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Rt. Hon. Alan Johnson MP
Secretary of State for Education and Skills
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
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SW1P 3BT

23 October 2006

Dear Secretary of State,

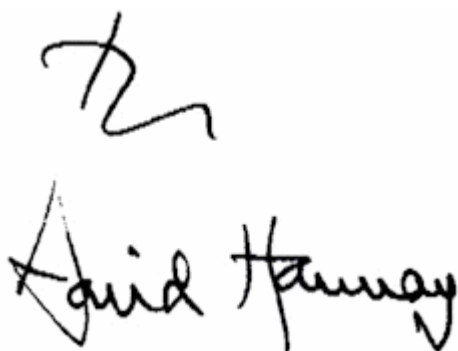
I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the United Nations Association of the United Kingdom (UNA-UK), following our Board meeting on 21 October at which we discussed the citizenship component of the National Curriculum.

UNA-UK strongly supports the continued inclusion of the United Nations in the citizenship curriculum. We are therefore naturally concerned at the recent Ofsted report, which stated that there is inadequate provision for citizenship education in a quarter of schools. We are also concerned at the possibility that specific mention of the United Nations may be removed from the *programme of study* for Key Stage 3. We would urge that you reject that course of action.

UNA-UK has been active for many years in supporting teachers with materials which they can use to teach about the work of the United Nations, for both Key Stage 3 and 4. This includes helping teachers to hold Model United Nations General Assemblies in schools. UNA-UK also maintains a thriving youth and student network, and our youth wing, UNYSA, has developed a Citizenship Pack, including lesson plans, for use by students and teachers.

UNA-UK would appreciate the opportunity to discuss with the DfES ways in which citizenship teaching about the United Nations could be strengthened and made more effective. UNA-UK participants in such a meeting would be David Barrs, Head Teacher of the Anglo-European School, Ingatstone and Chairman of the Association for Citizenship Teaching, and Mark Rusling, UNA-UK's Education and Campaigns Officer.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Lord Adonis in the light of his specific ministerial responsibilities.



Lord Hannay of Chiswick
Chair, UNA-UK