

## UNYSA's growth spurt



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We begin the new year with good news: UNYSA has had a growth spurt over the past few months. There are now 29 branches, and we are represented in every nation of the UK. The map below illustrates UNYSA's presence across the UK as we enter 2008. We won't stop until we have a UNYSA at every British university and school!

Two of UNYSA's newest branches – at King's College London and Durham University – have contributed articles introducing themselves and their work. If you too would like to set up a branch, or would like to affiliate your existing society to UNA-UK, get in touch.

The Youth Council has been busy over the last few months. In October its president, Luke Harman, led a project-management workshop organised by WFUNA-Youth. Participants from Serbia, Azerbaijan, Germany and Latvia travelled to Oxford to attend the three-day conference, which was funded by UNA-UK and hosted by Oxford University UNA and OxIMUN (Oxford International Model UN). Before return-

ing to their home countries, participants were invited to take part in OxIMUN 2007, which attracted hundreds of delegates from around the world.

Then in December the Youth Council hosted a conference for UNYSA branches from the south of England. The purpose of the meeting was to promote better links among groups in the region. The day was a success, giving members from different branches the chance to exchange ideas and plans.

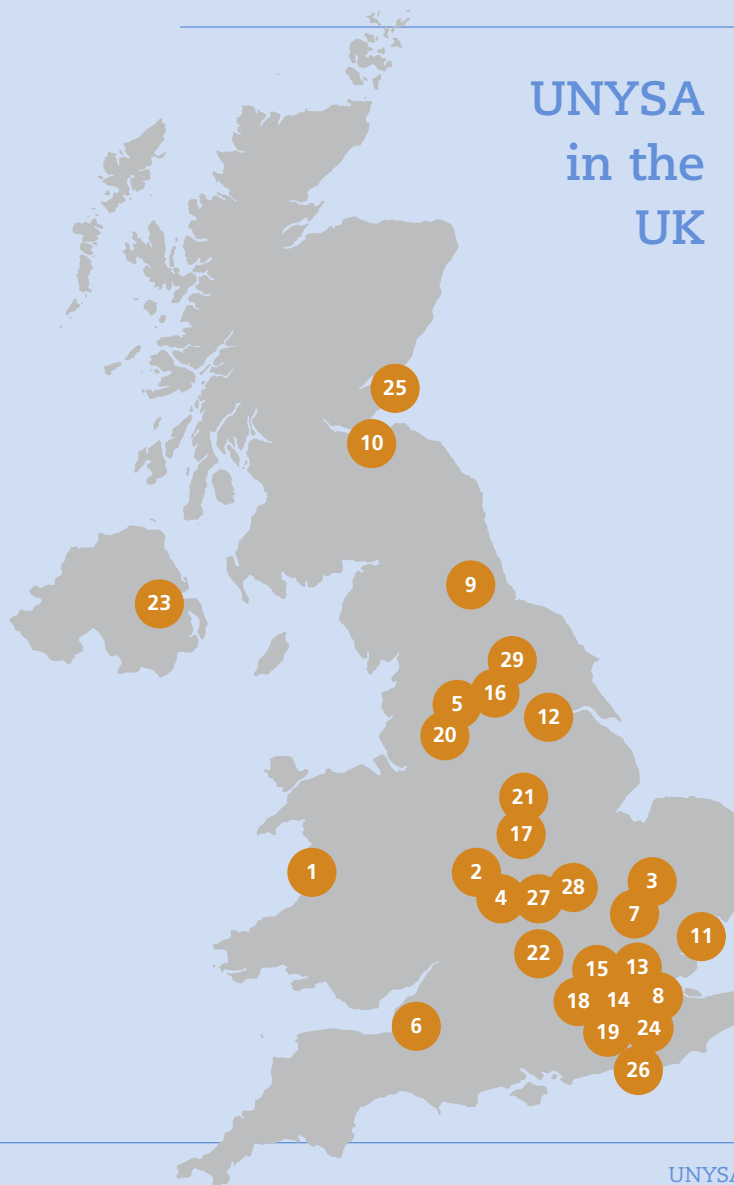
Natalie Wease, British youth delegate to the UN in 2007, has wound up her speaking tour of UNA branches. Visiting the UNAs in Sheffield, Birmingham, Reading and Welwyn & Hatfield, as well as UNA London & South-East Region, Natalie spoke about her experiences as a youth delegate to the UN Commission for Social Development in New York. Her audiences expressed strong support for greater youth participation in the UN's work, and encouraged UNA-UK to continue raising young people's awareness of international issues.

Keep up the good work – and keep us informed of your activities.

UNYSA  
United Nations Youth and Student Association



## UNYSA in the UK



1. Aberystwyth University
2. Aston University
3. Bellerbys College, Cambridge
4. University of Birmingham
5. University of Bradford
6. University of Bristol
7. University of Cambridge
8. City of London School
9. Durham University
10. University of Edinburgh
11. University of Essex
12. University of Hull
13. Imperial College London
14. King's College London
15. Kingston University London
16. University of Leeds
17. University of Leicester
18. London International Model United Nations
19. London School of Economics and Political Science
20. University of Manchester
21. University of Nottingham
22. University of Oxford
23. Queen's University Belfast
24. London South Bank University
25. University of St Andrews
26. University of Sussex
27. University of Warwick
28. Warwick School
29. University of York



## Debating in Durham...

Barry Grimes is President of the Durham University United Nations Society

Since the inception of Durham University United Nations Society during freshers week, we have already got over 300 people on our mailing list. We are enthusiastic Model UN participants and sent a delegation of 14 to the Oxford International

Model UN in November; we will also participate in the London International Model UN in February 2008 as well as an upcoming

conference at Essex University.

One of the key challenges facing a new society is maintaining support. To sustain our members' interest we hold weekly meetings to discuss substantive issues, ranging from UN reform to the Millennium Development Goals, and from climate change to humanitarian intervention.

We also have forged rewarding links with the UNA branch in Sunderland, which has helped us with some of our teething problems. We attended UNA Sunderland's UN Day service and gave a presentation at its human rights vigil, alongside Oxfam and Amnesty International.

Everything we do is an experiment, but it's all very rewarding and the work we put in now will make life easier for future committee members.

## ...and conferences at King's

Sarah Whitworth is President of King's College London Model UN Society

The Model UN Society at King's has been around for about 10 years, and this year we decided to affiliate to UNA-UK in order to tap in to its contacts and expertise. We organise a series of Model UN activities throughout the year, including mini-simulations of the International Court of Justice and the Security Council. In 2007 we sent delegations to the MUN conferences at Oxford, Cambridge and Sussex universities, and will be participating in the upcoming London International MUN. Very excitingly, our society is also sending people to the Harvard World MUN

in Mexico in 2008 (we are, incidentally, on the look-out for sponsorship for this trip!).

We are a very close-knit and friendly group, and always try to combine our Model UN simulations with social events. We are lucky in London to have so many Model UN groups nearby, and we have formed links with societies at the LSE and at SOAS. Although our society has been going for some time, affiliating to UNA-UK has provided us with many benefits, from the excellent freshers fair pack to contacts for other Model UN conferences around the world.



## Some news from the UN

The UN has released its annual report on the challenges and opportunities facing the world's youth, which today total approximately 1.2 billion, or 18 per cent of the global population. *World Youth Report 2007*, titled 'Young People's Transition to Adulthood: Progress and Challenges', hails many important successes: today's 15-24 year-olds, it concludes, are the most educated generation of youth in history, with the number of young people completing basic education – including girls – on the rise, and access to higher education expanding in parts of the world.

However the report shows that school attainment in most countries is heavily dependent upon wealth, and that poverty sig-

nificantly restricts access to quality education and healthcare. Another major challenge identified is the dearth, in both developed and developing countries, of stable, decent youth employment commensurate to their skill levels. Young people are also often the last to be hired and first to be fired during labour market contractions. And improvements in girls' access to education have not produced improvements in women's employment opportunities.

Because of their higher education levels and because they comprise 25 per cent of the working-age population, today's youth are more integral than ever to development processes as a whole. *World Youth Report 2007* calls on policy-makers to con-

tinue to direct investments towards removing barriers to youth in education, employment and healthcare, so that 'youth can make important contributions to the advancement of a world for which they will be responsible for many decades to come'.

To read the full report, visit [www.una.org.uk/youth](http://www.una.org.uk/youth)

