



UNA Youth Constitution

1) Name

The name of UNA-UK's youth wing is United Nations Association Youth (hereafter 'UNA Youth').

2) Definitions

'The Council' refers to the Youth Council of UNA Youth.

'UNA-UK' means United Nations Association of the UK, a charitable company limited by guarantee (registered no. 7824306).

'The United Kingdom' means Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3) Objects

The objects of UNA Youth are to:

- a) Uphold the aims and ideals of the United Nations and UNA-UK by:
 - i) Raising awareness of UN issues and support for the work of the UN and UNA-UK among young people in the UK;
 - ii) Encouraging and equipping young people to be active global citizens; and
 - iii) Working for a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.
- b) Generate governmental and public support for UN initiatives, including in the areas of:
 - i) Conflict avoidance and resolution, peacekeeping and disarmament;
 - ii) Human rights and humanitarian action;
 - iii) Sustainable economic and social development; and
 - iv) Environmental protection.
- c) Promote discussions of new structures, new roles and other measures which could further a stronger, more credible and more effective UN.
- d) Pursue the principles of the Preamble to the UN Charter, which strives to foster friendship and understanding between peoples of different countries.

4) Activities

UNA Youth will work to achieve these objects by:

- a) Supporting and developing a network of UNA Youth branches in the UK;
- b) Implementing activities such as campaigns, exhibitions, meetings, lectures, classes, seminars and courses;
- c) Working with UNA-UK to develop, produce and disseminate materials related to UNA Youth and UNA-UK objectives;

- d) Fostering research into any aspect of the objectives of UNA Youth and its work; and
- e) Supporting UNA-UK to expand its youth membership base.

5) Members

- a) All persons who fulfil the following criteria shall be full members of UNA Youth:
 - i) Signify their general agreement with the objects of UNA Youth;
 - ii) Pay a subscription to UNA-UK;
 - iii) Are between 18 and 26 years old (inclusive); and
 - iv) Are in higher education (either full or part-time).
- b) All persons who belong to a local UNA Youth branch, including university and college societies, but who do not pay a subscription to UNA-UK shall be considered supporters of UNA Youth.
- c) The Board of UNA-UK shall have the power to fix the rates of subscription.

6) Branches

The UNA-UK Board may approve as a Branch any local group which:

- a) Includes six paid-up members of UNA-UK or pays, as a group, a subscription to UNA-UK. The Board of UNA-UK shall have the power to fix the rates of subscription; and
- b) Signifies in writing its agreement with the objects of UNA Youth.

Such bodies shall:

- i) Elect officers from amongst their members, including a contact point for the Youth Council and UNA-UK;
- ii) Promote the aims and activities of UNA Youth, UNA-UK and the UN to their members;
- iii) Undertake events and initiatives in support of these aims and activities; and
- iv) Encourage their members to become full members of UNA-UK.

7) Conferences

- a) The Council shall hold each year an Annual Conference, which may also function as the Annual General Meeting of UNA Youth. The date, time and location of the Annual Conference shall be determined by the Council in consultation with UNA-UK.
- b) The Council may organise, in consultation with UNA-UK, other meetings as it sees fit.

8) Notice and proceedings of Annual Conference

- a) Notice of an Annual Conference shall normally be given at least twenty-one days in advance. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting shall not invalidate the proceedings of that meeting or the Annual General Meeting.
- b) All members and supporters of UNA Youth have the right to attend and vote at an Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting.
- c) The President of the Council, or in his/her absence the Vice-President, shall chair the Annual Conference. If no such person is present within fifteen minutes after the start of the meeting or is otherwise unable to act, UNA-UK staff shall nominate a person to fulfil this role.
- d) Votes at Annual Conferences shall be carried by majority of those present at the meeting and entitled to vote. The word of the chairperson that a vote has been carried shall be taken as conclusive evidence unless a poll is demanded. The chairperson may cast a second vote in case of a tie.

- e) The business to be transacted at an Annual Conference may include the announcement of the election or appointment of Youth Council members, and any other business pertaining to the affairs of UNA Youth. Business must be aligned with the UNA-UK policies and objectives
- f) No business shall be transacted at an Annual Conference unless a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting begins. In order for an Annual Conference to be quorate, at least 20 members or supporters of UNA Youth must be present, including at least one member of the Youth Council.

9) Youth Council

- a) The Youth Council shall consist of two elected officers, up to three co-opted officers and up to two advisory members.
- b) All officers will service for a period of one year, which will coincide with the academic year.
- c) Elections will be held by majority ballot. The ballot will take place before the Annual Conference that is held in the academic year prior to the one in which the officers will serve.
- d) All members and supporters of UNA Youth are eligible to vote.
- e) Elected officers may stand for re-election for a further year, provided they still meet the eligibility criteria.
- f) In order to be eligible for election, candidates must be:
 - i) A paid-up member of UNA-UK;
 - ii) A student registered at a UK institute of higher education at the time of election;
 - iii) Between 18 and 26 years old (inclusive) at the time of election;
 - iv) Have a valid UK visa for the duration of their term; and
 - v) Have previous experience of UNA Youth, preferably through service on a branch committee, sufficient time to dedicate to their duties and regular access to the internet.

10) Elected and co-opted officers

- a) The two elected Youth Council officers shall be: President and Vice-President.
- b) The duties of the President will include:
 - i) Overseeing the work of the Youth Council, including the chairing of Youth Council meetings.
 - ii) Representing the Youth Council and UNA Youth at all external events.
 - iii) Working with UNA-UK to devise a programme of events and campaigns for UNA Youth.
 - iv) The President shall normally act as the UNA Youth representative on the UNA-UK Board of Directors. If the President is unable to fulfil this function, the Youth Council may nominate another elected officer to serve as the main UNA Youth representative on the UNA-UK Board. If the main representative is unable to attend a Board meeting, they may nominate a non-voting alternative to attend in their place.
 - v) The President shall normally act as the main UNA Youth contact point for UNA-UK staff, volunteers and interns. If the President is unable to fulfil this function, the Vice President will serve in this capacity.
- c) The duties of the Vice-President will include:
 - i) Assisting the President in his/her duties and to assume such duties if the President is unable or not present to conduct them him/herself.

- ii) Coordinating the process for co-opting additional members to the Youth Council.
 - iii) Working with the President to organise UNA Youth campaigns and events, including the Annual Conference.
 - iv) Building relationships with UNA Youth branches and the UNA Young Professionals Network.
-
- d) The President and Vice President may co-opt up to three additional officers to support their work. These officers will be selected via a formal application process conducted by the elected members of the Youth Council in consultation with UNA-UK. In order to hold office, they must meet the eligibility criteria applied to the elected officers. They will hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-application for a further one year.
 - e) The President and Vice President may appoint up to two advisory members from a previous Youth Council to support their work. These advisory members will serve for one year.

Approved at the UNA Youth Annual meeting 2012