



UN DATES 2015

MARCH

- 8 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- 21 INTERNATIONAL DAY TO ELIMINATE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
- 22 WORLD WATER DAY

APRIL

- 7 WORLD HEALTH DAY

MAY

- 3 WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY
- 30 UN PEACEKEEPERS DAY

JUNE

- 5 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
- 12 World Day against Child Labour
- 17 World Day to Combat Desertification & Drought
- 20 World Refugee Day
- 26 International Day against Drugs Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- 26 International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Edited by Virginia Balmain
 Immediate Past President

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HISTORY OF THE UN –1945—2014

During World War II, the Allies adopted the Four Freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from fear, and freedom from want—as their basic war aims. The Declaration arose directly from the experience of the Second World War and represented the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled.

DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS - 1948

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948, was the result of the experiences of the Second World War. With the end of that war, and the creation of the United Nations. The international community vowed never again to allow atrocities like that to happen again. World leaders decided to complement the UN Charter with a road map to guarantee the rights of every individual everywhere. The document they considered, and which would later become the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was taken up at the first session of the General Assembly in 1946. The Assembly reviewed this draft Declaration on Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms and transmitted it to the Economic and Social Council "for reference to the Commission on Human Rights for consideration . . ." in its preparation of an international bill of rights." The Commission, at its first session early in 1947, authorized its members to formulate what it termed "a preliminary draft International Bill of Human Rights". Later the work was taken over by a formal drafting committee, consisting of members of the Commission from eight States, selected with due regard for geographical distribution.



In 1950, on the second anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, students at the UN International Nursery School in New York viewed a poster of the historic document. (UN Photo)

The Commission on Human Rights was made up of 18 members from various political, cultural and religious backgrounds. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of American President Franklin D. Roosevelt, chaired the **UDHR drafting committee**. With her were René Cassin of France, who composed the first draft of the Declaration, the Committee Rapporteur Charles Malik of Lebanon, Vice-Chairman Peng Chung Chang of China, and John Humphrey of Canada, Director of the UN's Human Rights Division, who prepared the Declaration's blueprint. But Mrs. Roosevelt was recognized as the driving force for the Declaration's adoption. The final draft by René Cassin was handed to the Commission on Human Rights, which was being held in Geneva. The draft declaration sent out to all UN member States for comments became known as the Geneva draft.

On December 10, 1948, the UN General Assembly called upon all Member States to publicize the text of the Declaration and "to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories."



In her memoirs, Eleanor Roosevelt recalled:

"Dr. Chang was a pluralist and held forth in charming fashion on the proposition that there is more than one kind of ultimate reality. The Declaration, he said, should reflect more than simply Western ideas and Dr. Humphrey would have to be eclectic in his approach. His remark, though addressed to Dr. Humphrey, was really directed at Dr. Malik, from whom it drew a prompt retort as he expounded at some length the philosophy of Thomas Aquinas.

Dr. Humphrey joined enthusiastically in the discussion, and I remember that at one point Dr. Chang suggested that the Secretariat might well spend a few months studying the fundamentals of Confucianism!"



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The History cont.

The first draft of the Declaration was proposed in September 1948 with over 50 Member States participating in the final drafting. By its resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948, the General Assembly, meeting in Paris, adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with eight nations abstaining from the vote but none dissenting. Hernán Santa Cruz of Chile, member of the drafting sub-Committee, wrote:

"I perceived clearly that I was participating in a truly significant historic event in which a consensus had been reached as to the supreme value of the human person, a value that did not originate in the decision of a worldly power, but rather in the fact of existing—which gave rise to the inalienable right to live free from want and oppression and to fully develop one's personality. In the Great Hall...there was an atmosphere of genuine solidarity and brotherhood among men and women from all latitudes, the like of which I have not seen again in any international setting."

The entire text of the UDHR was composed in less than two years. At a time when the world was divided into Eastern and Western blocks, finding a common ground on what should make the essence of the document proved to be a colossal task.

The Declaration has served as the foundation for two binding UN human rights covenants: the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights** and the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**. The principles of the Declaration are elaborated in international treaties such as the United Nations Convention Against Torture, and many more. However, it is an expression of the fundamental values which are shared by all members of the international community. And it has had a profound influence on the development of international human rights law. Some argue that because countries have consistently invoked the Declaration for more than sixty years, it has become binding as a part of customary international law.

Further, the Universal Declaration has given rise to a range of other international agreements which are legally binding on the countries that ratify them. These include

- **the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and**
- **the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).**

For more information on these treaties, see

Human rights: right by right: Human Rights Explained: The International Bill of Rights.

Other binding agreements which expand on the rights contained in the Universal Declaration include:

- **the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination 1965**
- **the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1979**
- **the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment 1984**
- **the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989**
- **the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006**

The Universal Declaration is not a treaty, so it does not directly create legal obligations for countries.

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr> <http://www.supremecourt.ge/files/upload-file/pdf/act3.p...>

The History—Australia's role

Australia, a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, has not ratified the Declaration.

'Moving in the Open Daylight: Doc Evatt, an Australian at the United Nations' by **Ashley Hogan**, a new book from Sydney University Press tells the inspiring story of Doc Evatt, the Australian who presided over the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as **President of the General Assembly of the United Nations**. Launched on the 60th anniversary of the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one of the major achievements of the United Nations.

Dr Herbert Vere Evatt remains a controversial figure in Australian history. An outstanding graduate of the University of Sydney, Evatt went on to hold seats in parliament at both state and federal levels and to sit on the High Court and the Supreme Court of NSW. As Minister for External Affairs from 1941 to 1949, Doc Evatt played a significant role in shaping of Australia's foreign policy, in the formation of the United Nations and the foundation of the post-World War II international order. He was elected as President of the General Assembly of the United Nations on 21 September 1948.

Evatt presided over the assembly that adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, the culmination of the work that he and his advisers had been doing since the emergence of proposals for a new world organisation during World War II.

"There were few Australians of the 20th century who stacked up more achievements of lasting benefit to the nation and the world. Evatt's determination to secure the rule of law, the principles of democracy and the universality of human rights remains an inspiring legacy over half a century later, in a world still facing problems of war, poverty, injustice and inequalities. This book tells the inspiring story of Doc Evatt, the Australian who presided over the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as President of the General Assembly". said Justice Michael Kirby in the foreword.



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Human Rights Implementation in Australia

The Australian Human Rights Commission operates as a Corporate Commonwealth Entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth). As well as federal laws that seek to ensure freedom from discrimination on the basis of age, disability, race, sex and sexual orientation the AHR Commission also has specific responsibilities under the *Native Title Act 1993* (Cth) and the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth). Operations are determined independently of government through the President and Commissioners.

The Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 (previously known as the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act 1986) came after Australia signed the United Nations':

- **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**
- **Declaration on the Rights of the Child**
- **Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons**
- **Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons and the International Labour Organization's:**
- **Convention 111, concerning discrimination in employment and occupation**
- **Convention 156, concerning workers with family responsibilities.**

This Act makes it unlawful to discriminate against people because of their:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Race | Colour |
| Sex | Religion |
| Political opinion (in employment only) | National extraction or social origin |
| Age | Medical record |
| Irrelevant criminal record (in employment only) | Impairment |
| Marital status | Mental, intellectual or psychiatric disability |
| Nationality | Physical disability |
| Sexual preference (in employment only) | Trade union activity (in employment only). |

Complaints made under the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Act should be made to the **Australian Human Rights Commission**. Australia has remained a supporter of human rights throughout international treaty negotiations. Australia has ratified almost all of the major international human rights instruments *but not the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

In 2008, the federal government took a number of steps towards improving Australia's protection of human rights, including by:

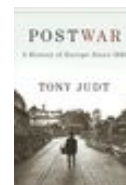
- ratifying the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
- holding consultations about ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (**OPCAT**)
- expressing commitment to formally support the **Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
- issuing a standing invitation to UN human rights experts to visit and report on Australia.

The federal Parliament has passed a number of laws which aim to protect people from certain kinds of discrimination in public life and from breaches of their human rights by Commonwealth departments and agencies.

Follow the links below for further information on:

Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986; Age Discrimination Act 2004; Disability Discrimination Act 1992 ; Racial Discrimination Act 1975; Sex Discrimination Act 1984; About the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission; Australian Human Rights Commission Act 1986 | <http://www.eoc.sa.gov.au/eo-you/discrimination-laws/aus...><http://www.hreoc.gov.au/about/legislation/index.html>

Postwar: A History of Europe since 1945, Penguin Books London (2005) by Tony Judt, has observed that "no other conflict in recorded history killed so many people in so short a time. Tony Judt was the Erich Maria Remarque Professor of European Studies at New York University, as well as the founder and director of the Remarque Institute, dedicated to creating an ongoing conversation between Europe and the United States. **ISBN-13:9781594200656 Publisher Penguin Group.**



Democracy in Australia a Collaboration of National Community Organisations

Human rights are a significant feature of the constitutions of some countries (notably the United States of America) but feature only in a limited way in the Australian Constitution. The Australian Collaboration. Last revised July 2013

<http://www.australiancollaboration.com.au/pdf/Democracy/Charter-human-rights.pdf>



Human Rights For and Against Spencer Zifcak & Alison The essay *Human Rights For and Against* discusses the adequacy of human rights protection in Australia and arguments for and against a charter of rights. <http://www.australiancollaboration.com.au/pdf/Essays/Hu>.



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Children in Detention Report.

The Forgotten Children: National Inquiry into Children in Immigration Detention (2014) <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/forgotten-children-national-...>

"Australia currently holds about 800 children in mandatory closed immigration detention for indefinite periods, with no pathway to protection or settlement.

This includes 186 children detained on Nauru. Children and their families have been held on the mainland and on Christmas Island for, on average, one year and two months. Over 167 babies have been born in detention within the last 24 months. This Report gives a voice to these children. Self-harm, hunger strikes, sexual assault".

'Prolonged detention is 'profoundly negative'. Under international and Australian law, children

are supposed to be detained only as a measure of 'last resort'.

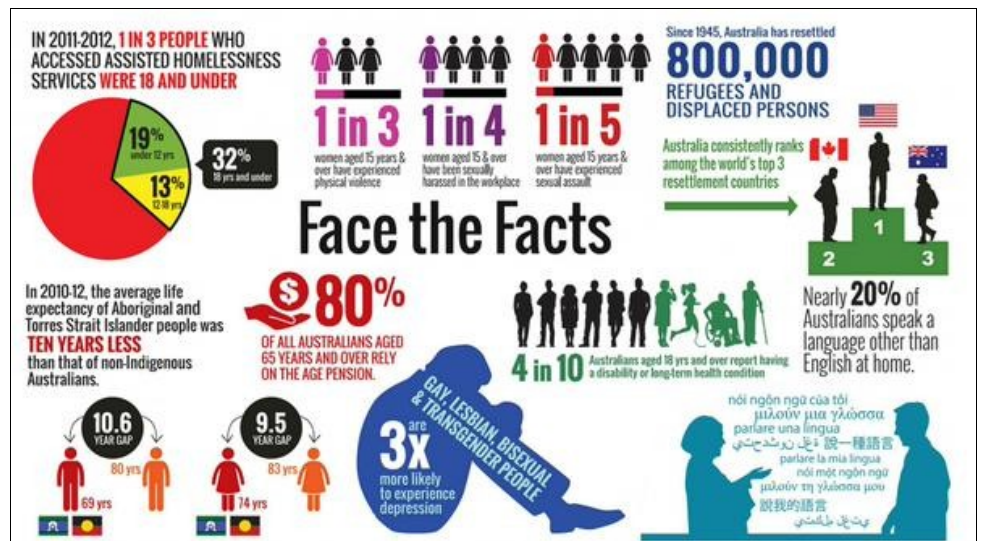
"It is so important to all of us at the Commission that people understand the Report and are willing to stand up for its credibility. (Refer <https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/asylum-seekers-...>)

I am confident that Australia's migration policies will eventually change, but there is great personal damage to so many children and their families in the meantime. The problem is the failure to legislate human rights in Australian law.

The government keeps promising it complies with international human rights law in its asylum seeker policies while at the same time legislating to ensure there are no consequences under Australian law if it doesn't".

A new and improved version of the Commission's resource, *Face the Facts*, is now online. *Face the Facts* provides accurate and easy to understand information on some of the key areas of the Commission's work. The new series offers short and easy to use fact-sheets, with useful links and engaging infographics for each topic, which are useful for students, teachers and the general public.

Face the Facts
Revised 25 February 2015
<https://humanrights.gov.au/>



A six-year-old child's drawing:





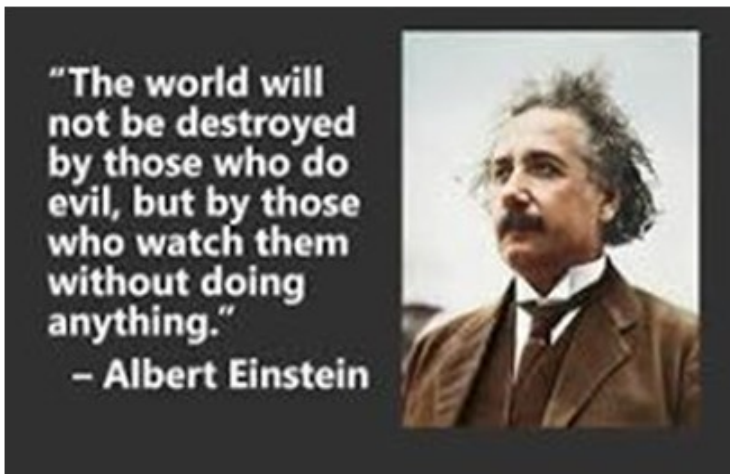
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Martin Luther King, Jr. an African-American clergyman who advocated social change through non-violent means. A powerful speaker and a man of great spiritual strength, he shaped the American civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s.

Albert Einstein was born in Ulm, Germany in 1879, . He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Zurich by 1909. His 1905 paper explaining the photoelectric effect, the basis of electronics, earned him the Nobel Prize in 1921. Einstein was internationally renowned; and won the **Nobel Prize in 1921**, not for relativity but for his 1905 work on the photoelectric effect.



Jane Goodall is the most famous chimpanzee expert in the world. A colleague of anthropologist Louis Leakey in Kenya in the late 1950s, she began studying the social organization of chimpanzees in 1960, in what is now Tanzania. She obtained her PhD from Cambridge in 1965.

On April 16, 2002, United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan appoints Jane to serve as a United Nations Messenger of Peace

Jane Goodall "The greatest danger is apathy".





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WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

22.1.15 More than 2.5 million people reached in emergency response campaign with anti-malarial medicines in Sierra Leone.

26.2.15 The 10th anniversary of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Convention's entry into **action to fight tobacco epidemic**

The Convention is the first international treaty negotiated under the WHO's auspices, and has become one of the fastest endorsed by the United Nations, with 180 Parties, covering 90% of the world's population.

"The single most powerful preventive instrument available to public health," says Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization. "We know it works. It averts addiction to a deadly product. It saves lives. Implementation of its provisions brings both an immediate and longer-term reduction in diseases and premature deaths. Increasingly fierce opposition from the tobacco industry is further evidence of how well this treaty works."

During the past decade, the WHO FCTC has enabled Parties to make many significant achievements in tobacco control, including the following:

- 80% of countries have strengthened their tobacco control legislation since becoming Parties;
- The cost of a packet of cigarettes has, on average, increased by 150% among Parties;
- There has been a great increase in the use of graphic health warnings – such warnings cover 75–85% of cigarette packages in many countries and plain packaging initiatives are increasing;
- Many countries have banned smoking in indoor and outdoor public spaces, which has helped to ensure that smoking is no longer seen as socially acceptable;
- Some Parties have set the explicit goal of becoming "tobacco free" (with less than 5% prevalence of tobacco use), including Finland, Ireland and New Zealand, and the Pacific Island countries.

Link: http://www.who.int/fctc/mediacentre/news/2015/ten_anniversary/en/

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Malcolm McIntosh –Founding Director, Asia Pacific Centre for Sustainable Enterprise 'Thinking The twenty-First Century'

From one of the pioneers of the global corporate sustainability and social responsibility movement, this unique book combines analysis, diary and reflection to present a radical way forward for the twenty-first century.

Dr Malcolm McIntosh FRSA is the Founding Director, and a Professor, of the Asia Pacific Centre for Sustainable Enterprise at Griffith University in Queensland, which he joined in 2009. He started teaching and writing on corporate responsibility and sustainability in 1990 after previous careers in television production and journalism with the BBC, peace research at Bradford University, and business and language teaching in Sweden, Japan and Australia.

He has been a special advisor to the UN global Compact and was the founding editor of the Journal of Corporate Citizenship.

In the last two decades he has advised governments, corporations and international NGOs as well as working at a community level to establish local initiatives.

The book is now available from the Greenleaf website www.greenleaf-publishing.com/thinking. It will be available on Amazon and all other outlets from April. It is available for pre-order on [Amazon UK](#)



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HE Ms Gillian Bird Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations in New York.

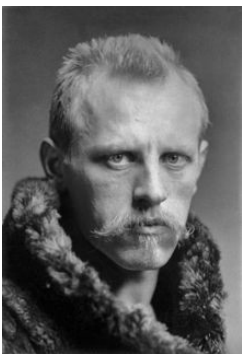


Ms Bird joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1980. From 2004 until commencing her current appointment as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations in 2015, Ms Bird served as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Between 2008 and 2013, she held the additional role of Australia's first Ambassador to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Before taking up her position as Deputy Secretary, Ms Bird served as First Assistant Secretary, International Division, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2002-2004). Prior to this appointment, she was Head of Foreign and Trade Policy White Paper Task Force (Advancing the National Interest) within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Her previous positions in the department include First Assistant Secretary, South and South-East Asia Division (1999-2002), First Assistant Secretary, International

Organisations and Legal Division (1997-1999), Assistant Secretary, Peace, Arms Control and Disarmament Branch (1994-1997) and Assistant Secretary, Executive Branch (1993-1994). She has also worked with the Office of the Minister for Trade Negotiations.

Ms Bird's overseas assignments have included UN New York (1990-1993), Harare (1986-1987) and Paris OECD (1980-1983). Ms Bird was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2012 for outstanding public service in International Relations.



The Nansen International Office for Refugees, authorized by the League of Nations in the fall of 1930, began active operations on April 1, 1931. This office was the successor of the first international agency dealing with refugees, the High Commission for Refugees, established by the League of Nations under the direction of Fridtjof Nansen (q.v.) on June 27, 1921.

Born in 1861, Fridtjof Nansen was considered a national hero in his homeland of Norway for his many achievements, including his prowess at ice-skating and skiing, his famed ocean expeditions and his contribution to the science of oceanography. In both Norway and internationally, he is also esteemed as one of the pioneers in recognizing and alleviating the plight of refugees.

Nansen became involved in politics at an early age with his first political ventures including aiding Norway's independence movement in 1905, serving as Norwegian ambassador to London, and heading a commission to the United States during WWI. Nansen's introduction to the international humanitarian realm, however, began after WWI when he served as Norwegian delegate to the League of Nations, an organization which he helped form. At the end of WWI, Nansen was appointed High Commissioner by the League of Nations, and given responsibility for the 500 000 Prisoners of War who were stranded in prison camps throughout Russia and Siberia after fighting for Germany and its allies during the war. Despite limited funds, and hostile relations between Russia and the West, Nansen managed to repatriate the POWs in less than two years, firmly entrenching him in his position as an effective and dynamic figure in international politics.

In 1921, Nansen attempted to gain funding to alleviate the famine he had witnessed in the Soviet Union, however he found international support lacking due to strained relations with the USSR. Despite being deeply affected by the death of many Russians, Nansen once again answered the call of the League of Nations in 1922, when he was appointed the first High Commissioner for Refugees and given the task of resettling the two million refugees who had fled Russia during the revolution. In an ingenious solution, Nansen developed the "Nansen Passport", which, being recognized by 52 states, provided the refugees with a form of identification and enabled them to resettle in countries around the world. Following this in **1922 Nansen was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize** for his work, on behalf of the displaced victims, and in a manner consistent with his character, donated the prize money to further alleviate the situation in the Soviet Union.

In 1922, Nansen was once again charged with the task of resettlement, this time following the Greek-Turkish war in which **1.5 million Greeks** were forced out of Anatolia. As Greece was economically devastated and unable to support these refugees, Nansen developed an unprecedented plan in which Greece accepted the refugees in exchange for **400 000 Turks** who were living in Greece returning to Turkey. The plan was a great success, a further testament to the efficacy of Nansen's innovative ideas. Between 1925 and 1929, Nansen continued his political activities, aiding the Armenian population and becoming involved in issues such as disarmament and the prohibition of forced labour. In 1930, Fridtjof Nansen died due to a heart attack and was given a state funeral on Norway's Independence Day. However, his legacy was continued with the formation of the **Nansen International Office for Refugees in 1931**, this office received the **Nobel Peace Prize in 1938**. The "Nansen Medal" was also created in his memory, serving as an award for outstanding service to the refugee cause which is still presented annually.



**SUPPORT
THE UNITED NATIONS**

The United Nations Association is an independent non-government association with a mission to support Peace and Security worldwide and assist United Nations activities and programs such as Peace Keeping, Human Rights, women and children's programs. Currently the UN is represented by 193 countries. The General Assembly and Security Council meet in New York and Geneva. Individuals can join the Queensland UNAA, the Young Entrepreneurs and Professionals (YE&YP).

QLD MEMBERSHIP

Join the UNAA Qld Association and learn about the many issues the United Nations is involved in,

help us to support the UN programs for children, women, poverty and hunger, health issues or those who have no education and in particular maternal health issues, sustainability, peace and diplomacy, share with other like minded people in making a difference. in world issues. Why not become a UNAA member? Why not support the Queensland Association?

UNAA MEMBER APPLICATION FORM & DONATIONS: Please Print

Name _____

Address _____ P/C _____

Email _____ Tel _____

Annual Membership fee: Individual Member \$50; Student / Concession \$25; Schools \$50; NGO \$90; YE&YP \$35
Supporter \$40 ; Corporation \$250.

Membership \$ _____ Donation to UNAA \$ _____

HELP US TO HELP REFUGEE CHILDREN

Donation to United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund \$ _____

Donation to UNICEF—supporting refugee children \$ _____

Membership/ donation payable by Direct Debit, Credit Card or **cheque** to UNAA, Qld **TOTAL \$ _____**

1. Direct Debit

Fund Name: United Nations Association

BSB 633-000 A/C No 129733770

Your name _____ Date _____

Member/Donation \$ _____

If paying by Direct Debit please include your name to ensure we can identify the deposit.

or 2. Credit Card—

Master card ___ or Visa Card ___ (tick one)

Name on card _____

Card no _____

Expiry Date _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____

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