



WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS
FEDERATION MONDIALE DES ASSOCIATIONS POUR LES NATIONS UNIES
A peoples' movement for the United Nations

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WFUNA LAUNCHES NEW HUMAN RIGHTS WEBSITE

*"It is sometime said that **nothing is as strong as an idea whose time has come**. The universal respect for human rights is an idea that came to humanity only 60 years ago. It is still widely and tragically violated every day but it has also served as a powerful and effective tool to humanize the world. We must continue to use it fully to improve life for all in our global village."* Hans Blix, President of WFUNA

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on 10 December 2008, the World Federation of United Nations Associations will launch a new website entirely dedicated to human rights:

www.humanrightsnexus.org

The purpose of the website, which will be available in all six UN languages, is to facilitate access to educational materials on human rights, to enhance interaction and information sharing between UNAs and to support closer engagement of UNAs with the work of the UN on human rights.

The launch of the website features UNAs activities and programs in celebration of the 60 years since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. An interactive, members-only, database will be operational soon to allow UNAs to share projects and best practices. This would foster and facilitate the creation of partnerships among UNAs, an important aspect of the work of WFUNA.

The website contains user-friendly and concise information on the functioning of the UN human rights system. It aims at facilitating UNAs participation in the work of the UN Human Rights Council, Special Mandates and Treaty Bodies system by providing information on upcoming meetings, negotiations on draft resolutions and the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism (UPR). The website will be constantly updated and will guide UNAs to selected links to OHCHR, as well as other helpful websites.

As the year 2009 will be the International Year of Human Rights Learning, the website provides a platform for Human Rights Education materials.

This project is made possible by the support of the Russian Friends of WFUNA and the United Nations Association of Russia. WFUNA's meetings on human rights this year have been chaired by Dr Alexei Borisov, Secretary General, UNA-Russia and UNESCO Chair for Human Rights & Democracy of the MGIMO University of Moscow.

The World Federation of the United Nations Associations is a non-governmental organization set up in 1946 as a peoples' movement in support of the United Nations (UN). Today, the Federation is a world-wide umbrella organization for over 100 national United Nations Associations (UNAs). It aims to build a global constituency for the UN, as well as to strengthen the relations between the UN and civil society. **PRESS CONTACT: Fruzsina Molnar Straus, molnar@wfuna.org, 212-963-0970**