



Women in Power

In an historic move, the United Nations General Assembly voted unanimously to create a new entity to accelerate progress in meeting the needs of women and girls worldwide. The establishment of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women to be known as **UN Women** is a result of years of negotiations between UN Member States and advocacy by the global women's movement. It is part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact and focus among UN Agencies and many partners in both the public and private sector and will be led by Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile.

Globally, there are currently seventeen women who have been elected to positions of national leadership and the electorate of Brazil may soon increase that total to eighteen. However, this figure represents less than 10 percent of world leaders and evidence suggests that a critical mass of women in leadership, acknowledged to be at least a minimum of 30 percent, is required to create a consensus to radically change the unequal, often inferior citizen status that the vast majority of women currently endure.

Powerless Women

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 4, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The existence of trafficking in women for the purpose of prostitution was already known at the end of the 18th Century. Since the end of the 20th century, the scale has increased exponentially. According to UN reports, girls and women from South and South-East Asia - Burma, China, Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, and East Europe - the Baltic and Ukraine, and Latin America - Brazil, are particularly at risk today. According to local NGO's, between 200,000 and 2 million women work as prostitutes in Thailand alone.

Every year, an estimated one million children, the overwhelming majority girls, are forced to become part of a global multi-billion dollar sex trade.

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 5, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Year upon year, approximately two million girls in over 28 countries undergo the psychologically and physically scarring procedure known as female genital mutilation. Worldwide, the UN estimate that over 120 million women have been subjected to it. Supporters of the practice say that it is done for cultural and religious reasons, but opponents say that not only is it potentially life-threatening, it is also an extreme form of oppression against women; perpetuated by women.

Female circumcision is mainly carried out in western and southern Asia, the Middle East and large areas of Africa. It is also known to take place among immigrant communities in the USA, Canada, France, Australia and Britain, where it is illegal.

Sally-Ann Marchan
Editor

CONTENTS

Chairman's Report	...	2
Dates for your Diary	...	2
TRUNA AGM	...	2
News in Brief	...	3
Action for Climate Change	...	4
Pakistan Floods Update	...	4
UNA-UK Forum	...	5
Tribute	...	6



CHAIRMAN's REPORT:

I am saddened to be standing down as Chairman of TRUNA as it has been extremely enjoyable to be a part of this worthwhile organization with such a strong team around me. I cannot believe that I have been Chairman of TRUNA for 3 years as the time has gone so fast. Within this period I think the biggest achievement would be our joint UN and Amnesty International public artwork which is sited at York House in Twickenham to celebrate and commemorate the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The process of securing funds through to the artwork conception and approval took so long to do, that I think my Chairman's report has mentioned it since the beginning of my term!

Certainly, there have been many other enjoyable times, including speaking to local schools on citizenship, attending TRUNA talks and social events always supported by long-standing TRUNA members. Therefore, I am confident that as I pass over the Chairmanship to two new members, James Heather, Chairman and Peter Rixon, Vice-Chairman/Press Officer, they will both become valuable members of the TRUNA team. Both James and Peter are very enthusiastic about the work of the UN and plan to bring in loads of fresh ideas to our own local branch.

Finally, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all the members and, indeed, the wonderful team for supporting me through these memorable years and to wish you all the very best for the future in taking TRUNA forward.

Virginia Morris
Chairman

DATES for your DIARY

TRUNA AGM	...	21 October 2010
UN Day Civic Service	...	24 October 2010
UNA/UNICEF Collection	...	20 November 2010
Pub Lunch	...	06 November 2010
The Wave	...	05 December 2010

Further details can be found in the News in Brief section

TRUNA AGM - 21 October 2010:

The AGM this year will be held at **St. Margarets' Church Hall, St. Margarets, Twickenham starting at 7.00pm**. This year our speaker was to be The Rt. Hon. Dr Vincent Cable MP, who continues to be a loyal friend to TRUNA, however, due to his many commitments as Secretary of State for Business in the present coalition government, he has reluctantly had to step down. Therefore, the committee have agreed that following the matters of the AGM, including election of new officers, there will be an open discussion, led by James Heather our prospective Chairman on the current status of our borough's commitment to environment and climate change. Light refreshment will be served.

Olivia Richardson



News in Brief:

Early May 2010 saw the official unveiling of a monument located outside York House, Twickenham to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights. UNA Twickenham & Richmond were involved in the project from the start and in fact our Chair, Councillor Virginia Morris was instrumental in getting Richmond Council to adopt the initial idea as a public art project which meant considerable input of funds. UNA also contributed along with the local branch of Amnesty International.

Pupils from two Richmond schools and residents from the Twickenham Day Centre were involved in the design of the installation and UNA members talked to the pupils about the Universal Declaration prior to the meetings with the artist Samantha Haynes.

The monument was unveiled by the Mayor of Richmond, Councillor Celia Hodges accompanied by Virginia Morris and John Reekie from Amnesty International. A photo montage can be seen on the TRUNA website.

Dennis Wilmot

The Annual Twickenham Green Charities Fair in May raised £187.34 and although at least it did not rain this year, we may have made more if the sun had shone. Originally it had been intended that monies raised would be donated to landmine clearance, but it has been difficult to contact the new UK organisation and, so at a recent committee meeting, it was decided that the amount of £250.00 will now be divided between the UN led appeals for the recent flood victims in Niger and Pakistan.

Hilary Evans

Once again, the annual fund-raising barbecue was generously hosted at the home of Virginia's mother on 21 August 2010. An excellent array of barbecue and buffet, a scrummy celebration cake made by Hilary Evans, plus lively chat and exchange of views ensured a most enjoyable afternoon for all.

The UN Civic Service will take place at **6.30pm on 24 October 2010** at Christ Church, East Sheen.

The ever popular Pub Lunch Talk will be held on **Saturday, 06 November 2010** and will be hosted at the Bloated Mallard pub, near Teddington Railway Station from 12 noon to 2pm. **TRUNA** are pleased to welcome a Speaker who will introduce the work of the Iris Ministries in Mozambique. Rolland and Heidi Baker began Iris Ministries, an inter-denominational mission, in 1980 and have been missionaries for the past twenty-five years.

Those members interested in attending are asked to contact **Olivia Richardson** on: **020 8943 3646** should they require further details about this event.



Action for Climate Change:

Following on from the COP Copenhagen 2009 summit last December and in the build up to the COP Cancun Climate Change 2010 talks, public outcry for action continues as the climate crisis itself accelerates.

The Wave has been organised by the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition to take place on 05 December 2010. The SCCC is a mouthpiece for millions of committed supporters, campaigners, hearts minds and voices of over 100 organisations worldwide.

The Wave will assemble at Grosvenor Square at 12.00pm and will flow through the streets of London in support of a safe climate future for all - please wear something blue.

Further information is available at: www.the-wave.org.uk / www.stopclimatechaos.org / www.avaaz.org.

Pakistan Floods Update:

Over the course of the 2010 monsoon season, Pakistan experienced the worst floods in history. Unprecedented heavy rainfall, flash and riverine floods, combined to create a moving body of water equal in dimension to the land mass of the United Kingdom. The floods have ravaged 84 out of a total of 121 districts throughout Pakistan devastating villages from the Himalays to the Arabian Sea. More than 20 million people, one tenth of the population, have been impacted by this emergency. Over 1,700 men, women and children have lost their lives and at least 1.9 million homes have been damaged or destroyed.

Since the initial launch of the floods emergency response by the UN, much needed funds have been received to enable the international humanitarian organisations assist the Pakistan government to address the continuing needs of the flood-affected communities who have lost everything, return to some normality of day-to-day life.

Latest information can be found of the following website: www.un.org

TRUNA members work to support

Peace and Security / Humanitarian Affairs / Economic and Social Development
Human Rights and International Law

For further details contact:

Virginia Morris - M: 07879 492084
Olivia Richardson - T: 020 8943 3646

View our website | www.truna.org.uk

Email us | info@truna.org.uk



UNA-UK Forum, 2010:

This was an outstanding one day conference. Not surprising it attracted more than one thousand participants. Even Shirley Williams, who has, no doubt, been going to conferences most of her life considered it exceptional. As she said it is very rare indeed to hear so many outstanding and internationally renowned speakers in one day.

Helen Clark, formerly nine years Prime Minister of New Zealand (now Administrator of the UN Development Programme), Mary Robinson who was President of Ireland for seven years (also former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights) and Hans Blix, who as the Chair Lord Hannay said, required no introduction, all gave far-reaching presentations.

Helen Clark's high-achieving career ideally suits her to the position she now occupies in the UN. Before entering politics she taught in the Political Studies Department of the University of Auckland. Serving three successive terms as Prime Minister from 1999 she was a member of the Council of Women World Leaders. Before becoming Prime Minister she had an extensive parliamentary and ministerial career having held portfolios in conservation, housing, health and Labour.

She spoke of the great importance of the Millennium Development Goals and pointed out that progress on these must be accelerated to reach their targets. The gravity of the situation was emphasised. During 2009 two billion people lived in a condition of extreme hunger. There are two and half billion people in the developing world requiring and dependent on aid. Access to clean water and energy supplies need to be prioritised. More money and effort is needed to fight disease. Very modest economic means can gain huge benefits. It is necessary to work towards improved opportunities for women. She paid tribute to the 'extraordinary contribution' that is being made in the realm of the Millennium Development Goals by the UK government.

Mary Robinson has spent most of her life as a human rights advocate. She has had a distinguished career as an academic, a legislator and a barrister. She has used the law to advance justice and human rights and has argued landmark cases in the courts of Ireland, in the European Court of Human Rights and in the European Court in Luxembourg.

At present she is President of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative. In addition she is a member of the Elders, co-founder and former chair of the Council of Women World Leaders, and Vice President of the Club of Madrid.

Mary Robinson spoke very strongly for the need to ensure Climate Justice in the context of Global Warming. The innocent should not suffer for the activities of the polluting wealthy. She declared that if we continue on our present course with the population rising to 9.5 billion the planet will be unliveable by 2050. She referred to the stern report which says that the scientific evidence is now overwhelming: climate change presents very serious global risks, and it demands an urgent global response. She stressed the urgency of ensuring that the global temperature does not reach the threatened 3-4 degrees increase in the next forty years. Politicians need to catch up with science. The politicians must change their attitude to one of much greater urgency and this will only happen by means of continuous pressure from citizens at all levels including the local level.

This theme of the urgent need for a change in political attitudes and the fact that it will only come about through massive pressure from citizens was a recurring one in the speeches of all the presenters.

Hans Blix was no exception. He also spoke enthusiastically about the good news of a growing détente between Russia and the US. He welcomed the agreed reduction in the size of arsenals

And hoped that it will continue to the adoption and implementation of a Nuclear Weapons Convention; an outcome which will certainly need huge pressure from civil society, i.e. us. However he warned about possible threats from North Korea and Iran and underlined the need to prevent further proliferation. /contd



/...

The benefit of attending such a meeting rather than simply reading the speeches when they are published later was particularly marked in this event. By being present it was possible to directly experience the way in which these individuals, with their dedication and integrity, epitomise the precept 'Be the change you want to see in the world'.

This event, which was meticulously organised, brings home the importance of the United Nations Association and for the outstanding qualities of the occasion the organisers deserve our warm gratitude and congratulations.

Jim McCluskey

Chair, South-East Region

Tribute to Elizabeth Ashton Edwards:

We were much saddened to learn of Elizabeth's death on July 9th at the age of 96 years. Elizabeth was born in Canada and grew up in Toronto where she attended university. Having moved to London she worked for relief services during the war. Her charitable interests were many, especially care of the physically handicapped. In retirement she lived in Richmond and joined our UNA branch. She was unfailingly generous to us and, for as long as she was able to do so, was a regular collector on flag days. She will be missed by so many people.

Margaret Rayner

TRUNA Newsletter Carbon Footprint:

We appreciate that most members prefer to read the latest issue in print form and they will continue to receive the newsletter as always, by post or by hand delivery. However, in an effort to help reduce our carbon footprint, members are invited to opt to receive the newsletter in electronic form simply by registering their email address at info@truna.com.

TRUNA Committee Members :

Chairman	-	Virginia Morris	
Vice Chairman	-	Margaret Rayner	
Treasurer	-	Brian Jackson	
Branch Secretary	-	Olivia Richardson	- T: 020 8943 3646 + E: kemindine@yahoo.co.uk
Membership Secretary	-	Pat Erasmus	
Editor, Newsletter	-	Sally-Ann Marchan	- T: 020 8949 0599 + E: themarchanfamily@hotmail.com