



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION  
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Westchester Chapter

# *The Global Connection*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **International Women's Day 2019**

**“Women, Power, and Justice: The Road Ahead”**

**Sunday 3 March 2019, 2:00 to 4:00 pm**

**Ossining Public Library  
53 Croton Ave  
Ossining, NY 10562**



**[Register here](#)**

**(On-Site Registration begins at 1:30)**

UNA-Westchester's International Women's Day celebration will feature an amazing personal tale from a woman who was raised in Rwanda and now provides inspirational talks about overcoming what many would consider insurmountable human challenges.

Our International Women's Day celebration will welcome award-winning author and survivor of the Rwanda genocide, Consolée Nishimwe as our Keynote Speaker.

Ms. Nishimwe is one of the many women who brought the once war-ravaged country back into the social fabric of the United Nations and the world. Her first-hand chronicle of the Rwanda devastation, *Tested to the Limit*, has received excellent reviews and awards. No member or friend of UNA-Westchester will want to miss this important event.

The keynote presentation will be followed by awards highlighting Westchester women blazing trails for justice and equality on a local level, pointing to the road ahead. Honorees include: CEO of Yonkers YMCA Shawyn Patterson-Howard; long-term leader of UNA-USA Marcia Wallace; Hudson River Museum Director Masha Turchinsky; and Hon. Kathie Davidson, Administrative Judge of NY State's 9th District. The Q and A discussion moderated by Nicole Butterfield, Director of Programs at Girls, Inc. will follow the program and involve the participants. Co-sponsors include the Ossining Public Library, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (Theta Nu Omega Chapter), the Links, Inc. (Westchester County Chapter) and the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

A networking reception will follow the program. The program is free and open to the public. All members of the Westchester community are invited.

Advanced registration is recommended due to limited space; see link above

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Also, Please add this very important date to your Spring Calendar:

**UNA Westchester Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, May 19**

**Time and Venue to be announced**

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**UNA-Westchester Board Member J.Yuhanna Edwards reflects on  
CEDAW in Mount Vernon and the U.S.**

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations in 1979, and is the most comprehensive international agreement on the basic human rights of women.

Often referred to as a “Bill of Rights” for women. It defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. As of August 2018, 189 countries had ratified CEDAW. The United States is among a small minority of countries that have not yet ratified CEDAW and has the dubious distinction of being the only country in the Western Hemisphere and the only industrialized democracy that has not ratified this treaty.

In the absence of the U.S. ratifying the treaty, the laws affected by CEDAW are vested in local cities and states. In an effort to address this, San Francisco and 47 other cities in the U.S. have adopted city ordinances or resolutions reflecting the principles of CEDAW. Recently, over 100 Mayors, including Mayor Bill de Blasio of New York City, have committed to supporting this “Cities for CEDAW” campaign. Adopting CEDAW as local law has proved to effectively address significant quality of life and equality of opportunity issues for women and girls. For this reason, I worked tirelessly to garner support and get a CEDAW resolution passed unanimously by the City of Mount Vernon City Council in 2015. I am very proud of this accomplishment as it remains the first Legislation of its kind passed in all of New York State. I remain grateful to fellow colleagues on United Nations Association-USA, Westchester Chapter and former colleagues on the City Council for their support and recognition of this initiative’s importance.

My commitment to CEDAW has not wavered. My next goal is to elevate Mount Vernon’s 2015 resolution into an ordinance and I am asking you to join me in this effort. I am formulating an ad-hoc committee whose goal will be to pass an ordinance that mandates by law that women/girls in the City of Mount Vernon shall not be discriminated against in any form or fashion as assured by CEDAW.

I recently met with the County’s African American Advisory Board to advise about CEDAW and urge the Board to push for adoption of CEDAW resolutions in communities throughout Westchester. In the short-term, however, my focus and the committee’s focus will be on Mount Vernon. Prayerfully, an ordinance will be passed and our neighboring cities will follow our lead. I sincerely believe that Mount Vernon can be an example for other communities.

***Yuhanna Edwards, Former City Council Member, Mount Vernon, New York***

UNA-Westchester Board of Directors

## Historic New President of the United Nations General Assembly

On 5 December 2018 at the United Nations, I was privileged to attend a briefing with the new President of the General Assembly, H. E. Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, the **fourth woman** to hold the position and the first from **Latin America**.



Mr. Maher Nasser, Director, Outreach Division, Department of Public Information, introduced Ambassador Espinosa Garcés and shared that she has more than 20 years of multilateral experience in international

negotiations, peace, security, defense, disarmament, human rights, poverty, corruption, indigenous peoples, gender equality, sustainable development, environment, as well as biodiversity and climate change. When asked to discuss her proposed agenda, Ambassador Espinosa Garcés noted that her top priorities include “...building sustainable communities, women’s rights, gender equality, political empowerment, concern for the challenges women face, decent work and the future of work, refugees and making the UN relevant to all people.”

It is well worth noting that Ambassador Espinosa Garcés was the first woman to become Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations in New York and also served as the country's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Mobility. In this position, she participated in debates on women, peace and security, and promoted the creation of the South American Defence School of the Union of South American Nations.

In a discussion of the importance of involving youth in this most significant work, the Ambassador noted that she would like to bring 1000 youth from all over the world and involve them in the work of the UN, and further suggested that the rights of young people, the rights of indigenous peoples in her country, and the rights of persons with disabilities are among her priorities. After her presentation, she received comments and questions from attendees.

Upon learning of Espinosa Garcés’ election to the presidency of the General Assembly, I was delighted to share this information with my colleague, Mrs. Ivonne Pereira, who represents the Latin America community of the 2.5 million women of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women in Santiago, Chile. When learning of her election, I am told that the women from the Latin American community were very proud to receive this information and rejoiced!

This was a very informative session and briefing sponsored by the UN Department of Public Information; however, we were informed by Mr. Nasser, that **effective January 1, 2019, the UN Department of Public Information will become the “Department of Global Communications.”**

**Brenda L. G. Smith**

## Communicating Good News About the United Nations

If you look back over the past few issues, the reader will note fifteen great reasons to support and defend the United Nations. Here's more: the next five top reasons why everyone should support the UNs Goals and Mission.



### **16. Fighting Hunger**

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) leads global efforts to defeat hunger. The goal of universal food security –where people everywhere have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives—is at the heart of its work. FAO acts as a neutral forum, where all nations meet as equals to negotiate agreements and debate policy. FAO also helps developing countries to modernize and improve agriculture, forestry and fisheries practices in ways that conserve natural resources and improve nutrition.

### **17. Improving Global Trade**

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has helped developing countries to negotiate trade agreements and win preferential treatment for their exports. It has negotiated international commodity agreements to ensure fair prices for developing countries, improved the efficiency of their trade infrastructure and helped them to diversify their production and to integrate into the global economy.

### **18. Promoting Economic Reform**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have helped many countries to improve their economic management, provided temporary financial assistance to countries to help ease balance-of-payment difficulties and offered training for government finance officials.

### **19. Supporting Civil Aviation**

UN agencies have been responsible for setting standards for aviation and shipping. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) serves as the forum for cooperation in all fields of civil aviation. It sets standards and regulations for the safety, security, efficiency and environmental soundness of air travel. International aviation is the first industry sector with global goals of stabilizing carbon emissions at 2020 levels and achieving a 2 per cent annual increase in fuel efficiency. ICAO has contributed to making air travel the safest mode of transportation. In 1947, when 21 million travelled by air, 590 were killed in aircraft accidents; in 2013, the number of deaths was 173 out of 3.1 billion airline passengers.

### **20. Improving Shipping**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has helped to make the seas cleaner and shipping—which serves about 90 per cent of global trade—safer and more secure. IMO measures cover all aspects of international shipping—including ship design, construction, equipment, manning, operation and disposal. With the help of IMO, ship losses have fallen and fatalities decreased; pollution incidents—including total oil pollution—are down; and air pollution and pollution from sewage are being addressed. These improvements are taking place even as the amount of cargo carried by sea continues to increase: the total of goods transported by ship reached 9.6 billion tons in 2013.

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# UNA's Adopt-A-Future Campaign for Educating Refugee Children



## Report on Fundraising for Adopt-A-Future to aid our adopted Gambela Primary School in Kenya's Refugee Camps

As all members are aware, the UNA-USA's Southern New York Coalition, of which Westchester Chapter is a part, made a commitment in 2017 to support Gambela Primary School in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya. We then pledged to raise \$30,000 to be used for constructing a sustainable classroom to accommodate forty school children for ten years, purchase school uniforms and

books for the children, and train special teachers. There is so much overcrowding in schools to the extent that thousands of children are taught under trees in scorching sun and dusty environment. One refugee child recently described the situation this way; "my classroom is always overcrowded. I have to wake up very early to get to school as early 6:00am or 5:00am so that I could reserve my seat otherwise I sit on the classroom's dirty floor during lessons".

The good news, according to Kenya's Ministry of Education report is this. "At the end of October 2017, thousands of refugee students in Kenya took part in the country's national primary school exams (end of Middle school), known as the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE). A 14-year-old among them, Magot Thuch Ayii, scored 413 points out of 500 in Kenya's primary-school exam, becoming one of the top students in the country. Magot, who is from South Sudan, was a student at Cush Primary School in Kakuma Refugee Camp".

(Read more on the website: click on the button, below)

**Ambassador Bob F. Jalango**

*UNA USA Westchester Chapter Board of Directors*

[Click Here to Read More](#)

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## *Support Adopt-A-Future!*

[Donate to Adopt-A-Future Online Here](#)

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The Foreign Policy Association's "Great Decisions" Series at the Harrison Library



**RICHARD E. HALPERIN MEMORIAL LIBRARY BUILDING**  
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I'm writing to remind everyone that The Foreign Policy Association's very popular "Great Decisions" Series is ongoing the Harrison Library! It successfully debuted in 2016 and over the last three years we have heard many excellent speakers, had many deep discussions and have been invited to the Embassy of the European Union as well as to the United Nations. Our participants have made their views known to Congress and the Executive branch of our government through ballots that we fill out after each session. I hope that you will join us this year for the discussion of many important topics.

By the time of this posting, we will be preparing our third topic. On **March 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 P.M.** we will present **"The Middle East: Regional Disorder."**

What is the way forward in the Middle East as it is in the midst of proxy wars being fought in Syria and Yemen by Saudi Arabia and Iran? How will the Palestinian/ Israeli conflict be solved now that the U.S. is not considered a fair broker, having moved its embassy to Jerusalem? What will Iran do now that the U.S. has withdrawn from the Nuclear Accord? Our speaker will be announced soon.

Our fourth topic on **April 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 P.M.** will be **"Decoding U.S. China Trade."**

While we are having a trade war, the stock market is falling and U.S. companies are dealing with high tariffs. Will we win the trade war as President Trump has predicted? Or, are we miscalculating the balance of trade between the U.S. and China? Can we correct any imbalance through different methods than a trade war? I am delighted to tell you that our speaker will once again be **Dr. Robert Daly**. He is Director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States. He speaks fluent Chinese and is one of our favorite speakers.

Our fifth topic will be held on **May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:30** and is **"Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics"**.

We must now try to understand and protect ourselves against Cyber attacks. Our last election revealed that we are vulnerable to election tampering. We are also vulnerable to attacks on our infrastructure. How can we protect ourselves against nations, such as China and Russia, intent on using Cyber Warfare. Our speaker will be **Mr. Daniel Hoffman**. We are delighted to welcome him back. He is a former C.I.A. intelligence officer with 30 years of distinguished government service. He served tours of duty in Russia, Europe, and war zones throughout the Middle East. He is fluent in Russian and spoke to us last year via SKYPE.

As you probably remember, we have a briefing book that has information on each of the 5 topics that we will be discussing. This book can be purchased from the Foreign Policy Association for approximately \$20 and will also be on reserve at the library for those who do not wish to purchase the book. Each topic is covered in about 10-12 pages and we usually suggest that participants try to read the article before the session so as to get a more complete understanding of the topic to be discussed. Also, there are additional suggested reading materials, easily accessed

at [www.greatdecisions.org](http://www.greatdecisions.org). At the back of the 2019 book, you will usually find the opinion ballot highlights from the 2018 session. We can see how our opinions matched those of people throughout the United States. The results of the opinion ballot may also be accessed at [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org) as a downloadable PDF.

When we gather at the Library's Community Room, we usually start the session by seeing a film on the topic at hand prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. We, often, also have a prominent guest speaker. Then, we break up into discussion groups to discuss questions raised by the issue and, lastly, we privately mark our anonymous ballots which are then sent by the Library staff to the Foreign Policy Association to be tallied along with those received from similar sessions across the United States. The results are then sent to Congress, the Executive Branch, and other Government Departments. When we have our discussions, we are in a safe space. We discuss only the issues, and all opinions are respectfully heard. This has enabled us to hear many different sides of an issue and make fully informed choices.

I've made many new friends through "Great Decisions" and I hope you have also. I look forward to seeing you at the Library as part of our next "Great Decisions" discussion group.

**Professor Joan Katen, Moderator**

Author, Board Member UNA USA-Westchester

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## In First-Ever Study, Citizens Recognize the Positive Impact of Tourism



**Branches within the United Nations system are consistently studying our habits to identify important drivers of global development. Here is yet another example:**

Madrid, Spain, 24 January 2019- According to the first ever global survey conducted by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and the Ipsos Group, a giant in the global marketing research industry, 50% of respondents consider tourism has a positive impact in generating wealth and promoting cultural exchanges, and 49% feel there should be measures to improve tourism management. Only 12% of respondents favour limitations to visitor numbers.

The online survey was conducted across 15 countries and targeted 12,000 people to better understand residents perception towards city tourism, its impacts and management strategies.

Today, adequately managing tourism to the benefit of visitors and residents alike, ensuring that local communities are listened to and benefit from tourism is more important than ever, said UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili. There is a pressing need to set a roadmap for urban tourism which is fully aligned with the urban agenda, he added.

While nearly half of the respondents (47%) think they live in a city with a high number of visitors, results vary significantly across countries, ranging from 68% in Australia to only 33% in France.

The generation of wealth and income, the creation of intercultural exchanges and of new offers of leisure activities stand out as the biggest impacts on cities. The perception of tourism's positive impacts is particularly strong in Argentina, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and Sweden.

For many urban destinations around the world, addressing the challenges of growing tourism demand

and adequately managing tourist flows is now a priority. In a similar way, the results show that 49% of respondents feel that there should be measures to better manage tourism. Again, values vary significantly by country from 75% in Argentina to only 24% in Japan.

Of all respondents, over 70% think these measures should focus on improving infrastructure and facilities as well as in creating attractions for both tourists and residents. Only 12% think measures should include the limitation of the number visitors and only 9% considered that tourism promotion should be stopped.

#### Key findings:

- 47% of respondents think they live in a city with a high number of tourists;
- The mixed-picture of the perceived impacts rising from urban tourism in the different countries demonstrates the complexity of economic, social and environmental issues faced by destinations today;
- On the positive side, 52% think tourism has a big or moderate impact in generating wealth and income. On the other end of the spectrum, 46% think it creates overcrowding;
- 49% of respondents think there should be measures to manage tourism;
- Respondents are most receptive to the following measures:  $\text{\textcircled{C}}$ improve infrastructures and facilities (72%);  $\text{\textcircled{C}}$ create experiences and attractions that benefit both residents and visitors (71%); and  $\text{\textcircled{C}}$ ensure local communities benefit from tourism (65%);
- Results also show that half of responses emphasized communicating and engaging with local communities (50%) and visitors (48%) as an important measure, whereas only 12% think there should be a  $\text{\textcircled{C}}$ limit to the number of tourists and only 9% think tourism promotion should be stopped.



The UNA USA-Westchester Board of Directors would like to inform the membership that Dave Finch, our President since 2018, has resigned from his position as President, effective February. Jan Fischer, our Vice President, has agreed to be Acting President until our Annual Meeting on May 19th.

We at UNA USA-Westchester thank Dave for the many years that we have all benefited from his guidance and service to the Chapter. Especially within this board, he has made a great difference, and his presence and comments will be missed. We all

heartily thank him for his excellent service during almost two decades of board involvement.

Elections in May will select a new President. We hope you will all join in that vote and keep us moving forward together.

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## **MASTHEAD & SUBMISSIONS**

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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](mailto: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](mailto:Patrick@vnclm.org) with the subject line “UNAUSA 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 UNAUSA 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.

