

To: Chapter Presidents
From: Yettee Girard-UN Liaison-Educational Excellence Committee member
Re: DKG and the United Nations

This letter is to give you some background about Delta Kappa Gamma's relationship with the UN; a summary of the DKG@UN newsletter to share with your members and an article that could be used in your newsletters.

Background Information

Since 1995, DKG has been proud to maintain Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI). The Society was also granted consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in 2003. The DKG relationship with the UN not only reinforces the Society's international scope but also fulfills the seventh Society Purpose: "To inform members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society."

DKG NGO representatives attend weekly briefings at United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

In addition, since 1996 the Society has partnered with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF on a number of projects that have supported education in developing countries. Our project at the present time, which is an official Society project, is Schools for Africa.

Most of the Society's NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) representatives are also involved with **The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN)**, an organization made up of representatives from a variety of NGOs with an interest in education. CTAUN provides educators opportunities to learn about the United Nations and its work. Through events and resources available on the website, CTAUN assists teachers in efforts to incorporate global awareness into classroom curricula and activities.

Snippets from the DKG@UN January newsletter

CTAUN CONFERENCE AT THE UNITED NATIONS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2014

CTAUN Conference at the United Nations focused on Promoting Peace Through Education. CTAUN invites educators, students, and concerned citizens to join with distinguished speakers as we explore how the UN and the international community promote disarmament and confront current threats to peace, such as climate change, gender and economic inequality, hunger, and terrorism. Especially crucial is the number of children worldwide deprived of even a primary education.

In July, on her 16th birthday, Malala Yousafzai, shot in the head last year by the Taliban on her way to school in Pakistan, electrified the world with her stirring words to a UN Youth Conference in New York City. "Let us pick up our books and pens," she said. "They are our most powerful weapons. One teacher, one book, one pen can change the world." Let us follow her lead

Review of the UN High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace written by Lochie Musso, NGO Representative (NY)

His Excellency Mr. Vuk Jeremic, President of the 67th General Assembly, convened this meeting by stating that “the culture of peace is the agenda for a new global civilization. Where are we now?” He opened the discussions with reference to the beginning words of the UN’s 1945 Charter, “We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war. . .” and the 1999 UN resolution 53/243 on the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, which the UN General Assembly has repeatedly adopted every year since. He said, “To build a society of justice, we must be just.”

Three religious leaders followed. Each promoted peace and harmony, and also encouraged peoples to look for similarities rather than differences among religions and cultures... All speakers talked about the need for education as a tool in promoting a culture of peace; it is the “key” in creating “citizens of the world.”

“Educating and Employing Youth: The influence of Public-Private Partnerships in a Technological Era” written by Grace Murphy NGO Representative (NY)

Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, concluded the session with these thoughts: many millions of jobs must be created because there is little use for a good education if one cannot find a job; and in the future, one will probably not have the same job for 40 or 60 years, so everyone must know how to learn, unlearn and relearn.

The following could be used in your newsletter if you wish.

DKG-UN and UNICEF

The DKG relationship with the UN and UNICEF not only reinforces the Society’s international scope but also fulfills the seventh Society Purpose: “To inform members of current economic, social, political and educational issues so that they may participate effectively in a world society.”

Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development. – Kofi Annan

Since 1996 the Society has partnered with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF on a number of projects that have supported education in developing countries. There was the Gambia Project, which assisted girls to remain in school by providing funds for their education. The Pro-Maya Project to assist children and their schools in Chiapas, Mexico. The teacher education in Afghanistan has raised \$203,124. Our project at the present time, which is an official Society project, is Schools for Africa.

At Teach UNICEF there are teacher resources that can be used in the classroom. The following link is to a unit on Peace Education for grades K-2. It is worth the time to check it out.

<http://teachunicef.org/explore/topic/peace-education>