

SPECIAL SECTION: IAAP Advancing Psychology in Global Issues at the United Nations: Reports from the IAAP UN Representatives

Edited by IAAP UN Representative Judy Kuriansky



This section of the IAAP Bulletin includes reports from the IAAP United Nations team of representatives in New York. IAAP continues to make impressive steps towards advancing the organization's mission at the UN. The UN team of representatives continues to be exceptionally active as chairs and board members of committees and speakers on panels, participants at briefings and advocates at high level commissions concerning the

role of psychology in global issues and achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals. The field projects have been presented at professional conferences and in meetings with high level executives and international stakeholders, and the projects gain media attention. Videos about the projects generate understanding and interest. The team continues to welcome participation, contributions and cooperation from IAAP members, divisions, and other professionals.

The following articles report on diverse activities of the team, including meetings, presentations, workshops and advocacy.

Psychology Day at the United Nations 2012

The 5th Psychology Day at the United Nations was held on 19 April 2012, at the UN Church Center. The theme, with three panels, was "Human Rights for Vulnerable People: Psychological Contributions and the United Nations Perspective." The topic is always chosen to coincide with the United Nations agenda and to demonstrate the contribution of psychology to those issues.

This year, IAAP representative to the United Nations, Martin Butler, Ph.D., co-chaired the conference, with Janet Sigal, Ph.D., UN representative for the American Psychological Association (APA). IAAP UN representatives have been involved annually in Psychology Day as speakers, moderators and chairs. Last year, Mary O'Neill Berry served as co-chair, and Florence Denmark has served as co-founder and chair at the inception of Psychology Day. Judy Kuriansky, Walter Reichman and Wismick Jean-Charles have all been speakers and/or moderators, and Walter Reichman serves as co-chair for Psychology Day 2013.



Psychology Day at the UN co-chairs, front of room, left to right, Janet Sigal and Martin Butler.



Psychology Day committee members and international guests.



Attendees at Psychology Day.



Panelists at Psychology Day at the UN on "Mental Health and Sustainable Development": left to right, Richard Dougherty, Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, and Vijay Ganju.

Panel 1, “Mental Health and Sustainable Development” was moderated by Peter Walker, Ph.D., UN representative for the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. The first speaker, Vijay Ganju, Secretary General and CEO of the World Federation of Mental Health, spoke on “Mental Health as a Global Priority: Prospects for a Brighter Future.” Gaps persist in psychiatric care and we still struggle to make mental health a priority, but progress is reflected in the UN General Assembly and World Health Organization efforts (e.g. the QualityRights campaign). Changes anticipated for the future include shifting the focus of mental health from Persons with Serious Mental Illness to Persons with Depression and Anxiety, as unipolar depression has been, and will continue to be, in the top three leading causes of Years Lived with Disability; evolving treatment and services for special populations (children, adolescents, and women); and mental health becoming mainstream. Interventions in disasters will guide research given difficulties conducting scientific research in emergencies. Emphasis on outcomes and metrics, and accountability will increase.

In her presentation on “Overcoming Trauma and Living with HIV/AIDS: The Role of Empowerment in Sustainability.” Priscilla Dass-Brailsford, Associate Professor at Georgetown University Department of Psychiatry, defined psychological trauma, and discussed research from 10 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. Lessons include: task-shifting and peer education as major components in HIV prevention programs; training to address community needs; and addressing disempowering social factors and structural problems that limit changing health-related behavior. Lessons from the Sonagachi Project model in India (recognized by UNAIDS as a “best practices” model that achieved lower HIV rates among sex workers) prove the necessity for active community involvement and strategies and resources for community empowerment. A lengthy time frame should be anticipated. Caveats are that one size does not fit all (each situation/community is different), oppressed and marginalized communities and cultural adaptation must be considered, and programs need to be sustainable beyond UN presence and funding.

Richard Dougherty, Ph.D., President of Basic Needs US, addressed changes in development model concepts and practices in his presentation on “Building Personal, Family and Community Capacities: The Basic Needs Mental Health and Development Model.” His model, operating in the U.S., Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia, enables people with epilepsy or mental illness to live and work successfully in their communities by addressing capacity building at all levels, livelihoods, management, community mental health, research issues, and support for caregivers. Facilitation, education, training, and coaching are the means to achieve empowerment.

Susan Nolan, Ph.D., APA UN Representative, introduced Panel 2: “Refugees and Psychosocial Well-being.” Grainne O’Hara, L.L.B., B.L., MA., Senior Policy Advisor, United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) presented on “Protection and the Significance of Effective Psychosocial Support.” UNHCR is concerned with 43.7 million persons, including refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons, and stateless persons. Developing countries host 4/5 of the



Panel 2 on Refugees and Psychosocial Wellbeing: seated panelists Kate Porterfield and Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith and moderator Susan Nolan with Grainne O’Hara at podium.

world's refugees with Pakistan, Iran, and Syria holding large numbers. One third of all refugees reside in camps. The main countries of origin of asylum seekers are Afghanistan, China, Serbia, Iraq, and Iran. UNHCR is non-political and humanitarian. Challenges and issues of concern include immigration policies, demonization of asylum seekers, restrictions of refugee rights, and protracted refugee situations. International and regional humanitarian and criminal laws deal with these issues. Refugee status ends through voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement. Key actors in displacement settings include States, UNHCR, other UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Two speakers from the Bellevue Hospital New York University Program for Survivors of Torture (PSOT) presented next. Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychology at City University of New York, presented about "Clinical Work with Forced Migrant Populations: Observations and Insights from the Field." Since 1995, PSOT has served approximately 3,000 clients from almost 90 countries with multi-disciplinary services: medical, psychiatric, psychological, and social services. The philosophy involves rebuilding survivors' lives by using resources and strengths utilized in surviving the trauma; reintegration of individuals into healthy society without fear of further maltreatment; and psychotherapy to address severe symptoms and problems. Considerations for treatment include: expectations, safety and trust, psycho-education, practical needs and basic necessities, racial and cultural factors, and types of interventions. Clinicians should have knowledge of the populations they are working with, understand the biopsychosocial approach to care, learn principles of trauma therapy, and work collaboratively with interpreters. They should also be flexible, collaborate, wear multiple hats, and care for themselves.

In her presentation on "Helping Refugee Youth after the Trauma of War and Dislocation: The Importance of Cultural Competence, Focus on Resilience, and Community-based Services," Kate Porterfield, Ph.D., also of PSOT, passionately described a case study of a refugee family who suffered trauma starting in 1989, when the father was intimidated by authorities in his home country, through 1999 when the family spent five months in a camp until arriving in New Jersey, U.S.A. Referral issues included nuisance behavior in their apartment complex, the mother being depressed, and the 10-year-old son being aggressive on the bus and in school. Lessons from this case include building predictors about how well a child will do after war and other trauma into assessment, and knowing principles of care for traumatized refugee families (thorough assessment, strength and resilience-focused services, community-based services, school-based interventions, family sessions at the refugee agency, and educating the resettlement team, culturally competent care and appropriate referrals). Reinforcing resilience and strength-based care should focus on the family's survival and coping strategies.



Panel on poverty eradication, seated left to right, Winifred Doherty, Stuart Carr and Telma Viale, with moderator Walter Reichman at the podium.

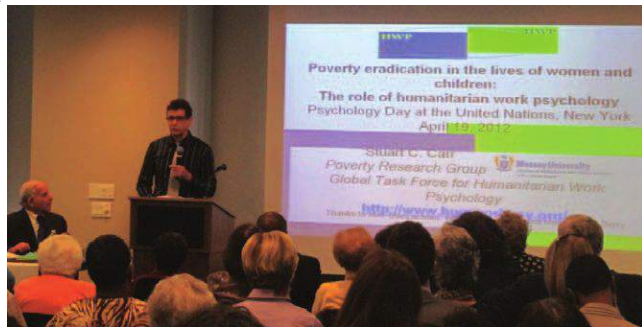
The final panel, on the topic of "Poverty Eradication in the Lives of Women and Children," was moderated by IAAP UN Representative Walter Reichman. The first speaker was Telma Viale, M.A. Special Representative to the United Nations and Director of the International Labour Organization Office (ILO) for the UN in New York, who also holds a master's degree in psychology. IAAP UN representatives have had several

previous valuable conversations with Ms. Viale. In her presentation, entitled “From the Shadows to the Fore: ILO Convention No. 189 on Domestic Workers,” she described a landmark treaty to insure decent work, adopted by the ILO (Convention 189), that offers protections against abuse and exploitation, and sets minimum labour standards for domestic workers, especially children, live-ins and migrants. Regarded as members of the formal work force, rights include reasonable working hours, weekly rest, clear conditions of employment, recognition for their contributions to socio-economic development and the right to collective bargaining. In developing countries, 83 percent of women are domestic workers (people engaged in work performed in or for a household) with almost 54 percent of those having suffered some form of abuse.



Panelist Telma Viale, Director of the ILO UN office in NY.

Stuart Carr, Ph.D. Professor of Psychology in the Industrial and Organizational Psychology Program and the Poverty Research Group at Massey University in New Zealand, and member of the Global Task Force for Humanitarian Work Psychology, presented on “Poverty Eradication in the Lives of Women and Children: The Role of Humanitarian Work Psychology.” He described the relation between



Panelist Stuart Carr speaking on the role of humanitarian work psychology in poverty eradication.

the UN Millennium Development Goals #2 and #5 and poverty reduction (#1) and outlined key domains for humanitarian work psychology: educational services, health services, and business services for women and by women.

Winifred Doherty, B.A., Social Worker and Past Chair of the UN NGO Committee on Social Development, spoke on “Poverty Reduction in the Lives of Women and Children: Call for Structural Change and Pragmatic Action,” which related to the topic of the 50th Session of the Commission for Social Development held this past February on poverty eradication. A report on this Commission by IAAP UN representatives and the statement co-sponsored by IAAP about the contributions of psychology to the eradication of poverty is published in the July 2012 IAAP Bulletin. Key issues resulting from this Commission include gender equality, empowerment of women, and a human rights approach. Poverty reduction efforts have failed because of lack of attention to the multidimensional nature of poverty and the social impact of economic policies. The Social Protection Floor Initiative addresses these concerns by providing a comprehensive national protection system to realize human rights for all through universal access to essential services and

social transfers in kind or cash. NGOs must continue to be pragmatic, she said, and address poverty issues on the ground, considering human rights, water, sanitation, health care, education, food, nutrition, and shelter. She added that, unfortunately, the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which also addressed poverty eradication (in the context of rural women and girls), closed without adopting agreed-upon conclusions. A report about CSW, the side event



at which IAAP UN representatives Judy Kuriansky and Mary O'Neill Berry presented and the statement co-sponsored by IAAP, is also published in the July 2012 issue of the IAAP Bulletin

Florence Denmark provided closing comments. A reception was held at a nearby restaurant.

– submitted by **Martin Butler, Ph.D.**,
IAAP UN representative

“Advocacy for Peace at the United Nations at Peace Events 2012: Introduction to Activities”

As one of the first advocacy campaigns of the newly formalized Psychology Coalition, IAAP joined colleagues in advocating about “Psychological Contributions to Building Cultures of Sustainable Peace” at various high level meetings and events at the United Nations.

Following the new advocacy procedures, a statement was prepared for this occasion, about the psychological contributions to cultures of peace. Given the topic, the President of the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict and Violence (Division 48) of the APA, Gil Reyes, was invited to prepare the first draft, which was then amended by the Coalition Chair, SPSSI UN representative Corann Okorodudu, and the Coalition Chair-Elect, IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky. The resulting statement is printed below. Copies of this statement were then handed out to attendees at two major meetings about peace at UN headquarters in New York: The General Assembly High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace, held 14 September 2012, and the High-Level Debate at the United Nations on the Occasion of the International Day of Peace: “Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future.” Details about both of these meetings are reported in more detail in accompanying articles in this Bulletin. In addition, in conjunction with Coalition Advocacy, Judy Kuriansky discussed the issue and gave the statement to panelists, including the newly elected President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador and actor Forest Whitaker, and former President of Mexico Leonel Fernández. The statement was also emailed by Psychology Coalition members to colleagues and others, with an invitation to mark the day by actions for peace, to circulate the statement and to join advocacy activities.

– submitted by **Judy Kuriansky, IAAP UN representative**

Psychological Contributions to Building Cultures of Sustainable Peace

Statement by the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations, New York

Submitted on the occasion of the General Assembly High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace 14 September 2012, North Lawn Building, Conference Room 2, United Nations, NY

Co-sponsored by the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence of the American Psychological Association, the International Association of Applied Psychology, the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, the American Psychological Association, the World Council of Psychotherapy, World Federation for Mental Health, the Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention, and other members of the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations.

The Psychology Coalition at the United Nations, composed of scientists, scholars, practitioners and advocates for mental health, human rights and social justice, offers enthusiastic support for the commemoration of the United Nations Culture of Peace Day, 14 September 2012, and the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2012. The Psychology Coalition supports UN efforts towards the development of sustainable societies through the prevention of destructive conflict and violence, empowerment of individuals, and building of cultures of peace and global community. Extensive psychological research and intervention programmes demonstrate that psychologists can play a decisive role in achieving peaceful human development and that peaceful cooperation and conflict resolution among individuals, groups and nations is achievable. This research also illustrates how the social psychology of relatedness fosters empathy, support, respect for differences, and nonviolent resolution of conflicting goals. In contrast, divisive disconnection can lead to antipathy, rejection, disrespect, dominance, and hostile competition for resources.

The purpose of this statement is to advocate with governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector and all stakeholders to recognize and utilize the contributions of psychology to the building and preservation of peace, conflict resolution and the reduction and elimination of violence. In the interest of promoting peace through policy, educational, social, political, economic, health and humanitarian uses of psychology, the Psychology Coalition at the UN offers the following recommendations.

1. Promote Social Cohesion and Connectedness within and between Social Groups.

Human beings acquire social identities that create bias in favor of groups to which they belong and devaluation of groups they perceive as different – a process that fosters the formation of stereotypes and prejudice which may lead to conflict and potential violence. Research in the field of psychological science and practice shows that social experiences can be structured in ways that influence people to feel either closer to others or more distant and suspicious. This effect is usually most evident among groups with a strong traditional bond related to a shared religious, ethnic, gender, social or cultural identity, but can develop when heterogeneous groups of mixed ethnicity, religion, genders or cultures come together under conditions of equality to pursue a commonly held ideological or pragmatic purpose. In “real world” situations, these psychological dynamics have been applied toward achieving political and social goals, often for personal or specific group advantage, and to foment war, conquest, and subjugation; but can also be used for beneficent purposes of promoting social cohesion, collaborative achievements, mutual respect for human dignity, peace, and sustainable development.

Therefore, the Psychology Coalition calls upon all stakeholders to promote peace by integrating proven psychological principles and practices, such as cooperative problem-solving, dialogue, crisis management, peace building and participatory strategies into their programs to foster a greater sense of social connection and cohesion among individuals and groups who might otherwise view each other as opponents, or even enemies. These are promising and underutilized means for defusing intergroup tensions and for building social inclusion and the common ground necessary for fostering social justice and a culture of peace. Psychologists can be engaged to facilitate training and program design to meet these objectives.

2. Promote Social Equality, Human Rights, and Social Justice for All

The Psychology Coalition applauds and supports the current initiative of the UN Human Rights Council and the work of its Advisory Committee, including extensive consultations with various constituencies, especially civil society, to develop a comprehensive draft declaration on the human right to peace. Conditions of poverty, deprivation, persecution, humiliation, social inequality, displacement, and forced migration, have drastic negative psychological effects on the social identities, psychosocial wellbeing and mental health, and sense of empowerment, of individuals and groups. These effects are known to endure for long periods of time, thereby undermining the development and maintenance of a culture of peace. A key function of any culture is to encode the memories and meanings of its people as a dynamic system that defines societies, their shared values, and the collective meaning of their experiences. Discrimination is among the violations of human rights and human dignity, which are deeply encoded in cultures in such a way that violations committed even against a few can have a multiplicative impact in the transmission of wounds and scars in many individuals within and across generations. Psychological principles can be used to effectively raise awareness, educate about, and institutionalize human rights, and also to counter impulses and arguments used to justify acts of subjugation, domination, and persecution.

Therefore, the Psychology Coalition urges all stakeholders to use principles resulting from psychological science and practice in their programs to move institutions, groups and societies toward greater equality through social, political and economic inclusion of everyone within a shared culture of peace.

3. Ensure that Psychosocial Wellbeing and Mental Health are treated as Human Rights

Human rights standards and outcome documents of UN world conferences are increasingly recognizing psychosocial wellbeing and mental health as basic human rights. Psychological literature confirms that maltreatment ranging from childhood abuse and deprivation to rape, torture, war, and poverty inflicts deep and persistent psychological and mental health wounds that cause suffering throughout the lifespan and across generations, thereby detracting from peace within individuals, families, and societies. Psychological research further affirms the WHO inclusion of mental health as a crucial factor in overall health, defined as a “state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community.” Yet, in much of the world, mental health problems are stigmatized as signs of personal, familial and group weakness and thus are often inaccessible to efforts to prevent further social injury and deprivation. In addition, mental health services are scant in comparison to needs and are not as highly valued and supported as physical health services.

Therefore, the Psychology Coalition supports the recently launched WHO Quality Rights Campaign and recommends that all stakeholders, including the humanitarian community, ensure that mental

healthcare is held to a high standard, equivalent to physical healthcare, in terms of social and financial support, and that mental healthcare is made accessible to all sectors of society, including children, women and those who are marginalized, disadvantaged and disenfranchised as a requirement of human rights and social justice.

4. Support Conflict Resolution Approaches and Programs.

Considerable psychological research in the field of conflict resolution has shown that it is possible to create more peaceful co-existence among groups of diverse backgrounds and cultures. Various principles include understanding the ethos of conflict, collective memories, the nature of identity, and the “contact hypothesis” which maintains that hate dissipates when people come together to work on a common project or goal. Many programs and strategies have been developed to apply conflict resolution principles, with positive results in a number of contexts in replacing prejudice with tolerance and acceptance, and promoting mutual understanding and constructive cooperation. Conflict resolution programs include, but are not limited to, educational programs, dialogues, encounter models, compassionate listening, nonviolent communication, cooperative problem solving, reconciliation and forgiveness, and open space technology.

Therefore, the Psychology Coalition encourages all stakeholders to become aware of these principles of conflict resolution and of the programs that can achieve this goal if effectively applied at all levels of organizations or groups, in cases of conflict and also, proactively, to prevent conflict from arising.

5. Protect Children and Vulnerable Groups from Exposure to Violence and other Adverse Events

Psychological science shows that children exposed to violence, war, natural disasters and other traumas are at elevated risk for enduring social, educational, physical, and psychological impairments to their wellbeing and social and emotional development. Additionally, they are vulnerable to repeating patterns of violence and are likely to live shorter lives. These risks apply to all marginalized and vulnerable groups. While resilience by some individuals can mitigate such outcomes, psychological and public health studies of large population samples warn of negative and long-term impacts across the lifespan.

With regard to children, the Psychology Coalition applauds the UN study on Violence Against Children and its worldwide report (2006). We further applaud the extensive work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children with governments, UN agencies, and civil society organizations to institute policies and programs for the prevention of all forms of violence against children. Violence maintains a culture of violence instead of a culture of peace. Therefore, the Psychology Coalition urges all stakeholders to continue to raise this issue regarding the pernicious and pervasive effects of violence against children to the highest priority level, and with urgency comparable to that afforded the prevention of diseases of childhood.

The Psychology Coalition further urges all stakeholders to support policies and programs that help children and marginalized and vulnerable groups recover from violence, war, natural disasters and other traumas, as well as provide protection from and prevention of such outcomes. Emphasis should be placed on “primary” prevention (i.e., prevention of initial inflictions of injury) and “secondary” prevention (i.e. prevention of subsequent exposures or other events that could exacerbate injury). Such efforts should be extended to those directly affected and those in the general population who may be overlooked.

FINALLY, the Psychology Coalition at the UN supports continuation of the Programme of Action for a Culture of Peace, as described in UN General Assembly resolution 53/243. We further applaud the General Assembly for declaring the period 2001–2010 as the “International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World” (53/25) and for holding this first-ever General Assembly High Level Forum to promote the Culture of Peace (66/116). We urge consideration of continuation of this initiative in the drafting of the UN Sustainable Development Goals as follow-up to the UN Millennium Development Goals.

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The Culture of Peace: United Nations High-Level Forum

“It is the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation that will afford us firm building blocks for the establishment of the culture of peace at all levels.”

This is the core message of the UN President of the 66th session of the General Assembly (PGA), H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, who convened the United Nations High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace, held at UN headquarters in New York City on 14 September 2012. The day-long forum brought together UN Ambassadors, representatives of UN system entities and civil society, including NGOs, media, the private sector and other interested stakeholders, to exchange ideas and suggest ways to build and promote an ongoing culture of peace.

The forum builds on UN reports and annual resolutions, dating back to resolution 53/243 on the Declaration of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by consensus of the member states in 1999.

Given the end of the period 2001 to 2012, which was declared as “The International decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (53/25), this first-ever General Assembly High Level Forum was intended to continue the efforts towards global peace.

At the morning session in the impressive UN General Assembly Hall, the PGA renewed his commitment to a culture of peace, defined as a set of values based on tolerance and respect for diversity as well as on trust, nonviolence, dialogue and understanding to settle differences, in stark contrast to “An eye for an eye.”



Morning session of the United Nations High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace in the UN General Assembly Hall.

He outlined themes, reiterated throughout the day, that (1) All sectors of society must be engaged, with civil society taking a primary role, including parents, teachers, interfaith religious leaders and artists; (2) youth and women must be at the forefront and in full participation; (3) education is the focus, with peace education essential; (4) everyone should do one action of peace; and that (5) peace and development go hand in hand.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon reiterated his call for disarmament and emphasized peace education that does not glorify war as key in his new global initiative, “Education First.” The campaign gives every child the opportunity to attend school, to strengthen core values.

The President of the Foundation for Peace and the UBUNTU Forum, H.E. Mr. Frederico Mayer, predicted change from the impossibilities of today to the possibilities of tomorrow.

Advocate for peace, civil rights and women’s rights, President of the Hague Appeal for Peace Cora Weiss implored that it is “time to abolish war” and thanked the organizers for opening the space for civil society to participate. Stressing the importance of upholding UN resolution 1325 about women’s rights, she argued that poverty is violence, that women are subject to poverty, and that the larger the gap between men and women, the more likely a nation will be mired in conflict. The UN commitment to a culture of peace offers hope.

Following a musical interlude by a flutist Eileen Ain, psychotherapist and NGO representative to the UN, Ambassadors from eight countries took the podium to affirm their country’s commitment to a culture of peace.

Ambassador Abdul Momen of Bangladesh noted his country’s lead in UN peacekeeping and commitment to gender equality and fundamental principles of ethnic diversity and harmony to bring about a world where harmony overcomes hatred, and where love and tolerance overcomes intolerance.

Ambassador Jean-Francois Zinsou of Benin emphasized the essential need for spirituality and democracy within an ongoing standing objective of peace. He described that using dialogue moved Benin from a monolithic to a democratic society and spared the country from war. Mankind can only grow in peace, he said, and that the cornerstones of peace include gender equality and freedom of speech.

Ambassador Eduardo Ulibarri of Costa Rica celebrated the culture of peace in the context of education and civil society. Ambassador Gert Rosenthal of Guatemala emphasized a multi-lingual,

multi-cultural society as essential to peace, while Acting Ambassador Akan Rakhmetullin of Kazakhstan said his country will seek solutions through education, empowerment of youth, harnessing media, and the support of civil society to encourage resilience and make peace a part of daily life.

Ambassador Joaquin Maza Martelli of El Salvador noted his country's progress towards peace. The nation's commitment to mental health was evident at the launch of the World Health Organization Quality Rights campaign with a toolkit available on the internet.

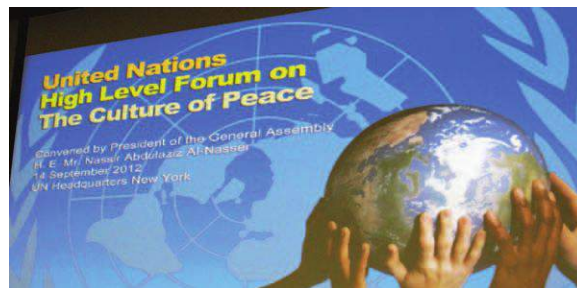
Ambassador Libran Cabactulan of the Philippines condemned the "cowardly attack on the US embassy in Libya, and defamation of prophet Mohammed." In this light, he expressed support of UNESCO's Resolution to proclaim 2013–2023 as the Decade of International Rapprochement of Cultures, especially given the formal end of the MDGs in 2015. He further recognized the role of technology and Internet in achieving peace.



Ambassador Baso Sangqu of South Africa quoted the UN Secretary General that "the world is over-armed and peace is underfunded." Noting that his nation has produced four Nobel Peace Laureates, he committed that his country "will not relent in effort to build a better world for all."

The Ambassador of South Africa to the UN with IAAP UN representative Dr. Judy Kuriansky in the UN General Assembly Hall.

A morning panel was held on "The Culture of Peace in the core of humanity's agenda: New partnerships, new developments," in the North Lawn Building Conference Room 2. Moderated by the Ambassador of the Commonwealth of Bahamas to the United Nations, Paulette Bethel, the first speaker was Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, Assistant Secretary-General for the UN office of Peacebuilding Support.



UN Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women Lakshmi Puri emphasized that gender equality is critical to achieving a culture of peace, given the numbers of women in the world (3.5 billion) and women's role in caring, sharing and nurturing a future generation. "We can be accused of reverse gender stereotyping, but its true," she admitted with humor. Puri enumerated the need to consider women in the context of conflict and post- conflict situations; support for women in legislature positions; setting new standards for gender parity; economic empowerment of women especial in addressing poverty; and zero tolerance for gender-based violence. She

acknowledged the power of the Internet to develop advocacy platforms and help programs like Girl Guides reach out. “Gender justice is at the core of a culture of peace,” she concluded.



Director of the UNESCO office in New York, Philippe Kridelka, reviewed scientific findings and historical events, like slave trade, that confirm the importance of a culture of peace. UNESCO’s commitment to peace is evident throughout its sectors, including education, science, culture and communication, and the Organization will host an afternoon high-level meeting on the culture of peace on 21 September (reported in detail in an article in this issue of the IAAP Bulletin).



UNESCO Director of NY Office Philippe Kridelka with IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky.

Mario Lubetkin, Director General of the Inter press Service, noted that all ideas need better participation and communication, and emphasized the importance of media to shine light on efforts towards peace.

Ms. Christine Mangale, youth peace activist and Programme Coordinator for Africa of the Lutheran Office for World Community, noted that sustainability of peace can only be ensured by building the capacity of youth, to help them to “not be vulnerable.” She recommended training young people in peace negotiation skills, ensuring allocation of resources to involve youth, and involving youth-based organizations, as well as promoting peace through arts and music. “I realized we had energy to create nonviolence especially in Africa,” she said.



Afternoon panel on the Culture of Peace moderated by Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury (third from left).

An afternoon panel on “Strengthening the global movement, advancing the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Culture of Peace: the way forward” was moderated by Senior Special Advisor to the President of the UN General Assembly and former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, H.E. Anwarul K. Chowdhury, a long-time distinguished advocate for the Culture of Peace. A report about his speech at a DPI/NGO briefing is in a prior IAAP Bulletin (<http://www.new.iaapsy.org/uploads/newsletters/April2011.pdf>).

“We have to realize we are one humanity . . . Let’s commit ourselves to remember we do make a difference,” said panelist Ms. Avon Mattison, President of the UN-accredited NGO, Pathways to Peace.

Jeff Abramson, Director of the Control Arms Campaign Secretariat, reported positive support on arms control for peace from the UN Secretary-General and humanitarian agencies but challenges in achieving consensus. Continuing this theme, Ms. Maria Butler, Project Director of the International League for Peace and Freedom pointed out two issues central to peace are demilitarization and gender equity. She recounted a powerful experience meeting a woman who was stripped and beaten but whose message was not hate but justice.

As spokesperson for the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace, Ms. Sharon Deep congratulated the GPA for “keeping an open door to civil society.” Heralding a message of one world for peace, she had pre-organized the audience to hold up flags of the nations and invited everyone to join in “one voice to spread all good will.” The audience joined her in chanting, “There ain’t no power, but the power of the people.”





Cherine Badawi, Curriculum and Training Coordinator for Generation Waking Up that ignites youth for a sustainable world, drew applause with her message of hope from young people that a culture of peace can be reached. She related how she knows about tolerance from personal experience, growing up “with one foot in Egypt and another in the U.S. in Greensboro North Carolina as the only Arab kid in her class,” when her kindergarten peers called her names for her hairdo and made fun of the smell of her lunch (from her cultures’ traditional use of garlic).

Philip Hellmich from the California-based Shift Network described the Summer of Peace that served to “inspire, inform and involve people around the world” in actions of peace and telesummits interviewing young peacemakers with inspiring stories, “Yes you can and we will.” He credited his own inspiration for peace and appreciation for the important role of civil society when (1) working for the “Search for Common Ground” NGO whose Global Kids Network radio shows give kids a voice to report news and enact soap dramas about reconciliation, and (2) working for the Peace Corps in Sierra Leone in peaceful times but then exposed to the 10-year violence and civil war in that country, a journey documented in his new book, “God in Conflict: A search for peace in a time of crisis.”



Panelists quoted iconic messages of peace from Bob Marley, Einstein and the Gandhi Ashram, “My Life is My Message,” signifying that words of peace mean nothing if they are not backed by action. Audience members mentioned the value of co-creating a culture of peace; meditating together; organizations like BethePeace.org; and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with steps to apologize, take responsibility, and ask for reconciliation.

IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky, IAAP member Corann Okorodudu and IAAP professional affiliate Janice Bloch had an opportunity to discuss the IAAP-co-sponsored statement of the Psychology Coalition at the UN, on “Psychological Contributions to Building Cultures of Sustainable Peace,” reported in another article in this Bulletin.

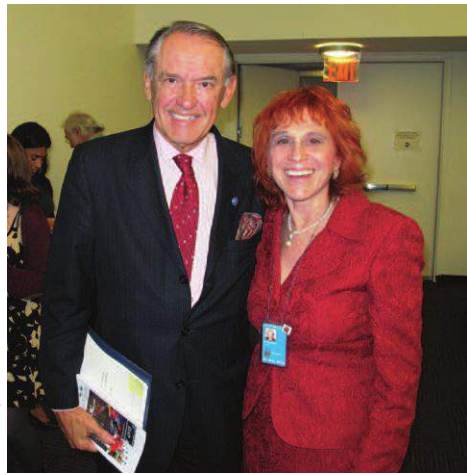


IAAP UN professional affiliate Janice Bloch and IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky discussing the Psychology Coalition statement on A Culture of Peace with youth representative.

In the concluding session, UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson condemned the violence in Libya and recalled that former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, who tragically died in plane crash, favored evening gatherings, listening to music, as pathways to intimate understanding of peace. On a serious note, he said, “Without peace there is no development” and that “Nobody can do everything but everybody can do something.”



Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson speaking.

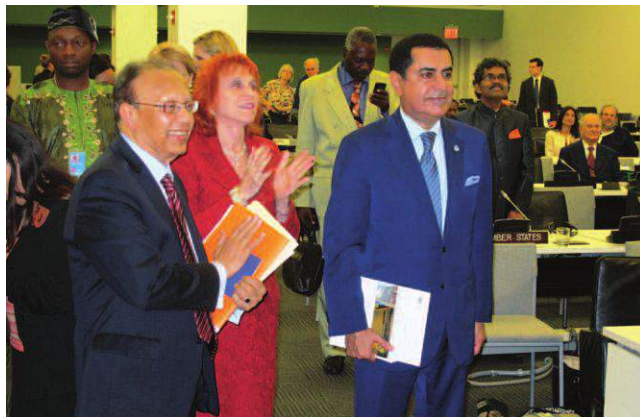


Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson with IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky.

The President of the foundation of a Culture of Peace, H.E. Federico Mayor, summarized the goals of security and peace, and education for all; rights in the preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and constitution of UNESCO, making citizens free and responsible; use of new technologies to create a global community; persuading rulers and powers to keep peace; and partnerships including with civil society, to promote capacity. He concluded, "Peace is reachable- no change is beyond human capacity."

The President of the General Assembly expressed appreciation to all participants, reinforced the importance of putting youth and women at the center and involving NGOs; and affirmed his commitment to encourage the next PGA, who assumes his position shortly at the General Assembly, to make this forum an annual event.

In the question and answer period, a statement was presented by Ambassador Hussein Haniff of Malaysia, acknowledging the Programme of Action as "the most profound blueprint for peace ever adopted by the UN" and inviting participation in a Global Movement of the Moderates to "rally the moderates, the majority of peace-loving people from all over the world . . . to counter and drown the voices of the extremists." Audience members pointed out the role of youth to promote



From left to right, Ambassador Chowdhury, IAAP UN rep Judy Kuriansky and Ambassador Al-Nasser.

peace and tolerance, through organizations like Peacemaker Corps, as well as the value of training first responders to bring about the culture of peace.

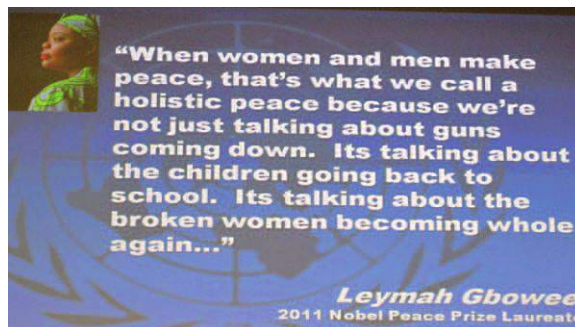
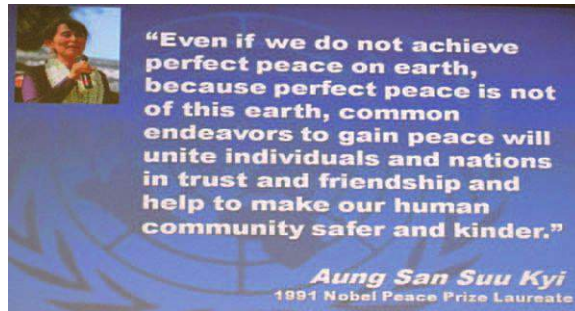
In an interview, Ambassador Chowdhury, a Trustee of the New York City Peace Museum, said “We are



looking into the psychology of teaching children about peace. Children must grow up with peace. Instead of giving toy guns to children, give them peace toys. Also, teach them how to spell peace, since children use the word ‘hate’ too often, saying things like ‘I hate broccoli.’

Pleased with the forum and the progress of the campaign for a culture of peace at the UN, the Ambassador said, “I have proposed observance every year of the day on which the program of Action on Culture for Peace was adopted by the General Assembly.”

IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky reporting about the UN High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace.



– submitted by Judy Kuriansky, IAAP UN representative

“Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future”: High-Level Debate at the United Nations on the Occasion of the International Day of Peace

In commemoration of the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2012, celebrated around the world, UNESCO hosted a High-Level Debate on “Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future.” The afternoon program consisting of two panels in a large conference room in the North Lawn Building of United Nations headquarters in New York.



Pictured from left to right: former President of the Dominican Republic Leonel Fernández; UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO; UN General Assembly President Vuk Jeremić.

The Director-General of UNESCO and moderator of the panels, Irina Bokova, graciously welcomed the attendees and introduced the panel and theme of “Sustainable Peace for a Sustainable Future,” consistent with UNESCO’s mission. Referring to reprehensible recent acts of intolerance that incite hatred, she called for renewed commitment by all to respect, tolerance and mutual understanding. She emphasized the importance of building bridges of dialogue to achieve these goals and highlighted the importance of education for human rights and peace, especially for young people.

THE FIRST PANEL:

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon denounced current incidences of bloodshed and unrest as deplorable and unjustifiable, reaffirming freedom of speech and peaceful assembly guaranteed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He told the full-capacity room, “We cannot let the voices of extremists dominate the debate and inflame tensions. We need voices of moderation and solidarity, reason and respect – especially from religious and political leaders.” Throughout the day, he called for a culture of peace, when ringing the Peace Bell, meeting with Global Messengers of Peace and Goodwill Ambassadors, and addressing a student youth conference. At the latter, he invited youth to “de-friend” – as in Facebook – intolerance, and instead to use the hashtag “Represent Yourself” to tweet a message of peace and global understanding. Emphasizing that “we have to multiply our efforts,” he cited the importance of dialogue and better communication, including use of social media. “We must be relentless in standing for our values – peace, human rights and respect for all people,” he said.

Newly elected President of the 67th session of the UN General Assembly, H.E. Vuk Jeremić, eloquently described his personal distress over the destruction by the Taliban of the Buddha statues, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and symbol of peace. Condemning such violence and citing “ignorance at the root of intolerance,” he called for the settlement of international disputes by

peaceful means and a “new type of humanism,” emphasizing the vital importance of education and culture as building blocks for peace as “the fabric of daily life.”

Former President of the Dominican Republic Leonel Fernández focused on the role of the media to either become a “Brightnet.com” or “Darknet.com.” This choice for the media is to either be an instrument that serves hatred and insult to human dignity and cherished religious beliefs – as reflected in the recent circulation of the video about the Prophet Mohammed – or to become “the ideal catalyst for peace, knowledge, understanding, solidarity and pluralism in a new world order characterized for being borderless, wireless and interconnected,” consistent with UNESCO’s



IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky with former President of the Dominican Republic Leonel Fernández.

new Program of Action for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence. To accomplish this, he recommended a new international legal approach to the use of cyberspace and global digital media, involving “drafting an international legal framework, legally binding to member states of the UN that can prohibit and punish blasphemy as the act of insulting or showing contempt or lack of reverence toward something considered sacred.” Youth around the world can participate, he said, in filmmaking, theatre, performing arts, sports, radio and television programs, oriented towards peace, non-violence and cultural diversity.

Darkhan Mynbay, Minister of Culture and Information of the Republic of Kazakhstan, acknowledged UNESCO’s call for an International Decade of the Rapprochement of Cultures for 2013–2023, as well as treaties that promote harmony and peace, and urged using all means to achieve peace. He noted his country’s commitment to these goals.

THE SECOND PANEL



Panelists pictured left to right: Nasser David Khalili; Arjun Apparaduri; Forest Whitaker; Irina Bokova; Jeffrey Sachs; Wole Soyinka; and Lakshmi Puri.

The first speaker of the second panel, Nasser David Khalili, Founder of the Khalili Collections and Chairman of the Maimonides Foundation, identified two bridge builders as education and culture, since “sharing joy through the language of art is universal.” In pointing out the importance of youth education, he pondered the question of how to capture the mind of a 10-year old. To do this, he has used intriguing exercises, for example, asking groups to examine lemons and to notice specific characteristics on the outside. He then puts the lemons back in a basket, mixes them up, and invites

the group to pick out their own. When they find this difficult, he presents the moral, that the core of lemons, like human beings, is the same.

Wole Soyinka, Nobel Laureate for Literature in 1986 and member of the UNESCO High Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures, noted dramatically that “religion has been used as an enemy of humanity – in fact as a crime.” However, he implored that we need to refuse to use religion being used as a crime against humanity, as has been happened in various conflicts even in contemporary times. Using a poetic reference to “pebbles thrown on a Rock of Gibraltar,” he criticized “infantile efforts” to sabotage rational discourse.

Arjun Apparaduri, Goddard Professor of Media, Culture and Communication at New York University, addressed the mismatch between messages of dialogue and those of hate. He expounded on the stark contrast between violence that spreads rapidly and virally, and peace that spreads slowly and gradually. In offering a partial strategy of intervention, he proposed that the primary challenge is of communication rather than of information, because the latter is subject to misinformation.

Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, presented his view of the causes of conflicts in the world and offered potential solutions. Examining “a differential diagnosis of conflicts in the world,” he enumerated major causes as (1) poverty and hunger that make men fight; (2) dictatorships; (3) resources, paradoxically, whether they are available or not; and (4) “rivalry of great powers.” Solutions include elimination of poverty and hunger, investing in development rather than the military, and term limits of leaders. Reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis, when a world war was averted, he quoted U.S. President John F. Kennedy’s remarks about peace appropriate for all time. “So let us not be blind to our differences, but let us also direct attention to our common interests and the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end now our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For in the final analysis, our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s futures. And we are all mortal.”

Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, made an impassioned appeal to recognize the role of women and girls as agents of sustainable peace in the context of the three pillars of the UN: (1) social development; (2) peace and security; and (3) human rights. Pointing out women’s capacity for love and talent for consensus-building, her many recommendations included that (1) women and girls be involved in peace negotiations; (2) the needs of women and girls be taken into account in all policies and actions; and (3) that such policies and actions afford economic empowerment to women and girls. She blamed poverty, gender inequity and lack of political participation as causes of the disempowerment of women. Condemning all violence against women and girls, she pointed out that peace is not an absence of violence but zero tolerance of violence, and that “gender justice is a means and an end to sustainable peace.”

Academy-award winning actor Forest Whitaker, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation, expressed feeling honored to be amongst such erudite intellectuals on the panel and described his moving experience as an African American first visiting Africa, the land of his ancestors. “Being in Africa gave me a deep understanding of all humanity,” he said. “The connection amongst us all as crucial . . . We must always see the face of ourselves in others.” Healing comes from feeling peace within ourselves, he said, apologizing for using the word “try” since action matters. Slides projected the website of his newly launched Peace Earth Foundation that focuses on “peace-building and community empowerment in areas of conflict,” with projects in South Sudan and Uganda. It is interesting that Whitaker won an Academy Award for his 2006 portrayal of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in the film, *The Last King of Scotland*. Also acclaimed for his roles

in the war-themed films *Platoon* and *Good Morning Vietnam*, the peace activist actor described the International Institute for Peace (IIP) at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, which he co-founded, to develop programs and partnerships for issues such as poverty reduction, community-building, climate change, and the important role of women and spiritual and religious leaders in peace-building.

In closing the panel with highlighting a recurring theme of a “light of peace,” Ms. Bokova praised all the speakers and the intellectual dialogue. She emphasized the major role of education, including specifically sustainable development, to “bring up citizenship,” coincident with the cultural literacy mission of UNESCO.

In the Q and A session, a native Hong-Kong woman in banking queried the role of economics to support peace initiatives; a young man from Nigeria shared his personal frustrations securing funding for continuing high school; another young man described the importance of arts education; and a 12– year boy from Lexington Massachusetts, attending the session with his mother, asked “What can I do to change the world?” Ms. Bokova’s answer punctuated the day’s events, as she advised, “Believe it and you can do it.”



– submitted by IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky

Summary of IAAP Representative Activities at the Annual Conference of the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP): San Diego, April 2012

IAAP UN Representatives Walter Reichman and Mary O’Neill Berry attended the 2012 SIOP Conference and presented at multiple sessions.

On the first day of the Conference, Reichman and Berry were part of a panel on “How Organizational Psychology Improves the Lives of the Vulnerable.” Reichman served as Moderator for a panel of six speakers: They included Lori Foster Thompson from North Carolina State University, speaking on “Using Technology and I-O Psychology to Improve Volunteerism,” Ishbel McWha from Cornell University, on “The Role of Worker Relationships in the Success of Aid Organizations”; Jeffrey Godbout from Massey University, talking about “Attitudes, Perceptions and Beliefs about International Aid in Haiti”; Mary O’Neill Berry addressing, “Global Task Force for Humanitarian Work Psychology: Organizational Psychology Aids Vulnerable Girls in Africa through A Model Program of Entrepreneurship and Life Skills Training – Lesotho Girls Empowerment Programme”; Alexander E. Gloss, from North Carolina State University, presenting about “Organizational Psychology Improves