



Issue 14, September 2009

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UNAA News & Events



Finalists for the United Nations Association of Australia Media Peace Awards 2009 have been announced.

The calibre of nominations this year has been exceptionally high across all categories. The winners of the Awards will be announced at the Presentation Dinner, to be held on Friday 23 October at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Melbourne. Invitations have been sent out via email to all members.

Congratulations to all our finalists on their wonderful work in promoting humanitarian, human rights and social justice issues in the Australian media.

Other News & Events

[UN to establish single new agency to deal with rights of women](#)

15 September 2009 – Four United Nations agencies and offices will be amalgamated to create a new single entity within the Organization to promote the rights and well-being of women worldwide and to work towards gender equality. The resolution means the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the UN International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) will be merged. [For more information, see UNIFEM.](#)

Attached to this newsletter are two invitations:

- **Roundtable on Trafficking in Persons**
Members are invited to participate in a roundtable on trafficking in persons, to be held on Tuesday October 6 from 5.30pm – 7pm in Melbourne. The Panel will include a representative from Project Respect. Please see attached for further details.
- **Panel discussion:**
Where does our overseas aid money go?
The Millennium Development Goals -
Can we do better?
A panel discussion, chaired by Susan Brennan – a Melbourne barrister and World President of YWCA – will be held on Sunday October 18, from 5pm – 6.30pm at Christ Church, Kensington. The panel includes notable directors, CEOs and authors. For further information please see the attached flyer.

UN Observances

- **September 21: International Day of Peace**
The United Nations' International Day of Peace is a global holiday when individuals, communities, nations and governments highlight efforts to end conflict and promote peace. For more information, including several events happening around Victoria, see www.internationaldayofpeace.org
- **September 24: World Maritime Day**
Every year, the International Maritime Organization celebrates World Maritime Day. The day is used to focus attention on the importance of shipping safety, maritime security and the marine environment. The theme for World Maritime Day 2009 is ["Climate change: a challenge for IMO too!"](#)
- **October 1: International Day of Older Persons**
The General Assembly of the United Nations designated 1 October as International Day of Older Persons. This Day was observed for the first time

throughout the world in 1991. By designating a special Day for seniors the Assembly was giving recognition to the contributions of seniors to development and also drawing attention to a demographic phenomenon: the greying of the population, the "age of aging". The theme this year is ["Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons: Towards a Society for All Ages"](#).

Energy & Environment

- [Top global investors appeal for action on climate change – UN](#)
- [Climate change, population growth could lead to human catastrophe – UN adviser](#)
- [Traffic noise to become quieter thanks to UN-backed advance](#)

Health & Poverty

- [Five new UN Goodwill Ambassadors named to help combat hunger](#)
- [More than \\$200 million of UN funding set to benefit poor farmers in 14 countries](#)
- [Young people dying from preventable, treatable causes – UN-backed study](#)

Human Rights

- [UN mission finds evidence of war crimes by both sides in Gaza conflict](#)
- [Timorese security forces go unpunished for many rights violations – UN](#)
- [Sudan: UN speaks out on sentence of former female staffer for wearing trousers](#)

Peace & Security

- [No concrete proof that Iran has or has had nuclear programme – UN atomic watchdog](#)
- [Cyprus leaders accelerate UN-backed process of talks to unify island](#)
- [Security Council extends UN presence in Liberia, Sierra Leone](#)

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