

UNA-UK FRESHERS PACK

2019-2020



UK action.
Stronger UN.
Better world.

About UNA-UK

Founded in 1945, the United Nations Association - UK (UNA-UK) is the country's foremost advocate for UK action at the UN; the UK's leading source of analysis on the UN; and a vibrant grassroots movement of 20,000 people from all walks of life.

We are the only charity in the UK devoted to building support for the UN amongst policymakers, opinion-formers and the public. We believe that a strong, credible and effective UN is essential if we are to build a safer, fairer and more sustainable world. We advocate strong government support for the UN - political and financial - and seek to demonstrate why the UN matters to people everywhere.



We pursue this mission by:

- Explaining how the UN works and what it can realistically achieve
- Connecting people and organisations to the UN's work and values
- Providing an interface between the UN and the UK
- Calling for active and progressive UK leadership at the UN
- Stimulating debate and action on how to make the UN more effective, transparent, inclusive and accountable
- Convening key players from all sectors, in the UK and internationally, to promote multilateral solutions to global problems
- Equipping our members and supporters to further all of these aims

UNA-UK is a charitable company limited by guarantee (no. 1146016). We are completely independent of the UN and receive no funding from it.

Our Student Network

This is the largest generation of young people the world has ever known: nearly half of the global population is under 25 and this proportion is rising.

Right now, the world is facing multiple challenges that need effective partnerships across borders, across sectors and across generations. We need the commitment of students and young people everywhere if we are to forge a sustainable future.

Want to meet other young people with a passion for global affairs?

UNA-UK has a diverse network of student/university associations connecting the United Nations with people in their communities and on their campuses.

Together we can explore the contribution that young people make in international affairs. **Click to find your UNA group.**

If you aren't listed as one of our associations and want to be affiliated with UNA-UK, please contact Anneka Patel, Outreach and Campaigns Assistant, on info@una.org.uk

Other ways to get involved with UNA-UK

UNA-UK derives great strength from its members and supporters, and UK-wide network of community and university branches.

Become a Supporter

Be the first to receive information from UNA-UK about our activities, campaigns and events.

Opportunities to join a local UNA and amplify national advocacy efforts at the local and regional levels

Sign up here!

Become a Member

Join the UK's leading peoples' movement in support of a strong, credible and effective UN

FREE subscription to our international affairs magazine

Discounted tickets to our national events

Sign up here!



Yemen Can't Wait

March 26th marked the 4th anniversary of the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen that has left 24 million people in dire need of humanitarian assistance. Over this four-year period, 3.1 million people have been displaced and approximately 60,000 killed along with large amounts of the populations contracting cholera and facing famine. Most civilian casualties have occurred due to airstrikes by the Saudi-led Coalition, of which the UK has been one of its largest suppliers of weapons.

As the 'lead' country for Yemen on the Security Council, the UK must use its influence with Saudi Arabia to press them to adhere to the current ceasefire and ongoing peace talks.

We ask you to write to your MP and build further momentum in Parliament with our urgent call to action on the situation in Yemen.

[Click to find out more.](#)

Climate Change

By introducing the 2008 Climate Change Act, Britain became a global pioneer as the first country to adopt a legally-binding framework with long-term emissions targets and carbon budgets. More recently the UK has shown leadership in its commitment to net zero carbon emissions by 2050.

From the Youth Strikes for Climate to the Extinction Rebellion protests, the UK public is getting mobilised on climate change and it's starting to get results. Now's the time to build on this and call for increased ambition across all parts of government and society to protect the earth we all depend on.

[Click to read our Climate 2020 publication series on how to implement the Paris Climate Agreement.](#)

Mission Justice

UN peacekeepers operate in some of the most fraught regions across the globe. They stand between civilians and forces of violence, between crisis and peace. But peacekeeping has a problem: Sexual violence by UN peacekeepers ruins lives and undermines the trust peacekeeping requires to work effectively. Decades of attempts of reform have had limited impact because of the culture of impunity that pervades peacekeeping.

UNA-UK has launched a campaign - Mission Justice - which will establish the idea that sexual violence by UN Peacekeepers is a crime that requires a criminal response, and will push to make sure that states who are unable to prosecute perpetrators cannot contribute troops.

[Click to pledge your support.](#)

Keeping Britain Global

Everyone in the UK benefits from the international system

– from the protection of our rights, trade relationships that support our economy and global institutions that are committed to dealing with shared threats and challenges. UNA-UK believes now more than ever that Britain's national interest and the UN Charter's vision of a peaceful and more just world are one and the same. The Keeping Britain Global campaign focuses on five key connected areas:

Atrocity Prevention

The international community's prevention record of atrocities remains at a poor level, with calls for greater attention to the doctrine of "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) even when it does not align with the strategic interests of the United Kingdom. As a permanent seat on the UN Security Council, UNA-UK continues to advocate for a cross-governmental approach to atrocity prevention, that incorporates R2P as a 'lens' to analyse policy in multiple policy areas. [Click to see our recommendations.](#)

Peacekeeping

UN peacekeeping represents one of the most impactful and effective methods for maintaining peace and ensuring security across the world, with the United Kingdom having a commendable track record of providing troops despite of a reduction in the number in recent decades. Recent UNA-UK efforts have included endorsing a revised approach to effective peacekeeping missions by the British government.

[Click to see our recommendations.](#)

Human Rights

Notable efforts concerning human rights violations have been made in tackling modern slavery, sex trafficking and the prevention of violence against women and girls. However, the UK has been notably silent on the human rights violations of its allies, causing criticism the international community. Recent UNA-UK recommendations have included the strengthening of human rights law that incorporates universal human rights protections.

[Click to see our recommendations.](#)



Nuclear Disarmament

The creation of treaties, and international norms such as the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty has helped create a more stable global system that has regulated the proliferation of nuclear technology and the prevention of nuclear weapons falling into the wrong hands. However there continues to be little appetite for disarmament by co-signatories, including the UK. UNA-UK has concentrated efforts to encourage better diplomatic engagement and international dialogue regarding nuclear arms by the British government.

[Click to see our recommendations.](#)

Arms Control

UK governments over the past few decades have understood the importance of the development and the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), showing leadership in driving its progress on the international stage. However, since its implementation in 2014, the UK continues to be a leading exporter of arms to countries with poor records such as Saudi Arabia. These actions undermine the ATT and jeopardises Britain's influence on matters concerning peace and security as a member of the P5. Recent UNA-UK reports have endorsed greater clarity and coherence when implementing the ATT.

[Click to see our recommendations.](#)

[Read UNA-UK's
commissioned report on
Global Britain in the
United Nations](#)

Events Hub

A guide to organising events in your society

Model United Nations

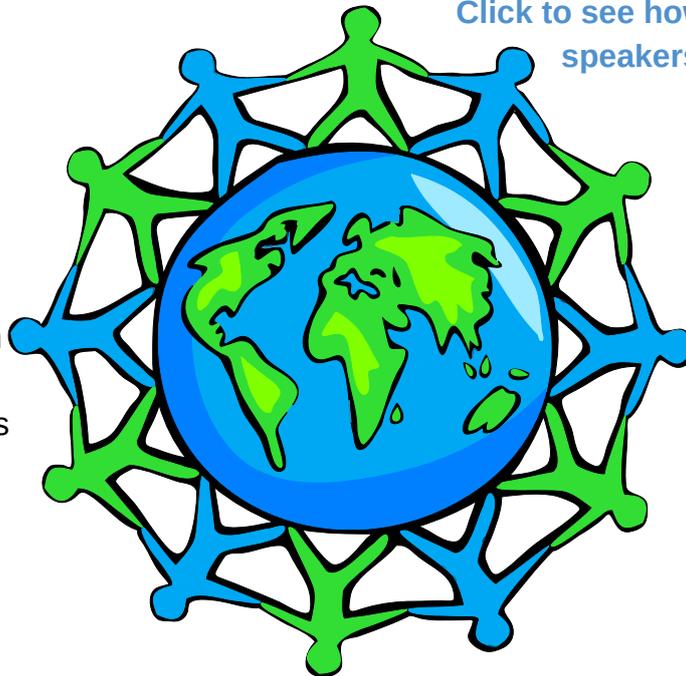
Most UN societies focus their activities on running Model United Nations conferences.

By role-playing meetings like the Security Council and General Assembly, participants get a unique insight into how the United Nations works. They research, debate and try to solve some of the world's most pressing problems. Click here for [UNA-UK's Model UN portal](#).

Campaigning

Our student network support and take action on UNA-UK campaigns or collaborate with other organisations and coalitions who share their aims and goals. Lobbying a select group of decision makers (local councillors or MPs) can also be an effective way of raising an issue. [My Society](#) and [They Work for You](#) are two sites that can link you to decision makers and groups campaigning for change.

Click to check out UNA-UK's comprehensive event guide.



Fundraising

Fundraising events may appear simply to be asking people to dig into their pockets for a particular cause. But we often overlook the fact that there is actually an exchange taking place, in which those who give can also gain. If done well, giving to a cause provides a sense of participation, of 'doing something' that can make a difference to someone else and reinforces a shared sense of social justice. [We have put some ideas and more information about fundraising on our financing local events page.](#)

If you are affiliated with UNA-UK, you can advertise your events using UNA-UK's online events calendar.

Submit your event through the portal [here](#).

Speaker Events

Many events are organised to inform an audience about an issue and encourage debate. Some of our local and student UNAs have found that they can effectively tell a story through, for example, an art or photography exhibition, but more often this happens through a public speaker. Local UNAs agreed on the importance of trying to find a speaker who engages with the audience and can speak authoritatively on the topic being discussed.

[Click to see how you can source public speakers for your events.](#)

Social Events

Social events are a great way to draw people together in a more relaxed and informal setting. A networking event, social or dinner all provide an opportunity to draw people together to celebrate success, motivate teams, draw in support, raise funds, inform and spread the news.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT:

General Election Hustings

With a potential general election approaching, holding a hustings events on your campus will enable you and members of your society to quiz parliamentary candidates on their approach to foreign policy. Such events are an effective way of raising awareness not only of the role the UK could and should play on the world stage, but also of the work undertaken by the UN and by UNA-UK.

Check out our [resources](#) for a general election, with more tips on how to hold a hustings event. Please note these resources were put together for the 2017 General Election.

Interacting with party representatives is valuable. The points and questions you raise are likely to be fed back to party headquarters and can have real influence on candidates' approaches and parties' campaign priorities. You can support internationalism by asking candidates and canvassers the following questions:

What will you do to support the United Nations?

What is your position on arms sales to Saudi Arabia and other human rights abusers?

How will ensure that the UK shoulders the responsibilities that come with its place on the UN Security Council?

Will you increase our contribution to UN peacekeeping?

What will you do to invest in soft power and diplomacy?

UN CAREERS

**How can I make the most of my time at university?
How can I contribute to tackling these challenges?
Which society will give my CV a real boost?
What's the best way to meet others with a passion for
global affairs?
Will I be able to engage with the big issues facing the
world?**

A career at the UN requires passion, ambition and a genuine desire to change the world. Working for the UN is the best way to contribute to the crucial work that the Organisation performs, and in doing so make a real impact on the fundamental issues that affect us all.



By participating in a UN-based university society, you will gain a diverse range of skills including research opportunities, negotiation and diplomacy skills and public-speaking. These are highly valuable skills which can be taken not only to the UN but to the international relations sector in general through NGOs, think tanks, consultancies, research organisations and alike.

Useful Resources

- **UNA-UK's guidance on how to apply for work at the United Nations**
- **Top tips from current and former UN professionals**
- **UN job networks**
- **Article on 'A reality check for students? How participating to the Model United Nations influences skills, IR perceptions and perspectives on future career.'**

Disclaimer: UNA-UK is not an office of the UN and receives no funding from the UN.

STAY IN TOUCH

Join us in calling for a strong, credible and effective UN.

Find us at una.org.uk or email info@una.org.uk

Follow us to hear more about our activities,
campaigns and events:



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