



In This Issue: Membership Drive

Advocacy Corner Ending Discrimination Against Women 2nd of 3



In the last issue of our Tuesday Newsletter, we shared that CEDAW is the only international treaty for women's rights. 186 countries of the UN member countries ratified CEDAW but still eight countries out of 192 UN member countries have not yet ratified CEDAW. Among those countries that have not ratified CEDAW are, The U.S. along with Sudan, Somalia, Iran, Nauru, Palau, and Tonga. In this issue, the advocacy corner shares some of the controversial issues surrounding ratification of CEDAW by the U.S. government.

Why hasn't the U.S. government ratified CEDAW?

There are several main concerns expressed by groups opposing ratification of CEDAW in the U.S. Below is a list of these concerns along with the UNA position on each. The following information is extracted from UNA-USA website

(<http://www.unausa.org/Page.aspx?pid=935>).

CEDAW will weaken the federal government's authority and enforce changing the law in the U.S.

It is not true.

Countries that have ratified CEDAW are expected to implement the provisions of the treaty at the national level; but the treaty does not mention any requirements of actions to be implemented at any other level of government.

And also, CEDAW is a "non-self-executing" treaty which means legislation would need to be approved by Congress and the President in order to implement any provision of the treaty.

CEDAW will destroy traditional family relations and gender roles.

It is not true.

The treaty seeks only to alter social and cultural patterns of conduct to the extent that they are discriminatory and prejudiced towards women. Article 5(a) of the treaty calls on States Parties to "modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women."

The treaty does not mention abortion and was characterized by the State Department as "abortion neutral" in 1994. The only article addressing health issues is Article 12 and mentions "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, access to health care services, including those related to family planning."

CEDAW promotes abortion.

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CEDAW promotes legalization of the prostitution.

It is not true.

The treaty addresses prostitution in Article 6, stating, "States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and exploitation of prostitution of women." The CEDAW committee has called for the decriminalization of prostitution, which is different from legalization, in certain countries where women are often enslaved and forced into prostitution. The reason is that in such situations, these women have no recourse for action, either to seek treatment for sexually-transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS or to gain their release, because they are afraid of arrest if they contact the authorities.

PARTICIPATE TODAY: CEDAW NATIONAL ADVOCACY

The United Nations Association of the USA has a plan to have a conference call meeting about CEDAW at 6:30 PM EST (3:30 PM WST) for Today, April 6th. Please join the conference call and get informed about the status of women and what we can do for this issue!

For more information and important resources for the conference call, please visit: www.unausa.org/april6

For the next issue, the advocacy corner will provide information for the benefit of ratification of CEDAW and the process of ratification along with the summary of the conference call.

President Obama and the International Criminal Court

United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Stephen Rapp, at the recent meeting of the International Criminal Court (ICC), declared that the Obama administration supported the ICC's actions, such as its current investigations in Sudan, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Central African Republic. "The U.S. wants to identify specific ways to support the work of the Court," Rapp added.

Specifically, the U.S. wanted to "enhance effective cooperation with non-state parties." As a result, many NGOs (nongovernmental organizations) approved of this sign of the Obama administration's burgeoning, positive relationship with the ICC, although it has yet to complete its policy regarding the Court, despite pressure from the U.S. civil society.

The U.S. participated in an ICC meeting in November 2009, marking the first time in seven years that it had done so.

THE MODEL UN on Global Climate Change: 2010



Click To View 2009 Model U.N. Conference

Model UN update:

Join us for a Demonstration of the Model UN as part of our expanded

**COFFEE TALKS SPEAKERS SERIES
Sponsored by:**

**The UNA Pasadena Foothills Chapter,
Education Without Borders International
Pasadena City College Model UN Team
with**

Senator Carol Liu- 21st Senatorial District

**Wednesday April 7, 2010 at 7pm
Armory Center for the Arts
145 N. Raymond
Pasadena, CA 91103**

The Award winning Pasadena City College Model UN Team will hold a demonstration of the Model UN Program for the community. Please call or email for more information.

626 449-1795 or sherry@unapasadena.org

Model United Nations is an excellent opportunity to introduce students to world affairs and international negotiations.

What are the benefits for the students?

- Students will be able to engage in healthy competition.
- Students will be able to gain experience in writing position papers, public debates and negotiations.
- Students gain confidence through training in critical thinking and professional presentation.
- Students will be coached by veteran Model UN instructors and college mentors.

The UNA PASADENA

As a national nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing US participation in the United Nations system with its agenda of education, we believe that the Model United Nations program for high school students is an important way to educate our youth in leadership, communication, and global affairs. For over sixty years, our Chapter office of the UNA has instituted programs and events that inspire, mobilize, and engage the Pasadena Foothills community.

How to participate?

1. Are you a high school student in 10th, 11th, or 12th grade who wants to join the MUN conference?
2. Are you a teacher? We need your support to bring this learning experience to the students and educate them!!
3. Are you a sponsor who wants to be associated with educating our youth in the areas of energy efficiency, conservation and the positive impact of global sustainability?

Please contact the UNA Pasadena-Foothills office and support the Model United Nations Today!!

CONTACT US AT: United Nations Association Pasadena

**75 S. Grand Ave., Suite 106
Pasadena, CA 91105**

(626) 449-1927



Promoting Global Cooperation

UNA-USA's Membership programs

JOIN US TODAY!
To become a member and to support the UN local effort
go to: unausa/pasadenachapter



UNA-USA is a nonprofit membership organization whose educational, policy and advocacy programs stress the importance of nations working together and the need for American leadership at the United Nations. UNA-USA pioneers efforts to forge the American public in the discussion of foreign policy priorities as well as to provide information and educational materials for Congress, the executive branch, corporations, NGOs, the general public and the media.

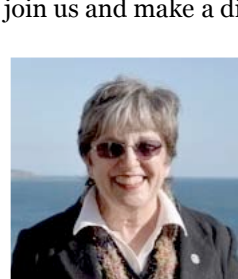
As a member of UNA, you will be involved in a valuable service as a community activist. UNA volunteers educate their communities; mobilize support for UN and US leadership; serve as liaisons with the media, educators and public officials in their states and communities; and provide visibility at the community level. Our members are a source of new leadership, ideas and energy.

UNA serves many constituencies, such as community-based members and activists, affiliated organizations, business leaders, educators and academic and foreign policy specialists. The 128 chapters work locally throughout the United States, promoting and carrying out these programs, which benefit both local and international communities. Local chapter efforts are further supported at the regional and national levels through the UNA-USA Council of Chapters and Divisions and the national membership staff.

Celebrating Our Leaders

"The United Nations provides the very best hope for all of us inhabiting this planet Earth to join together in achieving peace, justice and sustainability for everyone, working together to achieve the 8 Millennium Development Goals. Support for the United Nations has never been more critical than at this moment in time. Please join us and make a difference"

--Judith Harris



Co-President Judith Harris

Judith has served in various leadership positions over her decades of participation with the UN Association. She currently serves as both Co-President of the UNA Pasadena-Foothills Chapter and as an officer in the Southern California Division of the UNA. She has served as Treasurer, Past President as well as Chair of the Advocacy Committee. Judith has

represented the Pasadena Foothills Chapter at many national UN Association conferences and is well known for her exemplary leadership, commitment to equity and inclusiveness. Judith Harris is currently working as the Associate Director of the Infant-Family Program at the Junior Blind of America. She has served there for the past 19 years, providing direct services and as an administrator of the program, which serves infants from birth to six years of age, who have visual impairment and multiple disabilities, including deaf-blindness. She has devoted many years to the study of best practices in working with infants and young children who have both vision and hearing loss through participation in several federally funded grant projects, which have resulted in the development of new strategies and techniques for working with these very special children and their families.

United Nations Calendar of Events

Wednesday, April 7, 2010
Model UN Demonstration by Pasadena City College Model UN Team, Armory Center for the Arts, 7pm

Saturday April 24, 2010
Greening the Earth Day Festival sponsored by the City of Pasadena. Memorial Park (corner of Raymond and Walnut Aves. Pasadena, CA 9am-4pm: visit the UNA booth to learn more about local UN Programs and to check out sustainable products made by local Girl Scouts! See you there.

Tuesday April 27, 2010
UNA Pasadena Foothills Chapter Board of Directors Meeting 7pm UNA Boardroom

UNA PASADENA-FOOTHILLS CHAPTER INTRODUCES STUDENT VOICES:

It is our pleasure to introduce student editorial writer Cella Riley. She is a junior at Flintridge Preparatory High School in La Canada, CA. Her column on children's issues worldwide will appear monthly. If you are a high school student with a perspective to share, contact us today.



Cellia Riley, Flintridge Preparatory School.

The Artful Dodgers

There once was a story of a boy named Oliver Twist. Growing up an orphan in poverty - stricken London, he was forced to steal, and was exploited by factory owners. Death and starvation were everyday occurrences that could have been prevented.

Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist was written in the mid 1800s. It was one of the world's first clues into the life of an impoverished child laborer. Many child protection laws have been passed since then, yet the exploitation of children continues. In a country where most people are very poor, children have to work in order to sustain themselves and their families. Parents, who are desperate for money, force their kids onto the streets to find work. In order to survive, these children must either work hazardous jobs or steal. Most will eventually end up doing both. It is not because they are bad that they resort to this behavior. They have adapted to a world that is not always fair; they have become artful dodgers in order to live.

Worldwide an estimated 218 million kids are child laborers. Over 125 million of them do not attend school and another 150 million drop out before they have completed the 4th grade. It is the 21st century and despite all of our technological advances kids are still forfeiting their education and they are forfeiting their youth. It is a cycle of poverty that must be stopped.

My name is Cella Riley and I am a junior at Flintridge Preparatory High School. Growing up in Pasadena I have lived what most may consider a "sheltered life". School has always been my main priority and my parents have always been there to protect me from the harsher realities of life. As corny as it may sound, this all changed when I saw Slumdog Millionaire. Typically Hollywood has the reputation of glamorizing its scripts. However, once I found out that slums are real, and the poverty is real, and the children begging in the streets are real, instantly these issues involving child exploitation became very real and serious to me. I find it amazing that children who live the life of Hollywood stars one week could return to living in a tent the next. I began to do research, and I found that kids more than 10 years younger than me have probably worked harder than I have in my entire life. Imagining myself in their position seems near impossible, and I know every day people have the power to prevent it. Many times I catch myself taking the "luxuries" in life for granted. I do not have to work to help sustain my family, I have food on the table every night, and a bed to sleep in. I feel it is my moral obligation to give back, to brighten up the life of a child in any way that I can, just as my parents have done for me. Because of this I am starting a community project to not only raise awareness about this issue, but to make a difference. Currently the locations I have chosen to focus on are Sri Lanka and/or Guatemala; along with this I am coming up with possible questions for a needs assessment. Any suggestions you have about campaigning or ideas would be greatly appreciated. Our goal is to make an impact.

Sometimes if you want to go fast, you must move alone, but if you want to go far, move together.

Unity is Strength - African Proverb

Cellia