

Stay in touch!



Mark Rusling
UNA-UK Campaigns
& Education Officer

I hope you are all well and enjoying the summer, wherever in the world you find yourself. For those of you who have now left university, I would like to thank you for all your hard work for UNYSA. But graduating does not have to mean an end to your contribution to supporting the UN: if you are not already a member of UNA-UK's Young Professionals Network, why not join? You can do so online at www.una.org.uk/ypn

For those of you who are still running UNYSA branches next year, can you please make sure that I have up-to-date contact

details for your group's committee? Please also include a postal address for me to send your freshers fair materials to. As in previous years, we'll be sending a selection of UNYSA goodies to every UNYSA group to help them attract members at the start of the new academic year.

Have all those Model UN enthusiasts out there had a look at our new MUN website? Visit www.una.org.uk/mun for a one-stop shop for everything you need to know about Model UN. If you have any comments or suggestions, e-mail me on rusling@una.org.uk

A year to be proud of

Sissi Penttilä is President of Birmingham University UNA



Birmingham University UNA has had an incredible year. We have expanded our membership and activities, and have conducted innovative campaigns and held a hugely popular series of Model UN events.

Our centrepiece campaign focused on raising awareness about the plight of asylum seekers. For this campaign we teamed up with Birmingham Citizens, a network of local faith and women's groups, refugee associations, trade unions, schools, and other neighbourhood organisations.

There was enormous demand for our Model UN sessions, and in the second term we needed to start running them every two weeks. Our topics ranged from environmental issues, such as whaling, to acutely sensitive ones such as abortion and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These sessions sparked fierce debates, which more often than not carried on beyond the committee room. We were also pleased to take part in several Model UN conferences over the year, in Oxford, Sussex, London and Puebla, Mexico. We congratulate Marek Zaremba-Pike and Faizan Bhat – both of whom are UNYSA Youth Council members – for receiving awards for their outstanding performances!

We were particularly proud to host UNYSA's Annual Conference in March, featuring engaging speakers and an inspiring documentary – and of course the exciting election of a new UNYSA Youth Council. Other highlights of our year included hosting talks by Sajida Madni of Birmingham Citizens and Paul Usiskin of Peace Now UK, as well as participating in the inaugural event in UNA-UK's major conference series, 'Climate Challenge: A call to action'. We finished off with a sunny awareness-raising day at the university's annual charity event, The Vale Festival – this year inspired by the theme of 'Water is Life'.

On behalf of the current committee of Birmingham University UNA, I would like to thank UNA-UK for its support, and pay tribute to the previous committee for making the year so fun and memorable!



UNYSA
United Nations Youth and Student Association



Show the red card to child labour!

The World Day Against Child Labour – held every year on 12 June – seeks to build on the growing international consensus against child labour. This year the day highlighted the ways in which child labour and poverty constitute barriers to education, barriers which must come down if children around the world are to live fulfilled lives. Education provides a means for children to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. It is also a massively important development investment: a recent International Labour Organization (ILO) study estimated that the economic benefits of replacing child labour with universal education exceed the costs by a ratio of more than six to one.

The ILO estimates that 165 million children between five and 14 worldwide are involved in child labour, often working long hours in dangerous conditions. The Millennium Development Goals call on the international community to ensure that, by 2015, all children complete a full course of primary education, and to ensure that there is gender parity in education. Currently, many poor families cannot afford school fees and have to prioritise the income from a working child over that child's education. And when faced with the choice between sending a boy or girl to school, parents often opt to keep the girl at home.

On 12 June, Juan Somavia, Director-General of the ILO, challenged the international community 'to offer hope to the child labourers of the world by making their rights a reality, ensuring that they have quality education and training which can lead them towards a future of decent work'.

Since 2002, the ILO has been working with FIFA on the Red Card Campaign, which uses international football competitions to foster a world movement against all forms of child labour. Fronted by football luminaries such as Pelé, Zinedine Zidane and Ronaldo, the campaign mobilises communities and sports associations in vulnerable neighbourhoods throughout the world to give the 'red card' to those who seek to exploit children in this way.

To read more about the ILO's work to eliminate child labour visit www.ilo.org



RECOMMENDED EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE

SCREAM Supporting Children's Rights through Education, the Arts and the Media

SCREAM is an ILO campaign which equips educators, both formal and informal, to help young people understand the causes and consequences of child labour, and get them engaged in its elimination. The emphasis is on encouraging young people to express themselves through different forms of artistic media, in a manner rooted in their culture and traditions. The SCREAM education pack features 14 flexible educational modules and activities which can be adapted to a year-long programme or a short workshop.

The SCREAM education pack is available in 14 languages. To download it visit www.ilo.org