fact is that the NPT has made much less headway in advancing the obligation in its Article VI which requires nuclear weapon possessors to move forward on disarmament. The Treaty's recognition that five states already held nuclear weapons in 1968, whilst facilitating the adoption of provisions against horizontal proliferation, has proved a real stumbling block to progress on disarmament. Whether or not it is only lip service that those five possessors pay to Article VI, their security doctrines and policies continue to reflect their dependence on nuclear weapons much as they did before the adoption of the Treaty.

In sum, the NPT has yet to prove that it holds the ability to bring the international community to 'global zero' - that it will lead, in the language of that first 1946 resolution, to "the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons".

The lack of progress in implementation of Article VI is by no means the international community's only disappointment on the nuclear disarmament scene. The prime candidate for a sustained sense of

let-down would have to be the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). That Treaty was adopted at the UN almost 25 years ago - but it has yet to enter into force.

New Zealand and our Pacific colleagues - all of us only too well aware of the humanitarian consequences of nuclear testing - fought hard to secure the Test-Ban Treaty. While we can claim that the Treaty has generally served to strengthen the norm against nuclear testing, the prospects of it ever entering into force look remote.

This is in no sense the fault of something called "the UN" (or, for that matter, of any other international body). It is not a failure of the UN - anymore than it is the UN which is to blame for lack of implementation of the NPT's Article VI, or for patchy progress more generally on nuclear disarmament - or on any other issue. As Shakespeare has his Cassius say in Julius Caesar: "The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars, but in ourselves".

UNA NZ EVENTS

The UN, after all, is very largely a stage: it is the Member States who act on it and who have the exclusive responsibility for negotiating and then implementing the treaties and other instruments adopted there. The UN's staff and its resources are invaluable for facilitating an outcome – but the ultimate responsibility for success or failure will always rest entirely on the Organisation's membership.

Dame Laurie herself witnessed the difficulty in shoehorning the competing views and interests of (then 157, now 193) UN Member States into an agreed outcome document when, as a representative of civil society, she attended the 1982 UN Special Session on Disarmament. That Special Session proved to be another of those, sadly rather numerous, occasions when Member States' efforts to reach an agreement on disarmament were conspicuously met with failure.

Failure can sometimes seem almost preordained when, as is often the case, the rules of procedure governing the conduct of a particular conference or treaty meeting (or even decisions on whether a treaty negotiation can begin in the first place) require the agreement of all Delegations to any outcome – in other words, the rules governing the decision-making process require (or operate as if they require) consensus.

This is often presented as an essential safeguard for the protection of each and every Member State involved. In fact, it often leads to stalemate: no outcome at all, with the benefits for the many sacrificed to the interests of a few. You can draw an analogy with the use of the veto by Permanent Members of the Security Council. Either way, this is not the multilateralism that Dame Laurie believed in.

The lack of an outcome at key UN conferences (on all topics, not just disarmament) has long played into the hands of those who want to accuse the UN of being nothing but a 'talk shop'. Dame Laurie regularly defended the UN against this accusation – one which I also see as well off the mark. Talk is not a bad thing – especially when one considers the possible alternatives. But if talk is all that takes place at a UN negotiation, the fault for that can only lie with the UN membership, or at least some of its members.

The UN body which has proved in practice to have, I believe, the most propitious rules of procedure is the UN's General Assembly. Those negotiating

conferences which adopt its rules are not only what you might term democratic (in that they provide, as necessary, a path for the will of the majority to prevail) but often successful in charting a way forward on difficult issues. (UNGA rules are, of course, the polar opposite to the consensus procedure which governs the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. CD rules continue to permit the views of a very few members to prevail over the rest; and we are now on the way to three decades since the CD was last able to get down to work and produce an outcome.)

No surprise, then, that those Member States who took part in the conference to negotiate the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in 2017 should have chosen to follow the UNGA rules of procedure. No surprise, either, that the conference's successful outcome – the adoption of the TPNW – is widely seen as a gamechanger on the nuclear disarmament scene.

For the first time, we have a treaty-based prohibition on nuclear weapons (one which matches the prohibition already in place on the other types of weapons of mass destruction). We now have a treaty which makes it clear – to paraphrase former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon – that these are 'wrong weapons in all hands'; and we have the legal framing for a world without them.

The TPNW is one of the few positive steps taken in recent years to advance the disarmament obligation in the NPT. Our Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control, Hon Phil Twyford, hosted a celebratory event in January this year on the day when the Treaty entered into force (usefully, the TPNW is unencumbered by the CTBT's unrealistic threshold for entry-into-force: yet another positive outcome of an UNGA negotiation).

The TPNW now has 55 States Parties and a wider number of signatories. It also has a small but influential cadre of countries who strongly oppose it and its prohibition on nuclear weapons. One has to hope that these opponents will bolster the standing of their preferred avenue of the NPT by approaching its Article VI with renewed seriousness. They will need to assuage doubt about the NPT's viability for vertical as well as horizontal non-proliferation.

UNA NZ EVENTS

This can only be done credibly if, in addition to promoting nuclear weapon risk reduction measures, possessors and allied states are able to signal their place on a roadmap toward their actual elimination. An important opportunity to do this will come early next year when, COVID-permitting, the (deferred) Tenth NPT Review Conference is expected to be convened.

Dame Laurie passed away several months before the Prohibition Treaty's adoption at the UN in 2017 – yet I have not a glimmer of doubt but that she would have been among its biggest supporters and advocates. She may well have been very keen – again, COVID factors permitting – to join civil society representatives at the TPNW's First Meeting of States Parties (MSP1) next March.

To state the obvious, COVID-19 has disrupted the carriage of much multilateral business both at the UN and other venues. Meetings across the board have been suspended, or at best convened virtually, with Secretariat and Delegation members as well as civil society representatives forced to work remotely. Progress on important agenda items has (quite rightly) had to be placed on hold in the face of risks to the health, indeed lives, of so many.

Strong advocates for nuclear disarmament like the New Agenda Coalition (which has Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand and South Africa as its members) have hoped that COVID might, as the one silver lining to the pandemic, reinforce the case for action to address disarmament (not to mention some other pressing items on the international agenda) once business can get underway again.

Without doubt, the pandemic has provided the most powerful demonstration possible of the rationale for all multilateral endeavour - the interconnectedness of everyone and every country on our planet.

This is clear with respect to international security issues, including disarmament matters, and for the full range of items the UN and its associated organisations deal with. But above all, COVID has reinforced the case for the priority the international community must give now to an agenda that reduces the risk of extinction-level catastrophe.

I am leaving to others, and other meetings, an analysis of what can and should be done to reduce the threat of climate change and the risk of a future

pandemic: that would be well and truly outside my comfort zone. But let me hope – just as many members of civil society are doing around the world right now – that the risk of nuclear holocaust is not overlooked, and is addressed, at the same time that Member States are deepening their focus on those other existential threats.

On this, it is not easy to be optimistic: Dame Laurie was one of very many New Zealanders – some others are here today – who have pushed long and hard for nuclear disarmament: our government, with its global partners, has continued to do the same. But as I noted at the outset, this issue has been on the UN stage now for 75 years.

The Political Declaration adopted last September to mark the UN's 75th anniversary – the UN 75 Declaration – looks to “the future we want”. Positively, it seems to herald a renewed commitment to multilateralism which is referenced as “not an option but a necessity” and the UN is placed “at the centre of our efforts”. Full marks for that!

But on disarmament and human security issues, the Declaration is neither specific nor aspirational. It refers only to the need to uphold “existing arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agreements and their architectures” without mention of the prospect of any new agreement, or more effective approach, on any of the pressing list of disarmament topics which are under global consideration. It goes on to observe that the UN – meaning, of course, its Member States – “must better address all forms and domains of threats”. You could, if you are of a mind to, certainly see a reference to nuclear weapons in that last sentence. But you could not say that the text shines any light at all on what should now be done on nuclear disarmament. Perhaps Secretary-General Guterres' follow up report, due out this September to advance “Our Common Agenda”, will elaborate some ideas on this in much the same way as he did in his 2018 report, “Securing our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament”.

The underlying rationale for nuclear disarmament (and for disarmament more generally) is – certainly for New Zealanders and the significant number of countries with which we are like-minded on this – as powerful as ever. It remains a humanitarian and human security – indeed civilisational – imperative. But I hope my quick and necessarily selective overview of nuclear disarmament developments over past years will at least have served to make it clear how a return simply to the status quo ante of COVID will certainly not get us there.

UNA NZ EVENTS

As to whether 'building the UN back better' will succeed in charting a way forward - again, it is hard to be optimistic. I have no doubt whatsoever (any more than Dame Laurie did, any more than you, committed members of the UN Association have) that the future we want is tied inseparably to the UN.

But on the issue of nuclear disarmament, the stage the UN provides for its Member States – although necessary - is not necessarily sufficient. I fear we are unlikely to find, for instance at next year's NPT Review Conference, that powerful members of the international community - the nuclear weapon possessors there - have been persuaded to really shift gear and make decisive progress.

The rules of procedure governing many UN meetings to which I referred earlier will continue to stand in the way of outcomes and certainly of progressive ones: this may well be the case also at next year's Review Conference. But they are in most instances a symptom rather than a cause of the real problem. The fact is that the international community is just not like-minded on what is necessary to progress the genuine security interests of all - and I am not confident that 'building back better' will result in any change to this.

As it is, we and our fellow members of the UN who share our views and values on security and disarmament questions can continue to draw comfort from the entry-into-force of the Nuclear Weapon Prohibition Treaty and from our confidence that we have done all that is in our power to delegitimise nuclear weapons and make plain our belief that any use of them would be a breach of International Humanitarian Law.

That will not inhibit in any way the need to work more generally to prevent nuclear holocaust - above all by continuing to press our case at the UN and elsewhere for what we believe is in the real interests of global security and well-being. For this, we will continue to rely also on the persuasive power and activism of global civil society, on your Association and its others around the world, in pushing for nuclear disarmament in the post-pandemic world.

Kia ora tatou katoa, thank you.

Reflecting on 75 years of the United Nations Association of New Zealand

A transcript of Joy Dunseath's speech given at the annual conference in August 2021

E nga mana
e nga reo
e nga iwi
Tena Koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa
Ka nui te mihi

kia ora koutou katoa

Good evening,

Vanushi Walters ... and Members of Parliament, Gaya Paranisamy, our President, Members of the Diplomatic Corp, Distinguished guests, and supporters and friends of the United Nations Association of New Zealand

It's a privilege to be asked to welcome you and speak on this historic occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the start of the United Nations Association in NZ.

Now, ... let's travel back in time 75 years The devastating Second World War has just ended, and the Charter of the United Nations comes into force on 24 October 1945.

The mission to be achieved is world peace and justice, and to eradicate poverty and hunger.

I'm going to give a super quick overview of the last 75 years. Apologies in advance. It's what I can do in 8 minutes:

- January, 1946 meetings between the UN and the newly proposed United Nations Associations take place round the world concurrently with the First Session of the UN General Assembly.

- 1946 an enthusiastic and optimistic group of New Zealanders form the United Nations Association of New Zealand.
- August 1946 a NZ Delegation attends the first "World Congress of the United Nations Associations" at Luxembourg where the World Federation – WFUNA is formally established. Remember ... no aeroplanes ... travel by boat, no internet and writing letters for postage.
- Here is the first Newsletter of our UNA called "World Affairs". I've borrowed it from the archives to show you ... hold up ... priced at 6d. It contains messages of goodwill and an editorial from The Rt. Hon. Walter Nash who was acting PM. The PM, The Right Honourable Peter Fraser, was at the UN.
- 1946, in June, the Auckland Branch held its first meeting
- In 1948 quote "A UNA Branch in every town" was the aim.
- 1948 Mary Gray, later a Wellington Branch member, was a student in Paris. and attended the actual signing of the Declaration of Human Rights.
- 1949 UNA supported another shipment of soap ... 86,240 pounds - read approx. 40,000 kilos of soap was sent for the relief of needy children in Europe.

Moving on ...

- 1970 at the Annual Conference amongst many policy decisions there was a passed remit to support for recognition of the People's Republic of China and its representatives at the UN
- 1976 Gwen Ryan was the first woman President. Other notable woman UNA leaders include: Joan Morrell, Dame Grace Hollander, and Dame Laurie Salas,
- 1981 February The UNA National office was gutted by fire and lost a considerable collection of books and paper. Remember this is before printers, photocopiers, let alone laptops, mobiles and computer files so a lot was lost

UNA NZ EVENTS

- 1982 We were active in advocating a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific and against dumping of nuclear waste
- 1986 J. Danesh of Otago Boys High School was the first winner of our annual Speech Award and in the audience is Desmond McBride our winner from last year formerly of Fraser High School and now at Auckland University
- 1994 There were about 100 NZers on UN peacekeeping duties including those in Somalia, Bosnia and the Sinai. I acknowledge past President Peter Nichols as a UN peacekeeper.
- 1994 The newsletter reports the condolences to the family and friends of the late Dame Whina Cooper. Carrick Lewis, President, writes, "... her standing and fame was recognised beyond the shores of Aotearoa ... the establishment of a Decade for the UN to promote the rights of indigenous people will be a fitting tribute to Dame Whina"
- 1995 Peter Coates film called, New Zealand and the UN on the 50th Anniversary of the UN was premiered, and it included interviews with Colin Keating.
- 1995 at the National Conference. Rt Hon Don McKinnon, the Deputy PM said: quote Within Government we regard your organisation as at the forefront of keeping NZers informed about the United Nations"
- 1998 Nelson Mandela is elected to the WFUNA Executive and was an Honorary President
- 1998 Our Conference commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The President was Rhyl, Lady Jansen and I acknowledge her long-term commitment to WFUNA as an Executive member
- 2002 Kate Smith is our National President and Hayden Montgomerie is elected as the Youth Association National President and he later becomes a UNA President.
- In 2003 we supported the establishment of a UNA in Samoa.
- 2011 Michael Powles is President. He is a former NZ diplomat at the UN. His skills and experience in government and diplomatic service were a great asset.
- 2012 Graham Hassall is President and as a university professor he brings an academic influence. Graham has high expectations, and we developed an overall strategic Work Plan. Graham now lives in Australia and sends to you all this evening his greetings
- In 2017 our conference called Sustainable Development for All? is the first large event in NZ promoting and supporting the SDGs. The catchphrase was and still is: Leave no one behind. We posed a number of questions: How will the goals work? What are the pitfalls? What is the role of civil society?

I've been looking through our archives to prepare this speech and I see the same concerns now addressed from different angles and different situations – human rights, international law, environment, security, peace and nuclear disarmament, development, UN Reform & global governance.

In conclusion, the United Nations may not be perfect, but it is the best we have to maintain rules-based international governance and our Association for 75 years is helping this to be achieved.

A strong United Nations makes a better world

UNA NZ ACTIVITIES

In this section, we reflect on key UNA NZ activities, outside of events and our conference, that were worked on throughout 2022.

UN Commission on the Status Women 65th session

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women. Following the General Assembly, it is the largest gathering at the United Nations. Civil society organisations play an important and active role alongside member states. Only organisations approved by the Economic Social Council of the United Nations can send representatives to participate, the United Nations Association of New Zealand holds such status.

Due to COVID-19 and international restrictions, CSW65 was run completely virtually. This removes the cost and visa barriers that are usually associated with attending. This provides a great opportunity for UNA NZ to support 7 young women to attend CSW65.

In addition to attending the virtual programme 5 young women were able to attend Manatū Wāhine, Ministry for Women's side event in Wellington.

One of our representatives Ellen Lear said "It was an honour to be able to attend the Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women, New Zealand side event in Pōneke, as a representative of United Nations Association of New Zealand. The focus was on the priority theme of the United Nations 65th Commission on the Status of Women: women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. We had the incredible opportunity to connect with and learn from the Ministry for Women Chief Executive Renee Graham, Ministers Marama Davidson and Jan Tinetti, as well as leaders of Aotearoa's key women's organisations."

You can read the reflections of some of the young women who were selected to attend below.

Kate Hellings

"It is not enough to have a few women in power; we must have more."

Secretary-General António Guterres words have stayed in my mind since attending the 65th Conference on the Status of Women. As a woman wishing to ingratiate herself in the Foreign Affairs field I cannot think of a more fantastic opportunity to learn and hone my own understanding on Foreign Affairs and the importance of female leadership and empowerment, than attending a UN Conference on the Status of Women. I feel privileged to attend, but most of all, motivated to create change.

One of the key lessons, and themes of the Conference, for me, was the question of where to go next? The side and main events at the conference touched upon this very point. In some countries the suffragette movement had created significant ground, but what about those nations who felt that their voices were not being listened to? What about those nations that had religious, or cultural elements to think about when it comes to female empowerment? This was precisely the point. Every nation state had embarked on their own journey; and women within those countries have their own opinions and experiences on what the best solution forward is. In this, I learnt the art of negotiation being key; but more integrally so was the art of listening.

I never knew quite how much work goes into the negotiation aspect of the conference "behind the scenes." Representatives worked tirelessly to negotiate and promote their resolutions and I became quite invested in the updates that the New Zealand team provided- with a notable aspect of pride and patriotism towards the work New Zealand does to promote gender equality. However, the same barriers continued to plague progress- what to do when cohesion was at a minimum.

How can cohesion be made where there are so many factors that divide the experience of women in different corners of the globe? Perhaps this is a naïve view but a key tool to create cohesion and policy change so that women can participate and lead in society is changing this focus in division to one of unity. In the introductory conference session this idea was touched upon. Many nation states had the shared experience of, "we've made so much progress; now how do we take it that step further?" And some states, like New Zealand were trying to address this dilemma with notions of paid parental leave and educational initiatives. But for me, like many others, as the barriers to education dwindle, and as more women enter the workforce, it is now a societal question of how to get these educated women into meaningful positions in leadership. A discussion that has been had for many years, that unfortunately will continue for many to come. Initiatives need to be made to normalise female leadership.

Finally, and this was something I didn't think of, was the importance of language. This was a reoccurring theme throughout the conference for me that I never expected to be of such huge concern. In a side event I attended (this on the Status of Immigrant Women), the importance of language and the connotations that words have, were considered key to changing the narrative around immigrant women. The same can be said about the status of women in general.

In other words, it is critical now to examine the language we use when it comes to female empowerment. It is critical to ensure the language we use emphasises positive change, rather than tokenistic and superficial change. Finally, it is critical for indigenous and minority women that words and concepts are used in their language to ensure the empowerment of women across all groups in society- if we are to move forward, we must ensure no woman should be left behind.

Brodie Joyce

Trigger Warning: Mentions Sexual Violence

The tenets of intersectional feminism were effectively and proportionately represented throughout the events, talks and presentations that I was privileged enough to attend and partake in during CSW65, thanks to UNA NZ. Learning of the global efforts currently being undertaken by a diverse range of individuals who fiercely believe in gender equality not just for women and girls now, but for future generations.

The priority themes of CSW65 were women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, and the elimination of violence. These themes were topics of discussion in the hopes of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all girls and women. International and national efforts from countries represented at CSW65 are a cause for celebration, but it is also a stark reminder that there is a lot of imperative work to be done to achieve full gender equality. The elimination of violence was my main focus throughout the two weeks, and there were two take away efforts that resonated with me. The first one is related to reporting incidents of violence against women. As reflected in New Zealand statistics, women underreport their experiences of all forms of violence, especially sexual assault. An international tool has been developed where individuals can self-report any experience of violence, allowing the results to be seen on a global scale. This initiative was great to see as it allows us to gain a more accurate and realistic picture of the prevalence of violence against women. Women also experience the threat of violence online and this has real and damaging consequences. The Australian eSafety Commissioner presented a system built for the prevention of gender-based violence, which doubles as an education tool for how to navigate online cyberbullying threats. It is an exceptional example of how important proactive measures are in the prevention of violence in addition to reactive measures.

We have seen women's health take a step to the side in favour of other medical priorities. However, I appreciated the reality check for myself on how women and girls are faring in other countries. It was sobering, sometimes haunting, but for the most part, humbling.

As previously mentioned, of the seminars and side events I attended, intersectional feminism discussion was the main lens' many of the representatives engaged in. With that being said, there was also a healthy level of debate around certain issues where different ideas were brought to the table and discussed in a healthy and respectful way. But what always stood out for me was we all had the same goal; gender equality and uplifting women and girls around the globe. We were all there for positive and empowering reasons. Whilst these examples are only the tip of the iceberg of what I learnt over the two weeks at CSW65, they are representative of the type of discourse all representatives were privy to. During these two weeks, Turkey announced their withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention. This is a concerning stand from Turkey, as the Convention is essentially a legally binding framework to combat violence against women.

The statistics for violence against women have increased through the COVID-19 pandemic, making this withdrawal all the more concerning and an example of why we need to continue the conversation and efforts to eliminate violence against women.

I can now only but give a massive thank you to the United Nations Association of New Zealand for this fantastic opportunity. I relished every second of it and the flame has been sparked to take part in many other events and conventions in the future. May the discussions and efforts continue until all women and girls will be considered and treated as equals.

Victoria Cammell

It was such a privilege to participate in the Commission on the Status of Women as an UNA NZ delegate. As a student of international law and previously international relations, taking part in such an event was nothing short of a dream come true. Though it involved some very early mornings it was incredibly motivating to watch a number of General Discussion sessions and participate in many NGO-led zoom sessions.

To my surprise I found the NGO-led sessions to be the highlight of the event. My interests lie in the relationship between the law and gender-equality, particularly with regard to protection against gender-based violence. As such, some of the most interesting sessions I took part in were hosted by the International Development Law Association and UN Women on issues of gender justice and the law. I believe that the law is a powerful tool for change and it was inspiring to be part of a community who are engaged in the intricacies of its utilisation. Some of the most notable discussion points that I took from these sessions included:

The need for data collection. This data should be both qualitative and quantitative to fully understand the experiences of women. Data enables us to see what the state of affairs is and identify what initiatives are working.

The need for women's representation within the judiciary. There is a need for a shift to occur in the way that we appoint judges, whereby diversity is seen as an element of merit.

The need to train women in the law to ensure that there is a cohort of women that can be on judiciaries.

It was incredibly interesting to hear discussion on the points listed above, among others, by those from so many different backgrounds and cultural perspectives. It is also encouraging to see that many of these points are reflected in the conclusions that were produced by the Commission. Most notably encompassing the relationship between gender and the law conclusion (23) states that the Commission:

"It expresses deep concern that women and girls may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of ... limited or lack of access to justice [and] effective legal remedies and services, including protection, rehabilitation [and] reintegration."

More specifically, conclusion (18) refers to the need for women to be represented in the judiciary, stating: *"The Commission also emphasizes that the full and equal representation of women and men at all levels of decision-making in executive, legislative and judicial branches of government and the public sector and in all spheres of life is needed..."*

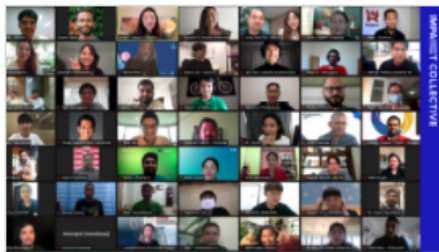
Finally, recommendation (tt) speaks to the need for partnership with men and boys, stating the need to: *"Fully engage men and boys as agents and beneficiaries of change, and as strategic partners and allies"*

It is suffice to say that I am enthusiastic about the conclusions that were written at the end of the Commission on the Status of Women. They offer a substantive basis to promote the participation of women in the judiciary and the need for changes in the law to protect women from violence. It is now the time for these conclusions and recommendations to be enacted into policies and changes and I am hopeful that the conversations that were started at the Commission will continue on into the future.

WFUNA – The International Work of the World Federation of United Nations Associations – Our Global Network

Joy Dunsheath

The best way to keep up to date with World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) events is to view the website at <https://wfuna.org/>. On the homepage in March 2022, you will see a photo of Maisy Bentley of UNA NZ with the announcement that she was selected as the WFUNA Young Leader of the Year 2021. Maisy was chosen for her outstanding contribution to the UNA, her active participation in efforts to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, and finding creative and innovative solutions to continue implementing youth programs amidst challenges posed by COVID-19. We are delighted with this superb international achievement and give Maisy our sincerest congratulations.



MARCH 24, 2022

Impact Collective 2021

Impact Collective 2021, the Asia-Pacific edition of the Citypreneurs program, selected 43 startups out of 366 applications to work on their impact-profit alignment under six themes. Winners selected!

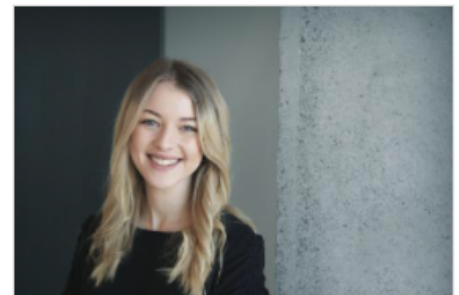
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



MARCH 14, 2022

WFUNA Peace Talk on Ukraine

More than 30 participants including diplomats, international organization professionals, journalists, and WFUNA Peace Fellows gathered to discuss peace in Ukraine.



MARCH 4, 2022

Announcing the WFUNA Young Leader of the Year 2021

WFUNA is pleased to announce that Maisy Bentley of UNA New Zealand was selected as the WFUNA Young Leader of the Year 2021.

UNA NZ ACTIVITIES

WFUNA continues to express its grave concern over the escalation of the conflict in Ukraine which has led to a violation of its territorial integrity and political independence. It marks a clear rejection of the steps outlined in Chapter VI of the United Nations Charter for resolving disputes peacefully. The WFUNA Executive Committee has held online meetings. It has been difficult with the time zones as it means Joy is zooming in for meetings at times between 1am – 3am. The media release about the war in Ukraine was agreed to at one of these meetings. Other topics discussed, and briefings at various meetings included: reports on activities, finance and membership, and the strategic plan for 2020 – 2024. Another media release stated that, “the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated already existing injustices, disproportionately affecting individuals and communities that were already disadvantaged, while widening the inequality gap ... an equitable distribution of resources will save lives”.

Another initiative is the launch of the *UN Spotlight* which expands its reach beyond physical in-person training by offering a unique online training programme allowing students a fully immersive virtual learning experience about the UN.

It has been two years since I attended the WFUNA 223rd Executive Committee Meeting in Beijing. While zoom meetings suffice, in-person meetings led to more cooperation, understanding and empathy. WFUNA has been supporting growth of the organisation and building capacity of existing Associations. UNA Mongolia, our newest UNA, has completed all documentation and paid membership dues. We value our New Zealand membership of WFUNA as there is only one UNA in each country. If there is ever a misunderstanding about the responsibilities of membership, please consult the WFUNA Constitution.





We hope that the WFUNA 43rd Plenary Assembly will be held in Tbilisi in November 2022 hosted by UNA Georgia. We hope it will not be affected by the pandemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine. After the successful 42nd Plenary Assembly in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (where I was elected to the WFUNA Executive Committee) we've been exploring options and opportunities for the 2022 WFUNA event to evolve to include a number of new features such as becoming a global gathering of like-minded stakeholders including civil societies, states as well as UN bodies.

This will turn the 43rd Plenary Assembly into a global gathering. Please consider a long-term plan to attend as part of a UNA NZ Delegation. For those unable to travel, I am sure the proceedings will be shared online.

The *WFUNA 16+ Forum* will be held in Costa Rica (April, 2022). We are finalising the possibility of holding virtual sessions in the lead up to the in-person conference to provide a space for the SDG 16+ community to come together virtually and take stock of the impact that the pandemic has had on implementation at all levels.

Our Special Officer for Humanitarian Affairs Jean-Paul Bizoza reflects on World Refugee Day.

Sunday 20th June marked World Refugee Day. The theme this year was "Together we heal, learn and shine". The World Refugee Day (WRD) aims to honor refugees' courage, contribution to host communities, resilience and highlights their plight to the world. If you need to understand the refugees' experience, please read the book: *Where The Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak.

Please remember to distinguish between refugees and migrants. However, in my previous years with So Humanitarian Affairs, I just learnt that mixed movements of migrants and refugees affect everybody & all countries including the Pacific particularly New Zealand and Australia.

Way forward:

A closer collaboration, cooperation and responsibility-sharing are urgently needed! From lived experience, refugee issues are so contentious and make no mistake climate change and pandemic such as COVID-19 will displace millions in coming years.

Key points

- (a) there is no single country, or international community are well prepared to deal with "climate refugees / migrants,
- (b) no current legal definition of climate migrant (refugees) or strategic plan as how NZ will deal with climate change refugees and
- (c) there are no global arrangements to assist millions of people who will be displaced by natural calamities or pandemics like COVID-19!

Speech award 2021

Joy Dunsheath

The UNA NZ Speech Award topic for 2021 was:

The role of the United Nations (and its broader system, including for example, the WHO), in addressing global challenges such as COVID-19, reinforces the need for governments, NGOs, the private sector and people everywhere to support and develop the United Nations. What should this support and development look like?

Students were required to speak for a minimum of 6 minutes but no more than 8 minutes, and to make a particular reference to the aims, work, and aspirations of the United Nations.

The winner was: Isabella Etherington, St Paul's Collegiate, Hamilton

Runner-up was: Hunter Haynes, Westlake Boys' High School

Congratulations to Isabella and Hunter and congratulations to the other New Zealand finalists in our UNA NZ Speech Award 2021. These were:

Ariaan Rasheed, Hutt International Boys' School, Wellington

Yusef Einahas, Christ's College, Christchurch

Usually, we invite about 9 or 10 finalists to Wellington and we hold the finalist event with an audience and three judges. In 2020 we made a quick and successful change to virtual, on-line competition and brought the winner, Desmond McBride, to Wellington. But in 2021 we were unable to bring the winner to Wellington to present this Award in a formal situation. Frequently, the Award has been presented at the Legislative Chamber at Parliament by an MP, preceded by a lunch, and followed by afternoon tea at MFAT (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade). Unfortunately, this was not possible in 2021 because of the Covid-19 situation. We had hoped to delay this presentation to early 2022,

but again unfortunately, the COVID-19 situation has made it difficult to plan a visit and so the trophy was sent to St Paul's Collegiate, Hamilton for presentation to Isabella.

Last year's judge was James Waite, an experienced diplomat judging the competition in a personal capacity, who kindly gave feedback for the competitors. He wrote, "*The presentations were impressive. I wouldn't be surprised to see the finalists popping up in the public service in the not so distant future – or better yet in Parliament – based on the overall quality and clarity of their delivery. Speech competitions like this may not earn NCEA credits but they most definitely develop lifelong skills that support academic and professional success. So congratulations to each of the finalists.... To all the speakers, don't be afraid to put more of yourselves into the speech – your own relevant experiences and anxieties. Many of the best speakers do this, including our Prime Minister, because it supports authenticity. You will be believed by showing some vulnerability or self-reflection.*"

For 36 years this Award has given secondary school students opportunities to speak formally in public. This provides a valuable experience. I have been involved from that time when as a teacher I entered students in this competition. These students had several successes and this year's judge was a previous competitor. Later, as a UNA NZ member I accepted the role as the national organiser of the Speech Award. As I step down in 2022 my recollections are of being impressed by the high quality of all entries and I have been so lucky and privileged to have been involved over so many years with public speaking.

A big thank you to James Waite and Pauline McKay who is President of the Canterbury Branch, and Maisy Bentley the UNA NZ Executive Officer for their assistance with this online competition.

UNA NZ

Annual Speech Award

Winners' List from 1986 - 2020

1986 - J. Danesh - OTAGO BHS
1987 - M. Parkison - PAKURANGA COLLEGE
1988 - J.A. Knight - BARADENE
1989 - Gregor Fountain WELLINGTON COLLEGE
1990 - Tofigo Lilo - OTAHUHU COLLEGE
1991 - Paula Tesoriero - KAPITI COLLEGE
1992 - Jasmyrn Kara - RANGIORA HIGH SCHOOL
1993 - Emily Turnbull - RANGIORA HIGH SCHOOL
1994 - Angela Hersche - SACRED HEART COLLEGE (Lower Hutt)
1995 - Thomas Geuther - WELLINGTON COLLEGE
1996 - Tara Taukiri - RANGIORA HIGH SCHOOL
1997 - Jeffrey Abbot - WELLINGTON COLLEGE
1998 - Anna Cutfield - WANGANUI COLLEGIATE
1999 - David Dewar - HUTT INTERNATIONAL BOYS' SCHOOL
2000 - Rebecca Rose - FAIRFIELD COLLEGE
2001 - Christopher Bishop - HUTT INTERNATIONAL BOYS' SCHOOL
2002 - Phoebe Smith - LOGAN PARK HIGH SCHOOL
2003 - F. McKissack - FAIRFIELD COLLEGE
2004 - Rachel Meadowcroft - GERALDINE HIGH SCHOOL
2005 - Zaal Meher-Homji - ST PAUL'S COLLEGIATE
2006 - Pramudie Gunoratne - AUCKLAND GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL
2007 - Simon Todd - SAINT ANDREWS COLLEGE
2008 - Georgia Ramsden - WANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL
2009 - Dhaxna Sothieson - HILLCREST HIGH HAMILTON
2010 - Roneil Kintanar - ST PATRICKS SILVERSTREAM
2010 - Roneil Kintanar - ST PATRICKS SILVERSTREAM
2011 - Byron Terris - SACRED HEART COLLEGE AUCKLAND
2012 - Jemima Lomax-Sawyers - ST MARY'S COLLEGE WELLINGTON
2013 - Tariq Kader - WELLINGTON COLLEGE
2014 - Katie Mills - PAPANUI HIGH SCHOOL
2015 - Cheska Saavedra - HAMILTON GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL
2016 - Sophie Clark - DIOCESAN SCHOOL
2017 - Olivia Bennett - ST CUTHBERT'S COLLEGE
2018 - Matthew Sutcliffe - WELLINGTON COLLEGE
2019 - Dan Harwood Jones - ONSLOW COLLEGE
2020 - Desmond Mc Bride - FRASER HIGH SCHOOL
2021 - Isabella Etherington - ST PAUL'S COLLEGIATE

UNA NZ ARTICLES

In this section, we feature research articles and commentary from our research interns, Special Officers and other experts who have worked with us throughout the year.

UN and APEC: Separate paths to bolster business engagement

Siah Hwee Ang

The United Nations (UN) is an intergovernmental organization aiming to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations. The UN was established after World War II with the aim of preventing future wars. At its founding, the UN had 51 member states. Membership is now 193.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an intergovernmental forum for member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes sustainable economic growth, trade and investment, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region. There were 12 founding member economies back in 1989. Its membership has been 21 since November 1998.

The founding of the UN and APEC was driven by different objectives, with the UN being more socially-focused while APEC maintains a trade and investment, i.e. economic, focus. Yet, despite the rise of capitalism and glimpses of globalisation, economies and states find themselves having to deal with challenges of a non-economic nature, in the form of issues such as poverty and climate change. Socialist economies and states are also no longer able to rest on their laurels, as rising costs and global dependencies render it necessary for them to balance social and economic actors and factors.

For similar reasons, APEC has seen its coverage extend beyond trade and investment, to highlight economic impediments, such as climate change and inclusivity. On the flip side, the UN engages in economic conversations alongside social elements. Yet, there is a sense that more could be done at the UN, in particular for various states to generate more awareness of the UN's

work, and to further business engagement leading to good social outcomes, and to better engage with young people in these conversations.

Let's take a brief look at the setup of the two organisations.

New Zealand hosted APEC for the second time in 2021. The first time was 22 years ago in 1999.

The location of the meeting between APEC leaders rotates annually among the member economies. The APEC Secretariat, based in Singapore, was established to coordinate the activities of the organisation. Current Executive Director is Dr Rebecca Fatima Sta Maria. New Zealander Dr Alan Bollard was Executive Director of the Secretariat from 2013-2018.

In 1993, APEC leaders established a network of APEC Study Centres (APCs) across universities and research institutions in member economies. Their purpose is to foster cooperation among tertiary and research institutes of member economies, thus fostering better academic collaboration on key regional economic challenges. There are 70 APCs in the member economies.

In 1995, APEC established the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), composed of three business executives from each member's economy. The ABAC was created by the APEC Economic Leaders with the aim of providing advice on ways to achieve the Bogor Goals and other specific business sector priorities, and to provide a business perspective on specific areas of cooperation.

Each economy nominates up to three members from the private sector to join ABAC. These business leaders represent a wide range of industry sectors. ABAC provides an annual report to APEC Economic Leaders with recommendations on how to improve the business and investment environment in the Asia-Pacific region, and outlining business views about priority regional issues. ABAC is also the only non-governmental organisation that is on the official agenda of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

APEC 2021 NZ was held entirely virtually, due to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. While engagement was somewhat impaired as a result of having online-only activities, some managed to engage online and also take part in in-person, APEC-related discussions in New Zealand.

Most recently at APEC 2020 Malaysia and then APEC 2021 New Zealand, APEC members committed to the APEC Putrajaya Vision 2040.

This vision is threefold:

1. Trade and investment: To ensure that the Asia-Pacific remains the world's most dynamic and interconnected regional economy.
2. Innovation and digitalisation: To empower all our people and businesses to participate and grow in an interconnected global economy.
3. Strong, balanced, secure, sustainable and inclusive growth: To ensure that the Asia-Pacific region is resilient to shocks, crises, pandemics and other emergencies.

The last two years I have also been able to engage with the United Nations Association (UNA) of New Zealand, in particular around the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The UNA is a non-governmental organization that exists in various countries to enhance the relationship between the people of member states and the UN to raise public awareness of the UN and its work.

The UN has six principal organs: General Assembly; Security Council; Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); Trusteeship Council; International Court of Justice; and UN Secretariat.

The UN System includes a multitude of specialized agencies, funds and programmes such as the World Bank Group, the World Health Organization, the World Food Programme, UNESCO, and UNICEF. Additionally, non-governmental organizations may be granted consultative status with ECOSOC and other agencies to participate in the UN's work.

The secretariat has an important role in setting the agenda for the deliberative and decision-making bodies of the UN (i.e., the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, and Security Council), and the implementation of the decisions of these bodies.

The World Bank Group (WBG) is a family of five international organisations that give leveraged loans to developing countries. It is the largest and best-known development bank in the world and an observer at the United Nations Development Group. The bank is headquartered in Washington D.C. in the United States.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all" set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly (UN-GA). These goals are targeted to be achieved by the year 2030. They are included in a UN-GA Resolution called the 2030 Agenda, colloquially known as Agenda 2030. The SDGs were developed in the Post-2015 Development Agenda as the future global development framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals which ended in 2015.

The 17 SDGs are: (1) No Poverty; (2) Zero Hunger; (3) Good Health and Well-being; (4) Quality Education; (5) Gender Equality; (6) Clean Water and Sanitation; (7) Affordable and Clean Energy; (8) Decent Work and Economic Growth; (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; (10) Reduced Inequality; (11) Sustainable Cities and Communities; (12) Responsible Consumption and Production; (13) Climate Action; (14) Life Below Water; (15) Life on Land; (16) Peace and Justice Strong Institutions; and (17) Partnerships to achieve the Goal.

While the fundamental objective of the UN differs from that of APEC, it is evident from the setup that these two organisations will necessarily overlap on some aspects.

In an attempt to make sure trade flows are not impeded due to the pandemic, APEC for example has promoted innovation and digitalisation, and sustainable and inclusive growth.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

In attempts to harmonize member states, and especially those of the developing nations, the UN has for example embraced economic

growth from workplace improvements and promoted industrialisation, innovation and infrastructure development. It is a no-brainer that both organisations will inevitably move towards each other.

The COVID-19 pandemic in the past couple of years has highlighted the extent to which these organisations can overlap in their workflows. What seems to start from a public health and social issue generated by the pandemic has turned into a major economic challenge for almost all economies. Collateral economic damage immediately translates into poorer living conditions for people across the globe. Wealth inequality becomes further entrenched. It is easy to see APEC and the UN working hard to address social and economic issues concurrently. Of course the WHO, funded by the UN, must be the busiest of them all.

APEC, despite its focus on trade and investment, has also recognised the importance of engagement within communities for broader participation. For example, there have been a good number of events involving public engagement each year, and some are targeted towards younger people. Buy-in for broader engagement is crucial in the mid- to long-term, for continuity and for inclusivity, diversity aside.

Of course one can argue that the rotating host regimes of APEC can mean that those not

hosting will likely spend fewer resources on public engagement and generating interest among young people. But the setup is there if required.

In that regard, the UN is relatively quiet in public. It probably chooses to stay in the background. Or perhaps as most of the focus is on developing countries, we don't get to hear much from the average person here in New Zealand.

Taking a quick glance at the 17 SDGs, you can immediately spot a number of them are either directly or indirectly related to business engagement. Decent work and economic growth and industry, innovation and infrastructure are goals. But poverty should not be regarded as a separate issue from business. Businesses, for example, generate employment and alleviate poverty.

The UN will be hard pressed not to focus on issues that younger people will face in the coming years. In a similar vein, businesses will have a lot to do with many SDGs towards 2030. The time is now for the UN to activate its various constituents to increase business engagement and get younger people more involved.

Siah Hwee Ang is Professor of International Business and Strategy and Director of Southeast Asia Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence at Victoria University of Wellington.

Migrant women in New Zealand: Gender inequality challenges and possible contributions to sustainable development

Isabella van Hooff

As society and economies advance, conflict intensifies, and human rights violations emerge – the movements of people start becoming a common global occurrence. These shapes, patterns and flows of people – often known as migration – are constantly changing. Currently, there is an influx in the movement of women, which is referred to as ‘the feminisation of migration.’¹ The term migration expands to all movements of women, including refugee and asylum seekers. This research paper will discuss how the feminisation of migration can contribute to sustainable economic and social development in New Zealand (NZ) and pave the way to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

NZ's goals for migrant women and what is being done to achieve them

Migration has been at the forefront of economic development for NZ. NZ's immigration policy aims to “contribute to economic growth through enhancing the overall level of human capability in NZ, encouraging enterprise and innovation and fostering international links, while maintaining a high level of social cohesion.”² This is reflected in two main policies. The 2009 Immigration Act provides a “framework to manage immigration in a way that balances our national interests with

international obligations, protecting both New Zealanders and migrants.”³ This was amended with the 2015 Immigration Amendment Act, which created protection for migrant workers from exploitation, strengthened the immigration compliance regime, and reflected the changes of technology.⁴ Despite there being no direct mention of migrant women, it would be untrue to say that the NZ government doesn't understand the value migrant women can bring to the country.

In 1985, NZ ratified the United Nations convention - CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).⁵ In 2016, NZ released its eighth periodic review of CEDAW. The advancement of the rights of migrant and refugee women was highlighted as a key area to ensure that NZ was following the human rights provisions of the convention. This focus is crucial to NZ's social and economic advancement because in 2014-2015 50% of permanent migrants were women, 44% were issued work visas, 43% were issued student visas and 50% were humanitarian migrants.⁶ The increasing number of female migrants emphasises the importance for migrant women to be placed at the forefront of NZ's immigration policy.

Through conducting my research, I found that there is a lack of analysis of gender as an important aspect of migration in NZ, and the drivers behind women migration to NZ.⁷

³ New Zealand Immigration (2021). Immigration law. Retrieved from: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/policy-and-law/legal-framework-for-immigration>

⁴ Parliament Counsel Office (2015). New Zealand Legislation: immigration Amendment Act 2015. Retrieved from: <https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2015/0048/latest/DLM5655018.html>

⁵ Government of New Zealand. (2016) CEDAW Report 2016: Women in New Zealand. (Eighth Periodic Review) New Zealand: Retrieved from https://women.govt.nz/sites/public_files/CEDAW%20Report%202016_WE_B.pdf

⁶ Government of New Zealand. (2016) CEDAW Report 2016: Women in New Zealand. (Eighth Periodic Review) New Zealand: Retrieved from https://women.govt.nz/sites/public_files/CEDAW%20Report%202016_WE_B.pdf

⁷ Meares, C. Migration, gender and economic integration: international scholarship (2006–09) and an Aotearoa New Zealand research agenda. *Kotuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online* Vol.5(no.2)DOI: [10.1080/1177083X.2010.518153](https://doi.org/10.1080/1177083X.2010.518153)

¹ Donato Katharine, Gabaccia Donna. (2016) The Global Feminization of Migration: Past, Present and future. *Migration Information Source*. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/global-feminization-migration-past-present-and-future>

² Meares, C. Migration, gender and economic integration: international scholarship (2006–09) and an Aotearoa New Zealand research agenda. *Kotuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online* Vol.5(no.2)DOI: [10.1080/1177083X.2010.518153](https://doi.org/10.1080/1177083X.2010.518153)

RESEARCH ARTICLES

This paper seeks to contribute to closing this gap. Despite such efforts, the question that remains is whether NZ is doing enough to support migrant women and their contribution to development.

This research argues that despite these efforts, NZ can do more. Migrant women still face social, economic, gender and cultural barriers that prevent them from bringing forward their contributions to sustainable development.

Gender barriers that migrant women face

In order to understand how migrant women contribute to sustainable development, it is important to investigate the gender barriers that hinder such development. If NZ wants to meet the UN SDGs, then gender inequality needs to be addressed. In NZ, the majority of female labour-migrants tend to fill the gaps in low-skilled healthcare jobs. Health Director of E tū Union - Sam Jones states that because the health care sector is low-paid, foreign migrants are brought into these jobs.⁸ How are migrant women supposed to have an equal pathway to economic opportunities when they are being paid less than their male counterparts and are being deprived of their ability to enter high-paid jobs? On the other hand, the concentration of migrant women in the care and health sector is crucial to social and economic development, as according to the 2017 World Health Organisation report, "the demand for domestic care workers is aimed to increase between now and 2050 due to a variety of demographic and economic factors."⁹ A study taken by Victoria University and the Department of Labor suggests that between 2016 and 2036, the demand for caregivers will exponentially rise in NZ.¹⁰ This shows the importance of establishing domestic policy that reflects the issue of low-skilled and low-paid jobs.

If migrant women face economic exploitation based on their gender, then how is the world supposed to maintain a sustainable economy for future generations? If the issue of low-paid sectors is not addressed then the gender wage gap will exponentially rise, women will be deprived of their social and economic rights, face workplace exploitation, and social inequalities will continue to expand which in turn will create economic instability. Sustainable development cannot exist where gender inequality is present. Migrant and refugee women may also face "double discrimination".

This means that they are exceptionally vulnerable to abuse, violence and structural barriers due to being a woman and a migrant or refugee. This discrimination derives from gender stereotypes, racism, xenophobia and societal status. According to the United Nations, migrant and refugee women face extreme levels of vulnerabilities to domestic abuse and violence.¹¹ This not only has detrimental effects on their mental and physical well-being, but also on their basic human rights. In these communities, isolation is a huge factor.

This research presents the belief that through understanding the implications of gender barriers on migrant women, policies and programs can be put in place that target these key areas. In turn, a gendered approach to policy can allow migrant women to effectively contribute to sustainable development. It is important to understand how this can happen. Migrant and refugee women have the ability to help influence gender equality by deconstructing social norms and contributing to economic and social development. While we recognise that the 2030 SDGs can also serve as a basis for helping remove these gender barriers, NZ still needs to incorporate these principles and values in public policy, domestic law and civil society through a gendered approach.

⁸ Holliday, Jenna (2018). Achieving the sustainable development goals: surfacing the role for a gender analytic of migration. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol 45. DOI: [10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720)

⁹ Matthew Lenore, Surgue Noreen (2016). Chapter 2: Migrant Domestic Workers and the provision of care" current challenges and future directions. *Migrant Workers: Social identity, Occupational Challenges and Health Practice*, PP 45.

¹⁰ Callister, Badkar, Williams (2009). Paid caregivers and domestic workers: some policy issues in relation to meeting future demand in New Zealand. *Policy Quarterly*, Vol 5, No. 3. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26686/pq.v5i3.4304>

¹¹ Solidar Foundation. Women and migration: vulnerability in the face of abuse and discrimination. Retrieved from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/women-and-migration-vulnerability-face-abuse-and-discrimination>

RESEARCH ARTICLES

How migrant women contribute to the SDGs

Sustainable development has been at the forefront of international policy. In 2015, at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, the UN established the 17 Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The agenda aims to strengthen universal peace in

larger freedom. The SDGs aim to help take action to create sustainable economic, social and environmental development for present and future generations. This research argues that the feminisation of migration creates potential for migrant women to contribute to sustainable development, specifically 5 – Gender Equality, 8 – Decent work and Economic Growth, 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries and 17 – Partnerships for the goals, here in New Zealand. It is important to note that Goal 5, Gender Equality, is intertwined with the other SDGs. Gender equality cannot exist without ensuring that there is decent work, economic growth and then sustainable partnerships that focus primarily on achieving these goals. If NZ constructs a gendered approach to public policy that focuses on these issues and allows migrant women equal rights and access to education, employment and leadership positions, then the SDGs above will be achieved.¹²

According to UN Women, migrant women can have a positive impact on economic growth on the destination and home countries. This ties in with Goal 8 – Decent work and Economic growth. One of the main contributions to economic development that is focused on in contemporary research is through financial remittances.¹³ This is when women migrants send certain amounts of money back to their families to enhance their economic and living situations. A study taken from Massey University found that remittances in the Pacific region are worth over US\$470 million.¹⁴ Financial remittances from migrant women can help economic growth by increasing

investment in human capital and local development.¹⁵ This interlinks with SDG 10: when migrant women have access to equal and decent employment, education and economic opportunities, they can help sustain the economy for future generations in both home and destination countries, which has the potential to reduce inequalities among countries.

Migrant women can help pave the way to achieving gender equality, by enhancing their position of leadership. However, this cannot happen when migrant women are being deprived of their basic human rights. This ties in with SDG 5: if NZ implemented public policies that focused on the needs and rights of migrant women, the more opportunities migrant women will be provided with to occupy positions of power and influence. This in turn allows women to engage and nurture the political sphere, decrease inequality, promote economic empowerment and opportunities for women. As a consequence, the gender gap between women and men in the leadership positions will steadily decrease, contributing to sustainable development. For example, the economic opportunities migrant women are given in the destination country can allow them to have more influence over their earnings and place them in the position of power in her family/community.¹⁶

SDG 17 emphasises the global partnership for sustainable development – through taking into account the feminisation of migration that is happening worldwide and giving migrant women employment opportunities, equal economic, political and social treatment to their counterparts, gender barriers can be eliminated. In turn, NZ's data on achieving the SDGs will see progress. Through achieving economic growth and decent work standards for all – including migrant women, positive outcomes for gender equality and sustainable development can occur.¹⁷

¹² Thinkstep ANZ. SDG 5: Fostering inclusion and equality. Retrieved from: <https://www.thinkstep-anz.com/resrc/un-sustainable-development-goals-sdg-focus/5-gender-equality/>

¹³ UN Women. Women refugees and migrants. Retrieved from: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-refugees-and-migrants>

¹⁴ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (2014). Temporary Migrants as Vulnerable Workers: A literature review. Retrieved from: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/documents/refugees/br-2021-3315-annex-2-nzrrs-outcomes-dashboard-2018-19-1.pdf>

¹⁵ Holliday, Jenna (2018). Achieving the sustainable development goals: surfacing the role for a gender analytic of migration. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol 45. DOI: [10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720)

¹⁶ Holliday, Jenna (2018). Achieving the sustainable development goals: surfacing the role for a gender analytic of migration. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol 45. DOI: [10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720)

¹⁷ Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (2014). Temporary Migrants as Vulnerable Workers: A literature review. Retrieved from: <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/documents/refugees/br-2021-3315-annex-2-nzrrs-outcomes-dashboard-2018-19-1.pdf>

RESEARCH ARTICLES

What New Zealand can do in terms of policy

The International Labour Organization (ILO) was established in 1919 as a United Nations Agency that aims “to set labour standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for all women and men.”¹⁸ Through this, the ILO has established multiple conventions that promote decent work standards, in line with international human rights for all workers.

NZ has ratified the ILO Convention 97 – Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97).¹⁹ I argue that in order to strengthen migration policy that focuses on decreasing gender barriers for migrant women, NZ must ratify and implement ILO Convention 189 and 190 into domestic law. These conventions focus primarily on establishing equal treatment for migrant workers in domestic work and the elimination of discrimination based on sex and violence and harassment in the workplace, which are all aspects of gender based barriers that migrant women continuously face. Through recognising the importance of undervalued work migrant women equality can be achieved.²⁰

If New Zealand's policy reflected these principles, then migrant women would not continue to experience gender-based discrimination and violence and harassment in and out of the workplace.²¹ ILO CO189 recognises the value migrant women hold in domestic care work, and both conventions target the elimination of conditions that fuel inequality and discrimination.²²

ILO CO189 and 190 tie in perfectly with SDG 8 – Decent work and Economic growth. If NZ were to ratify this, specific gender barriers would be recognized in public policy. This would provide migrant women with equal economic and societal rights, granting them the tools necessary to contribute to sustainable development. Through economic empowerment and mechanisms that allow migrant women to seek safety and advice in the workplace, the SDGs will be achieved at a much more promising rate.

New Zealand has made a commitment to ensure that gender equality is focused on through its ratification of CEDAW and agencies. However, this research argues that NZ needs to implement gender-specific policies, ratify ILO CO189 and 190, empower civil society and non-profit organizations that focus on migrant women – in order to ensure that migrant women are having their rights recognized on a national level. Gender specific vulnerabilities such as domestic violence, work place discrimination and the gender pay-gap will slowly decrease whilst equality increases. It is only through this that migrant women can fully contribute to the SDGs. Once New Zealand achieves this, the global community will follow on continuing a worldwide call for promoting gender equality for migrant women.

¹⁸ International Labour Organization. About the ILO. Retrieved from: <https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang--en/index.htm>

¹⁹ Holliday, Jenna (2018). Achieving the sustainable development goals: surfacing the role for a gender analytic of migration. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol 45. DOI: [10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720)

²⁰ Holliday, Jenna (2018). Achieving the sustainable development goals: surfacing the role for a gender analytic of migration. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol 45. DOI: [10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720](https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1456720)

²¹ Human Rights Commission (2010). Rights of Migrants. Retrieved from: https://www.hrc.co.nz/files/8014/2388/0518/HRNZ_10_rights_of_migrants.pdf

²² International Labour Organization. New Zealand – Country baselines under the ILO Declaration Annual Review (2000- 2008). Retrieved from: https://www.ilo.org/declaration/follow-up/annualreview/archiveofbaselinesbycountry/WCMS_DECL_CL_NZ/la ng--en/index.htm

Climate change report: a reminder of UN's clout

Geoffrey Miller

Written in August 2021

This week's hard-hitting report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) was a reminder of the influential and inspirational role the United Nations can play.

The UN's Secretary General, António Guterres, called the new assessment – which predicts average global temperatures will be 1.5 degrees warmer by 2040 than they were in the pre-industrial era – “code red for humanity”.

The IPCC was founded in 1988 by two UN agencies – the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Its role is to distil and package the scientific evidence for climate change, based on work by thousands of individual scientists.

For a truly global problem, the IPCC's inclusive approach is probably its single biggest strength – as it is for the UN more generally.

While New Zealand is a member of all kinds of multilateral groupings, even the biggest of these – such as APEC and the Commonwealth – pale in size and scope when compared with the UN. With 193 members, the UN is the world's ultimate public square. But amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the UN's 75th birthday last year largely went unmarked both in New Zealand and around the world.

A conference being held at Parliament this weekend by the United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNA NZ) will provide an opportunity to reflect on New Zealand's role in the UN to date – and to consider current challenges.

The local association is almost as old as the United Nations itself. It is one of over 100 national associations around the world dedicated to promoting and supporting the UN's mission – but also to providing the institution with valuable constructive criticism when it is needed.

Foreign minister Nanaia Mahuta will address the conference on Saturday morning, as will the EU's Ambassador to New Zealand, Nina Obermaier. Both are likely to emphasise the value of the UN and multilateralism in addressing current global challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic and climate change.

The UN's public health arm, the World Health Organization, has played a pivotal role in the Covid-19 pandemic response.

But it has also been criticised for not responding more quickly, and for not being rigorous enough in investigating how the pandemic began.

The US – under the Donald Trump administration – even announced it would withdraw from the WHO.

Joe Biden, the new president, reversed the decision, but also made clear that he was still unhappy with the WHO's approach to Covid-19. Earlier this year, 14 countries – including Australia, the UK and the US – released a joint statement that criticised a WHO report into the origins of the coronavirus in China. New Zealand – aware of the sensitivities over criticising China – did not sign the joint statement. However, it did release a somewhat softer, separate statement a few weeks later.

Despite the criticism, the WHO and the UN as a whole are major beneficiaries of the new emphasis by Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken of the importance of a “rules-based order”.

The phrase genuinely expresses the new US administration's internationalist values. But it is also intended as implicit, indirect criticism of what Biden sees as unilateral foreign policy approaches taken by countries such as China and Russia – and the former Trump administration.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

The WHO situation in relation to COVID-19 encapsulates the strengths and weaknesses of the UN more generally. The ability to build a broad consensus and keep everyone on board is a distinct advantage over smaller, more selective international organisations. But at times, this can come at the price of effectiveness. Most UN bodies have little real power other than to name and shame.

The Human Rights Council (HRC), created in 2006, is another example of a UN body that is frequently criticised – mainly because it allows countries known for poor human rights records to become members.

Mirroring its actions over the WHO, the US withdrew from the HRC in 2018, under the Trump administration – only to re-join earlier this year under Biden.

For New Zealand, the new body has led to the UN having a bigger impact on domestic politics. Every five years, the human rights record of each of the UN's 193 member states is subjected to a comprehensive review. While outside experts lead the process, New Zealand government agencies – including the country's own Human Rights Commission – and many other local and international non-governmental organisations also play important roles through the submission of reports. The most recent round of UN scrutiny in early 2019 brought 194 recommendations for action – of which 164 were accepted by the New Zealand government. A number of recommendations related to housing. For example, Qatar, a HRC member at the time, recommended New Zealand “increase the availability of adequate and affordable housing for all segments of society while paying particular attention to low-income families”. A year after the HRC's review, the UN's special rapporteur on housing, Leilani Farha, visited New Zealand. Her report, presented in June, called New Zealand's housing situation a “human rights crisis that must be addressed urgently”. The report was promptly echoed by Paul Hunt, New Zealand's Human Rights Commissioner. Hunt, himself a former senior UN official, announced earlier this month that he was launching a national inquiry into housing, which he said was a “massive human rights failure”.

For New Zealand, the upshot was that a UN inquiry had sparked a political debate over whether housing should be seen through a human rights lens.

Admittedly, for the UN as a whole, the constant willingness to create new entities – like the IPCC and HRC – to address perceived new challenges has been both a blessing and a curse. While it has ensured the UN has remained as relevant as ever, there has been a distinct lack of root and branch reform. Duplication, overlap and an overly bureaucratic procedure are UN hallmarks.

A recent comprehensive and very readable discussion paper by Colin Keating, a former NZ ambassador to the UN, and former Green MP Kennedy Graham, identifies many of the problems – and proposes some innovative solutions.

Writing about the UN's approach to environmental issues, Keating and Graham express their frustration at the “Commissions, Panels, Conferences and almost countless other subsidiary bodies”. They call for a streamlined process led by the UN General Assembly, bluntly warning that “we cannot afford to continue to have multiple different Kaitiaki [guardians] trying to do the same job.”

On reforming the UN Security Council – the UN's most powerful body that has largely remained unchanged in the way it operates since 1945 – Keating and Graham propose radically increasing the Council's size and redefining its mandate. This would allow it to more effectively address current challenges – including environmental and health threats, but also civil conflicts.

The lack of action over the past year by the UN Security Council in relation to crises on three different continents – in Belarus, Ethiopia and Myanmar – illustrate why the current system undoubtedly needs reform. The central reason for the Council's paralysis is the veto power vested in its five permanent members – China, France, Russia, the UK and US.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Helen Clark, who headed the UN Development Programme from 2009-17 and also co-chaired the recent Independent Panel that scrutinised the WHO's response to COVID-19, regularly expresses her frustration at the lack of action by the UN Security Council on major issues.

In January, for instance, she tweeted: "Given extensive reporting of participation of #Eritrean troops in conflict in #Tigray over many weeks & of many war crimes committed in the region, shouldn't this deadly & complex conflict be getting priority attention from UN Security Council?"

Unfortunately, after a short-lived period of pragmatism following the break-up of the Soviet Union in the 1990s – dubbed the "sanctions decade" – the Security Council now appears to have largely reverted to a zero-sum, Cold War-style approach.

Deadlocks at the Security Council and the failure to impose sanctions on rogue regimes explain why Western countries are increasingly putting more effort into establishing their own, independent sanctions frameworks.

In New Zealand, the Autonomous Sanctions Bill – a member's bill under the name of National MP Gerry Brownlee – is currently before Parliament, after being drawn from the ballot in July.

These alternative approaches are needed because while collective, multilateral action under a UN mandate is preferable, the interests of great powers often stop it from happening. Comprehensive UN reform might help to break the stalemate. But don't expect it to happen anytime soon.

Geoffrey Miller is the Democracy Project's international analyst and writes on current New Zealand foreign policy and related geopolitical issues.

New Zealand and ILO Convention 190

Alisha Gilchrist

In June 2019, the International Labour Organization (ILO) hosted a centenary conference in Geneva, to which approximately 6,300 delegates representing governments, employers and workers from the member states attended. On the agenda for the event would be the vote for Convention 190; a comprehensive initiative tackling the issue of violence and harassment in the workplace. Its adoption was quickly affirmed by 439 out of 476 votes going in favour of the standard, with just seven votes against and 30 abstentions. The core of this Convention is founded on a broad definition of 'violence and harassment' that must be considered comprehensively in the implementation and monitoring of non-discriminatory workplace policy. Rather than viewing violence and harassment as two separate issues, the Convention places them on a spectrum as:

A range of unacceptable behaviours and practices ... that aim at, result in, or are likely to result in physical, psychological, sexual or economic harm, and includes gender-based violence and harassment.

Convention 190 does not require domestic implementation of new international obligations, rather, it builds on current policy to improve labour welfare. Under a clear and cohesive framework for anti-discriminatory policy, the Convention addresses underlying societal tensions that fuel workplace violence and harassment, such as unequal power relations, domestic violence, and informal employment. This opens the space for discourse relating to a range of employment-related issues that, when addressed collectively, will promote higher labour standards, and prohibit toxic workplace behaviour rooted in gender and race relations. It

was only in June 2021 that the New Zealand Lawyers and Conveyancers Disciplinary Tribunal found the behaviour of a Russell McVeagh law firm partner at two work parties to "clearly [reach a] standard of disgraceful or dishonourable conduct," exposing the vulnerabilities of employees where gender and power imbalances are present. Such incidents are not occupationally discriminative, either. In a 2018 report conducted by Stats NZ on discrimination rates by occupation, the largest discrepancies between men and women were observed by machinery operators, professionals including school teachers and nurses, and clerical or administrative workers.

Stats NZ - One in 10 Workers Feel Discriminated Against, Harassed or Bullied at Work

Occupation	Women	Women error ('low')	Women error ('high')	Men	Men error ('low')	Men error ('high')
Managers	11.6	9.1	14.1	8	6.4	9.5
Professionals	16.9	14.7	19	8.1	6.4	9.8
Technicians and trades workers	15	9.4	20.5	7.1	5	9.3
Community and personal service workers	16.2	13.2	19.2	17.8	12.5	23.1
Clerical and administrative workers	12.5	10.1	15	4.5	2.2	6.9
Sales workers	15.2	11.3	19.2	10.2	6.2	14.2
Machinery operators and drivers	19.5	11.1	28	7.9	5.2	10.7
Labourers	11.8	7.5	16.2	10.7	7.3	14.2

For employers, work-related violence and harassment often results in long term consequences including legal costs, high staff turnover, use of sick leave and long-term disability costs and reputation costs affecting lower quality service.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Subsequently, what must be envisioned for Convention 190 in New Zealand is a 'Journey to Ratification.' This involves a series of actions that work towards an observance and ultimately ratification of Convention 190 obligations in national employment regimes and practice.

Political strategy begins with dialogue uniting labour sector decision-makers, such as Minister of Workplace Relations and Safety Hon Michael Wood, and employment organisations, in order to bring ILO mandate to the forefront of discussions concerning labour welfare enhancement.

Such collaboration may subsequently create a space for domestic legislative amendment. More specifically, the Accident Compensation Act, the Health and Safety at Work Act and the Employment Relations Act. Existing proposals for legislative change target a broadened scope for mental injury in ACC law, lower thresholds for prosecution processes under the Health and Safety at Work Act and the inclusion of those with unconventional contractual status in company restructuring entitlements under the Employment Relations Act. Legal amendments form a crucial aspect of implementing Convention 190 due to their directive and enforceable long term effects on employment standards in New Zealand.

The implementation of Convention 190 at a national level will not only induce widespread change in domestic employment affairs, but echo New Zealand's commitment to labour welfare in the international arena. Despite being a leader in the Pacific, New Zealand has fallen behind the alliance-building efforts of Fiji, who ratified Convention 190 on 25 June 2020. Being only the second state to ratify the agreement, stakeholders including trade unions, feminist movements, human rights organisations, and civil society organisations drew on evidence-based lobbying to discuss with the Fijian government implementation strategies addressing national circumstances. The stress, disruption of social

and protective networks and decreased access to services resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to an exacerbated risk of violence or discrimination against women, that works in conjunction with the pressures faced by female-dominant industries. A 2020 Report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) outlines a number of measures that may be taken to address violence against women during COVID-19 response, including the promotion of awareness and services by governments and policy makers, health facilities and providers and community members.

World Health Organization Report - COVID-19 and Violence Against Women 7 April 2020

What can be done to address violence against women during the COVID-19 response

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has placed an immense burden on health systems, including frontline health workers, there are things that can help mitigate the effects of violence on women and children.



Governments and policy makers must include essential services to address violence against women in preparedness and response plans for COVID-19, fund them, and identify ways to make them accessible in the context of physical distancing measures.



Health facilities should identify and provide information about services available locally (e.g. hotlines, shelters, rape crisis centers, counselling) for survivors, including opening hours, contact details, and whether services can be offered remotely, and establish referral linkages.



Health providers need to be aware of the risks and health consequences of violence against women. They can help women who disclose by offering first-line support and medical treatment. First-line support includes: listening empathetically and without judgment, inquiring about needs and concerns, validating survivors' experiences and feelings, enhancing safety, and connecting survivors to support services. The use of mHealth and telemedicine in safely addressing violence against women must urgently be explored.



Humanitarian response organizations need to include services for women subjected to violence and their children in their COVID-19 response plans and gather data on reported cases of violence against women.



Community members should be made aware of the increased risk of violence against women during this pandemic and the need to keep in touch and support women subjected to violence, and to have information about where help for survivors is available. It is important to ensure that it is safe to connect with women when the abuser is present in the home.



Women who are experiencing violence may find it helpful to reach out to supportive family and friends, seek support from a hotline, or seek out local services for survivors. They may also find it useful to have a safety plan in case the violence escalates. This includes having a neighbor, friend, relative, or shelter identified to go to should they need to leave the house immediately for safety.

In light of both these national and international circumstances, there is an integral need for New Zealand to begin on a path towards ratification of Convention 190. Unions, social movements, employers, and employees must work with the government to set an example of the labour sector New Zealand wishes to see in the future. By doing so, it will demonstrate to other members of the international community an ongoing commitment to labour welfare and the world of work.

Let's BEAD the change we want to see in the world

Bridget Williams

In 2018, I took off my High Court gown and put on a necklace. Thus, Bead and Proceed was born. Bead and Proceed is a social enterprise that exists to educate people about the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and inspire action towards them through creativity. The idea is simple. We bring people together to each make and paint a five beaded necklace, key-ring or bracelet in the top five SDGs they care about and are committed to action. While painting, the team ideate and brainstorm ways to action their chosen goals through their daily life and workplace.



Never in my wildest dreams did I expect these five wooden beads would bring me into the businesses of facilitating creative workshops and bringing the SDG framework to life.

Since officially launching Bead and Proceed in 2019, I have workshopped with over 6,500 individuals, helping them and their businesses align to the relevant goals and turn commitment into action. However, taking this leap to leave law and become a full-time SDG educator, was not an easy decision and nor did my dad approve. In fact, when I told him I was leaving my role as a solicitor, his response was "You're not going to do that bead thing, are you?"

I quickly discovered that entrepreneurship requires a balanced community around you. I call them "The Three C's":

- Challengers – these are people who make you reflect and reexamine your idea and question your thinking
- Cheerleaders – those who are in your corner celebrating your idea and rooting for you even when you're full of self-doubt
- Champions – individuals or organisations that believe in your vision and will go out of their way to open doors for you

After months of second guessing myself and disbelieving these beads could make a difference, a champion approached me. The United Nations Association Trust Christchurch brunch had caught wind of Bead and Proceed and suggested I pitch for funding. Thanks to the Trust, I had the funding to purchase my first order of Bead and Proceed Kits and these kits are a story in themselves.

Walk the SDG talk

It was extremely important to me that the kits aligned to the SDGs so I partnered with Silence, a World Fair Trade organisation located in Kolkata India.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Silence employs adults who have hearing, speaking and physical disabilities (often a group marginalised), and they give the artisans quality and safe employment (which connects to SDG 8). The woodcarvers at Silence carve the beads from recycled wooden pallets and the kits are made from recycled paper (linking to SDG 12).

Our paint is sourced locally from the Natural Paint Co, which is free of nasties and for every square metre of paint painted, they save a square metre of Amazon Rainforest (connecting to SDGs 13 and 15).

However, key to Bead and Proceed is our one-for-one model: for every kit purchased, another is donated to a low decile school or a deserving community organisation. This is because the SDGs are also known as the “People’s Goals” – we all have the responsibility and power to action them and ensure we leave no one behind.



What I've learnt through Bead and Proceed

Take everyone on the journey

To date, I've worked with a range of businesses and organisations including corporate service firms, engineering and insurance companies, councils, power providers and universities. These are all organisations that can and are making tangible steps towards a more sustainable world. One of the observations I've made through this work is that when staff are not included in the process of the SDG alignment selection change can be slow and less impactful.

As explained above, we all have the responsibility to action the goals and while it's tempting to keep this process with just the sustainability team or just the executive, it's important we engage everyone and inspire all to be accountable. The organisations that have the most success when weaving the SDGs through their strategy or policy are those who democratise the SDG alignment process and bring everyone on the journey. Bead and Proceed is the tool for this, it's a fun team building exercise mixed with SDG learning and data collection to help validate what your staff care about.

Other challenges I witness from organisations include:

- trying to action every SDG within the workplace and spreading themselves too thin
- playing SDG bingo and simply selecting goals the business already impacts through current work and not being aspirational enough in their future targets
- lacking an understanding of targets that sit behind each SDG (169 in total) and missing the detail that supports action towards these

RESEARCH ARTICLES

SDG trends

During my facilitated workshops, I've noticed there are three SDGs selected the most: SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities, SDG 13 Climate Action, and SDG 5 Gender Equality.

It's a snapshot of what Kiwis care about and interestingly, since COVID 19, SDG 3 Good Health and Well-being has grown in popularity. This makes sense as the Pandemic has highlighted the importance of looking after our mental health and well-being. Similarly, I've noticed since the tragic events in Ukraine have occurred, SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions has become an SDG many workshop attendees select. This suggests the goals are a mirror on society, reflecting where we want value and where we want to put our efforts.

Creativity is key

Painting and making can transport us, unlock different parts of our mind and mean we are open to alternative ideas and solutions. Solving the SDGs will require out-of-the-box ideas and creativity sparks creativity, which is why Bead and Proceed is a creative exercise.

I'm inspired by the ideas and perspectives that are generated while people are painting, and it reinforces the need to take time for connecting to creativity in such a digital and tech heavy world. Creativity also fosters a space for authentic discussion about personal challenges at work and issues of importance. Staff want to feel safe and able to express their concerns and aspirations for the workplace and the wider community in a constructive environment. I'm thrilled businesses and organisations recognise Bead and Proceed can assist with this. However, that's not to say everyone understands the beads.

My response to those who identify Bead and Proceeds workshops as being child-play, is that if we're not comfortable coming together to paint

beads how on Earth will we ever have the courage to solve these 17 global issues? Make a commitment, try something new. The SDGs need your courage and creativity.



Why now?

The impacts of COVID-19 have caused major setbacks towards the SDGs and according to the Sustainable Development Solutions Network's latest report, still no state is on track to achieving all 17 SDGs by the 2030 deadline. My hope is for Bead and Proceed to provide experiences that motivate and inspire creative action towards the goals within Aotearoa and beyond. With everything going on in the world, people are seeking an outlet to share what is on their hearts and minds. The SDG framework is a wonderful tool to help curate kōrero regarding these issues and Bead and Proceed is an experience to turn that discussion into aligned action and to help all people understand they can BEAD the change they want to see in the world.

You can contact Bridget using the links below
bridget@beadandproceed.com
www.beadandproceed.com

ABOUT UNA NZ

WHO ARE WE?

United Nations Association of New Zealand (UNA NZ) is a national community organisation and a registered charity made up of regional branches, an independent youth association (UN Youth), affiliates, and members from across New Zealand.

We have branches in Auckland, Tauranga, Hamilton, Whanganui, Wellington and Christchurch.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We educate New Zealanders about the activities of the UN and its agencies, New Zealand's involvement, and how to become involved. Our current focus is to raise awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Global Security and UN Renewal.

Each year, we host numerous events, including our National Conference, which is our premier event that brings together nationwide members to participate in panel discussions. We also host our Secondary School Speech Awards Competition, aimed at empowering youth to become future leaders.



UNA NZ NATIONAL COUNCIL

Your donation is acknowledged,
appreciated and valued.

**YOUR GIFT WILL
ENSURE THAT THE
WORK OF THE UNA NZ
WILL CONTINUE FOR
GENERATIONS TO COME**

BEQUEST INFORMATION

TO INCLUDE UNA NZ

WHAT TO DO?

- Decide to include UNA NZ in your Will.
- Discuss your intentions with your loved ones.
- Seek legal advice.
- Use this Codicil form to alter your Will
- Inform UNA NZ that you have left a bequest in your Will.

NAMED GIFTS

If you prefer you can designate your gift to a particular UNA NZ project and/or a focus area of work that is of particular interest to you.

HOW DO I CHANGE MY WILL TO INCLUDE UNANZ?

You add a 'Codicil' to your Will. This is a simple one page addition to your existing Will and is much easier than having your entire Will re-written. A copy is included with this brochure.

HOW CAN I DONATE?

Your generous gift can be placed in the We the Peoples Foundation (see back page for details). The Foundation was set up to finance the work of UNA NZ. When your gift is combined with those of other long term investors it accrues significant interest. UNA NZ can use this guaranteed source of funds to meet its on-going commitments. For example these funds enable it to employ a part time administrator.

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
UNANZ.ORG.NZ**

CODICIL

This Codicil, documents amendment(s)
I wish to make to my Will as located at
(Solicitor's Name):

My name: _____
Address _____

City/Postcode _____
Country _____

The amendments I wish to make to my will:

Signed: _____
Date: _____

Witnessed by (print) _____
Witness address: _____

Witness Signature: _____
Date of signing: _____

We the People's Bank: BNZ Lambton

INVEST IN THE FUTURE



**MAKING A BEQUEST
TO
THE UNITED NATIONS
ASSOCIATION OF
NEW ZEALAND**



The United Nations
Association of New Zealand
Te Roopu Whakakotahi
Whenua o Aotearoa



Our people

We are made up of over 40 committed volunteers across New Zealand and employ one core staff at the National Office in Wellington. We work together to inform, inspire and engage all New Zealanders regarding the work, goals and values of the UN to create a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

The United Nations Association's main ruling body is the National Council. It has three main roles per the Constitution:

- Governance of the organisation as a whole
- Policy making body of the organisation
- Coordination and support of our branches

The National Council meets up to four times a year in order to discuss and vote on yearly budgets, long-term strategic plans, policies, actions, and upcoming events. The National Executive is responsible for the day-to-day running of the organization and the National office, upcoming events, payments and accounts. It employs the National Administrator, whose key role is public relations, organizational administration and development, and project and event management. The role supports the National President and our Regional Branches. Honorary Life members are recommended by the National Council at an Annual General Meeting.

Usually these are individuals who have carried out distinguished service for the United Nations Association of New Zealand, and/or the UN over a period of years. Honorary Life Members are non-voting members of the National Council. Our Constitution states that Life Members do not pay membership fees, may be in attendance at, and receive the papers for, the National Council with speaking rights, but no vote. Life Members have voting rights at any Special General and Annual General Meetings.

UNA NZ National Executive

President

Gayathri Paranisamy

Vice President

Karim Dickie

Immediate Past President

Peter Nichols

Executive Officer

Maisy Bentley

Treasurer

Pete Cowley

Secretary

Catherine Ashworth

Representative of the National Council

Annie Wu

John Morgan

Special Officers

Wajirani Adhihetty

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Mano Manohoran - Waikato

Kate Smith - Whanganui

Wajirani Adhihetty - Wellington

Pauline McKay - Canterbury

Monique Corson - Manawatu

Ruth Groffman - Otago

Hana Drysdale - UN Youth

Honorary Life Members

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Margaret Knight

Clinton Johnson

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