



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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[What is your Happiness Quotient?](#)

By Lochie Musso

“Inspired by the Kingdom of Bhutan and its successful implementation of an innovative policy of Gross National Happiness”, the United Nations, in 2012, adopted General Assembly Resolution 66/281, proclaiming 20 March the annual “International day of Happiness.” The UN then “gathered and published research on well-being from experts in a wide range of fields including economics, business, psychology, sociology, political science and education. . . . It was unanimously agreed that the pursuit of happiness far transcends pleasure-seeking, and that a deeper inner happiness embraces such values as service, love, community, relationship, health and self-mastery, as well as freedom, and economic stability.” *

At a UN briefing on “The Paradox of Income and Happiness,” speakers from Mexico, China, and Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, told of the research being done, experiments conducted in schools and businesses. At Universidad Tecmilenio in Mexico, “the well-rounded student” is emphasized in all subject areas. In China, a “positive educational approach” is being promoted with resulting evidence that “happy students are the product of happy teachers.”

In Germany, South Korea and the United Kingdom, it was found that when business incorporated the “pursuit of happiness” in the work place, employees were more productive, more engaged in their work and healthier with far fewer sick days reported.

Once the threshold of extreme poverty is met (survival is first of course!) increasing GNP of a nation does not bring happiness. Using measurable standards, the UN has ranked nations worldwide. “Measuring worth not wealth,” the United States was not even in the top 10 for Happiness Rankings.

Can Happiness be taught? Yes! was the resounding answer. All agreed that everyone can be trained in the skills of well-being. Mindfulness, empathy, communication, resiliency, emotional literacy, critical thinking, creative thinking, decision making, identifying personal strengths and

building positive relationships are all learned competencies. Research indicates that over 40% of our own happiness is based on personal actions. We have the power of choice in pursuing happiness.

To learn more, go to www.livehappy.com (includes interesting personal quizzes and more)

*From "*Happiness, The Delight-Tree: An Anthology of Contemporary International Poetry*"; edited by Bhikshuni Weisbrot, Darrel Alejandro Holnes, Elizabeth Lara; 2015, United Nations SRC Society of Writers; Forward. (www.unsocietyofwriters.org)

Human Rights Day: Our Rights, Our Freedoms, Always

By Joan Goldstein

In recognition of the fiftieth anniversary of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Culture Rights (ICESCR), this briefing focused on "Freedom," highlighting the four freedoms that underlie the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: freedom from Fear, freedom of Speech, freedom of Worship and freedom from Want.

The event began and ended with choral performances celebrating "Freedom" by students of the Carrie E. Tompkins Elementary School, Croton-on-Hudson, New York.

Mr. Anthony Cardon, Human Rights Officer, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, moderator, stressed the human rights challenges we are currently facing and how civil society is in the forefront playing a critical role.

Panel member, Richard Bennett, New York Director, Amnesty International, discussed the organization's goals. Independent of political ideology, economic interest, or religion, they believe that no government is beyond scrutiny and no situation is beyond hope. Amnesty International takes on all those violating human rights at every level. For more see:
www.amnesty.org or www.amnestyusa.org

Students Annique Wong (Yale University) and Michael Korzenny (St. John's University) read aloud all thirty articles from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizing that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth without distinction of any kind. They spoke directly to Articles #2 and #26 on entitlement and education. See www.un.org/en/documents/udhrfor more on the Declaration of Human Rights

As a refugee himself, Hamid Abdeljaber, Lecturer, Political Science and Middle East Studies, Rutgers University; Writer and Media Commentator, Al Quds, Al Arabi, spoke about the

indignities refugees suffer: to be uprooted against their will from their homes and country only to be humiliated and denied entry at the border of another nation.

Zama Coursen-Neff, Executive Director, Children's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch, told of the millions of children having no access to education due to forced labor under hazardous conditions, forced marriages at young ages or being scripted into service as soldiers during armed conflict. She presented three examples: a teen-aged girl in the USA working long hours on a tobacco farm exposed to nicotine poisoning, a young teen refugee who could not understand the language in her new school, and a third teen-aged girl forced to leave school and marry an old man she did not know. Ms. Coursen-Neff stated that governments can be held accountable to change laws and policies to protect the human rights of children.

Final speaker Daniel Perell, United Nations Representative, Baha'I International Community, underscored the freedom of Worship. He pointed to studies that show greater religious freedom and religious diversity are directly correlated with peaceful societies. He said Freedom of Worship can inspire unity and the betterment of all, advance learning and be an instrument of the joy reviving the body of humankind.

Visit the Baha'I International Community United Nations Office at www.bic.org



CTAUN: Stewardship for a Sustainable World - Education in the SDGs

Last issue we brought you the 17 Sustainable Goals agreed upon by the United Nations in September 2015. These Global Goals were the focus of the Committee on Teaching About the United Nations' (CTAUN) 17th annual conference at the UN. The all day event brought together UN high level speakers, ambassadors, experts and specialists to talk about the issues of hunger and food security and environmental matters.

Over five hundred educators, students, and concerned citizens attended, many DKG members from around the country including our International President, Dr. Lyn Schmid, Sandra Smith Bull, Executive Director and Administrator Nita Scott from Austin. An unexpected North East blizzard kept these Texans stranded in New York for three days! The weather also kept DKG UN Representative, Cathy Daugherty, in her home state of Virginia!

To learn more about the conference and the discussions that ensued, go to www.teachun.org for a detailed report accompanied with pictures of the day.

"Eradicating Modern-Day Slavery through Sustainable Development."

By Ruth Nielsen

This briefing was organized by the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Among the presenters were H.E. Yury Fedotov, UN Under-Secretary-General, Executive Director of UNDOC, & H.E. Sarah Mendelsohn, US Rep. to ECOSOC. The presentations were followed by comments from other UN representatives, who explained what their countries were doing to alleviate this problem.

Human Trafficking is universally criminal but it has a high economic return and a low risk of arrest. It can be used as a weapon of war through child soldiers, forced labor, rape and drug carrying. Another aspect is the removal and sale of human organs as well as bonded seamen.

The 2015 increase in migrations has led to an increase in trafficking, as refugees are more vulnerable to exploitation. Poverty, gender inequality, and lack of educational opportunities add to the causes. One third of all victims are children.

Trafficking can be attacked through police and social worker training and awareness. Giving aid to victims, rather than arresting them helps to lessen the negative impact on their lives. Victims need repatriation and retraining, where applicable.

"Man is born free, and everywhere he is in shackles." Rousseau. The UN Trust Fund for Victims depends on member aid. July 30th is the International Day Against Trafficking.

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