



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE DELTA KAPPA GAMMA SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION (DPI) AND THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

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The Committee on Teaching about the United Nations (CTAUN)

“Our Planet - Our Crisis - What’s Next?”

Friday, 5 April 2019

In September, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said, “*Climate change is the defining issue of our times.*” We all have a responsibility to learn how we can bring about effective actions to address these environmental challenges. CTAUN invites you to join with us at United Nations headquarters in New York at the 20th conference, “**Our Planet-Our Crisis- What’s Next?**” – **Friday, 5 April 2019**, as we highlight major issues affecting our environment and showcase efforts underway by UN agencies, governments, NGOs and individuals in finding solutions. A special block of rooms is available at the Hampton Inn just a short walk away from the UN at reduced rates. Go to the CTAUN website www.teachun.org for details to register.

New Name for UNDPI

by Connie Rensink

The United Nations Department of Public Information (UNDPI) has a new name in 2019! As part of UN reform, it is now called the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UNDGC) to better reflect its task of raising public awareness and support of the work of the United Nations through strategic communications campaigns, media, and relationships with civil society groups. Through their global operations and offices in 60 countries, they reach millions of people with trusted, objective information and an inclusive message that enables the public, civil society, private sector, and member states to engage in the work of the United Nations.

“The goal of reform is a 21st-century United Nations focused more on people and less on process, more on delivery and less on bureaucracy. The true test of reform will be measured in tangible results in the lives of the people we serve – and the trust of those who support our work.” UN Secretary General António Guterres

A Cascade of Orange among a Sea of Blue

by Eileen Venezia

This year's UN theme, "Orange the World: #HearMeToo" will amplify voices, bringing many more actions and solutions forward during 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence". On Monday, November 19, 2018, news anchor Robert Lui from MSNBC in New York served as moderator for UN Women during the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Among the panelists for this very informative event were Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, Maria Fernanda Espinosa Garces, President of the General Assembly, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under Secretary-General and UN Women Executive Director, along with Assistant Deputy Commissioner Benjamin Tucker of the New York City Police Department.

Secretary General Guterres opened the session by stating, "Not until the half of our population represented by women and girls can live free of fear, violence and everyday insecurity, can we truly say we live in a fair and equal world". The conference room exploded in applause and cheers, the loudest coming from the "Sea of Blue" NYPD female officers taking up 7 rows of seats in the center section of the conference room.

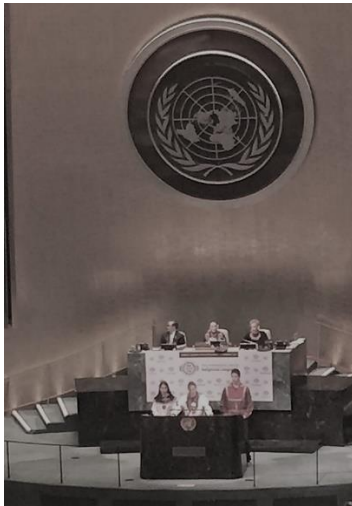
Deputy Commissioner Tucker began to explain the new protocol followed by the NYPD. This initiative realizes and takes into consideration that officers, often the first and possibly the only professionals to speak to victims following a crime, are a vital component in providing justice, information, and service to crime victims. Trauma Informed Sexual Assault training provides law enforcement and multi-disciplinary community partners with information on the neurobiology of trauma.

He continued to inform us all that 1 in 3 women and 1 in 6 men have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. However, around 67.5% of rape, sexual assault goes unreported. Domestic violence has been found to constitute the single largest category of police calls in most cities. One third of female homicide is committed by an intimate partner, and 22% of officer "line of duty" deaths in recent years occurred while responding to domestic violence calls. Deputy Commissioner Tucker stated "I've seen a connection between offenders who murder police officers and a record of domestic violence". He continued by saying "They're dangerous people. They're about power and control, and law enforcement



2019: International Year of Indigenous Languages

by Joan Goldstein



On Friday, 1 February 2019, Maria Fernanda Espinosa, President of the General Assembly, convened an event to mark the global launch of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages at UN Headquarters in New York.

The United Nations Development Programme estimates that there are 370-500 million indigenous people in the world, spread across 90 countries. They live in all geographic regions and represent 5,000 different cultures and ancestral languages. They have gone silent in recent generations, taking with them the culture, knowledge and traditions of the people who spoke them. In her opening remarks President Espinosa stated that indigenous languages open the door to ancestral practices and knowledge, such as in agriculture, biology, astronomy, medicine and meteorology. Although there are still 4,000 indigenous languages in existence across the globe, many are on the brink of extinction. The International Year must serve as a platform to reverse this alarming trend including the implementation of education systems that favor the use of a mother tongue.

www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples.

In his keynote address, Evo Morales, President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, spoke to the survival of indigenous people under colonization. He encouraged them to preserve the knowledge and wisdom of their ancestors, and urged that a new paradigm be ushered in, one which is the fruit of indigenous people and champions mother Earth.

Mr. Ernesto Ottone Ramirez, Assistant Director-General for Culture, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), indicated that UNESCO has promoted the rights of Indigenous Peoples for decades including their right to speak and transmit their languages. UNESCO has developed a number of university courses to ensure that everyone can tap into indigenous knowledges, and indigenous people can access all knowledge in their own language. The idea is to integrate indigenous know-how and knowledge into work on climate, the environment and medicine so that everyone can benefit. In November, UNESCO launched the new digital platform for the global language atlas promoting multilingualism in the press and across the internet. This platform will promote modern forms of cultural expression on the part of the indigenous community and protect their artistic freedom. The offices of UNESCO throughout the world will be helping to organize events.

At the Plenary Session, Kristen Carpenter, Vice Chair and representative for the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, spoke on behalf of this subsidiary body established by the Human Rights Council in 2007. Their mandate is to assist states and indigenous peoples in the realization of the aims of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous

Peoples. Ms. Carpenter stated that for many people, the right to use one's language and be understood is necessary to receive medical and health services, to have access to justice and legal representation, to secure education and employment, to enjoy the media, and to express freedom of conscience. Indigenous language rights are not only about preservation, but about production. Modern technologies must be used for education, to pay attention to the youth and subcultures, for production and publication, and even to text in indigenous languages. The Expert Mechanism supports the proposal to declare 2030 the "Decade of Indigenous Languages." It will take more time to reverse the dire situation of indigenous peoples' language loss. Over a decade it will be possible to transform the situation such as the languages can recover and flourish. The Expert Mechanism is committed to making this a reality.

Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, stated that Bangladesh supports the promotion and protection of all its citizens irrespective of race, religion, caste and creed, including the rights to language and culture. The responsibilities are enshrined in their constitution to protect and develop their unique local culture and tradition of ethnic communities. It was due to Bangladesh initiative that UNESCO declared 21 February as International Mother Language Day, a worldwide annual observance that was begun in February 2000 to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and promote multilingualism. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is committed to build an inclusive society in Bangladesh's stride to peace and development. Bangladesh has set up seven specialized institutes that will facilitate the promotion and preservation of culture, heritage, languages and tradition including that of small ethnic communities. They have an International Mother Language Institute which fosters research and scholarly activities for the preservation of languages and have taken steps to introduce primary education in mother tongues of various ethnic groups. So far there are one hundred and thirty-two schools providing education in the mother tongue. Representative Masud Bin Momen concluded his presentation by reiterating his support for the year-long activities launched this day in New York.

YOUR UN REPRESENTATIVES

The DKG members listed below are your official representatives at the UNDPI and the Economic and Social Council. Most of them also work with CTAUN. You can email us for further information.

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