



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Westchester Chapter

The Global Connection

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Fall UNGA And Other News

President's Message

Enough is Enough: An Intergenerational Perspective and Call to Action to Stop Discrimination Against Women

Friends of UNA Westchester,



This year's meeting of the UN General Assembly begins in a world facing a confluence of intractable challenges, many felt both here in the US and globally. From the myriad continuing health and economic impacts of the pandemic, to the climate-change-exacerbated wildfires decimating much of the western US, to the dysfunction of so many social and civil justice programs and processes laid bare by COVID, to say that we are facing unprecedented challenges as a human family is an understatement.

Roughly half of that human family is facing even heightened challenges...merely because of their gender. We have failed women and girls throughout history, but we can make things right. Enough is enough. The time to act is now, and we have a pathway to progress, called CEDAW. It stands for the UN Convention On the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and there is a groundswell of momentum at cities and counties across the country to adopt the principles of CEDAW. This is personal for me, as I was honored to have had a part while I was a Council Member for the City of Mount Vernon, to have that city be the first in New York State to adopt a CEDAW Resolution.

Since then, our county, Westchester, became the first county in New York State to adopt a CEDAW Resolution. So, we are leading by example as UNA Westchester, and there is plenty of room for EVERYONE on the journey! Learn how you can take action to tangibly show that you respect the rights of women and girls by reading the piece by our UNA Westchester Board Member, Dan Bena, [Here](#).

J. Yuhanna Edwards

President

UNA Westchester

UN Secretary-General Interviewed on BBC's Hardtalk Show

HARDtalk's Zeinab Badawi speaks to Antonio Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General. As the COVID-19 pandemic takes hold the capacity of governments around the world to respond to the health crisis it has unleashed has been seriously tested.

Antonio Guterres has just launched a humanitarian appeal focused mainly on helping forty of the most vulnerable countries. He says that a global approach is the only way to fight the virus and that without critical support the impact of COVID-19 will be deep and particularly severe on poorer nations. But how realistic are his proposals and who will pay for them?



United Nations General Assembly Updates

CLICK HERE: Quiet corridors but a full programme at virtual UNGA75: Five things you need to know



The 75th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session begins on 15 September and this year, due to the ongoing global pandemic, it will be unlike any other in the organization's three quarters of a century of existence.

Read full article and learn about the five things to look out for

- Presidents and Heads of State calling in speeches
- Celebrating 75 years
- 'Transforming the world' through Sustainable Development
- Facing up to 'unprecedented loss' of global biodiversity
- Gender: 25 years after Beijing

[Here is a General Guide to the UNGA Events From the UN Foundation](#)

[View the Preliminary Schedule of the High-Level Meetings of UNGA 75](#)

[YOUNGA Forum - September 28 and 29](#)

**Turkish diplomat, President
of historic 75th UN General
Assembly,
Prepares for the first-ever
Virtual UNGA**



Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir was elected President of the forthcoming session of the UN General Assembly in a vote held on Wednesday that was emblematic of its time.

[CLICK HERE](#): Introducing the President of the upcoming historic 75th session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir

Volkan Bozkir will preside over the seventy-fifth session of the UN General Assembly starting with its opening on Tuesday, 15 September 2020, for one year.

[CLICK HERE](#): Read the biography of H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir

Update: 23 JULY 2020

Newly Elected President Discusses Key Role of Economic and Social Council in Tackling COVID-19 Pandemic, Climate Change, as 2021 Organizational Session Begins

The Economic and Social Council's mandate remains as relevant as ever, encompassing the three simultaneous global challenges Member States are facing - the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the existential threat of the climate catastrophe - its newly elected President said today at the first meeting of its 2021 organizational session, held via video conference due to COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions at United Nations Headquarters.

Happy Birthday!

Our UN: Continuing to provide humanitarian aid during a pandemic.

Congratulations and thank you on the occasion of your 75th Anniversary (UN75)!



UNA Westchester's Panel Discussion on "Inequities in Maternal Outcomes for Women of Color Globally and Locally" Attracts 90 Attendees, Highlights Need for Further Discussion and Action Steps for Officials and Healthcare Providers

On August 18th, UNA Westchester sponsored a Panel Discussion that brought together four experts, a moderator and 90 attendees, all of whom were eager to share their views on the dramatic discrepancies in maternal outcomes for women of color around the world and locally in New York City and Westchester and across the US. In addition to panelists' presentations, the event featured 10 breakout sessions and a lively Question & Answer period. The panelists also recognized the World Health Organization's (WHO) designation of 2020 as The Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.

Here are some of the statistics that highlight the inequities in maternal outcomes:

- In the US, Black women with a college degree are five times more likely to die during or after childbirth than White women.
- Between 2006 and 2010, Black women in New York City were 12 times more likely to die than White women

from pregnancy-related causes.

- Sub-Saharan Africans suffer from the highest maternal mortality ratio – 533 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, or 200,000 maternal deaths a year, which represents approximately two-thirds of maternal deaths worldwide.
- Women in Southern Asia also experience alarming rates of pregnancy-related casualties, with 58,000 maternal deaths per year.

Attendees were eager to hear about the causes of these inequities, the role racism plays in these outcomes and what steps can be taken to lower these maternal mortality rates for women of color in the US and throughout the world. Four panelists addressed these topics and spoke about the impact COVID-19 has had on pregnant women of color in this go-minute virtual panel discussion with midwife and educator Ronnie Lichtman, PhD, serving as moderator. Two panelists presented the global perspective: Aneka Knutsson, Chief of Branch, Sexual and Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Padmini Murthy, MD, MPH, NY Medical College. Two local experts provided the national and regional perspective: Angela Campbell, Ed.D, Executive Director of the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network, and midwife Nubia Martin, Facilitator of the Chocolate Milk Café in Yonkers.

“The panelists and moderator did an excellent job in identifying the key factors behind this global maternal mortality crisis and note the interventions that need to be implemented to reduce these exorbitant maternal mortality rates for women of color,” notes Colleen Gardephe, Co-Chair of the UNA chapter’s Program Committee. “We are looking at ways we can build on this important conversation and use it as a springboard for change, both locally and globally.”

The Panel Discussion was recorded and placed on the UNA Westchester’s YouTube channel. View the discussion, [HERE](#)

SAVE THE DATE

United Nations Day 2020
October 25th
Time and Zoom Invite
To Be Announced SOON



JOIN US

**Commemorating the UNs 75th Anniversary:
The World We Want - Past, Present, and Future**

The United Nations Association of Westchester invites the County to join us for a look at the most important aspects of how the UN came to be, who it is now, and where we hope to be through the UN75 Initiatives.

More information on time and ZOOM registration to follow.



**UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Westchester Chapter





SDG IMPACT AWARDS COMMUNITY

- Be inspired to impact positive change
 - Submit your sustainable solutions
- The United Nations declared 2020 the beginning of the Decade of Action for the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to engage all stakeholders in achieving success for the UN2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to "Leave No One Behind."
 - We invite you to join our SDGIA Community by submitting your innovative SDG solutions. Registration is free and provides opportunities for increased visibility through our global platform with 100 languages available to you. More info: <https://www.sdgimpactawards.org/>

Friends of the SDGIA Community

H.E. Dr. Michal Mlynár, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Slovakia to the UN & Dr. Andrea Mlynárová
H.E. Mr. Georgi Velikov Panayotov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the UN

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LOCALIZING CLIMATE JUSTICE: A NEW SERIES

*GLOBAL COLLECTIVE ACTION
ROOTED IN LOCAL IMPACT.*

LOCALIZING CLIMATE JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Series Launch

September 25th, 2020

10 AM - Noon EST

*Join us for an interactive dialogue
between policymakers, youth climate
activists, & sustainability experts from
around the globe.*

Register & learn more at:

GYCAD.ORG/LCJC

The Localizing Climate Justice Conference Series (LCJC) is being co-organized by the Core Team of youth climate activists behind the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration (GYCAD) movement and a myriad of co-sponsoring organizations. Additional information and registration can be found here: gycad.org/lcjc

The event's co-sponsors include: YOUNGO, Citizens' Climate Lobby, the Global NGO Executive Committee, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), CEWAS Middle East, Climate-Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN), Lehigh University's United Nations Partnership & Environmental Initiative, CEVKO and more (full list can be found at gycad.org/lcjc).

This virtual conference series will commence with a launch event on Friday, September 25th taking place

from 10 am to noon Eastern Daylight Time in order to accommodate a wide range of global time zones and to ensure maximum participation from the Global South. The launch event and all subsequent conference events will be free of cost to all wishing to participate.

The emphasis on climate justice was intentional: we cannot expect to make the immediate and long-term changes necessary if the actions we choose to take do not include and address the challenges and well-being of all. Our movement forward into a sustainable and environmentally healthy future must be urgent and community-led, with the well-being of our local communities and our most underrepresented or vulnerable populations at the center of any discourse and decision-making processes.

The LCJC Series Launch event will convene mayors, other policymakers, youth climate activists, and major stakeholders from around the world in the movement for climate justice in order to spotlight local approaches to climate reform & create space for an ongoing dialogue between policymakers and their constituents on the subject of climate change. Originally planned as a two-day event, the organizers and co-sponsors decided to spread out the conference material over a longer timespan in order to maximize meaningful participation and engagement with the content.

The conference series will span many months, with each monthly event focused on a key thematic policy impact area from the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration and convening a dialogue on that topic.

The themes discussed include the following:

- Youth and Public Mobilization
- Infrastructure, Cities, & Local Action
- Industry Transition & Accountability
- Energy Transition
- Resilience and Adaptation
- Nature-based Solutions
- Mitigation
- Climate Finance & Carbon Pricing
- Capacity-Building, Education, & Awareness

For more information:

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And Now ...
would be the perfect time for ALL our friends to join as Members.
Remember, Students Join Free! Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (Best submitted on line at www.unausa.org, or copy and paste onto a document, fill it out and mail in to UNAW c/o P Sciaratta at POB 91, Mamaroneck, NY 10543!):

____ Please renew my membership

____ Please enroll me as a member of UNA-USA at the following level:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|------|
| () Lifetime (one-time payment) | \$1,000 | () Member | \$50 |
| () Patron | \$ 500 | () Introductory (first year only) | \$25 |
| () Sponsor | \$ 100 | () Student | FREE |

In addition to my membership dues, I would like to contribute to:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| () Westchester Chapter | \$ _____ |
| () Lee Bloom Memorial Fund | \$ _____ |
| () National Office | \$ _____ |
| () Total enclosed | \$ _____ |

() My company matches employee contributions. (My company's matching form is attached.)

Name _____ (Please print)

Address _____ City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Tel: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make your check payable to UNA-USA.

Or Charge payment to your Credit Card: VISA MC American Express

Signature _____

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Submissions for consideration to the UNA -USA Westchester Newsletter:

First, all articles must be reviewed for content and quality . Submissions for Consideration should be sent to the Communications Chair: Patrick@vnclm.org

The article should be:

- 500-800 words - The lead paragraphs will be published in the magazine, with a link to the UNA -USA Westchester site, and any related site, where the complete article may be viewed.
- Commentary and Event-oriented articles on a relevant tone, highlighting recently past or upcoming events are preferred.
- In the context of the relationship between the United Nations and the Westchester community and United States are preferred.

The article should not contain any of the following:

- Advertorial/for-profit message or endorsement of any kind
- Information unrelated to the work of the UN in some capacity
- Inappropriate information or language, specific political or religious advocacy

The article can be a:

- Personal Essay
- Op-ed
- Narrative
- And include video content

Here are some guiding topics to help you get started:

- Actions you have taken to address the issues presented/discussed at/by the UN
- How the UN has shaped or changed your thinking about national or international issues: the SDGs, pending debates, USA - UN relations, etc.
- Your perspectives on the UNs global development goals and challenges
- Experiences with community action of any kind in relation to UN goals or challenges
- Stories about global friendships and collaborations that started at UN Conferences, etc.

- Submit articles in Word (.doc) format to this address: Patrick@vnclm.org with the subject line “UNA USA W Newsletter: ‘Title of the Article’.” Once reviewed, it may take about 14 business days until the article is acknowledged as received and a decision is provided as to its use in the UNA USA W Newsletter.

- Along with the article, kindly provide a brief description about the author (1 -2 sentences), together with relevant information such as a website link, a Twitter handle, and other contact information, if applicable.