



The 22nd Annual Global Classrooms DC

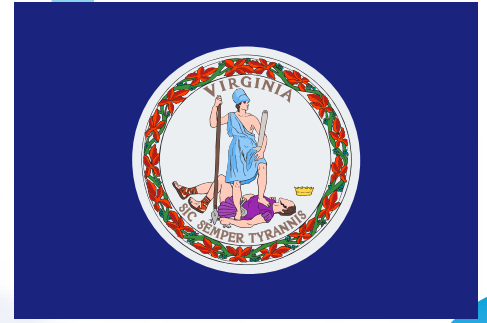
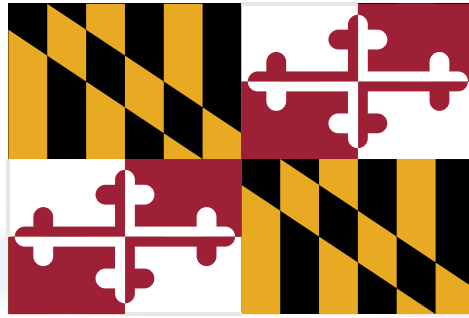
# **SPRING MODEL UN CONFERENCE**

**“Collective Action in a Time of Transformation”**

**APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**



# Participating Schools



- Alexandria Country Day School - Virginia**
- Bells Mills Elementary School - Maryland**
- Benjamin Banneker High School - Washington DC**
- Brambleton Middle School - Virginia**
- Brookewood School - Maryland**
- Cabin John Middle School - Maryland**
- Calvert School - Maryland**
- CH Flowers High School - Maryland**
- Connelly School of the Holy Child - Maryland**
- Cooper Middle School - Virginia**
- Denver Language School - Colorado**
- Dominion High School - Virginia**
- Dunbar High School - Washington DC**
- Flint Hill School - Virginia**
- Hardy Middle School - Washington DC**
- Herbert Hoover Middle School - Maryland**
- Hidayah Academy - Virginia**
- Ideaventions Academy for Mathematics & Science - Virginia**
- Inter-African Committee USA - Maryland**
- Jackson-Reed High School - Washington DC**
- John R. Francis Education Campus - Washington DC**
- Kilmer Middle School - Virginia**
- Lightridge High School - Virginia**
- MacArthur High School - Washington DC**
- Maryland International School - Maryland**
- Meridian High School - Virginia**
- Quince Orchard High School - Maryland**
- The British Int'l School of Washington - Washington DC**
- Tuscarora High School - Virginia**
- Washington Latin Public Charter School - Washington DC**

# Schedule of Events

<b>8:00 am - 8:45 am</b>	<b>Security Check in &amp; Registration</b> 23rd Street Entrance
<b>9:00 am - 9:45 am</b>	<b>Opening Ceremonies</b> Dean Acheson Auditorium
<b>10:00 am - Lunch</b>	<b>Committee Session I</b> Assigned Committee Rooms
<b>11:30 am - 1:30 pm</b>	<b>Staggered Lunches</b> Exhibit Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 11:45 am - 12:15 pm: UNODC, IAEA</li><li>• 12:30 pm - 1:00 pm: UNHCR-IOM, ICAO</li><li>• 1:15 pm - 1:45 pm: UNICEF, COPUOS</li></ul> Delegate's Lounge <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chaperones &amp; Special Guests</li></ul>
<b>After Lunch - 4:00 pm</b>	<b>Committee Session II</b> Assigned Committee Rooms Student Evaluations [3:45-4:00 pm]
<b>2:00 pm - 3:00 pm</b>	<b>Educator Session</b> Exhibit Hall, (teachers and chaperones only) Educator Evaluations [2:45-3:00 pm]
<b>4:00 pm - 4:45 pm</b>	<b>Closing Ceremonies</b> Dean Acheson Auditorium

## Room Assignments

- **UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) & International Organization for Migration (IOM) - Dean Acheson Auditorium**
- **UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) - Room 1107**
- **UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) - Loy Henderson Conference Room**
- **UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) - Room 1105**
- **Historical International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) - Room 1205**
- **International Atomic Energy Agency - Room 1406**
- **Prayer Room - Room 1207**

# Delegate Code of Conduct

Chaperones are responsible for their students and their behavior at all times. The venue, U.S. Department of State, and conference organizers are not responsible for overseeing individual students during the event.

## **Code of Conduct: Respectful Engagement**

Respect is a core principle of diplomacy and a foundational expectation of this conference. Delegates are expected to demonstrate professionalism and courtesy at all times by listening attentively when others are speaking – whether senior officials, committee chairs, policy advisors, or fellow delegates.

This includes refraining from side conversations, interruptions, or other distractions that may disrupt proceedings or diminish the contributions of others. Respectful engagement means valuing diverse perspectives, allowing each speaker to be heard, and responding thoughtfully and constructively, even in moments of disagreement. Practicing these standards of decorum strengthens committee dialogue, fosters mutual understanding, and reflects the discipline and respect essential to effective diplomacy.

## **Conference Conduct & Regulations**

The Global Classroom DC (GCDC) Spring Model UN Conference staff reserves the right to dismiss any participant from the conference due to violation of any regulation. The GCDC Spring Model UN Conference will enforce the following rules of conduct:

### **Behavior & Respect**

Delegates and guests are expected to treat the conference venue with the utmost respect and care at all times during the GCDC Spring Model UN Conference. This includes maintaining the cleanliness and integrity of all rooms, furniture, and shared spaces. Any inappropriate or unprofessional behavior—including vandalism, misuse of facilities, or failure to follow venue guidelines—will result in the school or group being held liable for damages and may lead to removal from the conference and ineligibility for future participation.

Delegates must also conduct themselves with professionalism and respect toward advisors, conference staff, and fellow delegates at all times.

### **Sexual Harassment & Discrimination**

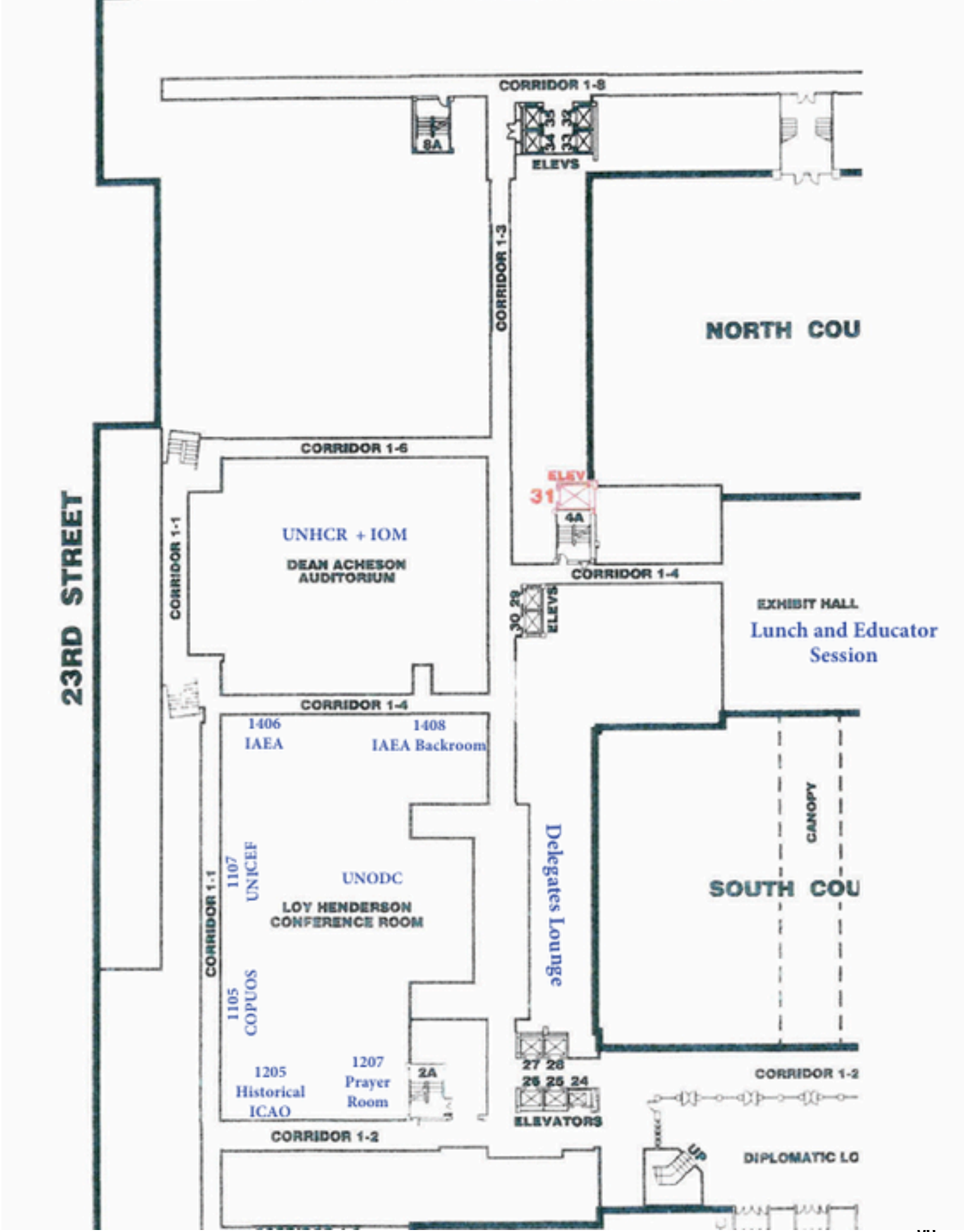
Any and all forms of sexual harassment and discrimination based on religion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other protected categories are strictly prohibited. Any incidents should be reported to a teacher or conference staff member immediately for further action.

### **Cell Phone & Photography Policy**

Delegates and chaperones must turn off their cell phones for the duration of committee sessions.

Delegates should not use external websites or cell phones during committee sessions.

# Department of State Map



# Letter from UN Secretary-General

## THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL 2026 MESSAGE TO MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear friends,

Our world is in flux – power is shifting, divisions are deepening, and our future is clouded by climate chaos and runaway technologies.

But together, we can turn crisis into opportunity.

By taking part in a Model United Nations simulation, you are learning what it takes to build a better world.

It takes stamina; a command of the facts; and the courage to see other perspectives – always putting the needs of the most vulnerable first.

Across the globe, young people like you are driving change – through advocacy, organizing, and public service.

Your energy and determination inspire me. Keep using your talents for good.

At the United Nations, we are committed to opening more doors for young people to shape the decisions that affect their lives.

Yes, these are challenging times.

But challenging times forge great leaders.

I know some of those leaders are in this room today.

Thank you for believing in the power of global cooperation.

Together, we can build a world of dignity, justice, and peace for all.



# Letter from UNA-NCA Leadership



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

National Capital Area Chapter

April 28, 2026

Dear Global Classrooms Model United Nations Delegates,

Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome you back to the U.S. Department of State for the UN Association of the National Capital Area's (UNA-NCA) **Spring Model UN Conference**, the culminating event of our year-long signature education program, Global Classrooms DC. This year's theme, "**Collective Action in a Time of Transformation**," reflects both the urgency of our moment and the power of collaboration.

We are so pleased that you are here to embrace the art of diplomacy. Today is your opportunity to practice negotiation, build consensus, and find common ground. The skills you bring—thoughtful listening, careful observation, and strategic thinking—are the very foundations of effective diplomacy, and they will serve you well both today and in the years ahead.

Our world today needs diplomacy more than ever. The issues you will debate are not abstract, they have real consequences across the globe and within our own communities. They are central to our shared well-being and collective future. This year's conference features new committees and timely topics, including: *Strengthening Global Cooperation for the Safe Use of Outer Space; Cyber-Facilitated Financial and Organized Crime; Addressing Non-State Actor Threats and Nuclear Security Gaps; Strengthening International Aviation Safety and Crisis Response; Responsible and Safe Use of AI for Minors; and Responding to Global Displacement Emergencies.*

Your ability to engage constructively with fellow delegates will be key to making progress today and to building meaningful connections that extend beyond this conference.

Today's Model UN builds on a strong foundation of partnership and purpose, with a special focus on you, the leaders of tomorrow. The Bureau of International Organization Affairs (IO) in the U.S. Department of State has made this gathering possible and continues to advance the United States' engagement with the United Nations. The longstanding association between UNA-NCA and the IO Bureau stands as a testament to the importance of nurturing diplomacy, beginning with students like you.

The experience you gain here will serve you across careers, communities, and continents. We encourage you to make the most of this day—engage fully, think boldly, and lead with purpose.

Together, through diplomacy, we can build a more peaceful and cooperative world.

Anne Simmons-Benton  
Chair, Board of Directors

Paula Boland  
President

Himaja Balusa  
Global Education Manager



799 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA  
NEW YORK, NY 10017

# Letter from Ambassador Waltz

THE REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS

April 28, 2026

Esteemed Delegates:

Welcome to the United States Department of State for the 22nd Annual United Nations Association's Global Classrooms Model United Nations conference! Your participation reflects curiosity, discipline, and a willingness to engage with the complex issues of our time.

Model UN is more than an academic exercise; it is a chance to think and act like a diplomat. You will learn to argue with precision, negotiate with purpose, and make decisions under pressure. These skills shape outcomes on the world stage. I fondly remember my own time in Model UN and the skills it taught me to prepare for my current role.

For the United States, engagement at the United Nations is guided by an enduring mission in ensuring the safety, strength, and prosperity of the American people. I often speak of an America First approach at the UN and that means we are advancing U.S. interests while insisting that international institutions operate effectively, respect sovereignty, and deliver real, measurable results.

The United States helped found the UN to promote international peace and security. That mission is still critical, and it requires leadership, accountability, and the confidence to stand firm in defense of national interests.

As you take part in this conference, I encourage you to challenge assumptions, defend your positions with conviction, and approach every negotiation with purpose. Effective diplomacy requires not only collaboration, but clarity of interests and the confidence to advance them – skills that will continue to serve you beyond today!

Good luck, and best wishes for a productive and rewarding conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Waltz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "Waltz", which is larger and more prominent.

Ambassador Michael G. Waltz  
Representative of the United States  
to the United Nations

# Letter From Student Secretary-General



I want to start with the question: "What does Model UN mean to you?"

When I joined the Global Minds Model UN program in 5th grade, Model UN meant fear and uncertainty. At my first conference, I sat frozen, too terrified to even raise my placard as debate roared around me. The room felt overwhelming, and I felt invisible. It wasn't until a fellow delegate reached out to collaborate on a resolution that something shifted. That one act of outreach gave me the courage to speak – and in that moment, I realized Model UN isn't about having the loudest voice. It's about having the courage to join the conversation.

And that conversation matters more than ever. Think about it: every major diplomatic breakthrough in history, every treaty signed, every conflict resolved, every agreement that kept the world from the edge, it all started with one person choosing to speak up. In our ever-changing world, it is vital for younger generations to learn how to debate and find consensus on the global issues that affect us all. Model UN teaches us that the challenges plaguing our world don't stop at borders, they span governments, languages, and societies. The COVID-19 pandemic made this undeniable. It was only through worldwide collaboration that populations were kept safe, and that vaccines and critical supplies reached the people who needed them most. Diplomacy isn't just a subject, it is a tool for survival and progress. Model UN gives you the opportunity to tackle real-world problems just as diplomats do every day, and to discover that despite our differences, common ground is always within reach. Today you will experience it all. The rush over a perfect speech. The frustration over a bloc on standstill. You will huddle over a resolution paper, trying to uncover the perfect operative clause from the furthest crevasse of your mind. And perhaps you will find yourself listening to another perspective you have never considered.

To quote former President Barack Obama, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." Today, you have the chance to be among the very few who learn to develop their voice – and to use that voice to be heard. It may feel daunting to stand at the face of the world, but that is exactly why you are here. Make a speech that displays your passion. Add a clause to your resolution that benefits the global population. No matter where you end up in life, you will always carry the indispensable values that Model UN instills in you. Because you, as an individual, are here to bridge the gap between the people of our world. No matter where life takes you, I hope this conference is your moment, the moment where you stop feeling invisible and realize your voice. Now is your turn. Do not just accept the blatant lack of change in our world, change the things you can not accept.

By Ronen Yu, Student Secretary-General

Ronen Yu, an 8th grader at Cabin John Middle School, has over four years of Model UN experience. He serves as Secretary-General of CJMUNC II and previously was Head Chair of CJMUNC I. An award-winning delegate, he is now Student Secretary-General for Global Classroom DC's 22nd Annual Spring Conference.

# Keynote Speaker

## Thomas “Tommy” Pigott

Tommy Pigott is the Spokesperson for the Department of State. He joined the Department and the Trump administration in January 2025. Previously, Tommy worked as Strategic Communications Director at the Republican National Committee and has almost a decade of communications experience.

Hailing from New Jersey, Pigott earned a bachelor’s degree from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and a master’s degree from the George Washington University’s School of Media & Public Affairs.



# Other Speakers

## 14th UNA-USA Youth Observer to the United Nations

Jarrett James Lash serves as the 14th UNA-USA Youth Observer to the United Nations, representing youth perspectives in global policy dialogue. A community planner and housing strategist, he directs long-range planning for Upper Merion Township, Pennsylvania, and holds a B.A. in Global Liberal Studies from New York University. He has spent the past year traveling the country listening to young Americans on the issues that matter most. The son of a former UN Peacekeeper, Jarrett brings to this role a deep belief in practical problem-solving and the power of institutions that actually deliver.

## Jarrett James Lash



## McCoy Pitt



## Senior Bureau Official Bureau of International Organization Affairs

McCoy Pitt is the Senior Bureau Official for the Bureau of International Organization Affairs. In this capacity, he is responsible for overseeing the Bureau's six diplomatic missions (Geneva, Montreal, Nairobi, New York, Rome, and Vienna), developing and implementing U.S. policy at the United Nations, and leading U.S. strategy and engagement in a wide range of other multilateral organizations. He also coordinates the work of the Bureau's eight offices. Prior to joining the State Department, McCoy served as Counsel to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives. McCoy also has served as an Associate at White & Case LLP in London and Washington, D.C. From 2019 to 2020, McCoy was a Judicial Fellow to Judge Yuji Iwasawa at the International Court of Justice in The Hague. McCoy holds an M.A. in Foreign Affairs and a J.D. from the University of Virginia, as well as an LL.M. from the University of Cambridge.

# Sponsors

## Global Education Diplomat

**Ambassador Donald T. Bliss (Ret)**  
**Billie Day**

*"At a time when global cooperation is more important than ever, programs like Global Classrooms DC play a critical role. I am continually inspired by the students who engage so thoughtfully with complex global issues and step into leadership roles with confidence. It is a privilege to support this program and the dedicated educators behind it. The energy and perspective these students bring give me great optimism for the future."*

## Global Education Leader

**Stephen F. Moseley**

*"Hearty congratulations to all of the young ambassadors participating in today's Model UN conference. Your leadership will shape the future of our American diplomatic and humanitarian collaboration with people around the world to support our commitment to those people and their communities most in need for Peace."*

## Global Education Advocate



## Global Education Advocate

**Anne Simmons-Benton and Maria Moreno**

## Global Education Ally

**Katherine Boyce and Adam Wolf**

# Institutional Partners

## USA for UN High Commissioner For Refugees



**Our Vision: A world where every person forced to flee can build a better future**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is the world's leading organization dedicated to protecting and assisting people forced to flee their homes due to violence, conflict and persecution. USA for UNHCR was established by concerned American citizens to support the mission of UNHCR.

Across the globe, UNHCR delivers critical humanitarian aid, including safe shelter, food, clean water, medical care and other lifesaving support. Through its efforts, millions of refugees and displaced individuals receive the protection and resources they need to survive, recover and rebuild their lives.

USA for UNHCR protects and supports refugees by mobilizing resources, raising awareness and driving action through a network of engaged supporters.



Photo Credit: © UNHCR/Andrew McConnell



You can make a difference. Join the thousands of Americans helping to save, protect and rebuild the lives of the refugees and forcibly displaced people globally. There are so many ways you can help!

**Learn about global refugee issues** and stay informed through USA for UNHCR's resources and updates on crises around the world. Follow USA for UNHCR on Facebook [@UNRefugees](#), on X [@UNRefugeeAgency](#) and on all other platforms [@USAforUNHCR](#).

**Take action in your community** by exploring the USA for UNHCR Community Engagement resources. Access tools, guides, and ideas to raise awareness, host events and inspire your peers to get involved:  
[unrefugees.org/community-engagement](https://unrefugees.org/community-engagement)

**Organize student-led fundraisers, campaigns or club initiatives** that support refugees:  
[unrefugees-fundraise.funraise.org](https://unrefugees-fundraise.funraise.org)

Your voice and actions can help drive meaningful change and support displaced people worldwide.



# Institutional Partners



## International Organization for Migration

### Saving Lives and Protecting People on the Move

#### **IOM supports Global Classrooms DC 2026 Annual Spring Model UN Conference**

IOM is the leading intergovernmental organization in the field of migration. With 175 member states, we work to promote humane and orderly migration for the benefit of all, delivering services and advice to governments and migrants alike - from emergency response and resettlement to integration and development.

#### **Why our work matters**

Migration is not a problem to be solved - it is a human reality to be managed with dignity. When migration happens safely and in an orderly way, it drives development, builds resilience, and enriches societies. When it doesn't, the human cost is devastating. IOM exists to bridge that gap: ensuring that every person who moves - whether by choice or by force, is treated with humanity and has access to the protection and support they need. Through our partnership with UNA-NCA and our support for Global Classrooms DC, we are proud to advocate for and raise awareness about the critical issues facing migration and resettlement efforts. Our best wishes to all Global Classrooms DC Model UN participants. Thank you for your commitment to global issues and leadership in shaping a more just world.



# Special Thanks To:

## UNA-NCA & GCDC Teams:

Paula Boland, UNA-NCA President  
Himaja Balusa, Global Education Manager  
Cathy Sebastian, Program Assistant  
Peter Chiu, Program Assistant  
Yuna Chenette, Program Assistant  
Andrew Doll, Managing Director of Programs & Membership  
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Ariana Daly, Communications and Design Assistant  
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Keegan Mobley, Graduate Fellows Program Coordinator  
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Rebecca Wallace  
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Christina J. Yu  
Kristy Zmary  
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Angela Gordon

## Program Volunteers:

Anne Simmons-Benton, UNA-NCA Board Chair  
Andrea Brush, HR Business Consultant  
Caleb Yip, Department of Energy  
Jeff Meer, UNA-NCA Advisory Council  
Jenny Yang, UNHCR  
Ambassador Don T Bliss (Ret)

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Convergence Strategies LLC  
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