

2016-2017

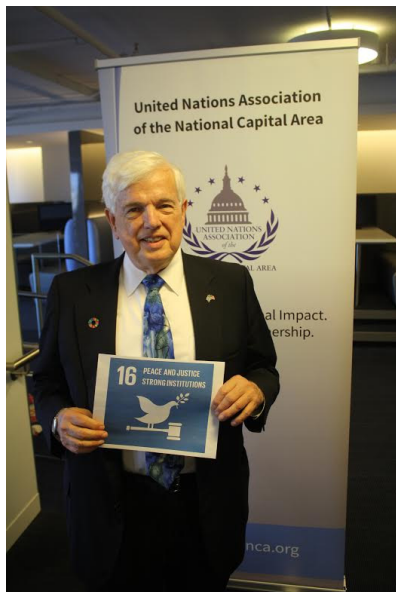
# ANNUAL REPORT



Local Action for Global Impact. Strong US-UN Partnership.

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# A Letter from UNA-NCA President Don Bliss



Ambassador Bliss at the  
2016 Annual Meeting

As I complete four years as President of the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA), let me express my deep gratitude to our members, volunteer leaders, supporters, and dedicated staff for making this such a rewarding and enlightening experience. Thank you for the honor and privilege.

These are challenging times. There are voices in the US Administration and Congress that are questioning the value of the post-World War II global order. We face proposals to slash funding for the UN, foreign assistance, and diplomacy and to withdraw from international organizations and international treaties. Sadly, the United States has initiated its withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord. We also face a lack of understanding by the American public and many opinion and policy leaders about the multifaceted work of the United Nations and the values embraced in the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UNA-NCA has responded vigorously to these challenges, first, by strengthening our flagship programs that inform policymakers and prepare the next generation of leaders and, second, by undertaking new initiatives that encourage US leadership in strengthening a more efficient and effective United Nations.

## **On the first front, we:**

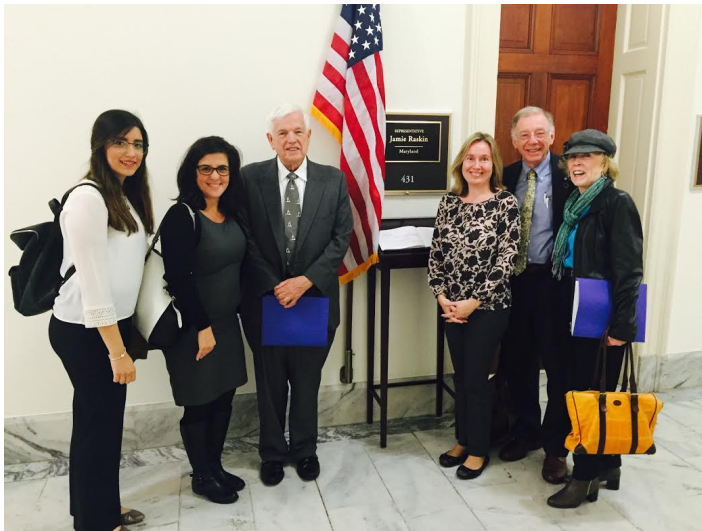
- Educated thousands of participants primarily from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia in

the skills of diplomacy, negotiation and advocacy in our year-long Global Classrooms DC program, culminating in the Model UN Spring Conference at the U.S. Department of State, highlighted by a keynote address by Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson;

- Under the leadership of David Scotton and Melissa Kaplan, we mobilized and trained an advocacy team to meet with Senators and Members of Congress to support full funding of the United Nations and its Peace-keeping missions;
- Celebrated the legacy of former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and welcomed the arrival of Secretary-General António Guterres with a lecture by former UN Under Secretary and Dean of the Maryland School of Public Policy, Robert C. Orr, with commentary by National Security Council and State Department leaders;
- Discussed the priorities of the new Secretary-General with UN Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, at an event hosted by Ambassador Esther Coopersmith;
- Under the leadership of Laura Blyler and Lanice Williams, we provided Career Networking and Professional Development Opportunities for hundreds of young professionals seeking career paths in international work through our bi-annual Career Dinners hosted by our Young Professionals and UNA-NCA leaders;
- Under the leadership of Ed Elmendorf and Steve Moseley, we offered educational and interactive programs on implementing the Global Goals for Sustainable Development globally and locally through public forums and community consultations;
- Under the leadership of Past President Karen Mulhauser, we provided a series of programs on gender equality which included advocacy for passing The Convention on the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) legislation in DC;
- Offered many substantive programs with expert speakers on UN issues organized by UNA-NCA Program Committees on Sustainable Development, Human Rights, African Affairs, and International Law;
- Under the leadership of Christina Hansen and Heather Hill, we recognized international and local leaders in human rights in our annual Human Rights Awards Reception on Capitol Hill;
- Under the leadership of Kim Weichel, we engaged our experienced and expert Advisory Council in programming, conferences, and young professional development;
- Under the leadership of Laurence Peters, 20 graduate students participated in our Graduate Fellows program this spring which prepared them to pursue careers in international affairs and offered mentoring opportunities;
- Collaborated with our partners, including the Bureau of International Organization Affairs at the State Depart-

ment, the Pan American Health Organization, the United Nations Information Center, the American Foreign Service Association, the American Society of International Law, the US Institute of Peace, the Alliance for Peacebuilding, Freedom House, and many others;

- Strengthened and published our weekly UN Express, informing our membership of upcoming NCA events and those of our partners, and providing commentary on key UN-related issues.



*Pictured above (from left): Ana Ancheta, Paula Boland, Ambassador Donald T. Bliss (ret.), Melissa Kaplan, Stephen F. Moseley, Ellen McGovern meeting with Representative Raskin.*

#### **UNA-NCA has also undertaken several new initiatives designed to address the challenges of today:**

- We have issued position statements and advocated for stronger US leadership and a more effective and efficient United Nations;
- UNA-NCA leaders have addressed issues of UN reform in speeches to regional organizations, letters to the editor, articles in scholarly journals (see “Strengthening the United Nations Peace and Security Mandate, Ambassadors Review, Fall 2016), and by teaching adult classes on the UN;
- Under the leadership of Past President Ed Elmendorf, we launched a new book on the History of UNA-USA, illustrating the effectiveness of citizen advocacy;
- Our Una Chapman Cox Fellow, U.S. Foreign Service Officer Luis F. Mendez, has spoken at 17 area schools on US-UN relations and mentored several students;
- We have engaged our members, Graduate Fellows, program assistants, and the public in an interactive blog of key issues and challenges facing the United Nations;
- UNA-NCA has sponsored the Elnino School in the Kenya Dadaab (Dagahaley) Refugee Camp, as part of UNA-USA’s Adopt-a-Future Campaign—raising around \$8,000 to provide education for refugee

children;

- UNA-NCA and the US Institute of Peace have formed a partnership to prepare concrete recommendations to strengthen and make more efficient UN Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding operations as part of the UN Secretary-General’s and the US Administration’s reform initiatives;
- We have engaged in collaborative activities to express support for UN initiatives from the Paris Climate Agreement to Gender Equality in joint letters to Congress and citizen rallies.

Under the leadership of VP for Operations and Strategy, Melissa Wolfe, we continue to make progress implementing NCA’s Strategic Plan, which we have extended through 2018. With a small budget and staff, UNA-NCA is able to deliver extraordinary programs because of the passionate commitment of hundreds of volunteers. In FY 2016-17, we have been fortunate to have had an exceptionally hard-working and professional staff, led by our experienced Executive Director, Paula Boland; our Director of Membership and Programs, Hanna Hayden; our Director of Global Education, Megan Penn; our Global Classrooms DC Program Manager, Nicole Bohannon; and an outstanding group of program assistants. The Board of Directors is most grateful to our staff, committee chairs, co-chairs and members, a cadre of volunteers, and dedicated donors, and, as President, I want to thank our Board of Directors and officers for their active engagement and continued support.

With great confidence in our future, I pass the torch to Steve Moseley, our President-Elect, who has contributed his passion and expertise in countless hours and in countless ways to NCA’s many initiatives.

With much appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald T. Bliss".

Ambassador Donald T. Bliss (Retired)





# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



## **President**

Stephen F. Moseley ~  
Amb. Donald T. Bliss (ret.) \*

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## **VP Strategy and Operations**

Melissa Wolfe

## **VP Young Professionals**

Laura Blyler †  
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Edison W. Dick  
A. Edward Elmendorf  
Karen Mulhauser  
Amb. Donald T. Bliss (ret.) \*

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Diane Adams †  
Patricia Beneke †  
Dawn Calabria ±  
Heather Lane Chauny ±  
Jill Christianson  
Kasara Davidson \*\*  
Renne Dopplick †  
Olumide Elegbe  
Raymond Friday  
Jeffrey Hoffmann  
Michael Marsh ±

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Michael Onyemelukwe †  
Ambassador Lynn Pascoe †  
Wayne Pieringer  
Richard Ponzio †  
Thomas Riesenber  
David Scotton  
Ambassador Osman Siddique †  
Dr. Iqbal Unus  
Jodi-Kaye Wade

## **Student Representative**

Bradley Wiggins (The George Washington University) †

Kristen Cheriegate (The George Washington University) \*\*

## **Key**

\* *Outgoing Officer*

\*\* *Outgoing Board Member*

† *Incoming Board Member*

~ *Entering VP Position*

± *Reelected*

## Goal 1

Build support for the work of the United Nations and connect the National Capital Area's residents and organizations to the work of the United Nations

**20+**  
educational  
events on the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals

**15**  
published statements from UNA-NCA President on UN issues



**3,266 Facebook followers**



**2,184 Twitter followers**

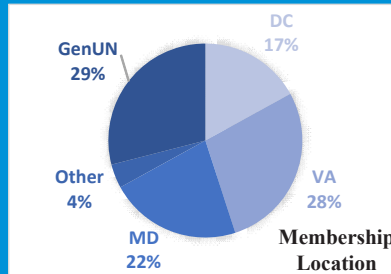
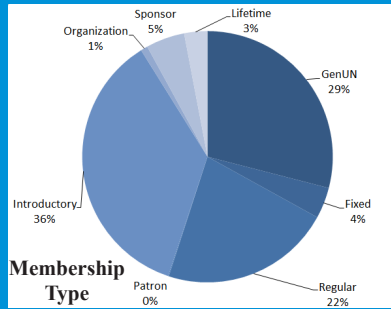


**33 Blog posts**

## Goal 2

Enhance membership and inter-generational engagement

Nearly half of all members are young professionals or students. (49%)



## Goal 3

Build a comprehensive partnership network

**OVER**  
**25**  
partners during the year

Including government agencies, UN agencies, civil society, local and international non-profits, universities, and businesses.

# STRATEGIC GOALS

In 2016, UNA-NCA's Board of Directors approved extending the strategic plan through 2018 to guide the organization's activities in carrying out its mission and vision. Over the past year, UNA-NCA has continued to work toward fulfilling that plan.

## Goal 4

Create an increasingly efficient integrated, and financially stable organizational

## FY 2016

## Annual Expenses and Revenue

### Assets

Cash & Equivalents	\$67,713
Receivables	\$3,386
Prepaid Expenses	\$6,000
Investments	\$717,892
Security Deposits	\$2,975
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$797,966</b>

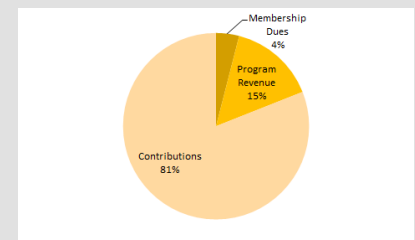
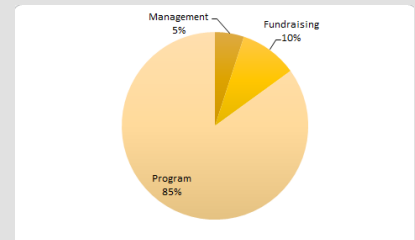
### Net Assets

Unrestricted	
Undesignated	\$113,205
Board Designated	\$478,147
<b>Total Unrestricted</b>	<b>\$364,924</b>
Temporarily Unrestricted	\$337,343
Permanently Unrestricted	\$79,170

### Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$11,963
Due to UNA-USA	\$4,548
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$16,511</b>

<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$781,455</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$797,966</b>



# A TIME OF TRANSITION

In October of 2016, UNA-NCA celebrated the 71st Anniversary of the United Nations and UN Day with a program honoring the legacy of outgoing Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and discussing the challenges and opportunities of António Guterres, the new Secretary-General and former High Commissioner for Refugees and Prime Minister of Portugal. The program was presided by UNA-NCA President, Ambassador Donald T. Bliss (ret.), with keynote remarks from the Honorable Robert C. Orr and an engaging conversation with Dr. Esther Brimmer and Mr. Joshua Black. The event was sponsored and hosted by the National Education Association.

The Honorable Robert C. Orr, Dean of the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland, served as UN Under-Secretary-General for Ban Ki-moon and special adviser for climate change, and was also part of the transition team from



*Pictured above (from left): Jill Christianson, Paula Boland, The Honorable Robert C. Orr, Dr. Esther Brimmer, Stephen F. Moseley at the National Education Association (October 18, 2016).*

previous Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In Dean Orr's eyes, we cannot underestimate the role legacy and leadership play in shaping world events.

Dean Orr summed up the legacy of Ban Ki-moon's tenure as Secretary-General of the UN with two key contributions: the Paris Agreement on climate change and the framework on the Sustainable Development Goals. In his tenure, he strongly advocated for a global solution to climate change and was a catalyst for global agreements. Dean Orr said that without Ban Ki-moon and the leadership of the Obama Administration, there would be no climate agreement.

inviting the participation of civil society and the private sector in shaping the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs), which were unanimously adopted by the member states in the General Assembly in September of 2015. The aspirational goals of the SDGs are much more ambitious than the MDGs. Both Ban Ki-moon and Dean Orr stressed that these goals must be achieved through a connected multi-stakeholder approach.

Ban Ki-moon also established a global transparent process to follow up on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs),

Looking forward, António Guterres faces the largest refugee crisis since WWII but he is highly qualified for the job as former head of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Guterres will bring new energy to the problems in Syria and the Middle East. As the world changes quickly, the UN must change accordingly. Internal operations and systems need to be strengthened. Geopolitics are changing. We need to bring all the actors into the fold; strengthening the UN's commitment to security and investment.

Dr. Brimmer, former Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, acknowledged several other concerns for Guterres as he takes office in January: member states shirking their duties; power competition between member states; and anti-globalization. She highlighted the importance of the US role in UN challenges and opportunities. Dr. Brimmer also touched on the importance of the evolution of the UN and the need of multilateral reform moving forward.

Mr. Joshua Black described the new transparent process of selecting the Secretary-General and the way the White House assessed the experience and qualifications of the 13 applicants. While there were excellent female candidates, he felt that the Security Council consistently came together on the most qualified person for the job with substantial UN experience and the first former head of state to assume the post. Mr. Black expressed concern that the rules of international conflict and engagement are being abused. Among the challenges for the next Secretary-General, he stated that Guterres must address these issues of morality (i.e. attacking schools and hospitals, chemical/biological warfare, etc.).

We must look for continued opportunities for collaboration and bring all parties together on common ground.

**The United Nations belongs to everyone.**

# ADVOCACY

Each February, members of the United Nations Association are given the opportunity to visit UN Headquarters in New York City to network, learn about UN issues, hear from experts, and participate in advocacy. This year, UNA-NCA had a strong contingent of members representing our leadership on the UNA-USA National Council, our Graduate Fellows, members of our various program committees, and students from surrounding universities. Ambassador Jeffrey D. Feltman, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, was the keynote speaker and spoke a great deal on conflict prevention and the need for UN reform.

We were honored to have Ambassador Feltman join us in Washington, DC in late April at our annual recognition program hosted by Ambassador Esther Coopersmith. In spite of growing skepticism about world order, Ambassador Feltman emphasized that the United Nations is still a great place to invest especially during this time of political transition in the United States. The UN serves a public good, aligns with US interests, and is of economic value to the US.

Ambassador Feltman made a simple yet striking statement that international security means national security. The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) estimates that the annual cost of conflict globally reaches beyond \$13 trillion, and it is reasonable to think that the cost would be a lot higher without the presence of the UN. The UN strives to keep the economic and human costs from getting out of hand, and the US is a key ally in this regard. The US also benefits from multilateral UN sanctions on countries and organizations conducting illegal actions. Currently, with a leadership seat on the UN Security Council, the United States has an influential role in the sanctioning of organizations and countries conducting internationally illegal activities and can direct efforts on counter-terrorism. For one, the burden is shared amongst UN member states with regard to various global operations that impact US interests such as peacekeeping.

The financial investment in a UN peacekeeper is just 1/8 of the cost of having a US soldier on the ground, or 12.5 cents to \$1. The United Nations also provides many direct benefits to the United States since the US is the top supplier of goods and services.



*Pictured above (from left): Ambassador Jeffrey D. Feltman, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs; President-Elect Stephen F. Moseley; and President Ambassador Donald T. Bliss (ret.) at the home of the Honorable Esther Coopersmith (April 21, 2017)*



*Pictured above (from left): Paula Boland, Ambassador Donald T. Bliss (ret), Senator Van Hollen, Edison W. Dick, and David Scotton.*

In this time of great uncertainty, UNA-NCA's Advocacy Committee has been actively engaged with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) and the Better World Campaign (BWC) to advocate for continued US participation in all bodies of the UN and following through on our commitments to both assessed and voluntary contributions.

This spring, members of the UNA-NCA Advocacy Committee and Board held meetings with the offices of Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Christopher Van Hollen (D-MD) and Representatives Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Jamie Raskin (D-MD) and Don Beyer (D-VA). These meetings provided an opportunity for UNA-NCA members to raise issues including the critical need for strong congressional funding for the UN, support for UN treaties, US leadership at the UN, and to urge these members of Congress to support strong US-UN engagement. The Advocacy Committee also conducted training sessions for members with assistance from BWC.



# REFUGEE CRISIS

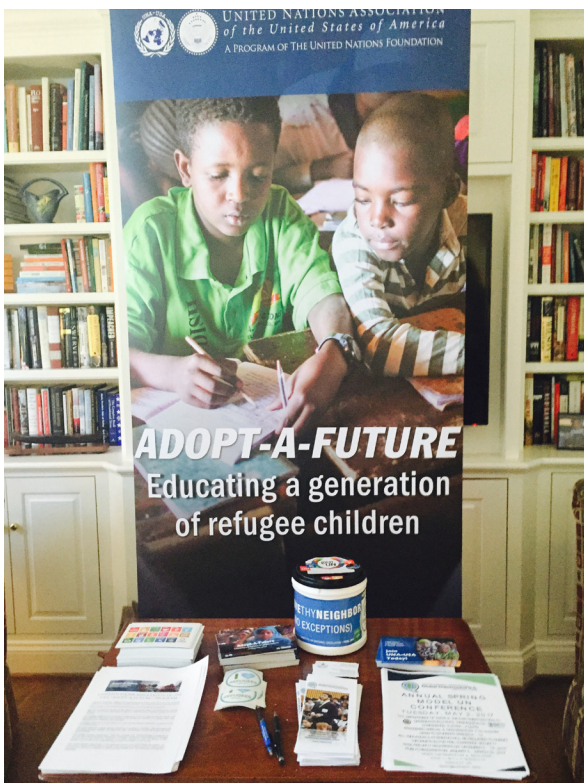
During the 2016 Annual Meeting, Anne Richard, keynote speaker and former Assistant Secretary of State, remarked on the global displacement crisis of refugees and emphasized the importance of the United States government in providing humanitarian aid and opening its borders. She discussed key topics from the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, how countries share responsibility, and how to protect women's rights. Media and international attention have continued to this day, as nearly 65 million people around the world have been forcibly displaced from their homes, the highest figure ever recorded. And in the past year, world leaders discussed the needs of refugees and the impact of forced migration at the UN General Assembly and at the Summit for Refugees and Migrants in September.

At the first-ever Summit for Refugees and Migrants world leaders adopted the New York Declaration. Part of the Declaration was to begin negotiations leading to an international conference and the adoption of a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration in 2018. The Declaration also meant a new effort to find new homes for all refugees identified by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as needing resettlement; and expand the opportunities for refugees to relocate to other countries through, for example, labour mobility or education schemes. The Declaration strengthened the global governance of migration by bringing the International Organization for Migration (IOM) into the UN system. As called for in the Declaration, the Secretary-General also launched a new campaign called "Together – Respect, Safety and Dignity for All" to respond to rising xenophobia and turning fear into hope.



## UNA-USA's Adopt a Future Campaign

Approximately 600,000 refugees currently reside in Kenya; more than half of these refugees are under 18 years old. The UNA-USA Adopt-A-Future Campaign supports refugee children worldwide but is currently giving special emphasis to Kenya as the country has absorbed thousands of new refugees from conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, and Somalia, but has received little media attention and very limited philanthropic support.



UNA-NCA is pleased to have adopted the Elnino School in Dadaab, Kenya as part of UNA-USA's Adopt-A-Future campaign which supports refugee education worldwide in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Our chapter continues to raise funds to help build classrooms and purchase school supplies for the Dadaab School, which serves 928 male students and 668 female students for a total of 1,596 students ages 6 to 13 who have been forced to flee their homes in the midst of devastating conflict. To date, UNA-NCA has raised over \$8,000 in funds for this campaign.

“We have all seen the heartbreaking images of refugee children who have been forced to leave their homes to escape violence and war. If these children can't get an education in the camps where they are currently sheltering, they won't have the skills they need to either return home, should conditions allow, or to make a life for themselves in another country.” UNA-NCA President, Don Bliss.

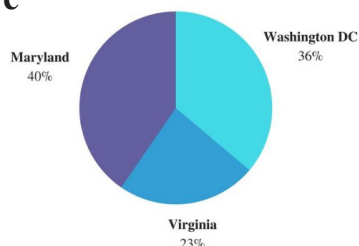


# GLOBAL CLASSROOMS DC

In the 2016-2017 academic year, 1,069 Global Classrooms DC (GCDC) middle and high school students learned about and discussed a variety of international issues: access to primary education, rising sea levels, the situation in Somalia, technology for sustainable city development, and human rights of refugees. Over 85 volunteers, 66 educators, and 48 groups and schools participated in and supported the program coming from schools and groups in Washington DC, Virginia, Maryland, and Texas. 20% of GCDC students attended Title 1 schools and 54% of students who attended public and public charter schools. Students had the opportunity to engage in the Fall Model UN Training Conference at the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to practice their Model UN skills. GCDC also held the Annual Spring Model UN Conference hosted at the U.S. Department of State and PAHO, where nearly 700 students, educators, parents, volunteers, and guests attended, and heard remarks from keynote speaker Nicol Perez, the US Youth Observer to the UN, and U.S. Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson. To cap off the year, over 30 educators and guests gathered at the United Nations Foundation for the Educator Appreciation Reception to celebrate the hard work of teachers, parents, and Model UN advisors.



## Area We Serve



GCDC Program Participants: 2,244  
\*The number of GCDC program participants served is a duplicated count, meaning that a single individual can participate in one or multiple programs.

## LUIS F. MENDEZ

### Luis F. Mendez, U.S. Foreign Service Officer and Una Chapman Cox Fellow

UNA-NCA had the privilege of welcoming Luis to the GCDC team this year, where he worked to introduce underserved students to the work of the U.S. Department of State, and strengthen key skills including negotiation, leadership, writing, and researching through Model UN. His journey from an underprivileged student to U.S. diplomat inspired the more than 900 students he interacted with.



*Pictured above: Luis F. Mendez at the Fall 2016 MUN Training Conference (November 18, 2016).*



*Pictured above: Luis F. Mendez speaking with students from Al-Alim Academy (formerly known as Muslim Community School)*

In addition to speaking at both the Fall Model UN Training Conference and the Annual Spring Model UN Conference, Luis participated in the Young Professionals' Fall Career Dinner Series and facilitated multiple GCDC Professional Development Workshops. He also served as a presenter and mentor at over 70 speaking events and mentoring visits, including the Educator Appreciation Reception and the Latin America Youth Center's 2017 Palabra Awards Ceremony.

# YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

## Young Professionals' Career Dinner Series

UNA-NCA supports the 49% of its membership that are students and young professionals with a strong Young Professionals Program and a number of yearly programs designed for professional development and preparation for global careers. The YP Career Dinners are a bi-annual event that invites young people to attend an evening of networking with UNA-NCA leadership, a keynote speaker, and several distinguished professionals in a variety of different subject areas. In the 2016-2017 program year, popular topics included Careers in the United Nations, Gender Equality, and Sustainable Development.



Guests and speakers at the Humanitarian Response Young Professionals' Career Dinner held at the home of board members Dawn and Tino Calabia (April 8, 2017).



UNA-NCA Graduate Fellows participate in Members Day at UN Headquarters in New York City (February 17, 2017).



UNA-NCA Graduate Fellows and leadership at the final gathering of the 2017 Fellows at the Mott House (April 21, 2017).

157 MEMBERS ENGAGED

14 DINNERS

46 NEW MEMBERS

Keynote remarks were made by Ty Cobb, Founder and Director of HRC Global at the Human Rights Campaign, and Robert Skinner, Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Washington, D.C.



Pictured above (from left): Paula Boland and Ty Cobb at the Fall 2016 Young Professionals' Career Dinners (October 22, 2016).

## UNA-NCA Graduate Fellows

The UNA Fellowship program is open to graduate students from the region's universities to further their understanding of the UN through a ten-week seminar hosted this year at The George Washington University. The Fellowship is directed by Dr. Laurence Peters, author of UN History and Core Ideas and supported by former UNA-NCA Board Member Abigail Pereira. 19 local graduate students participated in this year's fellowship, from five universities and more than seven countries including Bangladesh, Russia, and Peru.

Fellows met weekly, following a specially designed online course, engaging with guest speakers, delivering group presentations on UN-related topics, writing blogs about the speakers and preparing a publishable article related to the UN, and meeting with mentors from the extensive UNA-NCA network.

This year the fellows writings were collected in a 60 page 2017 Graduate Fellows Program Spring 2017 Memory Book edited by UNA Fellow Stephanie Asher.



# WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

## Highlights From the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

On March of 2017, UNA-NCA invited several panelists who attended CSW this year to share their highlights from the wide range of sessions held at and around the UN. Panelists included Dr. Marisa O. Ensor from Georgetown University; Natko Gereš, Program Officer of Promundo; Karen Mulhauser, immediate past Chair of United Nations Association of the USA; and Kristen Hecht, Program Director of B.A. Rudolph Foundation. The moderator was Kimberly Weichel, Consultant with UN Women, UNA-NCA Advisory Council Chair, and Chair of the Alliance for Peacebuilding's Women and Peacebuilding Affinity Group.



As an integral part of the global development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without gender equality. The speakers and audience agreed that only when we work towards gender equality that the other goals will be achieved comprehensively. Gauging the progress of gender equity, through continued evaluations like CSW, will also be a sound mechanism to evaluate the status of global development.

## CEDAW Legislation

The aim of the CEDAW in DC (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women) campaign is to “Make the Global Local” and protect the rights of women and girls by supporting policies that establish the principles of CEDAW and gender equality in Washington, D.C. While we continue to urge the U.S. Senate to ratify CEDAW, we believe it is important to build support locally and begin to implement its provisions by passing CEDAW ordinances in as many cities as possible and securing the endorsement of mayors for this approach. This effort will help raise awareness of women’s issues covered by CEDAW as well as build a constituency of the public and local elected officials.

In March of 2015, Councilmember David Grosso introduced a bill that was an amendment to the DC Human Rights Act naming the DC Office of Human Rights as the implementing agency to conduct gender audits in DC agencies. While the bill was co-sponsored by all Councilmembers, it did not have a hearing or vote and died when the new Council began its work earlier this year.

In March of 2017, Councilmember Charles Allen proposed a new approach to conducting gender audits in DC agencies through the District’s annual performance process. UNA-NCA and its supporting organizations urged the City Administrator to implement the recommendations made by Councilmember Allen and to require all subordinate District government agencies to include performance metrics relating to achieving gender equity within their annual performance plans. Councilmember Allen, states: “Requiring this intentional analysis as part of the performance plan process would also allow the District to join in the company of more than twenty-five cities across the United States that have passed a CEDAW ordinance or resolution.” This initiative accomplishes the same initial impact of a gender analysis of all DC government agencies. UNA-NCA and the supporting organizations plan community education and advocacy activities to engage additional groups and DC residents to identify gender-based inequities and then supporting efforts to correct the inequities.

## UNA-NCA DC for CEDAW Committee Signs MOU with UDC Legislative Clinic

In the spring of 2017, UNA-NCA and the Legislation Clinic at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law entered into a partnership to support UNA-NCA’s CEDAW in DC initiative. UNA-NCA is a client of the Legislation Clinic, which provides pro bono legal services by student attorneys under the supervision of Professor of Law, Laurie Morin.

The work of the clinic includes the review and revision of the 2015 bill, preparation of supporting materials, education and outreach to DC Council members and supporting organizations, among other actions to support the legislation. The District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law Legislation Clinic is working with UNA-NCA to plan a large public education and advocacy forum on its campus during fall 2017.



# == SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ==

## Panel on SDG Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

In April of 2015, as part of a program called the USA Sustainable Cities Initiative, Baltimore was selected as one of three US cities to pilot implementation of the 17 new UN Sustainable Development Goals, a cohesive package of global aspirations the world commits to achieving by 2030 that address the most pressing matters of our time. UNA-NCA was fortunate enough to participate in a community consultation with the University of Baltimore. The University of Baltimore released a report that details the work of a group of stakeholders that collaborated with city agencies, community members, and other higher educational institutions to identify 54 concrete measures that track Baltimore's progress to each goal.

In a panel on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) panelists Alison Howland, Ting Ma, Pari Kasotia, and Patrick Realiza gave their thoughts on Baltimore's development in meeting the goals, as well as using the city to analyze the metrics. Along with Kasotia's advocacy in development in the solar sector and Realiza promoting new programs to elevate the SDGs, the panelists also covered how other cities can become sustainable, and how local governments should give backing to eco-citizens in striving towards the goals.

### The Empowerment of Women in Sustainability



*Pictured above are Mrs. Pari Kasotia, Deputy Director of the Solar Foundation, and Ms. Katherine Arnold, Senior Program Associate for the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves at the UN Foundation (November 17, 2016).*

In November of 2016 UNA-NCA's Sustainable Development Committee hosted, "Empowerment of Women in Sustainability," a panel focusing on SDG 5: Gender Equality at the UN Information Center. Mrs. Kasotia work focuses on expanding the solar sector and Ms. Arnold concentrates on replacing dirty cookstoves in developing countries to promote less household pollution and less time for girls and women conducting unpaid household chores. Women today are still often seen as only beneficiaries of assistance and progress programs, as opposed to agents of them. The fields are still heavily dominated by men, with many countries NGOs excluding women from senior managerial roles. It is important women and girls be provided educational opportunities for girls and women, including institutions offering STEM-related education to girls in early adolescence. Those institutions must work with other sectors of society to open opportunity for further work and growth in the field. Further avenues include generating interest among women on the availability of sustainable jobs, seeking mentors in women-led organizations, families and community support, and aiding one another rather than seeing other women as competition.

### Water and the Impact on Biodiversity: Panel Discussion Event

In April of 2017, the UNA-NCA Sustainable Development Committee hosted a panel discussion entitled, "Water and the Impact on Biodiversity," at The George Washington University (GWU). The panel featured two representatives from the academic and non-profit sector. Dr. Tara Scully, Assistant Professor of Biology at GWU highlighted the importance of accessible clean water in the District of Columbia and noted the salience of developing an early mindset of caring for the environment. Ms. Laura Catell Noll of the Alice Ferguson Foundation explained her work in the Anacostia River, citing the foundation's mission to connect people to the natural world and improving their knowledge of sustainable agricultural practices through stewardship and advocacy. Attendees were granted the opportunity to learn more about this important subject matter and inspire them to better engage in their local respective neighborhoods and beyond.

# HUMAN RIGHTS

In December of 2016, UNA-NCA hosted its annual Human Rights Awards Reception on Capitol Hill honoring outstanding leaders in the human rights community and the anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The room was filled with people who were excited to celebrate the award recipients' strong commitment to human rights while enjoying classical music by the DC Youth Orchestra.

This year's inspirational honorees shared their experiences working to advance human rights through their respective fields, positions, and organizations. They spoke honestly about the challenges facing human rights today, their experiences creating change throughout their careers, and their continued dedication to push for human rights.



*Pictured above (from left to right, the Human Rights Awardees): Ritu Sharma, Felice Gaer, Lori Kaplan, on behalf of the Latin American Youth Center, and Eric Richardson (December 8, 2016 at the Canon Office Building).*

## 2016 Human Rights Awardees

Louis B. Sohn Human Rights Award

**Ms. Felice Gaer**

Director, Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights

Perdita Huston Human Rights Award

**Ms. Ritu Sharma**

Co-Founder and Former President, Women Thrive Worldwide  
Director, Global Center for Gender and Youth, International Youth Foundation

F. Allen "Tex" Harris Human Rights Diplomacy Award

**Mr. Eric Richardson**

Political-Economic Counselor for the U.S. Embassy for Libya

Community Human Rights Award

**Latin American Youth Center**

Award Presented to Lori Kaplan, President and Chief Executive Officer

"The destiny of human rights lies in the hands of us, for us to take action, for us to call on these issues, recognize, realize and implement."

-Ms. Felice Gaer

## Advancing Human Rights: The United Nations and China

In September of 2016, UNA-NCA and Freedom House hosted a panel discussion with Dr. Yang Jian Li, President of Initiative for China, Dr. Xiao R. Li, and Dr. Sophie Richardson, China Director of Human Right Watch moderated by Dr. Mark P. Lagon, Professor at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. Main topics discussed by panelists included: How does China position itself in the UN? What kind of UN mechanism can help advance human rights in China? What multilateral effort within the UN can call attention to the human rights situation in China? During the panel discussion, the panelists stressed that in the past 40 years, China's posture of its human rights issues has



been primarily defensive but this trend may change given the fact that China has been more involved in global issues in recent years. Generally speaking, the people of China have very positive views and high expectation of the UN and its leading role in global affairs but most Chinese people don't know much about the UN human rights mechanism, through which they can be helped. The best way to advance human rights in China, which was agreed by most panelists, is to educate Chinese people about the UN human rights mechanism and advocate the need for collective democracy to stand up for human rights in China.



## Senate Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is Critical to National Security and Economic Interests

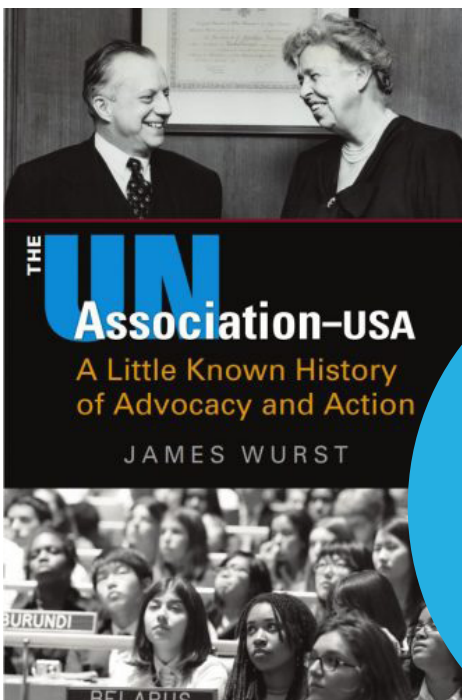
On May of 2017, a symposium of leading experts on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea unanimously concluded that Senate ratification of UNCLOS is critical to US national security, energy, trade, and job creation interests and objectives. 167 countries and the EU have ratified UNCLOS, leaving the US at serious strategic disadvantages, including hundreds of billion dollar losses in Deep Sea Mining Bed sites as well as losses in regulation and enforcement of navigational freedom if the US interests are threatened on international waters, among many other negative aspects. By contrast, the gains to US ratification of UNCLOS are similarly numerous, including massive extensions in territorial waters; economic exploitation that comprises oil, gas, and fishing rights; and establishing transit rights through territorial waters, and the list goes on. The UNA-NCA strongly supports Senate ratification of the Convention on the Law of the Sea to advance US interests in security, economics, energy development, and to protect fair and efficient commerce.

### *UN Association-USA: A Little Known History of Advocacy and Action*

In November of 2016, UNA-USA and UNA-NCA launched the book, *UN Association-USA: A Little Known History of Advocacy and Action*. The book launch marked and celebrated the legacy of UNA's history, dating back to before the United Nations was even created. The book study and research was directed by former UNA-USA Executive Director and UNA-NCA former President Ed Elmendorf.

The groundbreaking book, first of its kind, is now available for purchase. The book details the story of the creation of the United Nations Association—the decades-long campaign to promote the UN to the US public, the role of Eleanor Roosevelt, the decline of popular support, Track II diplomacy with Iran and the Soviet Union, and much more. The book draws on a wealth of archival material and personal interviews

to tell an honest, and long overdue, story of the UNA-USA's persistence, problems, and achievements.



“This volume not only serves as an authoritative history of an important organization, but also provides important insights into network-based organizing and governance as it is evolving today.”

Robert Orr, UN Under-Secretary-General and Dean of the University of Maryland School of Public Policy

### How the United Nations Beat Hitler and Prepared the Peace



On May of 2017, Dr. Dan Plesch, Senior Reader from SOAS, University of London, spoke and engaged in a conversation with Nancy Donaldson, Director, IO Bureau and UNA-NCA Advisory Council member, on “How the United Nations Beat Hitler and Prepared the Peace.” Through in-depth research, Dr. Plesch and his students have been instrumental in getting released, key documents from the US and UN archives. He has also done extensive research on the United Nations War Crimes Commission, including showing demonstrable evidence that the United States knew about the Nazi concentration camps before D-Day. FDR's international tribunal processed 36,000 indictments and reached 10,000 convictions. It was ultimately former US Ambassador Samantha Power who was instrumental in releasing them as a result of pressure from Dr. Dan Plesch and others.



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Access to Members Day at the United Nations in New York City.

Network with other UNA members and international affairs personnel through events and social activities.

Automatic membership with our parent organization, UNA-USA. Contact with members of other UN Associations in over 100 countries as part of the World Federation of UNAs.

Eligibility for United Nations Federal Credit Union membership.

## Join a Committee

If you are a UNA-NCA member, you are eligible to join one of many Committees. Committee members advocate for issues they are passionate about while connecting to others who share their interests.

Committee topics include Global Affairs, DC for CEDAW, Human Rights, International Law, Peace and Security, Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Goals, Advocacy, Communications, Finance, Governance, Membership, and Resource Development.

Students 25 and under are eligible for free membership through GenUN.

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UNA-NCA  
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Thank you for your support!

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