



UN Representatives' Report to the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women 2020

Madam World President, Mrs. Alison Judd; Distinguished World Officers and Cabinet Members, past and present; distinguished members of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women:

It is with great pleasure, thanks to Almighty God, and with heartfelt thanks to you, Madam World President, as well as this distinguished body, that I bring you greetings from the United Nations. Because of the Coronavirus Pandemic or Covid -19, we will continue to participate in programs virtually; however, I must say that both Joan Capel and I have learned so much, although we are unable to visit the United Nations under these current conditions. While we cannot share everything, this report will reflect highlights of some of the programs we have attended virtually.

Prior to the Pandemic, however, both Joan and I were privileged to have the opportunity to attend several programs sponsored by at the Church Center for the United Nations and the United Nations. I assure you that I have attended so many "Zoom" meetings until I have lost count.

However, I wish to take this opportunity to commend our World Vice President, Matilda Johnson, who worked feverishly with me to ensure that the information regarding our proposed workshop would arrive in time for our session to be approved for the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 64). We were so excited because being approved for a workshop is no small fete at the UN. While we wondered if we would hear from representatives of UN Women and became a bit nervous, we also learned that so many organizations had submitted proposals and that they were not accepted. However, once learning that our proposal had been accepted, I immediately notified Madam World President and Madam World Vice President who were also grateful that Matilda's proposal had been approved. After the hard work, the many trips and

calls to UN Women, we were informed that the workshop fee of \$375 was to be paid immediately to hold the room. Thank you, Matilda, for all of your hard work. It was a pleasure working with you and it is my hope that we will be so fortunate once again. I learned that so many organizations' applications were rejected and that they were informed that certain organizations would have to look elsewhere for a venue to hold their workshops. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our World Vice President and our World President, once again, for their support and encouragement. Joan and I were also anxious that so many of our members made arrangements to be in New York in March, the month that the Commission on the Status of Women is held annually. Then came the bad news about the Coronavirus (also named Covid-19), which later became a Pandemic. It was determined that some individuals were infected with the virus in New York, and the virus later claimed the lives of people around this world. We learned that a very fine delegation of our members who had made travel arrangements to be with us in New York during CSW would no longer be able to travel. The Secretary General met with other officials from the United Nations and UN Women. The decision was, therefore, made that all activities at the United Nations would be canceled until further notice. Many of us lost very dear friends due to the virus, and as you know, we still must wear masks and practice Social Distancing. We are grateful to God for keeping us in His care.

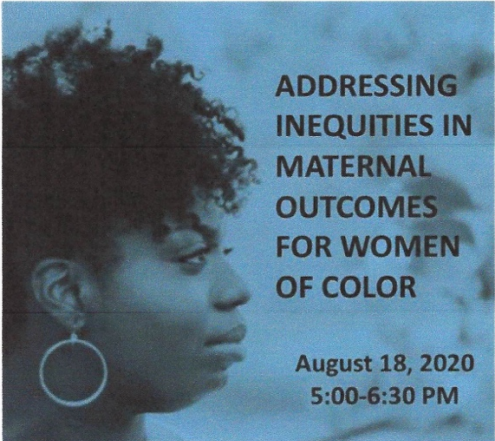
I had an opportunity to participate in a session sponsored by teenagers regarding the coronavirus pandemic (Life amid the Coronavirus). This event was co-sponsored by My Sisters' Place a UN, NGO, The Nepperhan Community Center of Yonkers, New York; and the Journal News of Westchester and Rockland Counties. Young people spoke of the impact that this virus has on them. Students shared that in addition to the coronavirus pandemic; however, there is also a pandemic with which they are concerned and that "Pandemic is Racial Inequity or Inequality."

As a result, the media explored the theme/topic - "Life Amid the Coronavirus, Racism and Inequality." These very bright and eloquent young people spoke very candidly about their feelings. The reporter reminded all in attendance that Westchester County, which includes Yonkers, New York, the town in which the discussion was held, "was home to one of New York's early coronavirus clusters, particularly in the City of New Rochelle. As the virus spread, Yonkers emerged as the Westchester city with the most coronavirus cases in March. As noted, in all, more than 1,200 people in Westchester have died from the coronavirus." "Students shared that they recalled anxiously listening to police radio chatter, knowing that as the frequency got clearer, the authorities would be getting closer to their apartment." One student shared that he and his twin brother "want to help change the culture of policing and that being Black men gives them a unique view." He noted that Black men stated, "I've been stopped, I've been questioned, I've been looked at differently." "Things like that, it has happened to me." Another student stated "I'm afraid of getting sick. And if that was to happen, I would be very scared because basically you're by yourself in the hospital." "Sick is scary. Alone is worse", he said.

As a parent, a grandmother of two young Black men, ages 13 and 18, and two grand daughters, ages 10 and 12, my heart became very heavy and sad, as I realized that we need to take time to let young people express themselves as to how this coronavirus has affected them, and we must


allow them to talk about those areas about which they are afraid. The Church needs to take time to hear from the young people in our congregation. I also attended a virtual meeting

that discussed the need to "Address Global and Local Inequities in Maternal Outcomes for Women of Color." Please see details below. More to come.



**ADDRESSING
INEQUITIES IN
MATERNAL
OUTCOMES
FOR WOMEN
OF COLOR**

**August 18, 2020
5:00-6:30 PM**

 **UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**
Westchester Chapter

Global Perspective:
Anneka Knutsson, Chief of Branch, Sexual and Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Padmini Murthy, MD, MPH, FRSPH, FAMWA, NY Medical College, Global Health Lead AMWA

Local Perspective:
Angela Campbell, Ed.D., Executive Director, Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network
Nubia Martin, Masters in Midwifery, Doula, CLC, Facilitator of Chocolate Milk Cafe, Yonkers and Founder, Birth from The Earth Inc.

Moderator:
Ronnie Lichtman, Midwife and educator, CNM, LM, PhD, FACNM

Addressing Global and Local Inequities in Maternal Outcomes for Women of Color

Having a baby is typically one of the happiest times in a woman's life. But for women of color in the United States and around the globe, this exciting period is often layered with fear – for both the baby's well-being and the mother's life. In the US, Black women with a college degree are five times more likely to die during or after childbirth than White women. Between 2006 and 2010, Black women in New York City were 12 times more likely to die than White women from pregnancy-related causes. According to the CDC, American Indian and Alaskan Native women also experience maternal mortality rates nearly three times the rate of White women.

For women of color in low-income countries across the globe, the numbers are even bleaker. Sub-Saharan Africans suffer from the highest maternal mortality ratio – 533 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, or 200,000 maternal deaths a year, which represents approximately two-thirds of maternal deaths worldwide. Women in Southern Asia also experience alarming rates of pregnancy-related casualties, with 58,000 maternal deaths per year, representing nearly one-fifth of the world's total.

- What's behind these tragic maternal outcomes for women of color?
- What role does racism play in these outcomes?
- What impact has COVID-19 had on pregnant women of color here in the US and abroad?
- What steps can be taken to lower these maternal mortality rates for women of color in the US and throughout the world?

Four panelists will address these topics in a virtual panel discussion on August 18th, from 5 to 6:30 pm. Midwife and educator Ronnie Lichtman, PhD, will serve as moderator. Two panelists, Anneka Knutsson, Chief of Branch, Sexual and Reproductive Health, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and Padmini Murthy, MD, MPH, NY Medical College, will present the global perspective, while Angela Campbell, Ed.D., Executive Director of the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network, and midwife Nubia Martin, Facilitator of the Chocolate Milk Café in Yonkers, will provide the local overview.

The panelists will also recognize the World Health Organization's (WHO) designation of 2020 as The Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. WHO has noted that the world needs nine million more nurses and midwives if it is to achieve universal health coverage by 2030.

I am, indeed, grateful to our distinguished World President who gave permission for our organization to co-sponsor activities together with the United Nations Association of Westchester. One such event, as we will recall, is the project where I purchased 30 backpacks and school supplies for Refugee children in the name of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women who were relocated to Mt. Kisco in Westchester Count, New York. I check on the children occasionally and have learned that they are doing well and are being supported by Neighbors' Link of Mt. Kisco, New York. A note of thanks was forwarded to our World President following our donation of back packs and school supplies. It was so wonderful to observe these young people as they expressed their excitement and appreciation. They loved the beautiful back packs and school supplies. This act of kindness gave me to much pleasure! The effort that went into purchasing these supplies and back packs was worth the time and money spent as these young people were so excitement.



It was, indeed, a pleasure for me to be honored by the African American Men of Westchester County, New York on November 9, 2019 for my work with the United Nations and also to receive an award from the National UN Association, which was previously reported. It is to the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women to whom I owe these honors that have been bestowed upon me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Additionally, Mrs. Mary Ellen-Frances Wain, Deputy Executive Director of the UNA-USA, Washington, DC of which Brenda is very appreciative.

UNA-Westchester Board of Directors (2019-20)

In May 2019, the following officers were elected for the 2019-2020 term: J. Yuhanna Edwards, President; Marcia Brewster and Lilli Schinder, Vice Presidents; Karen Rockwell El-Badry,



Secretary; Jan Fischer, Treasurer; and Joan Katen, Nominations Chair. Directors elected for the class of 2020 were: Tricia Baldes, Aicha Bargo, Oneida Cabaleiro, Mary Seward Downes, **Brenda L.G. Smith**, and Christopher Swain. Four directors retained their membership as elected their term ends in 2021: Daniel Bena,

Ambassador Bob Jalang'o, Demetrios Mihailidis and Patrick Sciarratta.

There were a few changes in the Board that occurred over the reporting period, with a shuffle in the responsibilities of some of our Board members. Treasurer Jan Fischer resigned from that position, and the Board elected Colleen Gardephe as Treasurer in January 2020. Aicha Bargo was not able to continue as Chair of the Young Professionals Program, so the Board elected Paul Presendieu to fill out the term of Young Professionals' Chair in October 2019. Although not on the official Board, we are indebted to the hard work put in by our Webmaster, Nicole Butterfield.

UNA-USA Leadership Summit, Washington D.C. Vice President Marcia Brewster attended the UNA-USA Leadership Summit and the National Council meeting in Washington, D.C. in June 2019. The conference took place at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade

Center from June 8-11 and included a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill. Attending the annual meeting is a good way to meet the leaders of UNA-USA and to get an idea of what the organization is doing at the national level. One other UNA-Westchester member, Lolita Browne, also attended in 2019. We encourage members of our chapter to attend the meeting this year, which will be held virtually from 7-9 June. Although she attended the conference in Washington, DC in 2017 and 2018, Brenda Smith was unable to attend in 2019; however, she will register to attend this year, provided the meeting will be held or will register, held vertically. More information will be sent to all members via email.

Rachel Pittman, new Executive Director of UNA-USA, has been an effective advocate for UNA-USA's initiatives and provided key leadership as we had to navigate the new situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic starting in March 2020. Membership in UNA-USA now tops 22,000 nationwide, of whom 40% are students.

Congratulations was again extended to Brenda Smith, who received the UNA Service Award.

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee, chaired by President, Yuhanna Edwards and Co-Chaired by Brenda Smith, have also been working to impress upon cities the importance of joining the City of Mount Vernon in adopting the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The city Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. The Resolution was presented to Brenda Smith by the Mayor of the City of White Plains, Mayor Thomas Roache, and the President of the Common Council, Attorney Nadine Hunt Robinson. Residents and other members were in full support of this Resolution.

NORTH AMERICA AREA SEMINAR – Dr. Sandra Gadson, North America President

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women - Theme: **Chosen People: Called to Proclaim.**

“To Know Christ and to Make Him Known”

Joan and I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the North America Area Seminar at the Hilton Chicago in Northbrook, Illinois. Dr. Sandra Gadson is President of the North America Area and the of Mount Vernon, N.Y. passed a Resolution in 2015, the first city in the state to do so. The objective of the committee is to implement CEDAW as a county or local ordinance, making it law with enforceable consequences, if not followed. Additionally, Brenda Smith, Board Member who represents the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women at the UN, and President Edwards met with and presented to the Westchester County Board of Legislators who adopted CEDAW, and passed an

ordinance at the county level. This action will definitely set an example and provide a template for other county and municipal governments throughout the State of New York.

We are working to create a framework for improving the status of women and girls by mobilizing stakeholders to include elected officials, the media, business, youth, NGOs, the faith communities and women leaders. At our International Women's Day program on March 8, 2020 keynote speaker Mayor Shawyn Patterson Howard of Mount Vernon pledged her support to these goals. Mayor Patterson-Howard, the first female Mayor for the City of Mount Vernon, New York, is also the former student of our Board member, Brenda Smith. The Advocacy Committee asks that we all be advocates for the United Nations in our local communities by encouraging them to seek a local law and getting CEDAW legislation implemented. We are appreciative to Brenda Smith who will attend the meeting of the City Council of White Plains, representing both the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women and the UNA of Westchester to receive a proclamation on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

On Tuesday, September 9, 2020, Brenda Smith and members of UNA of Westchester were invited to be attend the White Plains Common Council to receive a resolution (CEDAW) on the Convention for the

organizers chose Goal 4 of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the workshop on Education sponsored by the African Methodist Episcopal Church's women's Missionary Society. **Quality Education Target 4.5:** Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education by 2030.

Prepared by Elaine Bailey Johnson, the document, included the History of U.S. Public Education, which Dr. Gadson and the AME Missionaries included in the program brochure.

We were also very delighted to receive a wonderful report from our World President, Mrs. Alison Judd, who shared so much information with us about the work of the Federation. We also had the privilege to hear from our World Secretary, Mataiva; our World Treasurer, Leu, as well as Emmylou John, who made a wonderful report.

I have asked Joan Capel to share as she has also been very busy attending several Zoom webinars and representing us as the Secretary of Ecumenical Women. She shared several events with us that she attended. Joan is very faithful to the work and is excited about the opportunity that has been afforded her to serve.

She has shared the following: WCC – NOKK KOREA – JULY 6, 2020 WEBINAR

“UN2020 and Together First” are co-leading the development of a new partnership on “Enhancing civil society space and participation at the United Nations” which reported during the morning plenary session on September 17th. UN2020 is also co-sponsoring the Forum's community-driven session titled “Reaching the Summit: Promoting the Potential of the UN75 Declaration.”

FROM Joan Capel

Women of Faith Pilgrimage

Seoul, Korea July 23-15, 2020

The legacy of sexual slavery before, during and after the Korean War is a daily reminder to the women of Korea who lived for decades under a brutal militarized patriarchy.

Their stories were shared during a Women of Faith Team visit from July 13-16, 2020.

I attended this virtual gathering by invitation from the World Council of Churches.

Women online and in person gathered to share the weight of oppression in the ways we could.

On July 15, a demonstration by the group Justice for the Comfort Women marched and gathered to express their despair at the longevity of the wounds from sexual slavery: it was the 1,448th such march.

It was a joy to be a part of the March and gathering even though it was only virtual.





We observed Thursday in Black on July, 16.

Designing a Roadmap to
The Future We Want, The UN We Need

We share a few of the ideas that we gained from the UN75 GLOBAL GOVERNANCE FORUM.

Registration Open for the UN75 Global Governance Forum

On September 16th and 17th (with community-driven sessions to follow on September 18th), we gathered virtually to honor the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. A cornerstone of international order since 1945, the United Nations must continue to adapt and innovate to respond to new threats, challenges, and opportunities in our current age of complexity. The [UN 75 Global Governance Forum](#) seeks to promote a more inclusive and effective United Nations through dialogue and recommendations that better harness the ideas, capabilities, and networks of both state and non-state actors for achieving the UN's commitment to peace, sustainable development, human rights, and a stable climate. Joan and I both attended the UN 75 Global Governance Forum, which was very engaging. The following Forum Goals were:

- Initiate a new generation of scale-able, multi-stakeholder partnership initiatives that better harness, for 2020 and beyond, the ideas, capabilities and networks of state & non-state actors for achieving the UN's commitment to peace, sustainable development, human rights, and a stable climate
- Build consensus around a strategy for a select number of "global governance institutional, policy, and normative innovations. I was very impressed with the number of teens and young adults who were present and raised questions and concerns on this webinar.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – AUGUST 10TH – BRENDA AND JOAN

THE CHURCH CENTER FOR THE UNITED NATIONS

Dangers of air pollution. I urged that all members read and share this information.

In a [message](#), UN [Secretary-General António Guterres](#) highlighted the dangers posed by air pollution and urged greater efforts to address it.

“Air pollution contributes to heart disease, strokes, lung cancer and other respiratory diseases; [it] also threatens the economy, food security and the environment,” he said.

We need dramatic and systemic change. Reinforced environmental standards, policies and laws that prevent emissions of air pollutants are needed more than ever – UN Secretary-General

“As we recover from the [coronavirus](#) pandemic, the world needs to pay far greater attention to air pollution, which also increases the risks associated with [COVID-19](#),” he added.

Globally, nine out of every ten people breathe unclean air, and air pollution causes an estimated seven million premature deaths every year, predominantly in low- and middle-income countries.

This year, while the lockdowns associated with the global pandemic led to dramatic falls in emissions – providing a glimpse of cleaner air in many cities – emissions are already rising again, in some places surpassing pre-COVID levels.

“We need dramatic and systemic change. Reinforced environmental standards, policies and laws that prevent emissions of air pollutants are needed more than ever,” stressed Mr. Guterres.

Climate action and clean air

Addressing climate change can also cut back air pollution.

“Limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees will help reduce air pollution, death and disease,” said the Secretary-General, calling on countries to end subsidies for fossil fuels as well as to use post-COVID recovery packages to support the transition to healthy and sustainable jobs.

“I call on governments still providing finance for fossil fuel-related projects in developing countries to shift that support towards clean energy and sustainable transport.”

“At the international level,” he added, “countries need to cooperate to help each other transition to clean technologies.” (Entire article is available on the UN website.)

INFORMATION TO THE ECUMENICAL WOMEN FAMILY – Each year, I make certain to pay our \$375 membership fee to Ecumenical Women. Our treasurer makes certain that I am reimbursed at the end of each year. Joan proudly serves as the Secretary of EW and well represents our organization.

Greetings EW family,

I hope you and your families are staying safe and well. Special thanks again to each of you for sharing/supporting our launch for our Thursdays in Black video. We have begun to build up steam – now that people are returning from summer break/vacation, we have more of an opening to keep the momentum. This will be on our agenda for our next meeting which is scheduled for **– Friday 18 September at 10:00a.m. (EDT)**

First, I email today (*special thanks to our own Victoria Edmonds*) with a wonderful most immediate opportunity for EW to continue with our partnership with the UN Working Group on Girls (WGG) and participate with them in the celebration of the **Day of the Girl Child on 11 October.** (WE LOOK FORWARD IN ATTENDING THE DAY OF THE GIRL CHILD EVENT TO BE HELD ON 11 OCTOBER. The WGG really would like to have the faith perspective be a part of their event and reached out to us directly. The leadership team has already met and think it would be a great way for us to maintain our partnership, as well as have the faith voice, (particularly the justice centered Christian ecumenical voice) be a part of such an important global event. All the details, including language for the girls to use in their video is all in the email and the attached documents. Much like what we included with our Thursdays In Black video launch instructions.

Please share it with your local church as well as your supervisors/ denominational leadership. Please also be sure that when they submit their video, you ask them to indicate that they are a part of the Ecumenical Women. So, for example, at the start of the video or at the end the girls may say something like, ***“We are proud to be a part of OR...supported by...OR...encouraged to speak out because of.... the Ecumenical Women at the U.N.”*** *This information was sent by Joan Capel, Secretary of Ecumenical Women.*

(I wish to express my appreciation to our distinguished World President, Alison Judd, for responding so quickly to my invitation to play a significant role in the Ecumenical Women Video. Immediately upon receiving my information/invitation, Alison immediately completed her video and was the first individual to be showcased sharing her message, “I MADE THE PLEDGE.”)

Good afternoon EW family,

We are very delighted that there is so much enthusiasm about the video produced by Ecumenical Women, “I MADE THE PLEDGE,” and the launch. As you share within your organizations and networks, remember we are letting them know that Ecumenical Women launched the video on Thursday, 20 August 2020, on all of our social media outlets. We realize that some of the leadership or tech people in your organizations may be away or still on holiday and you may not be able to get it up on your official organizations website. It’s okay. When they return from their vacations, it would be wonderful to have the full support by organizations across the coalition. However, we are delighted that many of you were able to upload the video to show it to your respective organizations and friends. Remember, what we are asking is that each of your organizations as a part of EW, support the initiative by putting up the video on their own websites and social media outlets, using the hashtag #ThursdaysInBlack and most important, making the pledge and encouraging others to make the pledge too!

(This information from Rev. Dionne Boissiere, Chaplain for the Church Center of the United Nations, was sent to all organizations to announce the importance of adhering to the time to which EW launched the video. Madam World President sent information regarding this launch and presented it to our webmaster. We were so excited to have our **World President** participate.

NGO CSW/NY September Monthly Meeting: Youth, Regional Engagement & Beijing+25

Description

We will have a discussion with our **CSW64 Woman of Distinction Awardees**, moderated by the Youth Leaders & Young Professionals Co-Chairs. Let's look back on the past year to make the virtual NGO CSW65 Forum an inclusive and meaningful even

The Localizing Climate Justice Conference Series (LCJC) is being co-organized by the Core Team of youth climate activists behind the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration (GYCAD) movement and a myriad of co-sponsoring organizations. Additional information and registration can be found here: gycad.org/lcjc

The event's co-sponsors include: YOUNGO, Citizens' Climate Lobby, the Global NGO Executive Committee, the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), CEWAS Middle East, Climate-Smart Agriculture Youth Network (CSAYN), Lehigh University's United Nations Partnership & Environmental Initiative, CEVKO and more (full list can be found at gycad.org/lcjc).

This virtual conference series will commence with a launch event on Friday, September 25th taking place

from 10 am to noon Eastern Standard Time in order to accommodate a wide range of global time zones and to ensure maximum participation from the Global South. The launch event and all subsequent conference events will be free of cost to all wishing to participate.

The emphasis on climate justice was intentional: we can not expect to make the immediate and long-term changes necessary if the actions we choose to take do not include and address the challenges and well being of all. Our movement forward into a sustainable and environmentally healthy future must be urgent and community-led, with the well-being of our local communities and our most underrepresented or vulnerable populations at the center of any discourse and decision-making processes.

The LCJC Series Launch event will convene mayors, other policymakers, youth climate activists, and major stakeholders from around the world in the movement for climate justice in order to spotlight local approaches to climate reform & create space for an ongoing dialogue between policymakers and their constituents on the subject of climate change. Originally planned as a two day event, the organizers and co-sponsors decided to spread out the conference material over a longer timespan in order to maximize meaningful participation and engagement with the content.

The conference series will span many months, with each monthly event focused on a key thematic policy impact area from the Global Youth Climate Action Declaration and convening a dialogue on that topic. The themes discussed include the following:

- Youth and Public Mobilization
- Infrastructure, Cities, & Local Action
- Industry Transition & Accountability
- Energy Transition
- Resilience and Adaptation
- Nature-based Solutions
- Mitigation
- Climate Finance & Carbon Pricing
- Capacity-Building, Education, & Awareness
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For more information:

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Vishal Jammulapati: vjammulapati@gmail.com

United Nations General Assembly Updates

[CLICK HERE: Quiet corridors but a full programme at virtual UNGA75: five things you need to know](#)

The 75th UN General Assembly (UNGA) session, begins on 15 September and this year, due to the ongoing global pandemic, it will be unlike any other in the organization's three quarters of a century of existence.

Read full article and leaver about the five things to look out for:

- Presidents and Heads of State calling in speeches
- Celebrating 75 years
- 'Transforming the world' through Sustainable Development

- Facing up to 'unprecedented loss' of global biodiversity
- Gender: 25 years after Beijing

[Here is a General Guide to the UNGA Events From the UN Foundation](#)

[View the Preliminary Schedule of the High-Level Meetings of UNGA 75](#)

[YOUNGA Forum - September 28 and 29](#)

**Turkish diplomat, President
of historic 75th UN General Assembly,
Prepares for the first-ever Virtual UNGA**

Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir was elected President of the forthcoming session

of the UN General Assembly in a vote held on Wednesday that was emblematic of its time.

CLICK HERE: Introducing the President of the upcoming historic 75th session of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir

Volkan Bozkir will preside over the seventy-fifth session of the UN General Assembly starting with its opening on Tuesday, 15 September 2020, for one year.

CLICK HERE: Read the biography of H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir

Update: 23 JULY 2020

Newly Elected President Discusses Key Role of Economic and Social Council in Tackling COVID-19 Pandemic, Climate Change, as 2021 Organizational Session Begins

The Economic and Social Council's mandate remains as relevant as ever, encompassing the three simultaneous global challenges Member States are facing - the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the existential threat of the climate catastrophe - its newly elected President said today at the first meeting of its 2021 organizational session, held via video conference due to COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions at United Nations Headquarters.

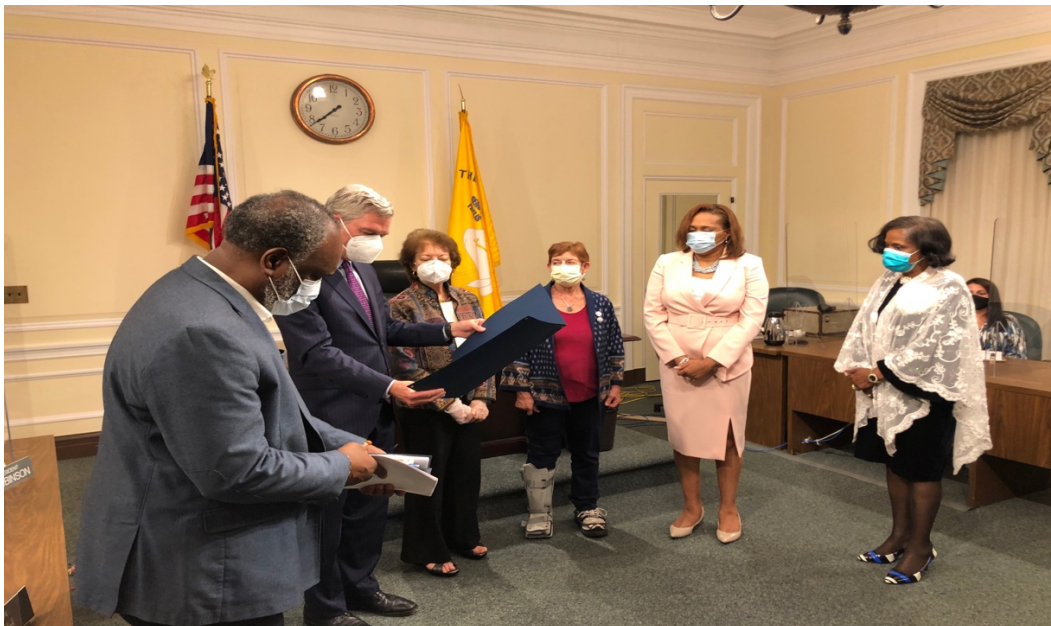
I HAVE INCLUDED INFORMATION THAT THE MEMBERS MAY FIND INFORMATIVE.
PLEASE READ AND SHARE.

BRENDA SMITH



PRIME MINISTER OF FINLAND

Information found on pages 11 and 12 supplied by the United Nations Association of Westchester, Patrick Sciarrati, Editor.



Due to the efforts of Brenda Smith, Mayor Thomas Roach, City of White Plains, New York; the President of the White Plains Common Council, and members presented the adoption of CEDAW in the form of a proclamation to Brenda and other members of the UNA of White Plains.

2020 International Day of the Girl

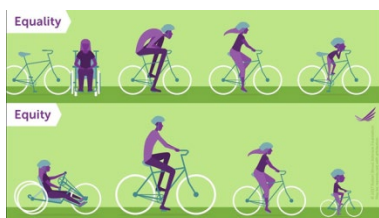
GIRLS SPEAK OUT 2020 ~ BUILDING EQUITY FOR GIRLS

Join us in celebrating the International Day of the Girl!! Every 11 October the world celebrates GIRLS! And we want to hear from you. We are looking for videos where you share with us your stories, poetry, art, songs, or declarations to be featured in this year's Girls Speak Out!

We will select a diverse collection of works created by you and other girls from around the world! And every girl who submits their work will get a special shout out on the Day of the Girl Summit Website (www.dayofthegirlsummit.org) or be featured in the Girls Speak Out on October 11th!

We all know that equality means treating everyone the same, but building equity is different. Building equity for girls means making sure that everyone has the same chances of success... because sometimes in order to be equal you may need help that is different from someone else. This year, we would like to hear what equity means to you and how girls can experience it where you live.

Here's an example of equity:



Choose one of the statements below to get you started:

- I and girls in my community need ____ to achieve equity
- Equity means ____ to me.
- ____ is stopping girls in my community from achieving ____.
- I want to be a ____ when I grow up, but ____ is getting in my way
- I am fighting for equity in my community by ____.
- The fight for girls rights needs me because ____.
- Or if you have a different vision, tell us about it!

Together, our voices and perspectives will be bold enough to change the world!

Here's what you need to do:

1. Be a girl (or a group of girls!) under the age of 18 years.
2. Look at the submission prompts below and answer the question, why are one or more of these issues important to me or to girls in my community?
3. Record your original work and submit the video along with a consent form to IDGsubmissions@gmail.com. Be sure to include your name, age, country, and contact

Please make sure your submission is in one of the following formats:
Video (3 minutes maximum).

Again, although we have experienced challenges this year and we unable to continue our activities at the United Nations, I am still most appreciative of the all opportunities afforded me and have been successful in securing the support of the Mayor of the City of Mount Vernon, New York, the Westchester County Board of Legislators, the White Plains Common Council and the Mayor of White Plains in having them prepare and present a resolution in support of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) this year.

Faithfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brenda L. Galloway Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

United Nations Representative for the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

Brenda L. Galloway Smith