

In with the new



Mark Rusling
UNA-UK Campaigns
& Education Officer

I hope that your preparations for exams are going smoothly. The last few months have been busy. In March UNYSA held its annual conference at Birmingham University. With speaker and interactive training sessions and a screening of the acclaimed DVD 'The Peacekeepers', a stimulating time was had by all.

Delegates also elected a new Youth Council for 2008-2009. Brief profiles of the new members are included below. The seven members, whose nationalities cover four continents, reflect UNYSA's wide diversity. I would like to thank the outgoing

council for all their hard work, and to wish the incoming group under Marco Moraes the best of luck.

This summer, UNA-UK will, for the second year running, team up with Life-Link Ghana to help organise a major Model UN initiative in that country. We are looking for UNYSA members with extensive Model UN experience to apply to travel to Ghana during July and August to help with this project, which uses Model UN to impart public speaking and IT skills. Flights, food and accommodation will be covered. Further details are available at www.una.org.uk/youth

Your new Youth Council



Marco Moraes: President

Marco hails from São Paulo and is a second-year international relations student at the London School of Economics, where he is President of the UNYSA. He wants to promote the expansion of UNYSA branches throughout the UK and represents UNYSA on the UNA-UK Board.



Marek Zaremba-Pike: Secretary

Marek is a Polish-Scottish second-year student of Russian studies and international relations at Birmingham University. He ensures the efficient running of the council and would like UNYSA to develop partnerships with other youth organisations.



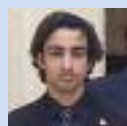
Avnish Raichura: Education Officer

Avnish, who grew up in Kenya, is an international relations student at Leeds University and former Chair of Leeds UNYSA. This is his second year as Education Officer: in his first year he successfully piloted a UNYSA education outreach initiative in Leeds, and this year hopes to get the programme implemented across most UNYSA branches.



Tuuli Hongisto: Campaigns Officer

Originally from Helsinki, Tuuli is a final year politics and international relations student at the University of Westminster. She would like to inspire and empower all UNYSA members to campaign and make a difference in their universities, workplaces and local communities. She is also the UK representative to 'Making Commitments Matter', a UN initiative designed to monitor and evaluate national youth policy.



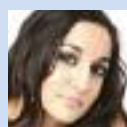
Faizan Bhat: Model UN Officer

Faizan is a student of computer engineering and business management at the University of Birmingham. He got involved in Model UN events at Northeastern University in Boston, USA and hopes to promote the use of Model UN nationwide.



Luke Harman: Co-opted member

Luke, from the UK, is currently in his final year studying for an MA in international relations at the University of St Andrews. Last year he served as Youth Council President; this year, as a co-opted member, he hopes to promote greater cohesion and cooperation among branches.



Noorin Dahya: Co-opted member

Noorin is a Canadian-Spanish biochemical engineering student at University College London, with a background in environmental conservation. Her role will involve helping to promote cooperation between branches and the Youth Council.

To contact any member of the Youth Council, e-mail unysa@una.org.uk

UNYSA
United Nations Youth and Student Association



UNYSA 2008 Annual Conference

Marek Zaremba-Pike is Secretary of the UNYSA Youth Council

This year's UNYSA Conference was a fantastic success. Over 80 members from throughout the UK attended the event, held on Saturday, 8 March in Birmingham University's European Research Institute. UNA-UK provided travel subsidies to all delegates, through funding provided by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

The programme featured interesting speakers and covered both substantive and practical topics. Peter Kessler, the UN Refugee Agency's Senior External Affairs Officer in the UK, told us about the challenges of supporting all aspects of refugee camp life for decades after a crisis has been forgotten by the media. UNA-UK Executive Director Sam Daws, who was previously First Officer in the Executive Office of Secretary-General Kofi Annan, then gave an overview of the different ways of gaining employment with the UN.

After lunch, Professor Sir Richard Jolly, a former UNA-UK chair, gave a passionate speech about the Millennium Development Goals. Sir Richard is former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF, architect of the Human Development Report and a firm believer in the UN's potential to build a better world. Fired up with enthusiasm, members were then given tips on campaigning through the media by Linda Jones, author of *The Greatest Freelance Writing Tips in the World*.

UNYSA members then moved onto the business of electing their Youth Council for 2008-2009 – not easy given that the positions were heavily contested! The conference ended with a documentary about the Rochdale Peace Parade, an annual event to mark the UN's International Day of Peace. Delegates left the conference equipped with big ideas to motivate their branches.

The new members of the Youth Council would like to thank last year's members for all their hard work. We would also like to thank UNA-UK for its financial support, as well as Birmingham UNYSA for helping out with the organisation of the event.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!



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UN acts to curb 'leading cause of death of young people'

Road traffic injuries are the leading cause of death worldwide for those between the ages of 10 and 24. Almost 1.2 million people are killed each year due to road crashes, with millions more injured or disabled. According to the World Health Organization, if no action is taken, road deaths will rise by 60 per cent by 2020.

Following lobbying by the Commission for Global Road Safety, backed by the WHO, the World Bank and celebrities including Michael Schumacher, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution on 31 March calling on member states to support efforts by low- and middle-income countries in setting national road traffic casualty reduction targets. The debate noted the disproportionate impact of road traffic accidents on poorer social groups, and on the young in particular. A UN ministerial summit on global road safety will be held in Russia in 2009.

For more information, visit www.makeroadssafe.org



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