YSFM: YOUTH AND PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS: OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT

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International Association of Applied Psychology 1, UN DPI/NGO Youth Subcommittee 2, Seton Hall University 3, St. John’s University 4

Over 20 psychology NGOs are accredited at the UN. Their major mission is to promote the role of psychology in global issues.

Join NGOs as an intern or special assistant, become a student representative, become a member of Psychology NGOs accredited at the UN, attend events


UN DPI/NGO Briefings

African chiefs at event for UN NGO Voices of African Mothers with NGO reps and staff

UN Department of Public Information/NGO Conferences Plenaries, roundtables, workshops, and special events on global issues with NGOs and invited UN officials and experts. Held in early September in cities around the world: human rights in Paris, disarmament in Mexico City, global health in Melbourne, sustainable societies in Bonn. One student representative from an NGO is invited to attend and at least one youth participates in each workshop.

UN Department of Public Information/NGO Conferences

Examples of Papers:
- “Youth Connect: A model of youth activism on behalf of human rights, education and health,”
- “Journeys for Peace: A model of human rights education for young people in Mexico,”
- “Youth participation and perceptions at the United Nations.”

Psychology Day at the UN: An annual event sponsored by psychology organizations that have NGO status with the UN. Offers UN officials, NGO representatives, students and other stakeholders an opportunity to learn what psychologists contribute to the UN, to exchange ideas and to establish relationships on global issues.

Past topics: “Psychology and Social Justice related to the UN Global Agenda” “Psychology and Diplomacy: Negotiating for Peace and Human Rights” “The Role of Psychology in Achieving Universal Access to Education”

Involvement in Field Projects

Participate in research and implementation of special projects related to UN initiatives (e.g. on the Millennium Development Goals)
- Haiti: Eradicate extreme poverty
- Lesotho: Combat HIV/AIDS and promote women’s empowerment
- Disaster recovery training
- Primary school education
- Daily schedule for outcome evaluation
- Lesson about self-protection
- Campers and Staff

Friends of the UN

An NGO that encourages youth and others to learn about UN efforts and be inspired to help the UN achieve its goals. Also develops curriculum materials for high schools and universities, supports UN International Day of Tolerance, and initiated the “Wear My Hat” Campaign.

The “Wear My Hat” Campaign

See: www.iaap.org

Youth summits

Special conferences and summits on topics of global importance.

The UN Youth Assembly

A conference held twice a year at UN headquarters in New York, organized by the Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, an NGO associated with DPI. Demonstrates what committed, global youth leaders can and have accomplished in support of the UN Millennium Development Goals.

Youth Assembly Plenary

UN Youth Assembly workshop on “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: An Overview and Case Studies” by Dr. Judy Kuriansky and Nejped Kassam, Youth Presenter

Youth delegates to the UN

Participation in decision-making is a key priority of the UN agenda on youth. Youth can be part of their country’s official delegation to the UN General Assembly, various Commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and in the Third Committee (the part of the GA that deliberates on Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Issues), including drafting various youth resolutions.

See: www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyouth/nyc

Lobby in Congress about International Issues

Lobbying for Israeli-Palestinian peace in Washington, D.C.

Become a Youth Reporter

International Student Journalism Program (ISJP)

Students apply and are selected to cover the annual UN DPI/NGO conference and file reports in print, video or social media. A unique opportunity to attend the conference, hone journalism skills, and interview high level experts, NGO reps and UN officials.

ISJP students at Australia Conference on Global Health

News bulletin by students

ISJP students at the conference on Human Rights in the face of the Wall of Tolerance in Paris

HUM News

Report on developing countries not covered by mainstream media

Example: Report on the Lesotho Girls Empowerment Program

Project partners: Members of the IAAP team, the First Lady of Lesotho, and representative of the Lesotho Mission to the UN.

For opportunities with NGOs associated with UN Youth Opportunities, email: ngoexecutivecommitteeyouth@gmail.com

ATTEND CONFERENCES INCLUDING GLOBAL ISSUES AT FORUM UNIVERSITY, PACE UNIVERSITY, ST. FRANCIS UNIVERSITY, CUNY

Attend monthly meetings and join working groups of the UN NGO Committee on Mental Health

Topics: Gender Perspectives; Human Rights; Trauma; Refugees; Children; Racism and Xenophobia; Media/Information and Communication Technologies

Presentation on “Screening Disability and Human Rights for Persons with Psychiatric Disabilities”

Panelists at a monthly meeting

Sponsored by the International Association of Applied Psychology

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