



UNA * USA

*Educating, Inspiring and Mobilizing
American Support for the United Nations*

UNA-USA Annual Report 2020

United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA)

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A Message from the Executive Director, UNA-USA

Seventy-five years ago, during the San Francisco Conference, delegates from 50 countries came together to showcase a global commitment to international cooperation, dialogue, and shared action for peace following World War II. Leading up to this historic moment, 40 organizations, including the American Association for the United Nations (now UNA-USA), used their collective voices to advocate for the UN's formation. They understood the capacity for unified nations to build a better world for everyone, everywhere. Through their partnerships and persistent lobbying, these organizations played an important role in the creation of the UN Charter and its ratification by the U.S. Congress.

Today, UNA-USA members continue to lift their voices through civic engagement. We are dedicated to our mission to educate, inspire and mobilize Americans to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations and its agencies. Our mission is achieved through public events, community partnerships, volunteering and grassroots advocacy.

In 2020, the pandemic made the work of UNA-USA challenging but not impossible. Together we mobilized to ensure our programs, outreach and advocacy remained intact. Though virtual, the Global Engagement Summit and the Global Leadership Summit was turned into 19 Global Engagement Online Series webcasts, which gave advocates access to UN officials and other issue-area experts who discussed the intersections of COVID-19 with other global issues. UNA-USA chapters and National Office conducted over 80 UN75 consultations on the state of the world, over 100 UN Day events and numerous Zoom discussions on issues related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). UNA-USA members participated in over 100 virtual congressional meetings to advocate for desperately needed UN funds, and donated thousands of dollars to the COVID-19 Relief Fund. Collectively, we raised our voices against racial injustice, climate change and the previous Administration's termination of its relationship with the World Health Organization, and we encouraged people to vote! Lastly, we inducted the 2020-2022 National Council, led by Chair Paula Boland, and awarded exceptional members and chapters.

To this end, I am pleased to provide the 2020 UNA-USA Annual report. While our lives were dramatically shifted due to the pandemic, we persisted and found a way to advance the UNA-USA's mission.



Rachel Bowen Pittman

About UNA-USA

Mission

UNA-USA is a program of the United Nations Foundation. We are dedicated to inspiring, educating, and mobilizing Americans to support the principles and vital work of the United Nations and its agencies. Our nationwide network is committed to strengthening the United Nations system, promoting constructive United States leadership in that system, and achieving the goals set forth in the UN Charter.

UNA-USA Network

UNA-USA and its sister organization, the Better World Campaign, comprise the largest network of UN advocates in the world. UNA-USA has over 20,000 members - 60% of whom are under the age of 25 and have more than 200 community and campus-based chapters across the country. UNA-USA members are united in their commitment to global engagement and their belief that each of us can play a part in advancing the UN's mission and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

UNA-USA Chapters

UNA-USA chapters are the heart of the organization. They help grow our base of grassroots advocates, which in turn strengthens our voice on Capitol Hill. Through meetings with their Members of Congress, our national network of UN advocates share personal stories on why the UN matters and the importance of U.S. global leadership and full U.S. funding for the UN. Most importantly, they champion the work of the UN to their communities through public events, community partnerships, local government outreach, and volunteer activities that support the SDGs.

In 2020 we saw an increased commitment by UNA-USA members to create local campaigns that use the 17 SDGs as the framework to address and improve local issues. In 2020, on average, 50% held 1-5 programs; 28% held 5-10 programs, and 22% held over 11 programs. Through the pandemic, UNA-USA chapters were unable to hold their usual scheduled programs. Membership outreach was limited. But, in the midst of these unexpected challenges, we persisted and found a way to advance the UNA-USA's mission. Our members are at the forefront of innovation and welcome opportunities to partner and collaborate with their respective communities in order to advance the Global Goals.

Educate

UNA-USA seeks opportunities to increase awareness of the work of the UN by empowering our national network of UN advocates understand solutions for global issues in the context of local and national needs. We create a variety of entry points to engage civil society with the knowledge, skills, and abilities to become informed supporters of the United Nations. We educate through consultations, forums, special initiatives, and an array of activities to address the intergenerational interest of our membership base. Below are a few highlights from 2020:

Global Engagement Online Series

UNA-USA created the Global Engagement Online Series (GEOS) in response to Covid-19 and the cancellation of the Global Engagement Summit at the United Nations and the Global Leadership Summit.

GEOS is a way for UNA-USA to connect external audiences with high level speakers and topics related to the United Nations. GEOS gave us an opportunity to expand our reach to non-UNA members interested in global issues.

Throughout the year, we hosted 19 programs, covering a range of topics including the UN's 75th Anniversary, UN agencies' global response to the pandemic, social justice and human rights. We also welcomed distinguished speakers, like the UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, the World Health Organization's Dr. Maria van Kerkhove, UN Youth Envoy Jayathma Wickramanayake, and so many others, including local activists and changemakers. You can watch [all programs from 2020 on YouTube](#), and stay tuned for more sessions in 2021.

Emerging Leaders Fellowship

The UNA-USA Emerging Leaders Fellowship provides professional development to UNA-USA Students and Young Professionals under the age of 40. The individuals participate in monthly virtual discussions and commit to leading a local initiative, project, or event. Upon completion of the program, participants are equipped with the skills such as event-planning, leadership, and communications. In 2020, Emerging Leaders participants completed projects related to celebrating the UN's 75th anniversary. Over 75 UNA-USA members successfully completed the program between the fall and spring cohorts.

Passport

In 2020, UNA-USA hosted 14 members-only webinars in a series called "Passport". This new UNA-USA member-only experience aimed at offering unique opportunities every month to equip members with the tools to become more effective advocates for the United Nations. Through these sessions, UNA-USA engaged over 800 attendees in a number of topics ranging from career and professional development, sustainability, human rights, advocacy, and global health. Interactive program elements included a trivia night, consultations, affinity group meetings, fireside chats, speaker Q&A and advocacy actions.

UN Day: Past. Present. Progress

Every year for the month of October, UNA-USA and its 200+ chapters around the country celebrate the UN's anniversary by hosting events centered around a certain global issue. In 2020, we celebrated a momentous milestone: the UN's 75th anniversary. We reflected on the past, celebrated the accomplishments of the present, and looked forward to progress towards a better and brighter future for everyone, everywhere.

The UNA-USA National Office hosted a [virtual UN Day event](#) and UNA-USA chapters hosted their own virtual events in 31 states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. Many UNA-USA chapters focused on the UN Day theme, “Past. Present. Progress,” and other chapters raised awareness on issues such as the rights of the indigenous peoples, empowering women and girls, and careers at the United Nations.

Furthermore, on UN Day, the UNA-USA network participated in advocacy actions to ask elected leaders to support full U.S. funding for the UN and its agencies. Over 500 digital petitions and 86 phone calls were made to ask Members of Congress to support a strong U.S.-UN partnership.

Mobilize

When we mobilize UNA-USA advocates, we create a united voice that reaches local, national and global communities to amplify the reasons why the work of the UN matters. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic did not slow down the UNA-USA movement. Platforms like Zoom and digital petitions enabled the voices of UNA-USA advocates to be heard.

UN75 Consultations

Between March and June of 2020, almost 2,000 Americans took part in more than 80 virtual consultation sessions that UNA-USA facilitated as part of UN75, the UN’s yearlong global conversation to gather opinions from as many diverse groups of people across the world as possible, on the current and future state of the world. Americans from the business sector, faith-based communities, civil society and local government came together to answer the UN’s three big UN75 questions:

- Are we on track to secure a better world?
- What kind of future do we want to create?
- What action is needed to help us build a brighter future?

UNA-USA’s participation in the UN75 Global Consultations was unprecedented because we reached our goal of capturing voices from all 50 states, Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico. We also recommitted ourselves to strengthening our advocacy for strong U.S. leadership in the UN and getting more involved at the local, state and federal level. We know that in order to have a brighter future in the next 25 years--when the United Nations turns 100--we must come together and stand united.

The UN75 Consultations provided an opportunity for UNA-USA to crowdsource civil society and glean detailed information regarding regional priorities as related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, the activity provided the forum to identify the significant roles of key stakeholders in achieving the 2030 Agenda. For further information about the UN 75 Consultations and regional priorities, please click [here](#).

Advocacy Asks & Outreach

UNA-USA is the only grassroots organization in the United States that advocates for strong U.S. leadership and full U.S. funding for the United Nations and its agencies. Throughout 2020, UNA-USA constituents used their voices through digital petitions, virtual advocacy meetings, national call-in days and op-eds to urge Members of Congress and the presidential administration to provide support for the UN. Through our collective efforts to mobilize our national network of UN advocates, UNA-USA sent more than 24,000 petitions to Members on Capitol Hill.

While there were many UN-related advocacy asks, here were the top four sent by UNA-USA advocates:

Full U.S. Funding to the UN– urges Members of Congress to fully fund our Peacekeeping and Regular Budget dues while also supporting strong U.S. leadership at the UN.

Global Health – urged Members of Congress to oppose the Trump Administration’s decision to submit its letter of intent to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO) during one of the worst pandemics on record.

Racial Injustice – urges Members of Congress to support resolutions sponsored by Sen. Cory Booker and Rep. Barbara Lee to form a U.S. Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Commission. This resolution is an essential element in any process to address and hopefully, ultimately extinguish racial injustice in this country and is reflective of principles and processes advocated for by the UN since its founding.

Climate & Environment – urges Members of Congress to support the UN, which is leading the charge to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change by 2030.

Week of Action

Every year, UNA-USA brings Americans from across the country to Washington, D.C to hold meetings with Members of Congress in support of a strong U.S.-UN partnership. To continue this tradition during the pandemic, UNA-USA hosted a Week of Action, which enabled UNA-USA advocates to make their voices heard through virtual platforms. During this week, 102 virtual meetings were conducted with Congressional offices and other actions were taken through digital actions and phone banking.

Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund

UNA-USA challenged our members across the country to show their support for the World Health Organization’s (WHO) COVID-19 response and encouraged them to contribute to the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, a first-of-its-kind fund launched by the UN Foundation, WHO, and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation. There was incredible response from the UNA-USA community, which included 30 UNA-USA chapters participating in a special COVID-19 Solidarity Challenge. Contributions to this fund directly

supported WHO’s efforts to prevent, detect, and respond to the pandemic. Click [here](#) to access the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for the World Health Organization - Impact Report.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In support of the Agenda for Sustainable Development, UNA-USA chapters incorporated the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their events, programs and initiatives. Based on 2020 chapter annual reports, the most frequently addressed SDGs included the following:

#3 Good Health and Well Being	68%
#5 Gender Equality	63%
#10 Reduced Inequality	61%
#13 Climate Action	76%
#16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	72%

Furthermore, UNA-USA launched an advocacy petition to support H.Res.654, a resolution sponsored by Rep. Barbara Lee which calls for support to meet key goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including achieving gender equality, ending extreme poverty, and improving public health. The resolution also states that the agenda’s Sustainable Development Goals form a critical blueprint to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people can live in peace and prosperity by 2030.

The Adopt-A-Future Campaign (AAF)

The AAF Campaign, through UNA-USA and in partnership with USA for UNHCR, offered communities across the country the opportunity to support refugee children in two camps in Kenya – Daadab and Kukuma. The campaign launched in late 2016 and ended in December 2019 – although fundraising continued into the first quarter of 2020. 12 individual UNA-USA chapters, 27 chapters making up coalitions, and 42 nonparticipating chapters raised a combined \$319,782.00 during the lifecycle of the project. The funds raised were matched dollar-for-dollar through the Educate a Child Fund of Her Highness Sheikha Moza Bint Nasser of Qatar and other philanthropic partners, doubling the impact of the initiative and making the grand total more than \$639,546.00. To access the full impact report, click [here](#).

Inspire

As the largest grassroots network of UN supporters in the world, UNA-USA is uniquely positioned to leverage resources and human capital like no other association. With the rich history of our founding by former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, we are creating a national platform of UN advocates with vision for

a brighter tomorrow. In 2020, the following UNA-USA champions inspired a new network of UN advocates through their work and outreach.

UNA-USA Youth Observer to the United Nations

UNA-USA announced the selection of Jay'Len Boone as the 2019-2020 Youth Observer to the UN. Jay'Len, a climate activist and senior from University of Texas at San Antonio, spent his term attending UN conferences such as the Youth Climate Summit and Social Good Summit, visiting universities across the United States, and representing American youth voices at the United Nations. Be inspired by Jay'Len and his virtual address to all 2020 graduates – click [here](#)

In August 2020, we welcomed Dustin Liu as UNA-USA's ninth Youth Observer to the UN. Dustin kicked off his term with a listening tour, hosting more than 100 meetings with young people across the country to learn about the issues most important to them. In September, Dustin also launched the Changemaker Compass podcast where he interviews young changemakers from across the U.S. Catch up on his conversations [here](#).

Global Goals Ambassadors

Launched in Fall 2020, The UNA-USA Global Goals Ambassador Program is an opportunity for UNA-USA members to take their passion about a Sustainable Development Goal and leverage it to develop related programming and communications at the national level. During this yearlong fellowship, selected Ambassadors worked alongside UNA-USA staff and other volunteer leaders to promote the SDGs at the national level.

UNA-USA 2020 Awardees

In recognition of outstanding volunteer service, each year we solicit nominees for excellence. We thank this year's awardees and take this opportunity now to recognize you:

Arnold Goodmand Lifetime Achievement Award: Dr. Joseph Baxer, UNA-USA Connecticut

The Arnold Goodman Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a longtime volunteer leader for their continued support of UNA-USA's mission. Dr. Baxer has been involved with UNA for almost 20 years and has served two terms on the National Council. He is currently the president of UNA-USA Connecticut Chapter.

Advocate of the Year: Ms. Jillian Boardman, UNA-USA Los Angeles

The Advocate of the Year Award recognizes a member who supports UNA-USA's many advocacy initiatives, from organizing in-district meetings with their elected officials to participating in our

calls to action. Ms. Boardman was quick to form partnerships with local organizations and establish a committed group of members. She is currently serving as Chapter President.

Young Leader of the Year: Ms. Bianca Salgado

The Young Leader of the Year Award recognizes a youth member who has exemplified chapter leadership and is an ardent supporter of UNA-USA's many initiatives. Ms. Salgado demonstrates leadership in both the UNA Southern California Division, the UNA Whittier chapter and within the community through her continued advocacy for the Sustainable Development Goals, human rights, and student activism.

Community Chapter of Excellence: UNA-USA Broward County

The Community Chapter of Excellence Award is awarded to a community chapter that has grown its membership, developed programming or campaigns to support UNA-USA's mission, and conducted both local and national advocacy outreach.

UNA Broward County Chapter members in 2020 participated in 10 in-district meetings, shared their visions with the UN for a brighter future during Florida's UN75 consultation, and raised funds for the Adopt-A-Future initiative which helped provide quality education to refugee children. Through the chapter's advocacy efforts, 31 cities enacted CEDAW (The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women).

Campus Chapter of Excellence: UNA-USA Arizona State University

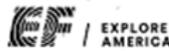
The Campus Chapter of Excellence Award is awarded to a campus chapter that has gone above and beyond to host various programs, actively recruit, engage and retain members, and promote advocacy initiatives.

The UNA Arizona State University Chapter has organized numerous programs, from its United Nations Gala and Sustainability Forum to hosting networking events and meeting with elected officials.

Partners, Collaborators & Supporters

UNA-USA wishes to thank our partners, collaborators, and friends in supporting our mission. Your involvement in our grassroots movement is enabling UNA-USA to reach new audiences, to amplify the views and perspectives of diverse communities, and to leverage the vast assets within our network to localize the global goals and ultimately support the United Nations in achieving Agenda 2030.

We are grateful to the following organizations:



National Council/Affinity Groups

The UNA-USA National Council is an elected body of UNA-USA volunteer leaders who also serve as regional representatives. Consisting of 30 members elected on a regional basis, the National Council meets throughout the year to make recommendations on advocacy and other program priorities. 2020 was an election year. As such, we onboarded new members to the National Council, discussed and developed new strategies for engagement with the broader UNA-USA network, and pivoted our in-person meetings to the virtual platform. For more information or to contact your regional representative, please click link [here](#).

UNA-USA's Affinity Groups provide the opportunity for members to coalesce and support issues of mutual interest. The agenda is set by members for members. To become involved with an affinity group or to learn more, please visit unausa.org/join/affinity-groups/

National Office Team

UNA-USA members are supported by full time staff working both from the Washington, DC and New York City offices. We thank the full team for the efforts and their work in building strong US-UN relations. To learn more about our team, please click [here](#).

A Look Towards 2021

Get Us Back Campaign

As the architect of the UN, the U.S. has long championed human rights, global health, democracy, good governance, nonproliferation, and global peace. All of which have been a focus of the UN for 75 years.

With a new Administration and a new Congress, comes a new opportunity to get the US back on the global stage where we belong. That starts at the United Nations. Throughout 2021, UNA-USA will

mobilize its advocates to take this message to the U.S. leaders to encourage a new commitment to strong U.S. leadership at the UN and full U.S. funding.

#MySDG Dream

The UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals represent a dream and vision for a peaceful, harmonious world for everyone. UNA-USA's #MySDGDream initiative invites everyone, everywhere to share their dreams and ideas for achieving the global goals in their lives and communities. We encourage you to join us in expressing your SDG vision and to using this resource to educate, inspire, and mobilize stakeholders within your community.

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Report written by Troy Wolfe, Senior Director Partnerships and Special Initiatives, with input from Sarah Hopkins, Communications and Digital Media Officer, Karam Chohan, UNA-USA Fall 2020 Intern, and Elise Buvarp Lavik, UNA-USA Winter 2021 Intern.

For more information about the **United Nations Association of the United States of America**, please visit www.unausa.org.