How Can I Support the Work of the United Nations?

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood. (Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

If the brotherhood of humanity is to become a realized fact and if the UN is to lessen the burden of suffering and travail on our planet, helping all the world’s people achieve greater progress in fuller freedom, as the UN Charter mandates, it needs the concerted help and support of every concerned citizen of the world. The following are suggestions of how you can help; May these suggestions spark additional ideas. Let us know what you are doing—individually or as a group, in your local community or otherwise.

1. Use prayer and meditation to support the work of the United Nations. Participate in the UN Discussion Forum on the Web and invite others in your area to join you in group meditation and dialogue about the work of the UN.¹

2. Plan a peace vigil or a community program on some aspect of UN work such as global warming, peace and security, human rights or on one of the eight Millennium Development Goals. The Groups Programs Unit of the UN Department of Public Information [phone number: (212) 963-7710], the local UNA and often, the local World Affairs Council can provide a list of guest speakers who voluntarily and willingly speak at public functions. Such public events could be organized around UN Day on October 24th or the International Day of Peace, set by the General Assembly of the UN to be September 21st (see e.g., www.idpvigil.com).

3. Donate to teachers, schools or school districts one or more of the following: the poster of the Flags of the 192 member states of the United Nations ($4.95 each), the curriculum kits (primary, intermediate, or secondary, which are $2.00 each), a copy of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations or the Convention on the Rights of the Child. These are available from the UN bookshop at the following e-mail address: bookshop@un.org or phone: (212) 963-7680.

4. Encourage schools, federal, state and city offices as well as community businesses or establishments such as bookstore, civic clubs and organizations to fly the flag of the UN along with the national, state and local flags. This, as a testament that we are all citizens of our communities, nation and the world; that we are all part of the one human family. A variety of sizes of UN flags are available from the UN gift shop. Phone: (212) 963-7700; Fax (212) 963-1157.

5. Encourage youth participation in the work of the United Nations through Model UN programs and otherwise. Educate and inspire youth to internalize and embody the spirit of the UN—its heart and soul—in their every-day thinking and behavior. For suggestions, visit the UN Cyberschoolbus available in the six languages of the UN: http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/index.shtml.

6. Regularly visit and research the UN web site at http://www.un.org and sign up to receive news alerts on subjects of interest from the UN News Center at http://www.un.org/News/, and from the United Nations’ Foundation e-mail publication, UN Wire, at http://www.unwire.org, which sends out regular news alerts culled from the various media publications of the world.

7. Engage family, friends and co-workers in conversation about the UN purpose, goals, achievements and current activities, including ongoing reform efforts. Write letters to the editor of local papers about the work of the UN and the need to support it; write short, regular articles, featuring either a special project/conference and/or the general work of the UN for local papers.

8. Contact the Public Inquiries Unit and ask for free information kits. Address: Public Inquiries Unit, United Nations, New York, NY 11017; Fax: 212-963-0071; e-mail: inquiries@un.org. Inquire also if there is a local UN Information Center in your area that can provide additional information and resources.

9. Join your national and/or local United Nations Association (UNA) and participate in their activities of support and outreach. Visit the web site of the World Federation of United Nations to find information about your national and local Associations at: http://www.wfuna.org or write to WFUNA-FMANU; United Nations Room DC1-1177; New York, NY 10017, USA; Tel: (212) 963-5610; Fax: (212) 963-0447 E-mail: wfunany@wfuna.org

¹Join the worldwide network of those who, weekly, every Friday, use the meditation, "The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity" and participate in the UN Discussion Forum. Write for information to the Aquarian Age Community—an educational non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) associated with the United Nations’ Department of Public Information: 233 Bay Street, No. 206; Jersey City, NJ 07302; UN@aquaac.org; http://www.aquaac.org/.