



The International Korner

October 24th is U.N. Day! U.N. Day will focus on the International Literacy Decade, an initiative that seeks to increase global literacy levels by 50% by the year 2015. What role has the United States had in United Nations activities?

The United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) was founded in 1943 by first lady Eleanor Roosevelt. UNA-USA now has 20,000 members across 43 states. Here are some of the outreach activities of the organization:

Adopt-A-Minefield—This campaign helps individuals and community groups sponsor minefields in urgent need of clearance. Sponsors raise funds in their communities to clear their adopted minefields and return land to productive use.

American NGO Coalition for International Criminal Court—The Coalition supports and promotes grassroots activity in support of the Court, including the formation of local alliances of individuals and organizations whose interests will be served and advanced by the International Criminal Court and thus by the U.S. relationship with it.

UNA Student Alliance—Students on middle school, high school, and college campuses coordinate others who want to be involved with the work of the United Nations.

The UNTold Story—This campaign will better inform Americans about the U.N.'s ongoing efforts to improve children's health, make successes in child health known, raise awareness that children's health challenges are international in scope and impact millions worldwide, and demonstrate that Americans do and can continue to play a significant role in the effort to end childhood health disparities.

U.N. and U.S. Relations—Recent Developments

In September of 2002, the U.S. reentered the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The organization seeks to forge universal agreements on emerging ethical issues, as well as promoting international co-operation among its 190 member states.

International Human Rights Treaties

The United States has ratified the following international human rights treaties:

- ◆ The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
- ◆ The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- ◆ The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- ◆ The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- ◆ Two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (on the involvement of children in armed conflict, the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography).

The United States has signed but has not ratified the following treaties:

- ◆ The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- ◆ The Convention on the Rights of the Child

For more information, see the following sites:

United Nations High Commission on Human Rights

www.unhchr.ch/

United Nations

www.un.org

United Nations Association of the United States of America

www.una-usa.org

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