



UNATODAY

UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK

WINTER 2019

Through the work of the United Nations Association of New York and the 120 community-based chapters around the country, UNA-USA creates a powerful national constituency for a United Nations that advances American interests in a global system. UNA offers each and every American the opportunity to connect with the critical issues confronted by the U.N. — from global health and human rights, to the spread of democracy, equitable sustainable development, and international justice. UNA educates Americans about the work of the United Nations, and builds public support for more effective U.S. engagement in the U.N.

UNA-NY Advocacy Reaches New Heights as Another Successful Year Closes

ABID QURESHI | PRESIDENT



As 2019 draws to a close, it is a good opportunity to reflect on how we at UNA-NY are doing in fulfilling our mandate of bringing the UN and its issues to you, our members. And while the past year once again saw us deliver an enriching array of programs covering many topics confronting the UN and its many agencies, our mission is not only to educate, but also to advocate. This year, our advocacy reached new heights, with a focus on helping the UN raise awareness of the plague of human trafficking, a problem that is expressly targeted by three of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to making trafficking the theme of our annual **Humanitarian Awards Dinner**, we also struck an alliance with

Freedom United, the world's largest anti-slavery community. Together with Freedom United, we are actively lobbying governments around the world to ratify a comprehensive international standard on forced labor, and bringing the issues to New Yorkers through a series of programs.

Time magazine has named Swedish teenager and environmental advocate Greta Thunberg as its youngest-ever "Person of the Year," a reminder of the power of youth to set the global agenda and to bring attention to causes central to the mission of the UN.

We continue to do our part to engage with youth on these issues, having once again expanded our **Summer Scholars** program. This year, through our successful fundraising efforts, we were able to send five New York-area university students on

life-changing experiences interning with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UNICEF in Egypt, Senegal, Jordan and Turkey.

Our success over the past year is attributable to our Executive Director, **Ann Nicol**, and to our Board of Directors. I am very pleased that we were able to improve the quality of our board with the addition of Dr. **Lily Khidr** this past year. In addition to being a long-time supporter of UNA-NY, Lily is a highly accomplished scientific publisher, and brings new perspectives, experiences, and a keen intellect to the board. We also thank **Ian Fuller**, who left our board, for his many years of service.

On behalf of all of us here at UNA-NY, I would like to wish you and yours a good holiday season and a happy and healthy 2020.



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Cover: UN Secretary-General **António Guterres** (right) speaks with UN Deputy Secretary-General **Amina Mohammed** ahead of the opening of the UN Climate Action Summit 2019. UN Photo/Mark Garten

Special Supplement on UN75 Coming Soon

To mark its 75th anniversary in 2020, the United Nations will launch the biggest-ever global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future we want.

Tackling the many global issues such as climate change, inequality,



or some major changes we are seeing in population and technology, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, our shared vision for the future will require cooperation across borders, sectors and generations.

A special supplement from UNA Today will look at the new UN initiative to advance this vital conversation...

Watch for it in the new year!

Bringing the UN Closer to You

ANN NICOL | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



The United Nations Association of NY looks forward again, in 2020, to its mission of engaging, educating and bringing the UN's global issues closer to you in New York. Thank you once again for joining us and contributing so meaningfully to our programs, presentations and get-togethers.

Collaborating with the Columbia University Club of New York, our **Ambassador Series** continues to provide valuable insights into global affairs. Our film series **Screening the Issues** has also had a successful year, with several of our selected choices being recognized by nominations for national film awards.

The Worldview Insitute program was fully attended in 2019 and brought together diplomats, academics and journalists in stimulating conversations over dinner. It

is an informal and very worthwhile way to spend an evening a week, for ten weeks, with topic experts and your fellow participants.

Our **STEM Education Now** presentation was extremely well attended, as was our LGBTQ rights panel. The UNA-NY **Careers** event once again attracted a broad selection of young professionals and students who wish, each year, to explore UN career opportunities.

The **Humanitarian Awards Dinner** on October 3 spotlighted the theme of human trafficking. We recognized Delta Air Lines, Mira Sorvino and Nicholas Kristof for their dedication and commitment to eradicating human trafficking.

We look forward to seeing you at our programs, sessions and discussions in 2020 as we share our common goals and efforts towards peace, understanding and international collaboration.

THE WORLDVIEW INSTITUTE 2020

Now entering its thirteenth year, **The Worldview Institute** continues to provide in-depth forums for professionals to engage in discussions covering global issues, with experts in foreign policy and international affairs.

A corporate executive training program of the United Nations Association of New York, these seminars are not open to the general public. Rather, we are seeking the best and brightest professionals between 25 and 40, although older and more seasoned professionals are warmly welcomed.



Applicants should have a bachelor's degree and a minimum of three years of professional experience or relevant graduate work.

Seminar topics are designed to stimulate informal but academic discussions with practitioners in the international arena and to illuminate and explore business, political, economic and social trends in different regions of the world.

Our upcoming **Worldview Institute 2020** semester is currently in planning and is set to begin in February 2020. Please check our website for a complete schedule.

LOOKING INTO WORLDVIEW

Looking into Worldview is an occasional series of articles offering a glimpse into the program. This piece highlights the range of topics and speakers that appeared in our last Worldview semester.

Worldview Institute Spring 2019 semester closed with attendees celebrating their graduation dinner at the National Arts Club. Among participants were professionals and leaders from across New York City who took part in the program in order to learn about the most pressing global challenges undertaken by the UN, as well as to engage critically with speakers from different sectors, including UN officials, ambassadors, scholars and journalists.

With the UN as central focus, Worldview attendees visited its headquarters in a mid-semester

Leaders and Changemakers in Action at Worldview

tour, while otherwise engaging in direct interactions with high-level officials throughout the seminars.

UN Spokesperson **Stéphane Dujarric** explained to participants the current role of the organization in meeting the greatest challenges of the 21st century. With climate change a top concern, UN Special Envoy for the 2019 Climate Summit, **Luis Alfonso de Alba**, stressed that the summit's aims will ensure that UN Member States are committed to solving the environmental degradation of our planet. Moreover, Assistant UN Secretary-General for Operations, **Bintou Keita**, highlighted the importance of more peaceful partnerships in today's globalized world. Her experience taught professionals the necessity of a multi-sector involvement in constructing peace today.

With diplomacy a major element of the Worldview outlook, Amba-

sador **Karen Pierce**, Permanent Representative of the UK to the UN, discussed the future of multilateralism in making stronger international cooperation systems. In addition, Ambassador **Jürg Lauber**, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN, explained the first ever Global Compact on migration and the key challenges in drafting agreements as such.

Academia provided a relevant presence in the seminars. **Janine di Giovanni**, Senior Fellow of the Jackson Institute of Global Affairs at Yale University, shared her expertise on documenting human rights situations in places suffering from war and conflicts, while **Jan-Werner Müller**, Professor of Politics at Princeton University, informed participants about ongoing political movements rising in Europe and the region's changing political spectrum. Representatives from the fields



Worldview Spring 2019 Dinner
Keynote speaker **Josiane Ambiehl**

of journalism and law were also part of the Worldview scope this year. **Adam B. Ellick**, Director and Executive Producer of Opinion Video at the New York Times, emphasized the role of the press in clearly communicating with society in a more interconnected world. And, international law consultant and immigration law practitioner, **Fay Parris**, gave her viewpoints on immigration by distinguishing between myths and reality.

As keynote speaker at the graduation dinner closing out Worldview this year, **Josiane Ambiehl**, Chief of the UN Decolonization Unit, motivated graduates to understand the situation of territories inscribed on the UN list of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

The success of Worldview seminars reinforces the pivotal role of UNA-NY in empowering and instructing New York professionals in helping solve global challenges. We congratulate all the graduates for taking steps to truly becoming changemakers!



Humanitarian Awards Dinner Celebrates 74th Anniversary of the UN

UN DAY GALA 2019

On Thursday, October 3rd last autumn, the United Nations Association of New York announced the honorees for its annual **Humanitarian of the Year Awards**, during the celebratory **UN Day Gala Dinner** at the J.W. Marriott in New York City, commemorating the 74th Anniversary of the UN.

This year the UN Day honorees selected were individuals and organizations to be awarded for their extraordinary commitment and tireless dedication in leading the global fight against trafficking in persons and sexual exploitation, an ongoing international issue that has put the lives of millions of people, especially children and girls, at risk.

Receiving the award was **Delta Air Lines**, and actor and activist **Mira Sorvino**, followed by a Lifetime Achievement Award given to New York Times journalist **Nicholas Kristof**, all honored for their trailblazing work and commitment to end this modern form of slavery worldwide. Acknowledging the wide range of responses necessary, UNA-NY president **Abid Qureshi** stressed that “the fight against human trafficking can only be won if people are aware of the scope and scale of the problem.”

To open the evening, the founder of Freedom United, **Joe Schmidt**, announced the new partnership with UNA-NY to boost efforts for ending forced labor and call on more governments to ratify the ILO forced labor protocol 29. “We need the support of people like you to continue to demand change in supply chains and government policy, to make human trafficking and modern slavery history,” Schmidt said.



Delta Air Lines has been an outspoken industry leader in combatting human trafficking, not least in its training of 56,000 employees to recognize the signs of human trafficking. As one of the world’s largest airlines, Delta has contributed millions of dollars to fund organizations working to combat

her current position in 2009 as UN Goodwill Ambassador in the Global Fight Against Human Trafficking.

In her conversation with the evening’s master of ceremonies, MSNBC anchor **Richard Lui**, she emphasized that every person and institution from all sectors should get involved, and all have something to contribute. “Every single one of the 30 million+ people living in the hell that is human trafficking needs our unending efforts to liberate them and give them back the life they were intended for. We can’t rest until they are all free!” she said.

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist **Nicholas Kristof** was also celebrated for his immense contribution to the anti-human trafficking movement during the Gala, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. As one of the New York Times’ most recognizable and widely-followed columnists, he has leveraged his unique cultural position to bring attention to human trafficking’s many intractable problems.

In a recent article, Kristof reminded the world’s leaders, as they prepared to descend on New York for the recent annual gathering



this epidemic, provided over 100 flights to victims, and has offered apprenticeships for survivors at its corporate headquarters.

Allison Ausband, Senior Vice President for In-Flight Services, received the award on behalf of the company. She stressed the need for everyone, including travelers and transport employees, to **#GetOnBoard** with recognizing these signs in all environments.

Academy Award winning actor **Mira Sorvino** has been a pioneer in raising awareness of the issue within the entertainment industry for over a decade. Having supported the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime anti-trafficking initiatives since 2007, she was appointed to



at the UN General Assembly, that tens of millions are effectively locked into modern forms of slavery. And that somewhere between 10,000 and 100,000 children are sold for sex in the United States every year. He brings attention not only to the problem, but to solutions that work, such as grassroots community initiatives to identify those at risk of human trafficking.

In the gala’s keynote address given by **Simone Monasebian**, Chief of the New York office of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, she thanked UNA-NY for its years-long partnership with the UNODC, informing the audience on the



needed support to the organization in fighting for these issues.

Lastly, the evening finished with an appearance and testimonies by this year’s **UNA-NY Summer Scholars**. All five young women who were awarded this year’s fellowships stressed the importance of continuing support received by the Summer Scholars program, which provides a genuine and meaningful opportunity for young people to become involved with global issues in a hands-on way, while gaining experience in the international field of UN-related endeavors.

The UNA-NY Board of Directors and staff give special thanks to all honorees, partners, guests and volunteers, for their support and participation in another outstanding gala dinner. After such an important gathering, the clear hope remains that more individuals and institutions will join forces and commit to eradicate this atrocious modern form of slavery.

AMBASSADOR SERIES

FOCUSES ON RWANDA TODAY AS EXAMPLE OF INTEGRATION AND INCLUSION

The Ambassador Series, co-hosted by the Columbia University Club, invites our honorable guests who examine the roles of their countries as actors in international affairs and on the UN diplomatic stage. UNA-NY members enjoy these presentations, which cover many interesting topics and aspects of political life as well as diplomacy.

Earlier this year, our spring presentation was held in memory of the victims and in honor of the survivors of the genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda. The appearance of **Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza** and the **Right Honorable Martin Ngoga**, was moderated by law consultant **Fay Parris**.

Ambassador Rugwabiza gave an insightful perspective on the matter. She stated that “the story of Rwanda is a story of hope, because we have been able to shape what Rwanda is today. Despite what were our most unbelievable and tragic starting point, we have been able to change that by making the choices that we hold till the present day. The choice of being together.” The ambassador saluted the choice of the Rwandan people of not allowing any form of revenge, as she described that “revenge means sacrificing the future.” Thus, she specified that the country has put in place a system that values every human being and does not tolerate impunity.

Moreover, Rt. Honorable Ngoga indicated that ‘reflecting’ is the most appropriate way to refer to this remembrance: “reflect where we failed



and how we can work together, going forward, to make sure what happened in Rwanda doesn't happen again.” He continued by saying that “it is a measure of prevention, it is a therapy to those who lived that reality.” Mr. Ngoga encouraged the audience to keep the conversation going, since “it is a reassurance to the survivors that we know what happened and we acknowledge our failures; because the genocide happened due to collective failure. There was betrayal of that promise we made to one another.”

Rwanda has become a country of reference in integration and inclusion. As stated by Rugwabiza, “dignity is translated in tangible services and real policies.” Today, Rwanda has the highest number of women in parliament at 61% and the average age of cabinet member is 38 years old. She also highlighted the importance of youth inclusion, where more than 65% of the population is less than 30 years old.

25 years after this great Rwandan tragedy, the country has emerged with dignity and hope.

Attendees at our autumn presentation heard from **Ambassador Maria Theofilis** who spoke about the current state of Greece in the world. On the 6th of November, UNA-NY members, Columbia University alumni, and guests had the chance to interact

dards and sufficient resources to the hundreds of refugees entering every day. However, aid limitations create difficulty in providing proper help for a high influx of refugees, and Greece seeks other European countries to increase their refugee intake.

Attendees were actively engaged in the discussion, bringing innovative questions, ideas, and alternative strategies to address Greece's current situation. For example, one of these topics discussed the shifting global dynamics of international power, with the rise of Eastern nations challenging the West's position as main global superpower.

Ambassador Theofilis discussed that in these times of uncertainty and increased global challenges, partnerships are crucial for a country's long-term economic prosperity. At the same time, allied nations should make efforts to understand



with Ambassador Theofilis directly and expand their perspective on opportunities and issues facing the country today.

Asserting the importance of maintaining strong relationships with allied nations, she underscored Greece's commitment to, and history of, respecting its various alliances, with numerous regional issues addressed not by a single country, but various nations joining in discussion.

Ambassador Theofilis also highlighted the need for international involvement in the refugee crisis. Greece has taken a leading role supporting the refugees fleeing the Middle East by making a significant effort to provide decent living stan-

the needs of other countries to support sustainable development. For as she highlighted, “Peace and security cannot prevail in the absence of sustainable development.”

Finally, the ambassador shared some of her life experiences as a diplomat and ambassador to the UN. She highlighted the importance of actively supporting and engaging with the UN in her role to solve issues through cooperative and multilateral approaches.

From the ambassador's speech, it is clear Greece remains a relevant leader in solving significant regional challenges. Special thanks to the Permanent Mission of Greece to the UN for its cooperation.



This year our panels involved a range of human rights issues, highlighting the situation of many whose plight needs greater attention, as well as direct participation of attendees.

In March, UNA-NY hosted a special panel as part of CSW63 — the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held at UN Headquarters in New York. The CSW is an annual international conference which brings together thousands of delegates from all over the world. The 2019 conference theme this year focused on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Among several organizations participating, UNA-NY presented a session called **Where Do We Go From Here? Pathways to Empowering Immigrant Women and Girls**. The presenting panel addressed impacts of recent developments in U.S. immigration policy.

Under discussion were executive orders and rulings which place undocumented victims or witnesses of crimes at higher risk of deportation; make it procedurally improbable for individuals to pursue asylum claims; tighten asylum thresholds generally; and in effect, eliminate legal recourse for many persons whose asylum claim is premised upon domestic or gang related violence.



In order to evaluate the current situation of human rights for LGBTI persons, in August we hosted a special **UPR Panel**, along with a survey, entitled the **LGBTI Human Rights Consultation**.

HUMAN RIGHTS PANELS

ENGAGED DISCUSSIONS ON ISSUES THAT INFORM & ACTIVATE



Every five years the UN Human Rights Council evaluates the human rights performance of all UN Member States, as part of its **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**. In 2020, the United States will have undergone this Review process, which will include a stakeholder report by NGOs and human rights institutions.

Through local UNA chapters, the UPR permits civil society to advocate and take part in implementing human rights obligations, as a wonderful opportunity to have an impact on policies and practices of the UN and of the U.S. on particular issues, such as Race, Criminal Justice & Human Rights, and Child Immigrants.

In honor of Pride Month (June),

UNA-NY selected LGBTI Human Rights for its contribution to this Review process. Participants among the public

filled out a survey on this issue, the results of which were presented and discussed in the event's in-person consultation. As part of this process, public recommendations were made — from participants representing diverse organizations, ages, ethnicities and experiences — all contributing to the Division's report.

This informative panel included: **Shijuade Kadree**, Chief Advocacy Officer of The LGBT Community Center; **Christian Courtis**, the Gender and Women's Rights Advisor to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York; and panel moderator **Maria Sjödin**, Deputy Executive Director of OutRight Action International.

We were excited to sponsor a special panel on climate migration issues in mid-September, in collaboration with **The Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility at The New School**, and **The Bard Globalization and International Affairs**. The panel, **Where Can They Go?** was held in advance of global climate actions taking place in September 20-27, the week surrounding the UN Climate Summit.

That week the Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice also saw hundreds of actions around the world, calling for a transformation of the energy system.

Climate change reshapes the patterns of migration and displacement. It is everyone's right to move safely and legally, and everyone's right of movement as a way of coping with the worst impacts of climate change.

Climate migration refers to the displacement of populations, forced by the effects of climate change.

While New Yorkers tend to think this takes place only in faraway places, the U.S. also joins countries around the world that are dealing with these issues.

This evening, the guest panelists presented local, national, and global endeavors that are currently underway, including the first Federally-funded climate migration effort in the United States: the relocation of the indigenous people of the Isle de Jean Charles. The panelists discussed how lessons are being learned, ideas exchanged, and how all of this is now forming the basis for ongoing policies and decisions.

On this occasion we welcomed **Tareq Md. Ariful Islam**, Deputy Permanent Representative to the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the UN; **Dakota Fisher**, the Senior GIS Analyst for the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office (DAO); **Kobi Ruthenberg**, Associate Director of ORG Permanent Modernity; and panel moderator **Risa Perlmutter Goldstein**, who leads the Sustainable Planning Department for the Goldstein Partnership Architects & Planners.

A special guest appearance was made by the young New York City climate activist **Alexandria Villaseñor**, who has regularly led her own weekly school strike on Fridays in front of UN Headquarters since December 2018.



The United Nations Association of New York was pleased to host a special panel on **STEM Education Now** at the SUNY Global Center last spring. The conference had the primary purpose of promoting diversity and inclusion among the STEM fields, while taking into consideration sustainable development, a major agenda of the United Nations.



During the conference, NGO representatives, experts and activists participated in the interactive discussion to motivate the younger participants to be involved in the STEM fields, seeing it as an opportunity for developing careers and making a considerable impact in society.

The conference started with an energetic music video on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which teaches young people about each goal's importance, and that STEM (science, technology, education, and mathematics) can help build sustainable practices in approaching today's challenges.

The conference also highlighted the important STEM role women play. Trailblazing leaders in these fields were some of the speakers at the forum. Their insightful experiences and knowledge inspired the students about countless opportunities that STEM fields can offer.

According to the National Girls Collaborative Project (NGCP), women make up only 29% of the science and engineering workforce in the United States. According to



Dr. Yetunde Odugbesan-Omede we must continue to foster a continuity of different faces in order to expand opportunities for minority leaders.

STEM EDUCATION NOW

INSPIRATION A BIG PARTICIPANT AT STUDENT CONFERENCE



On the other hand, **Diana Rusu** from **UN Women**, explained how studies revealed that 65% of students' future

jobs are not created yet, and that young people need to move ahead of the game with STEM, building lifelong learning opportunities.

Additionally, **Jazlyn Carvajal**, founder of **Latinas in STEM**,

shared points on the obstacles and challenges that Latina women face today, and encouraged students to take action in their local communities and continue to break down stereotypes.

Within the STEM fields, there is still a large gap between different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Therefore, diversity must be at the core of STEM practices.

Shivam Patel, a physical therapist, gave a presentation on diversity in science, and the necessity to question ourselves about inclusion.



He stated that, by continuing the discussion, we could also bring opportunities to the most vulnerable. "Diversity is not just being

different than others, it is bringing a change that makes a difference for others," he said.

As one of the keynote speakers, **Munira Khalif**, former U.S. Youth Observer to the UN, shared her experience and challenges while going through college.



She asked the audience: what is to be done now? She emphasized how this new generation brings innovative solutions to the table and could start making changes now, in schools and other areas. She further stated that promoting diversity within fields of STEM is a responsibility for our current generation.

Guest panelist **Chibulu Luo** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Toronto, who underlined that young people need to find role models who can support them.



She encouraged participants to think about how their work could create a greater impact in the world, not only practices that make them happy, but are also sustainable.

Another doctoral candidate, at Weill Cornell Medicine, **Bryan Ngo** made a very energetic intervention



and encouraged youth to "avoid the stereotypes. Be bold and just do it!"

On the other hand, **Sabrina Bektesevic**

brought insightful perspectives from her own journey of opportunities and challenges at **Google**. Emphasizing youth as an advantage for advancing technology, she explained that, "your strength as a young person is the trend you set with technology. Own that strength!"

Diversity, equality and inclusion within the fields of STEM should be an ongoing conversation. From young people to older generations, we all must take action. Increasing participation of women, young people and racial minorities, would allow for a more comprehensive approach to solving global problems.

UNA-NY and its Education Committee were pleased to host this meaningful event and will seek to continue stressing the conversation on diversity and inclusion. Special thanks to the Central New Jersey Chapter of The Links, Inc., and the New Brunswick Academy and the Stuart Country Day School for bringing such energetic and passionate group of students to this event.



DAWNLAND Highlights Cultural Survival and Stolen Children

DAWNLAND is the title of Adam Mazo's documentary, the untold story of Wabanaki cultural genocide and their incredible sufferings throughout the years. The film gives such a deep insight into the history of these people that it won an Emmy award for Outstanding Research, and its

During the 20th century, governmental agencies systematically deported Native American children to foster care, new families, and Indian boarding schools across all the United States. Under the justificatory slogan "Let's save those poor Indian kids," the government institutionalized racism in the name of literacy and continuous progress. As a result, in the 1970s, almost one-fourth of Native children were taken away from their parents and put in a different cultural setting. It resulted in the Wabanakis' severe mental and physical distress that lasts to this day.

In response to this massive deportation and cultural annihilation,

in 1978 the Congress passed the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) "to protect the best interests of Indian children and to promote the stability and security of Indian tribes and families". Later on, the passing of ICWA gave rise to the Maine Wabanaki-State Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), whose mandate was to provide a voice to the Wabanaki deported children, clarify their stories, help them healing and reconciling with their community.

In 2015 TRC submitted its final report, which shed light on this untold story. It gathered 159 statements from native and non-native individuals involved in the Wabanaki child removal and concluded that

the actions of the government agencies fell within the definition of "cultural genocide" given by the 1948 United Nations Convention on Genocide. "Causing serious bodily or mental harm" and "forcibly transferring members of the group to another group," this is how the Convention describes a cultural genocide, and that's what happened to those "Indian kids."

In foster care, they suffered physical and psychological punishments, such as spending entire days without eating or staying in bed for 24 hours without the possibility to stand. Luckily, they are not alone. The **Maine-Wabanaki REACH** (Restoration – Engagement – Advocacy – Change – Healing) is a cross-cultural collaborative comprised of staff from the State of Maine Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) and Wabanaki child welfare programs, Wabanaki Health and Wellness, and the Wabanaki Program to serve the Wabanaki people through helping to strengthen the cultural, spiritual and physical well-being of Native people in Maine.

her name. Eventually, she came back to her community, but nothing was the same. For example, she couldn't join a traditional dance because she didn't know how to perform it. She says in the film, "I lost my identity. That's what happens to people going from one world to another. They feel that they don't belong to neither."

After the film, **Kelly Roberts** from the Office for International Services, Fordham University introduced **Roberto "Mukaro" Borrero** (Taino), an Indigenous human rights expert, chairperson of the NGO Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and grassroots advocate, as well as **Chris Newell**, senior advisor to DAWNLAND, born and raised in Motahkmikuhk (Indian Township, Maine) and a proud citizen of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Mr. Borrero began the panel highlighting that the movie is part of a global movement of indigenous people that are speaking out for themselves after years of oppression and institutionalized racism. DAWNLAND is a tool for raising

international awareness of indigenous peoples' rights. "Similar initiatives must happen. Other groups than indigenous communities need to share our struggles and join the movement to secure our rights. Boarding schools did not happen only in

Maine, but across the United States as well," he said. These stories cannot be deleted, and unquestionably must not be forgotten. However, this is the chance of a new beginning, a new dawn for the people of the first light. As a senior advisor to the film, Chris Newell, echoed similar sentiments, talking about how DAWNLAND is a strong voice of the community. "We wanted to make a truly indigenous movie. The music is native, and the names of the regions are in our language. America has to learn how to say our language as well. They can look them up and understand what the words mean. It is a way to get a window into our culture," he said.

\$5 of each admission ticket was donated to the Maine Wabanaki Reach Foundation.

To date, DAWNLAND has had more than 2.2 million views worldwide since it was shown on PBS in November 2018.



composer Jennifer Kreisberg was Emmy-nominated for Outstanding Music at the 40th Annual News and Documentary Awards in New York City on September 24, 2019.

Last October, in partnership with the Office for International Services at Fordham University and the International Students and Scholars Office at Columbia University, we presented a sold-out screening of DAWNLAND. The Q+A after the screening featured two indigenous experts **Roberto Borrero** and **Chris Newell** joining the discussion.

The film follows the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) across the United States to gather testimonies on one of the most massive child removal occurrences in the U.S. Today, everyone needs to know what happened to those children.



By grieving and healing in community, people can try to reconnect with their lost members who faced severe identity crises over the years. Dawnland tells the stories of several children who grew up in different settings and were taken away from their families and community. The story of a woman whose Wabanaki's name is Neptune was one of them. She lost her family, her customs, and

UNA-NY SCREENING THE ISSUES PRESENTATION



FULL HOUSE AT SPRING CAREER FAIR

Our **Spring Career Fair** saw dozens of UNA-NY members and guests attend a panel session and participate in one-to-one interactions with human resources experts from several of the UN's specialized agencies.

The session started with a panel discussion led by UN Human Resources Officer **Eva Jansen**, who had a very dynamic interaction with the audience. Eva has an extensive career within the UN, and her expertise on HR allowed the audience to understand much clearer the application and selection process for job opportunities within the Secretariat. She described how crucial it is to understand every section of the job description, including all basic requirements, making sure that key words on work applications match the tasks of the post. Eva was pleasantly surprised to see such a diverse and experienced audience attending the session.

Kevin McMahon, a Human Resources Manager from UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services), described the differences between applying to a UNOPS post and a UN Secretariat post. He underlined the agency's extra attention to more detailed experiences, including technical expertise. Kevin also



highlighted the importance of avoiding overlapping dates in the letter of intent. He encouraged professionals with no UN-related experience to actively apply, since the organization aims to also look for outside talent that could bring innovative and fresh perspectives to the organization.

Human Resources Specialist **Jillian Oliver** from UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), defined some of the current job opportunities within the organization. She illustrated the variety among the different types of work within the organization and the necessity to include professionals from all fields. UNICEF looks for a diverse range of professionals, not only from international affairs backgrounds, but also from other fields. Jillian, as well as other UNICEF staff present on this occasion, expressed the need for continually offering such events

as this career fair, to more people in New York City.

Sarjo Sarr, a UN Volunteers (UNV) Program Analyst, brought a fresh and innovative perspective to the process of applications within UN-related agencies. As an agency that values volunteer work, UNV does not offer paid employment but does include compensations for applicants with monetary stipends to cover living expenses. Sarjo is one of the talented young professional staff working at UNV. She specified that professionals within UNV are making sure more young people are being considered to positions within the agency. As a young person herself, she has advocated for more inclusive job opportunities within the organization.

A specialist from UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) involved with Performance and Career

Development, **Holly White** gave to the audience key insights on what the fund is looking for in applicants. For instance, she recommended candidates to write more about their accomplishments and leadership roles than just their mere tasks and responsibilities, listing some of the major achievements within work experiences. Holly also suggested that sharing any publications is a plus in the application.

The outcome of this event leaves little doubt about the willingness and excitement of civil society for participating in, and strengthening, the work of the UN. Therefore UNA-NY will continue to serve its members and the New York community at large by facilitating these important UN-related career fairs.

Special thanks to **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP** for hosting our ever-popular Career Fair.



SCREENING THE ISSUES

PROVOCATIVE, INSPIRING, FULL-HOUSE CINEMA

Screening the Issues presents thought-provoking films and discussion events, in partnership with various New York venues. Continuing into its eighth year, the series provides a meaningful adjunct to the work of the UN with films that educate while addressing important issues and topics.

Last spring the widely acclaimed film **WALK ON MY OWN** gave UNA-NY members and guests the opportunity to understand more about child marriage and FGM (Female Genital Mutilation), not only in Africa but also in other parts of the world. The film provides women and



girls within villages in Senegal an important opportunity to relate their experiences on child marriage and complications suffered from FGM.

Our Q+A at this BYkids film featured **Holly Carter**, founder and executive director of **BYkids**, filmmaker **Elizabeth Hummer**, and special guest **Molly Melching**, whose organization **Tostan** empowers African communities to bring about positive social transformation through respecting human rights. Molly was our honored guest at our 2013 presentation of the best-selling book **However Long the Night**, written by acclaimed author Aimee Molloy, about Tostan.



Another BYkids film premiere took place in June, when we presented **Out of Aleppo**, by 17-year-old filmmaker **Mohammad Shasho**. Fleeing the deadly civil war in Syria, Mohammad and his family make a perilous journey through Turkey and on to Berlin. As the film documents their dramatic experiences, it also highlights the plight of other refugees silenced by circumstance.

Our guests for the Q+A were **George Batah**, co-founder of Syrian Youth Empowerment, **Firas Kayal**, Senior Policy Advisor at UNHCR, **Marlene Spoerri**, UN Representative at Independent Diplomat, and **Holly Carter**.

Coinciding with our **Humanitarian Awards Gala Dinner**

which focused on the issue of human trafficking (see page 7), our Screening the Issues presentation of **LOVE SONIA** was offered in partnership with **Apne Aap**, an organization that has helped over 20,000 girls and women escape sex trafficking.

This extraordinary independent film portrays the process, suffering, and realities that a victim of sexual trafficking goes through every day. The film gives a clear understanding of the issues, and for many viewers it was hard to see and process the

film's emotional and difficult scenes. Following the screening, we had outstanding guest speakers who informed the audience on specific ways to advocate for the issues and to support survivors.

Ruchira Gupta, feminist campaigner, Emmy winner and founder of **Apne Aap**, stressed the need for the entertainment industry to create content that educates and raises awareness of the problems, and demonstrates ways to advocate and support. She saluted organizations like UNA and its chapters, for supporting and promoting the discussion amongst different communities, and highlighted the importance of spreading the message across borders of an issue that affects every person everywhere.



Shandra Woworuntu shared with the audience her experience as a victim of human trafficking. A survivor of sexual violence and trafficking in persons, she has become an advocate and motivational speaker for thousands of victims. Shandra explained how her organization, **MentariUSA**, has empowered and mentored survivors from many countries.

We were especially pleased that our film for October **Dawnland** was the recipient of Emmy Awards, as well numerous awards on the international film circuit. The documentary provides the untold story of Wabanaki cultural genocide and their incredible sufferings throughout the years.

Powerful and moving, it takes viewers into Wabanaki communities in Maine and inside the Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Recon-



ciliation Commission as it grapples with the meaning of truth and racial healing.

Our soldout event featured indigenous experts **Roberto Borrero** and **Chris Newell** joining the discussion afterwards. (See page 11 for a full article on the event.)



Our final offering for the year was another BYkids film in November, when we presented **I Could Tell You 'Bout My Life**, directed and narrated by 19-year-old **Michael Martin**. In this BYkids film, mentored by filmmaker **Chiemi Karasawa**, Martin made his film to reflect on his incarceration on Rikers Island and the effects it had on his life. Using music and spoken-word poetry to process his own experiences with crime, poverty and incarceration, his film work helps him better understand the forces at work in his community.



On June 6th, dozens of UNA-NY members and guests gathered at our Annual Meeting. A full house of participants had an opportunity to review another successful year of UNA-NY's achievements, to welcome a newly elected board member, **Dr. Lily Khidr**, as well as re-electing board members **Paula Rice Jackson**, **Dr. Peter Rajsingh** and **Sherrie Murphy**. For our **BookTalkUNA** presentation, we also welcomed our keynote speaker for the evening, New York Times National Security Correspondent, **David E. Sanger**.

The evening started with some welcoming comments by UNA-NY president **Abid Qureshi**, who saluted all members for their active participation during the last twelve months, as we celebrated a fruitful year for the organization. After Qureshi illustrated the administrative success of UNA-NY this past year, we then proceeded with elections for upcoming members of the board.

UNA-NY Annual Meeting 2019: Celebrating Another Successful Year



As Sanger described, "cyber attacks have become the primary way states conduct short-of-war operations against each other." For many years, people have looked at only technological solutions to address these issues. Today, however, the problem needs much more attention as it is predominately growing. In today's globalized world, cyber attacks have become increas-

ingly common and dangerous, for states and civilians. Therefore, the matter needs to be given more attention, since it affects the peace and security of all.

Highlighting some key features of the problem, Sanger stated that cyber can be used for destructive purposes, in what previously could be accomplished by sabotage or bombing. It is also used for espionage, manipulation of data, and achieving political goals. He explained that "what makes cyber different is that it is cheap, deniable, and hard to trace." In this way, the problem could be compared with climate change and terrorism, as both are issues that are expanding rapidly across the globe. Lastly, Sanger concluded by explaining some of the major cyber-attacks of the last few years and encouraged

the audience to be more aware of the matter.

Our Annual Meeting served as a reflection of UNA-NY's recent year, celebrating the successful execution of a variety of programs which educated members on many current global challenges, while supporting the work of the United Nations.

During the last twelve months, **UNA-NY** offered opportunities for civil society in New York to understand the UN and its platforms, motivating members to be more involved with UN causes. Programs such as **The Ambassador Series**, **Worldview Institute**, the **Summer Scholars** fellowships, along with the **Screening the Issues**

and **BookTalkUNA** series, have given people a chance to participate in the changing scene and become advocates for the United Nations.

And so, warm congratulations to our newly elected board members, and a special appreciation extended to all guests attending the meeting. Thanks to their active engagement, UNA-NY continues to grow in participation and impact, reinforcing its mandate to serve as a bridge for advocacy of global issues in connecting civil society with the United Nations.



The evening continued with a very productive and insightful discussion with David E. Sanger on cyber security. He illustrated some key facts about cyber-attacks, which he expanded on in his recent book **The Perfect Weapon: War, Sabotage, and Fear in the Cyber Age**.



BOOKTALKUNA