

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY AROUND THE WORLD

Applied Psychology at the United Nations
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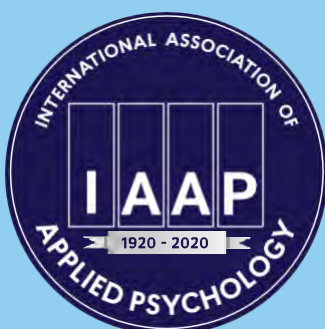


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Pr. Dr. Christine Roland-Lévy, IAAP President (2018-2022)

Editorial

This is the third issue of *Applied Psychology Around the World*. It focuses on IAAP's role and actions within the United Nations: *Applied Psychology at the United Nations* (APAW, Vol.1 Issue 3). Our goal is to draw the attention of the International Association of Applied Psychology's (IAAP) members to what we did and what we can do for the world in relation to the 17 United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As you will find out later in this issue, the IAAP is an NGO (non-governmental organization) accredited by the UN, which is actively involved in many advocacy activities at the United Nations since 2003. This became possible thanks to the involvement of the President at the time: Michael Frese. Michael is the one who started it all and I am so grateful to him for taking his vision all the way to making this possible. Now, as you will see, we are doing a lot within the UN, and there still is much to be done in order to help achieving the 17 SDGs...

This issue would not have been possible if IAAP did not have such committed team members at the UN, in NY, the headquarters of the UN, with our two main representatives Judy Kuriansky and Walter Reichman, as well as in Geneva under the supervision of Raymond Saner & Lichia Yiu, and in Vienna under the responsibility of Wolfgang Beiglboeck. As you will see throughout this issue, they do so much that they should receive a special award ...

This issue would not have been possible if our dedicated colleagues had not also accepted to spend days and days reporting on what they regularly achieve under the name of IAAP within the United Nations... I really wish to thank in particular Judy Kuriansky for preparing so much work for us all to better grasp what IAAP has done, is doing and will continue to do!

IAAP is accredited at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and affiliated with the Department of Global Communications (DGC). The DGC allows, and greatly encourages, NGOs to assign two youth representatives (from 18-32 years of age) for a year assignment. Youth can also participate in IAAP activities at the UN through 3-month passes from ECOSOC as "additional representatives." The positions are voluntary and unpaid, as are all our veteran IAAP UN team. Interns play a major role, but also have major responsibility, to attend meetings at the UN and report to IAAP, research issues, participate in the team's activities and with the extended NGO youth community, and attend special youth meetings like the UN Youth Assembly (see, in relation to this, the letter from the President of the Student Division and more on this in one of the articles).

Besides the UN headquarters in NY, Vienna and Geneva, there is a UN headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. We do not have yet a regular IAAP team in Nairobi, and if some of you reading this want to participate there, please contact me.

In terms of the many activities in which psychology is involved, each year there is what is known as the UN **Psychology Day**, which is organized with IAAP, under the responsibility of Walter Reichman, as the immediate past President of the Psychology Coalition of NGOs Accredited at the UN (PCUN), with Judy Kuriansky. IAAP annually contributes financially to this Annual Psychology Day at the UN, and IAAP representatives serve regularly on all committees (e.g., planning, publicity, programming, logistics) and as moderator or panelists. To date, 12 subsequent annual Psychology Days have been held, with panelists of psychologists and other experts covering topics from disaster recovery to climate change, women's equality and sustainable development

(<https://www.unpsychologyday.com>). Co-sponsors over time include Member States, like the UN Mission of the Republic of Palau to the UN (due to Ambassador Otto's commitment) as well as the UN Missions of El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. An excellent video, produced by IAAP's representative and PCUN past President Judy Kuriansky, presents many activities in connection to the annual Psychology Days at the UN, is at: <https://bit.ly/2JVZpHL>. I heartily recommend that you take a few minutes (less than 10) to watch this video *now* in order to introduce yourself to the work done by IAAP at the UN about the Annual Psychology Days. Also, this issue is full of links to very interesting videos and documents; please click and enjoy.

As previously mentioned, we believe that the UN Psychology Day should be transformed into an International Psychology Day/Week to be celebrated each year in our institutions, all over the world!

Any suggestions for this project, which should start in 2020 for our Centennial Anniversary, are more than welcome. Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you want to be involved.

In this issue, following an Introduction prepared by the NY team but presenting our activities at the UN in general, one can find papers focusing on various IAAP's activities around some of the SDGs. Many achievements carried out in the name of IAAP are presented around the following selected topics, the first 9 of which are related to IAAP at the UN in New York:

- Health/Mental Health and Well-being (SDG 3)
- Poverty (SDG 1)
- Women and Girls/Gender Equality (SDG 5)
- Climate Action/Disaster/the Environment (SDG 13, 14, 15)
- Human Rights
- Peace and Justice (SDG 16)
- Disabled Persons Rights
- Migration, Refugees and Mental Health
- Youth and Ageing
- Activities and Achievement of the IAAP team at the UN Office in Geneva
- Activities and Achievement of the IAAP team at the UN Office in Vienna
- Appendix 1: IAAP 18 Divisions
- Appendix 12: A list of References and Resources (e.g., articles, videos, books, statements) prepared by the IAAP team in NY in relation to these many activities, is presented at the end of this Issue.

In closing this Editorial, I wish to remind you all that we are about to celebrate our **Centennial Anniversary**, and we welcome papers about the past achievements and future goals of IAAP, from the past 100 years to the next 100 years!

Please send your best photos of Congresses, best memories, and especially ideas/challenges that you believe are central in your field of work, as we trust that one important way to celebrate this landmark is to look into what we think are the main challenges for applied psychology in the future. These ideas will be shared in **IAAP's Centennial Anniversary** issue of this publication and/or in one of the many documents that we are preparing for our **Centennial Celebrations**. Comments, memories, pictures, etc. for our Centennial issue are due by **December 1st** and will appear in the January 2020 issue of APAW (Volume 2, Issue 1).

Also, do not forget to save date of the **Centennial Congress of Applied Psychology**, scheduled for **December 13-17, 2020 in Cancun**, Mexico. More information can be found on <https://www.ccapcancun2020.com>.

**We hope that you will join us to celebrate the Past together
and to contribute towards a better Future!**

Please note that the themes of the upcoming issues and articles deadlines are as follows:

Vol. 2, Issue 1: IAAP's Centennial Anniversary, papers due by December 1st (January 2020 issue)

Vol. 2, Issue 2: *Terrorism and Peace building*, papers due by April (May issue)

Vol. 2, Issue 3: *Climate Change*, papers due by August (September issue)

Vol. 3, Issue 1: *Work and Organizational Psychology: Challenges around the World* (January issue)

Call for Volunteers at the United Nations

Pedro Altungy¹

Hello dear Colleagues!

Summer is about to end. The new course is just around the corner and, with it, new projects, illusions and personal experiences. Maybe in your holidays you have travelled abroad, and you have had the chance of discovering a new culture, full of thrilling aspects. Or maybe you decided to relax and take it easy at home, just recharging your batteries, but have thought about how it would be like to face new challenges for the coming academic year. Have you ever wondered how would it be to do a volunteering program abroad, where you could put in practice your knowledge as psychologist? Here is the opportunity you were waiting for!

As you well know, IAAP is an organization with a Special Consultative Status with the United Nations (UN). Thus, the role IAAP plays is to communicate and bring to the UN and its agencies as well as multiple stakeholders and actors, deliberations, research, projects and information related to the science and practice of applied psychology. The IAAP United Nations NGO team works hard, as you can see from this issue, effectively addresses global issues and stimulates ideas about where IAAP member expertise can best be used and applied. In addition, IAAP is bound to become involved in, and initiate, important projects that make a difference in the world, and to form partnerships that are related to the goals of the United Nations, its agencies and multiple stakeholders and actors, that intersect with the field of applied psychology, as well as projects and goals of the IAAP divisions, and that broaden the well-being of populations around the world.

It is here that your involvement is crucial! IAAP offers opportunities for involvement for experienced veteran members, as representatives, and also internships for youth (students at any stage and also early career psychologists). You can read about the activities in the introduction and all the other articles in this issue. The appointment can be for 3 months for up to a year. You can be specializing in any field of applied psychology. Once you email to show your interest, it can be figured out how you can participate. You can always follow UN activities by Internet, and report to, and interact with, the IAAP team from your location. To serve at one of the UN headquarters as either a representative or an intern, though, you must live in that city, to attend the sessions.

There are requirements for those positions, but in general, what's important is interest in international issues, good verbal and writing skills, helpful to have social media skills. Most important is enthusiasm to face new challenges and grow in life-lasting experiences.

Do explore the range of ways to participate in the diverse and exciting activities of the UN. These cover all aspects of the global agenda involving mental health, empowerment of women and girls, disaster recovery, combatting climate change, and ensuring peace, with events ranging from the "Global Campaign to Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls" to the "United Nations Peace Day Youth Summit" and many other global discussions and initiatives that IAAP develops with the UN described in the articles in this issue. The UN headquarters are in these four cities:

- [New York](#)
- [Geneva](#)
- [Vienna](#)
- [Nairobi](#)

Don't be shy. All ages are welcome. Email your interest to Pedro Altungy (paltungy@ucm.es) and copy IAAP UN team representative Dr. Walter Reichman (WalterReichman@gmail.com). Include your CV and a description of your experience, interests and skills and how you could contribute, in order to get involved in this fantastic opportunity for your personal and professional development. One small step for you, one giant leap for your career!



Students with IAAP's Judy Kuriansky at UNESCO

"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed"

¹ President of Division 15: Student Division

Activities and Achievements of the IAAP Team at the United Nations

Dr. Judy Kuriansky¹, Dr. Walter Reichman² and Joel Zinsou³

Introduction and Overview

When past-President of the International Association of Applied Psychology Michael Frese first got the idea that psychologists could make a major contribution to the work of the international community through participation at the United Nations, he was absolutely correct. In fact, at that time, he didn't realize just how big an impact psychologist, and particularly members of the International Association of Applied Psychology and its team of representatives accredited at the United Nations, can have. That impact is summarized in the articles in this special issue, that focus on the activities and contributions of the IAAP team at the United Nations to selected important global issues.

IAAP at the UN

The International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) has been actively involved in many advocacy activities at the United Nations since its accreditation with official NGO status in 2003. An overview of IAAP's participation and vast activities and contributions is presented in this article and elaborated in subsequent articles in this special issue of this journal. These activities include presentations, conferences, workshops, statements, and advocacy related to issues on the global agenda, specifically outlined in the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. That agenda, adopted in 2015, outlines 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs), includes for the first time in such an international agreement, the governments' commitment to "promote mental health and well-being" an achievement in which the IAAP representatives were integrally involved (described in the article on Mental Health). Other goals include the eradication of poverty, empowerment of women and girls, preservation of the environment, prevention and recovery from climate-related disasters and ensuring decent work and peaceful societies. These efforts expand greatly on the previous UN agenda, called the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were in effect from the years 2000-2015.

Vast activities of IAAP UN NGO representatives, interns and students are on the IAAP website under the UN section at <https://iaapsy.org/iaap-and-the-united-nations/>. These include innumerable reports about the participation of IAAP in UN conferences and contributions to global issues, some of which are elaborated in separate articles in this special journal issue.

The activities of the UN teams in UN headquarters in New York, Geneva and Vienna are presented in dedicated articles in this issue.

The following articles cover activities about issues related to the current SDGs, even though the specific events may have occurred earlier than the adoption of the Agenda. Some issues not extensively covered here, e.g., related to education (SG 4) and to sustainable cities (SDG 11), overlap with projects and activities described in these articles and will be covered in other issues.

Advocacy at the UN

Advocacy is not a skill typical for psychologists, therefore, learning the techniques, especially applied in the complex setting of the United Nations, is challenging, but also rewarding. In the course of advocacy, statements are written about an issue, presenting psychological research and making recommendations for action by governments and other stakeholders, and many meetings are held with governments, NGOs, and multiple representatives in the public and private sectors. IAAP representatives also co-organize and speak at innumerable "side events" (symposia, panels) coincident with various UN conferences. Steps and examples of advocacy efforts are described in articles in this issue, that includes developing important relationships with Ambassadors, delegates from the UN Member State countries, other NGOs and other stakeholders.

Activities by the IAAP representatives at the United Nations have escalated in past years, coincident with the increased urgency and activity in the UN system itself since the time of the negotiations and launch of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. "Leave no one behind" has become the theme to make

¹ IAAP Main Representative to the United Nations in New York

² IAAP Main Representative to the United Nations in New York

³ IAAP youth representative at to the United Nations in New York

development accessible to all, consistent with Sustainable Development Goal 1, to eradicate poverty. Other major summits, resolutions and actions center on achieving Universal Health Coverage and combatting climate change. Also, other current themes include use of technology, innovative financing and creating partnerships – all essential to achieve the goals. Gender equality and the empowerment of women has also increased in priority, especially given the current Secretary-General António Guterres' commitment to 50/50 parity, a pledge he made to great applause on International Women's Day during the 2018 Commission on the Status of Women, and subsequently started to fulfill with appointments of women to high positions at the UN. Mental health and well-being has also reached new levels of priority at the UN, also given the Secretary-General's commitment, evident in his launch of mental health services for UN staff. Many other advances regarding mental health have happened, evident for example, in a first Ministerial Meeting on mental health held in London, the first events on mental health at Davos and the first side event on the topic during the important General Assembly meetings in 2018. See the video produced by IAAP's Kuriansky on such advances at: <https://bit.ly/2MwKZDI>.

The outline of articles in this special issue

This special issue consists of articles related to the activities and contributions by the New York team in this overview and in subsequent articles in this journal on many of the global goals. Activities by the Geneva and Vienna teams are in separate articles in this issue. Topics covered focus on the pillars on which the United Nations was founded, namely, human rights and peace, and also on specific Goals of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in addition, on "cross-cutting issues." These cross-cutting issues apply across the various SDGs but are not specifically titled among the 17 goals.

Accreditation at the UN

IAAP is "accredited" at the two main bodies at the United Nations that NGOs are allowed to participate in, and through which that can advocate about their issues at UN meetings and conferences and with governments. These include the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the Department of Global Communications (DGC), previously named the Department of Public Information (DPI).

Accreditation with ECOSOC requires recognized standing in a field of competence; conformity to principles in the UN charter; and commitment to the goals of the UN. The application for this important status was submitted to review by the UN Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, consisting of representatives of member states (governments) at the UN.

Affiliation is also possible with the Department of Global Communications (DGC), as mentioned, that was formerly called the Department of Public Information (DPI). This designation requires contributing information to the UN and communicating about the UN to outside bodies, e.g., the public and the organization's membership. As such, an increased focus is the organization's use of social media. IAAP advocacy and humanitarian projects have been presented by IAAP rep and veteran journalist Kuriansky in major media, in mass media articles, e.g., in her current columns in Black Star News, and on radio and television, notably on Global Connections TV taped at UN headquarters, that covers activities of global leaders (Kuriansky, 2016, April 18); reported by other journalists (Billings, 2015, 2016, 2017); and in news interviews at international psychology meetings, e.g., about the anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks during the IX Ibero-American Congress of Psychology/2nd Congress of the Order of Portuguese Psychologists as the invited plenary speaker.

IAAP achieved official DPI (now DGC) affiliation in 2003, and ECOSOC accreditation in 2005, and as required, submits annual reviews to DGC and quadrennial reports to ECOSOC to maintain status.

Representatives

Representatives are appointed in the UN main headquarters in New York City, as well as in Geneva and Vienna, and most recently in Nairobi, and at regional commissions. The position as a representative is voluntary, with very limited reimbursement for any expenses (e.g., local travel small stipend, production of materials like posters). Up to five ECOSOC senior representatives (including the IAAP President) can be approved for a year-long "grounds pass" that allows access to the building, with an option for several additional representatives given 3-month access. The DGC allows three year-long senior representatives and two youth representatives (from age 18-32). The commitment to be a representative is a serious one. To be effective, representatives need to be present as much as possible in person at the meetings and conferences at the United Nations. Networking with fellow

NGOS and with government officials is crucial and making in-person contacts are invaluable. Representatives need to be proactive in getting involved in the various issues and committees. Keeping track of meetings and making the effort to go to them, and to speak up, is critical. So much goes on at the UN on so many topics with so many different groups, that staying abreast can be complicated and very time-consuming. Making relationships is key and knowing whom to ask about an event. It is also sometimes challenging to figure out how to register for conferences and be assured of access to events. Following the process of the various Committees and Summits at the UN is critical, as some conference participation requires separate and special application where acceptance is not insured. While everything is voluntary, so many meetings are interesting and exciting to be a part of, that it is easy to want to be present at everything all the time.

The IAAP United Nations New York team



Mary O'Neill Berry, Walter Reichman,
Judy Kuriansky, Florence Denmark



Wismick Jean-Charles



Liaison to the Board, Gary Latham with
Dr. Judy & UN Ambassador of Angola



Russell Daisey

It is possible, however, to participate remotely, and IAAP has been making many efforts to involve all divisions and students. Our liaison is IAAP UN representative Walter Reichman, at WalterReichman@gmail.com. Members and students are welcome and encouraged from afar to follow the process through the various UN websites and webcasts, and to send commentary, research and ideas, that representatives can use in advocacy. By paying attention to the many websites about the UN and its various agencies, everyone can follow generally what is going on and see how their work can intersect and be useful, as well as to identify opportunities to get involved, contribute experience and advance causes.

Attendance at monthly meetings of PCUN for representatives in New York is mandatory, as well as meetings of the team, though these may be held by conference call when necessary. Members outside the US who belong to PCUN do participate by Internet connection. Since some UN conferences are webcast, tuning in to these is possible and valuable. Writing reports is also a commitment. IAAP members are encouraged to become involved in, and participate with, the IAAP UN team activities.

Efforts are made to appoint representatives with expertise in various disciplines of applied psychology to cover UN issues, e.g., I/O, clinical, social, and educational psychology. IAAP representatives who have served for over ten years include clinical psychologist Dr. Judy Kuriansky (who received the 2010 IAAP Distinguished Professional Contribution Award for "advancing psychology internationally"), industrial/organizational psychologist Dr. Walter Reichman, social psychologist Dr. Florence Denmark and cultural advocate Russell Daisey (since the UN is very focused on culture). Dr. Mary O'Neill Berry, also an I/O psychologist, stepped down in 2018. Father Wismick Jean-Charles, a Haitian Catholic priest, is an educational psychologist, on global assignments from his order. IAAP's Dr. Gary Latham, an I/O psychologist, serves as the liaison of the IAAP Board to the UN team.

Background

Involvement at the UN was the brainchild and passion of then-IAAP President Michael Frese, as mentioned in the opening of this article, with support of other IAAP executives. Frese believed that “It was a obvious that an international association should be useful for an international institution like the UN,” following in the steps of Médecins Sans Frontiers (Doctors Without Borders) that was accredited. Frese thought the UN would be receptive to psychological knowledge about stress, given violence against UN personnel in several countries. As an industrial organizational (I/O) psychologist, he wanted to contribute to organizational change at the UN, in response to American pressures to streamline the body and make it more efficient (a survey project that IAAP UN representatives Reichman and O’Neill Berry implemented later). Realizing that living in Germany and not in New York, site of the United Nations headquarters, would not be practical to be present at UN events, he recruited local representatives, including from the I/O field, like Walter Reichman. Earlier, clinical psychologist Judy Kuriansky had been recruited by IAAP Past President Ray Fowler during their conversation about psychology-related matters.

A survey of IAAP members affirmed importance placed on involvement in the United Nations and international activities. The strategic plan, to “be more active in developing policy orientation of applied psychology” and commitment to issues addressed in IAAP divisions, is coincident with the UN team’s advocacy about issues like well-being, stress, health, poverty reduction, environment, entrepreneurship in developing countries, women and children’s rights, sustainability, violence, transportation, and ageing. Current IAAP President Christine Roland-Levy and the IAAP Board are supportive.

More details about the history of IAAP at the UN are in the centennial book about IAAP which is coming out soon.

CoNGO

IAAP has participated actively on the board of CoNGO, the Committee of NGOs, referring to non-governmental organizations (not to be confused with the country of CONGO). Founded in 1948, CoNGO is an independent, international, non-profit association that facilitates the participation of NGOs at the United Nations, notably being more recognized by Member States (the 193 government members of the UN), and that encourages NGOs to work together. Given that NGOs (not individuals) are elected as members of CoNGO, a representative then participates, IAAP UN representatives Florence Denmark and Judy Kuriansky have carried out this responsibility on IAAP’s behalf in New York. Wolfgang Beiglboeck has been Vice President in Vienna.

Activities

Activities of the IAAP team are exceptionally diverse and constantly evolving, described in more detail below and in subsequent articles in this APAW special issue. For example, the team members:

- organize side events coincident with UN conferences and important dates, including for Commissions, annual NGO conferences and other summits, for which IAAP reps have also served as moderators or speakers
- attend and report on conferences, meetings, agreements and briefings
- meet with high level officials in UN Missions and UN agencies to further the mission of IAAP and to ensure the inclusion of psychosocial issues in the affairs of the UN, member states, and related agencies and bodies
- draft statements and sign IAAP as a co-sponsor of statements at the UN, relevant to global issues
- represent IAAP and its members’ interests at various NGO Committees related to the UN, e.g. the Committees on Migration, Mental Health, and the Family
- participate in planning annual Psychology Days at the United Nations and serves as moderator, speaker or panelist
- implement special multi-stakeholder partnership field projects related to the missions of IAAP and the UN, especially in developing countries, consistent with member states’ acknowledgement that governments can set policy, but they need NGOs to implement programs in order to achieve the SDGs.

Side Events at the United Nations: Sponsoring and Organizing Panels Highlighting Global Issues

The IAAP UN New York team organizes and/or co-sponsors innumerable “side events” on varied topics and with varied partners. Member States involvement insures preferential treatment by the UN conference and

management services as well as general interest. These events reflect the extent of positive relations that the IAAP team has built with UN Member State governments, UN agencies (e.g., WHO, UNICEF, UNWomen and others) as well as with other NGOs, and experts in the field. Examples of these many events are described in separate articles in this issue.

A “side event” is a meeting, conference or activity organized outside (therefore on the ‘side’ of) the formal program of United Nations sessions (e.g., of the General Assembly, official UN Commissions) that provide an opportunity for Member States, UN entities and NGOs to discuss themes related to the UN agenda. A “parallel event” is similar, but takes place outside United Nations premises, often in the Church Center (located across from the UN Secretariat building). Logistics require considerable and extensive organization, especially with UN security measures and need for “special event tickets.”

IAAP’s involvement has included sponsorship, organization, moderating and hosting the event. Kuriansky, who has been in these roles on innumerable occasions, has co-produced elaborate productions, with theatrical elements of original music, original mini-dramas and original videos about the topic. Anthems and songs written for the specific event and theme have been written and composed by IAAP representative and music producer Russell Daisey with Judy Kuriansky, referred to in other articles in this issue, including about “Every Woman Every Child” about the UN initiative of the same name, “One in Faith” for the side events about interfaith harmony and “Happy People Happy Planet” for celebrations of the International Days of Happiness at the UN and around the world. Innumerable videos have also been produced to coincide with themes of IAAP events, produced by Kuriansky and edited by long-time IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou, also referred to in articles on the relevant topic in this journal issue.

Many side events co-sponsored by IAAP mentioned in this issue are posted on the UN Webcast site that insures their long-term availability and access by multiple stakeholders. Links to these are referred to in other articles in this issue or can be found through the search bar.

Side Events at the UN cosponsored by IAAP

Cultural Performances at IAAP co-sponsored side events



Multi-stakeholder panelists representing Member States, UN agencies, UN departments and NGOs, moderated by IAAP’s Judy Kuriansky

Organizing these events takes a considerable amount of time and logistics, as mentioned. Concept papers have to be written about the intentions and background of the issue, in order to apply for an event at the UN, to secure partners and co-sponsors, and to secure a date and venue. “Save the date” notices, invitations, and programs have to be designed and sent. On the day, arrangements have to be made to allow access to attendees without a UN grounds pass, to set up the room and test the webcast. Follow-up is also necessary, and can be extensive, including required reports for various outlets.

Conferences of the Department of Global Communications/NGO Section

Given that IAAP is formally affiliated with the Department of Global Communications (DGC), many communications have to be prepared and circulated. A DGC/NGO office in New York City is located across from the UN main (Secretariat) building, that offers a resource center for NGOs for information and small meetings. Also, the DGC holds events, briefings and conferences on various topics related to the UN Agenda, which IAAP representatives attend with appropriate registration.

Further, annual conferences, the UN Civil Society Conference, take place around the world at different cities on a selected theme of interest to the work of civil society and NGOs. The conference regularly brings together several thousand representatives of NGOs and civil society organizations from over 100 countries, with exhibits and

hundreds of workshops. IAAP members are welcome to attend. While formally a forum of exchange and visibility for NGOs, attendees include UN System officials, public opinion makers, members of academia and media, to discuss issues of global concern.

IAAP has organized workshops for many DGC conferences, including in New York headquarters on climate change, in Mexico City on disarmament, and in Paris France on human rights in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights. At the conference in Gyeongju in the Republic of Korea in May, 2016, on the theme about education in pursuit of the sustainable development goals, IAAP interns made a video about their experiences as an IAAP intern, presented for the IAAP co-sponsored workshop on the topic of *“Educating Global Citizens about Mental Health, Well-Being, Empowerment, and Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development for All at All Ages.”* Addressing the subject of *“Lessons learned from college student interns,”* they relayed professional and personal growth and especially focused on lessons learned while assisting IAAP’s Kuriansky in the campaign advocating for the inclusion of “mental health and well-being” in the unprecedented 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (discussed in detail in the article about Mental Health in this issue). The topic for the 2019 conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, is *“Building Sustainable Cities and Communities.”*

At the conference on Global Health held in Melbourne Australia, IAAP sponsored an exhibit booth about Psychology and Mental Health, with handouts and videos about IAAP division projects and activities.

IAAP workshops at DPI/NGO conferences



New York, Paris, Mexico City, Melbourne

Collaboration between IAAP and other NGOs at the UN

Two important collaborations that IAAP has engaged in with other Psychology NGOs accredited by ECOSOC at the UN have multiplied the activities and accomplishments from acting alone.

(1) Psychology Day at the UN is an annual event, sponsored by psychology organizations, obviously including IAAP, that have Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) status accredited by the ECOSOC. The event offers UN staff, ambassadors and diplomats, NGO representatives, members of the private and public sectors, students, invited experts, guests, media and other stakeholders, the opportunity to learn how psychological science and practice contributes to the United Nations agenda, as well as to exchange ideas and establish partnerships on global issues. IAAP annually contributes financially to this event, and IAAP representatives serve regularly on all committees (e.g., planning, publicity, programming, logistics) or as moderator or panelist. To date, 12 subsequent annual Psychology Days have been held, with panelists of psychologists and other experts covering topics from disaster recovery to climate change, women’s equality and sustainable development (<https://www.unpsychologyday.com>). Co-sponsors include Member States, traditionally the UN Mission of the Republic of Palau to the UN (that started with to Ambassador Caleb Otto’s commitment) as well as the UN Missions of El Salvador and the Dominican Republic. As mentioned in the Editorial, a video of Psychology Days at the UN, produced by IAAP’s Judy Kuriansky, is available at: <https://bit.ly/2JVZphL>.

(2) **The Psychology Coalition of Accredited NGOs at the UN (PCUN).** While individual psychologists advocated at the UN for over 60 years primarily on an individual basis even though they belonged to a psychology-related UN-accredited NGO, in the Fall of 2011, representatives of various psychology-related NGOs formed a coalition. Named the Psychology Coalition of NGOs Accredited at the UN (PCUN), with IAAP member Dr. Corann Okorodudu and IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky serving as its first two Presidents, the NGOs agreed to collaborate to promote psychological principles, science and practice to global challenges of the UN agenda. By 2019, PCUN, under the presidency of IAAP's Walter Reichman, has 10 organizational members, representing over 200,000 psychological scientists, clinicians, educators and other psychology/mental health practitioners throughout the world (see www.psychologycoalitionun.org). IAAP's Kuriansky also represents the World Council for Psychotherapy and IAAP's Denmark represents the International Council of Psychologists.

PCUN has produced and co-sponsored many projects, events, and statements on global issues. Also, statements have addressed many issues, including for the UN Commission for Social Development, the UN Commission on Population and Development, the UN Commission on the Status of Women and the High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace, many co-authored by IAAP's Okorodudu and Kuriansky. PCUN has also co-sponsored an evidenced-based position paper for the NGO Committee on Children's Rights, entitled, "*Controlling the Exposure of Children to Toxic Stress to Ensure their Rights to Physical Health, Mental Health and Psychosocial Well-Being*," submitted to the Human Rights Council on Children's Right to Health.

Other civil society partnerships

In innumerable projects, IAAP works closely with the other civil society actors and organization. These include the United African Congress, particularly on innumerable and highly successful projects and events related to Africa, all of which are referred to in other articles in this issue. IAAP has also worked closely with the UN Major Group for Children and Youth and with the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development/NY.

Civil Society Groups to Prioritize Mental Health

Civil society groups of mental health experts and advocates have been brought together, of which Kuriansky has been a member. Currently, the BluePrint Group, under the aegis of United for Mental Health, founded by the former advisor to Prince William's *Heads Together* campaign about mental health, coordinates such activities, with conference calls (so those outside the UK central office can be involved) and a newsletter. The leadership participated at both the First Ministerial Summit on Mental Health held in London in the fall 2018 and in Davos in January 2019. An upcoming in-person group meeting will be in London, and the second Ministerial meeting is in the Netherlands in the Fall of 2019 on the topic of disaster.

Relations with Member States

The United Nations was established as an intergovernmental organization for sovereign governments (called Member States) to come together in global cooperation to promote peace, protect human rights, and encourage justice, social progress, and respect for international law. 193 member states of the United Nations represent the majority of countries in the world. UN agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders can interact with the Member States on their various issues, but only Member States can vote on agreements and many meetings and negotiations, times to enter the building, and even floors, are open only to Member States. Access has been an ongoing major issue for NGOs.

Member States governments maintain delegations in the United Nations, called Missions. These offices have Ambassadors (Permanent Representatives), Deputy Permanent Representatives (who can also be Ambassadors), Minister/Counselors, representatives who can be assigned to the various UN Committees (e.g., on Social Development) and may be called First or Second Secretary, advisors and staff. The size of Missions can be very large or exceptionally small.

The IAAP team has maintained exceptional relations with many Member States, in advocacy initiatives and in co-sponsoring events. For years, relations with the Mission of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations has been very close, given the partnership of Kuriansky with Ambassador Dr. Caleb Otto, especially in advocacy about mental health and well-being, and securing its inclusion in the UN 2030 Agenda, as well as founding the Group of Friends of Mental Health and Well-being at the UN. With Ambassador Otto's departure from the UN, the leadership of the Group of Friends of Mental Health and Well-being at the UN was taken over by Canada, Belgium and

Bahrain, joined later by Ecuador. Briefings have been held on various important topics, including about disaster recovery and about workplace mental health. These are described in the article about Mental Health in this issue.

IAAP has impressively collaborated with many Missions on varied activities, including organizing and speaking on panels for side events. For example, Kuriansky has worked closely with the Mission of Sierra Leone (e.g., about Ebola and about women in food security) and with the Mission of Trinidad and Tobago (e.g., about rural women, widows, and women's leadership); giving briefings (e.g. for the Mexico mission on psychological aspects of migration); and moderating events (e.g., with the Mission of France at a major side event film screening and mental health discussion about "*Jean Vanier: The Sacrament of Tenderness*," in October 2018, when H.E. Ambassador Francois Delattre, then-Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, graciously commented "I would like first to thank Judy for her contagious energy and her hard work. We have known each other for years. And one thing I've learnt is never say 'no' to Judy." (See <https://onu.delegfrance.org/We-can-make-a-difference-in-the-life-of-people-with-disabilities-and-in-our-own>). These are described in other articles in this issue. Extremely impressively, IAAP is co-sponsor of an event in September 2019 during the highly prestigious and important UN General Assembly (when Presidents, Prime Ministers and other high level officials convene in UN NY headquarters), that is being sponsored by the Mission of Sierra Leone, with the First Lady of Sierra Leone, Ms. Fatima Bio, presenting her innovative health project. Other co-sponsors with IAAP are the Global Council 3 on Health from the UAE's project on "SDGs in Action" (described in the article in Health and Mental Health in this issue), the United African Congress and others.

Member States/Missions have been impressively accessible to the IAAP team. It is important to know what a country's issue is, and then to prepare how contributions can be valuable. It is also important to be confident in approaching a mission. This is evident in many examples, including a meeting set up by Kuriansky with Mohammed E. Khashaan, Third Secretary in the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the UN in May 2019, to discuss mental health, and specifically to explore opportunities for a Columbia University Teachers College masters' degree student to work with the government's Saudi Commission for Health Specialties after graduation. Research was prepared, noting that in Saudi Arabia, more than the half of citizens are under age 30 and the quality and quantity of mental health services need to be developed. Another recent meeting, with the Sri Lanka mission, inviting a WHO representative to join, explored collaboration on a variety of issues, including women's issues, malaria and disaster recovery (given long-term emotional needs after the tsunami there).

The staggering statistics of suicide worldwide is increasingly being recognized at the UN, with suicide rates currently being the only indicator for achieving target 3.4 in the SDGs. IAAP's Kuriansky was approached by Ambassador Ten-Pow of Guyana about the high rates of farmer suicide in his country and request for assistance. A meeting was set up, including APA NGO representative Rashmi Jaipal, who has worked with the similar problem in her home country of India. Also, migration issues are prevalent in many countries, and continue to emerge, for example, even in Trinidad and Tobago, with the influx of migrants from nearby Venezuela. Additionally, in reaction to the recent Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in East Africa, Kuriansky representing IAAP, with United Africa' Congress' President Gordon Tapper, met with Minister/Counsellor David Tshibangu Tshishiku from the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to review a concept paper Kuriansky drafted for a side event at the UN to raise consciousness about the issue, and to discuss a health education and psychosocial support intervention for community engagement, in collaboration with a coalition of partners in the U.S. and on the ground in the region.

The trust in IAAP by Missions is evident in close partnership between IAAP's Kuriansky and the Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, inviting her to moderate about food sovereignty and women, and to co-organize and moderate other important side events, e.g., at the Commission of Social Development on "*Achieving Poverty Eradication by Sustainable Health, Well-being and Education: The Case of Ebola in West Africa and other Epidemics and Infectious Diseases Worldwide*," where 10 governments spoke, as well as UN agencies (WHO and UNICEF) and other NGOs, and at the UN General Assembly side event featuring the First Lady and other projects to achieve SDG 3 on health and Universal Health Coverage.

Two major award events were co-organized with partners by Kuriansky, representing IAAP. One major event celebrated the Ambassadors and high-level officials who played a major role in the negotiations for the UN Agenda, including the Ambassadors of Kenya, Ireland and Hungary, the two UN officials who advised the Secretary-General, Thomas Gass and Amina Mohammed (now Deputy Secretary-General) and others. The other event, co-

sponsored with the United African Congress, honored major African Ambassadors who helped in the campaign, including the Ambassador of Benin, Jean-Francois Zinsou.

Spreading the word about IAAP and the UN

Coincident with NGOs requirement for accreditation with DGC, the IAAP team needs to communicate about the UN and about its activities. The team does this within the organization members, within the profession, and to the broader community at the United Nations and other venues worldwide, as well as to the public in mass media. In her acceptance speech for the APA Division 46 (Media Psychology and Technology) award for Lifetime Achievement, Kuriansky described the importance of media to promote UN-related issues.

IAAP team members participate and co-organize symposia about efforts at the United Nations at international conferences of IAAP (i.e., ICAPs in Melbourne, Yokohama and Montreal) and also at other regional as well as international psychological congresses (e.g., in Milan, Italy, Cape Town, South Africa, and Hanoi, Vietnam), explaining also how members can be involved. Many of these have taken place during the IAAP Presidency of Janel Gauthier, who was on the panels.

At ICAP 2014, for example, IAAP UN representatives presented a Symposium and Round Table Discussion to report on UN activities and invite member participation. The symposium, *“Doing Global Good: Psychologists at the United Nations Impact on International Issues and Invitation to all for Involvement,”* described activities at the UN by IAAP team members Kuriansky, Reichman and Denmark from the New York team, as well as by Drs. Raymond Saner and Lichia Yui from the Geneva team and Dr. Wolfgang Beigleboeck from the Vienna team. Activities presented include bringing psychological science and practice to policy and deliberations at the UN, advocating for the inclusion of psychological principles in UN conventions and assisting committees and Commissions of the UN in fulfilling their mandates. Involvement of all IAAP members in all divisions in these efforts is extremely important.

The Roundtable showed how IAAP membership plays an important role in the development and fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Panelists included IAAP UN team members as well as IAAP past President Michael Frese and IAAP Division Presidents at the time, Henden Kepir Sinangal (Div 1, Organizational Psychology); Cigdem Kagiticibasi (Div 3, Psychology and Societal Development); Linda Steg (Div 4, Environmental Psychology); Erich Kirchler (Div 9, Economic Psychology) and Irena Todorova (Div 8, Health Psychology).

Similarly, IAAP had a presence at the European Congress on Psychology (ECP), the biannual conference of the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA) held in July 2017 in Amsterdam. IAAP then-President Janel Gauthier moderated a symposium about *“Psychology at the United Nations: Success and Next Steps in Advancing Mental Health and Well-being throughout the Global Agenda”* with presentations describing the UN team in New York by Kuriansky (*“Call to Action for Psychologists in Achieving Mental Health and Well-being in the Global Agenda”*) and the UN team in Vienna by Wolfgang Beigleboeck (*“IAAP at the United Nations Office in Vienna - What IAAP Can Do to support Drug and Alcohol Treatment According to the Global Goals”*), with IAAP youth representative Alexandra Margevich describing *“Youth NGO representation at the UN: Advocacy and implementation of the SDGs.”* EFPA President Dr. Telmo Baptista gave a presentation about *“European psychologists and the Sustainable Development Goals.”*

Multiple presentations about IAAP's work at the UN have been given by Kuriansky, including at international meetings, e.g., the European Congress of Psychology in Stockholm, Sweden in July 2013; the European Congress of Psychotherapy in Moscow Russia also in July 2013 on *“Psychotherapy in Emergencies and Disaster”*; the American Psychological Association in Honolulu Hawaii about *“Psychological Advocacy at the United Nations: Issues and Procedures”*; as an invited plenary at the IX Ibero-American Congress of Psychology/2nd Congress of the Order of Portuguese Psychologists held in Lisbon 9-13 September, organized by its President Telmo Baptista; and at the World Congress of Psychotherapy in July 2017, where she also referred to the important declaration made at the 2014 ICAP (International Congress of Applied Psychology) in Paris, France. At the First Southeast Asia Regional Conference of Psychology (RCP2017) held in Hanoi, Vietnam, from November 28 to December 1, 2017, hosted by the University of Social Sciences and Humanities/Vietnam National University (USSH/VNU) and the Institute of Psychology/Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (IoP/VASS), Kuriansky spoke on the theme *“Applied Psychologists in the World and the United Nations Global Agenda: Success, Next Steps and Opportunities,”* describing the UN team activities.

Team members have given speeches at conferences related to their I/O field and to the UN global goal of poverty. Reichman and O'Neill Berry have consistently spoken about poverty eradication and decent work at meetings of SIOOP (the Society for Industrial/Organizational Psychology).

The work of the IAAP UN team is presented regularly at IAAP Board meetings by Kuriansky. Also, all IAAP representatives have contributed reports to IAAP Bulletins, posted in the internet. Moreover, the IAAP UN team set up a twitter account (@IAAPUN) and a Facebook account (www.facebook.com/laap.un). Advocacy as well as humanitarian projects of IAAP have been presented by Kuriansky in major mass media, given her role as a journalist, either in interviews or in reports she has authored. As noted above, she has written for innumerable media outlets, is currently a columnist for Black Star News, and been interviewed on UN-related TV shows, like Global Connections TV, a show taped at UN headquarters in New York that covers activities of global leaders, and has covered the activities of IAAP, for example, after natural disasters and in the Girls Empowerment Camp described in articles in this issue (Kuriansky, 2016, April 18). Some of these have been reported by other journalists, e.g., for Black Tie Magazine (Billings, 2015, 2016, 2017). Earlier, she hosted another TV-related show, interviewing colleagues in NGOs doing impressive work, for https://www.lightmillennium.org/unngo_profiles/list.html. Many videos have also been produced on work in Africa and around the world. These are listed in the reference article at the end of this issue.

At many meetings, she is interviewed; for example, when it was 9/11 - the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Towers – during the IX Ibero-American Congress of Psychology/2nd Congress of the Order of Portuguese Psychologists held in Lisbon 9-13 September and organized by its president Telmo Baptista, where she the invited plenary speaker, she was interviewed about the psychological impact of this terrorist event, on television, radio and in print.

How IAAP Members Can Become More Involved

The IAAP representatives welcome collaboration and communication with IAAP divisions and members. Some suggestions are:

- 1. Become educated about the United Nations as well as IAAP and PCUN** by accessing these websites:
 - The IAAP website UN section: <http://www.iaapsy.org/>
 - The UN website in multiple languages: <http://www.un.org/> or <http://www.un.org/en>
 - Civil Society at the UN: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/resources-different-audiences/civil-society/>
 - The United Nations Department of Global Communications: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/departments/department-global-communications/> and the NGO section: <https://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/>
 - Economic and Social Development Council and the NGO section: <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/> and <http://csonet.org/>
 - UN Commission for Social Development: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/united-nations-commission-for-social-development-csocd-social-policy-and-development-division.html>
 - UN Commission on the Status of Women: <https://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>
 - The Sustainable Development Goals: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Factsheet_Summit.pdf
 - The Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited at the United Nations: <https://www.psychologycoalitionun.org/>
- 2. Consider what you can do as applied psychologists for your community, civil society, governmental agencies, local UN agencies, and other NGOs**
- 3. Advocate for the applied psychology-related issues in the SDGs, including mental health and well-being, decent work, human rights and peace in your community.**
- 4. Offer your expertise and experience, and send activities, research and ideas about the above to IAAP UN representative to: WalterReichman@gmail.com**

Funding for development

With such an ambitious UN Agenda, funding for development is a major challenge at the UN, with many UN conferences and frameworks about this issue, especially now to achieve the SDGs. In one of the workshops DGC holds for NGOs, funding sources that were suggested included www.foundationcenter.org, www.grantspace.org, www.CharityBuzz.com and a book, “*The Ask: How to Ask for Support for Your Non-profit Cause, Create a Project or Business Venture.*”

The Financing for Development (FfD) process at the UN is centered on following-up agreements and commitments during the major international conferences (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/financing-for-development/>). Current focus is on innovative financing to mobilize capital, e.g. using cryptocurrency and blockchain platforms. IAAP has been following this issue, noting the escalation of activities at the UN, in response to emergencies, like Ebola in 2014-2015 and in 2018-2019, and the 2017 Hurricanes in the Caribbean and the increasing interest in the role of the private sector. Countries have rotated being the leading groups of funding conferences. In 2018, Georgia invited Kuriansky to a major conference in that country, to moderate a panel on civil society, at the “Tbilisi International Solidarity and Innovative Financing Forum December 14-16, 2018 .” These activities highlight the importance of psychologists learning more about this topic – that may not be a familiar one.

The Way Forward

The phrase “The Way Forward” is commonly used at the UN to indicate steps that have to be taken for the future, to realize “the world we want” and the “future we want” as mentioned in the preamble for the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. The future looks bright for IAAP since a major foundation has been set with the five words “promote mental health and well-being’ as target 3.4 in the Agenda that Kuriansky worked very hard with Ambassador Otto of Palau to secure inter-governmental approval during those intergovernmental negotiations (described more fully in the article about Mental Health in this issue). These five words must now be built upon, in the coming years, and expanded, when time comes to prepare for the next iteration of negotiations for the UN agenda, which will likely be a few years before the expiration of the current agenda in 2030. During this time, major advocacy, using the current campaign as a template, must be expanded, governments on the national and international level need to be engaged, and multi-stakeholder partnerships need to be formed, in accordance with SDG 17 (that calls for partnerships among government, civil society, academia, the private sector, media, and others).

Other goals besides the above policy efforts:

- Programs need to be identified that can be gold standard and evidence-based, as well as scaled up, to offer services to the populations.
- Linkages between mental health and wellbeing and the other SDGs must be explored further.
- Efforts must be escalated to achieve all the SDGs, within the lens of psychological research and practice.
- Universal health care must be implemented, to “flip the gap” from the situation that out of 95% of people who need care, only about 5% of people receive it, to achieve the opposite statistic.
- Psychologists must hone their skills in policy, to participate in the process, and also to learn about innovative financing.

Most of all, hope must be maintained that indeed as the Agenda implores, “no one is left behind.”

NOTE: References to selected relevant publications, articles, materials and events are included in a separate section at the end of this issue, except where already noted inside the text in each article. The links here and in the later list are not intended as a literature review, but as resources pertaining to IAAP’s UN team work and contributions, either written by IAAP representatives or by others about the activities and contributions by the representatives at the UN.

Some material reported in these articles overlap various SDGs (e.g., SDG 2 about Ending Hunger is covered in an event reported about SDG 5 about Empowering Women). Also, activities related to other SDGs, like SDG 4 about Quality Education for All, SDG 10 about Reduced Inequalities and SDG 11 about Sustainable Cities, are not presented in specific articles in this issue but referred to in relevant other topics and events.

Mental Health and Well-being at the United Nations

Activities, Achievements and Contributions of the IAAP New York Team

Dr. Judy Kuriansky and Joel Zinsou

Mental health has been the focus of much advocacy of the New York team representing the International Association of Applied Psychology at the United Nations. Clearly, mental health is central to IAAP's mission, and fundamental to all the other major issues globally. The adoption of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development has heightened this connection. As Ambassador Dr. Caleb Otto of the Mission of the Republic of Palau to the UN has said, "Mental health is at the *heart* of the Sustainable Development Goals." This has become the theme of the IAAP team's efforts. This article describes the activities and achievements of the IAAP New York UN team regarding health as well as mental health and well-being, since these are inextricable.

Negotiation of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development

A major turning point in the focus of the United Nations has been the adoption of the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, with its 17 goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, that now guides all stakeholders' actions to achieve a better world until the year 2030. This agenda updated the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), with its 8 goals, that guided actions from the years 2000-2015. The SDGs set the global agenda on three dimensions – economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection – including ending poverty and hunger, ensuring quality education, health, gender equality, decent work, reliable energy, peaceful societies, and protecting the environment, including taking urgent action about climate change. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>. Built on the 5 P's – people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership – an ultimate theme is to "leave no one behind."

On behalf of IAAP and the Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited at the UN (PCUN), IAAP's UN representative Judy Kuriansky, during her Presidency of PCUN, played a major leadership role intensively over several years in advocacy on the intergovernmental level to successfully insure the inclusion of mental health and well-being in the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This involved two constituencies: (1) participating with the civil society Major Groups and Other Stakeholders, with a focus on including the psychosocial perspective in civil society advocacy, and (2) forming a crucial partnership with then-Ambassador of Palau to the UN, Dr. Caleb Otto, a public health physician. The latter partnership led to the highly successful campaign on the intergovernmental level, carried out led by Kuriansky with major assistance from IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou leading a small team of other IAAP youth interns. This involved extensive work, monitoring the intergovernmental sessions held at the UN over two years, holding personal meetings with over 80 member states, and re-drafting positions papers, distributed through the member state channels by Ambassador Otto, according to the typical government process. While activities were being carried out by advocates on the local and national levels, and missions do consult with their capital for decisions, this intergovernmental advocacy was crucial, since it is the Member States who can bring issues to attention of their capital and who ultimately vote on the language that gets into the document.

The campaign was successful in the inclusion of "mental health and well-being" in 3 places for the first time ever in such a UN document: in target 3.4 to "promote mental health and well-being" and in the Vision, for a world "where physical, mental and social well-being are assured," and in paragraph 26 of the section called "The New Agenda" that calls for promoting "physical and mental health and well-being." Of major importance, the intensive advocacy led to the inclusion of the word "well-being" in the title of goal 3, to read "Ensure Health and Well-being for all" which originally only mentioned Health. Acknowledging this contribution, the co-chair of both the 2013-2014 Open Working Group and the 2014-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations, H.E. Ambassador Macharia Kamau, permanent Representative of Kenya to the UN, specifically acknowledged Kuriansky and her colleague, UK health advocate Marianne Haselgrave, publicly from the podium at the conclusion of the negotiations. See video at: <https://bit.ly/2lfZuPz>.

This historic step provides a concrete basis for all psychologists to advance policies and programs supporting mental health. Intensive and extensive advocacy on this international front has continued after the Agenda

adoption, to include mental health and well-being in other UN instruments, e.g., about migration and about Universal Health Coverage, and at other UN conferences, described below and in other articles in this issue.

Group of Friends of mental Health and Well-being

To support the campaign, Otto and Kuriansky founded the “Group of Friends of Mental Health and Well-being” referred to briefly in the introductory article in this issue, whose membership, like other such groups, is exclusive to member states, to provide advice about advocacy on mental health. Other related issues of advocacy related to NCDs, psychosocial resilience, and measures of well-being that go beyond economic indicators, referred to as “Beyond GDP”. Given her role in its formation and in her ardent advocacy, Kuriansky was invited as an advisor and ex-officio member of the Group. After the departure of Ambassador Otto from the UN, the leadership was taken up by the Missions of Canada, Belgium, Bahrain and Ecuador. The group holds briefings on topics related to mental health and being, including about, climate change, the cost to people, business and governments of mental health problems, and participation of the private sector, and sponsors side events on these topics. Impressively, supportive countries come from all regions of the world, including Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, Ireland, Germany, Portugal, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Liberia, Morocco and many others.

Group of Friends of Mental Health and Well-being



The support of the Mission of Belgium to the UN is also considerable, given that Queen Mathilde is one of the 17 SDG Advocate, who are spokespersons about the SDGs. The Queen is also a psychologist. Assistant Secretary-General Thomas Gass requested IAAP Kuriansky’s assistance in putting together a highly successful briefing held at the UN on 12 July for the Queen about mental health issues, with experts on the topic. Subsequently, she was invited to a follow-up luncheon briefing for the Queen by the Ambassador of Belgium to the UN Marc Pecsteen, held at his residence. The Queen also sent a supportive video message for the event about mental health held in 2018 at the UN during the high-level General Assembly.

Follow-up side events about mental health at the heart of the SDGs

After the historic inclusion of mental health and well-being in the UN Agenda 2030, a series of side events were organized to carry forward the theme identified by Ambassador Otto of “*Mental health at the heart of the SDGs.*”

Mental Health at the Heart of the SDGs

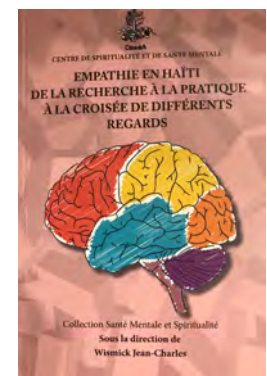
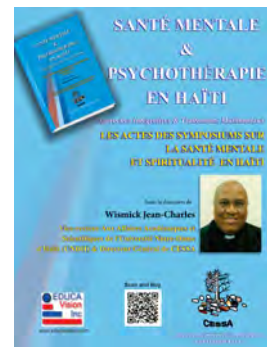
The first follow-up was a major three-hour event co-sponsored by IAAP and the UN Missions of Palau and Canada, and co-organized by Kuriansky. It was held on 7 September 2016, on the margins of the 70th session of the General Assembly when leaders of governments come together to discuss and decide upon world issues. At this event, Canada’s active participation was significant for IAAP, given that IAAP then-President Janel Gauthier is Canadian (his address was read at the event) and that the President of the Canadian Psychological Association, Dr. David Dozois, was a discussant, in anticipation of the International Congress of Applied Psychology (ICAP) to be held in Montreal. Support for mental health at the highest level of the Canadian government, in principle and financially, is considerable, affirmed in the video welcome address at ICAP of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. See <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2016/05/02/statement-prime-minister-canada-mental-health-week>.

An impressive roster of multi-stakeholder speakers represented Member States as well as UN agencies and civil society. These included from the Director of the UN Division for Social Policy and Development in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Daniela Bas, who noted the importance of strategies for persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, youth and older persons. WHO Deputy Director Werner Obermeyer presented the WHO Mental Health Action Plan. The CEO of Grand Challenges Canada, Peter Singer, now at WHO as advisor to the Director General, addressed the financial need for support. A wide range of civil society representatives spoke about concrete means of implementation of mental health in communities. Faith keeper Ka'nahsohon Kevin Deer from the Ennahtig Healing Lodge and Learning Center in Toronto demonstrated indigenous ceremonies; psychologist Dr. Inka Weissbecker described the programs of the International Medical Corps (IMC) in refugee camps for women and children; and the head of the Clinton Global Initiative global health portfolio described their activities. Youth also had a voice. The Founder and President of Power African Youth, Mekinda Mekinda Jr., spoke about the importance of mindset in entrepreneurship, and one of his mentees, a former Miss Universe Ghana contestant, Marie-Louise Ocran, shared her struggles with depression and suicide attempts and her efforts in founding the "More to Life International" project to help young girls raise their self-esteem and resist bullying. Also, IAAP's UN representative Walter Reichman described projects in developed and developing countries that promote mental health and well-being that are interlinked with ending poverty. These include the Student Training for Entrepreneurial Prospects (STEP) program initiated by past IAAP past President Michael Frese in countries in Africa like Uganda.

For the usual entertainment element that colors IAAP events, IAAP representative Russell Daisey performed an original anthem "Happy People Happy Planet," co-written by Kuriansky, on the event theme. See the report about the event at <https://bit.ly/2FnebZW> and the webcast of the full event at <http://bit.ly/2meg0Ap>. Also, the song is at: <https://youtu.be/Cd9xLX35Uk>.

Ambassadors spoke eloquently about the need for mental health services, psychosocial support, and adequate funding and personnel. These included co-sponsor Ambassador Marc André Blanchard of the Mission of Canada to the UN as well as the UN Ambassador of the Mission of Micronesia, Jane Chigiyal, who shared that her cousin was misdiagnosed as a drug addict when he needed mental health help. UN Ambassador Laura Flores of the Mission of Panama identified mental health as an issue of human rights. UN Ambassador of the Mission of Liberia Lewis Brown emphasized the need for trauma recovery, noting that his country is still suffering from the aftermath of long-standing civil war and the deadly Ebola epidemic. The Ambassador of the Mission of Timor-Leste, Maria Helena Lopes de Jesus Pires, noted her work as a counselor years ago for torture and trauma survivors. The Ambassador of the Mission of Benin, Jean Francis Zinsou, talked about a seminar he took as a youth about how to cope with stress, that others could benefit from. Kuriansky described the mental health campaign. Ambassador Otto underscored that, "For the next fifteen years, I want us to think of the Sustainable Development Goals as 'the Affairs of the Heart'." Belgium UN Ambassador Marc Pescsteen de Buytsverve highlighted emotional pain suffered by refugees, and helpful techniques like desensitization and narrative exposure therapy, reiterating his country's commitment to mental health, also that of the Belgian Queen Mathilde. Speakers also came from afar. IAAP's Father Wismick traveled from Haiti to speak about IAAP's support in his country post-disaster recovery. Timothy To came from Hong Kong, just for that day, to describe his Post-Crisis Counseling Network training of volunteers in simple support techniques to respond in disasters. And psychologist Yuwanna Mivanyi came from Nigeria to bring a message from the Nigerian Psychological Association about the importance of mental health services in Africa.

See the UN webcast about the full event at: <http://bit.ly/2meg0Ap>.



Mental health and Well-being to Eradicate Poverty

The next event in the series was on "Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing for Youth as a Strategy for Social Integration and Poverty Eradication," held 7 February 2017, during the UN Commission for Social Development. The event was another excellent example of multi-stakeholder participation and interesting cultural performances. The event, sponsored by the Missions of Belgium and Afghanistan with IAAP, organized by IAAP's Kuriansky and Judy Otto of the Palau mission and moderated by Kuriansky, featured a panel of representatives from Member

States, UN entities, and civil society. Ambassador Otto urged turning Internet "hot spots" into "Hope Spots" for young people, The Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium elaborated Belgium's commitment to mental health. The UN DESA department chief Daniela Bas described the new publication "*Mental Health Matters: Social Inclusion of Youth with Mental Health Conditions*". Civil society representatives presented unique efforts to provide psychosocial support for youth in regions from Africa to Afghanistan to America. This included the founder of an NGO called Hope and Health Vision, Jean-Marie Bazibuhe, whose project, located on the border of troubled region of Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo, offers psychosocial support, education and food, fun and a feeling of "family" to street children, former child soldiers and children in poverty and at-risk. Kuriansky had met Bazibuhe at the ICAP in Cape Town South Africa and kept in touch, intending to support his valiant efforts for at-risk youth in such a conflict-ridden region.

The event started powerfully with a gripping original play, by youth from the Susan Rybin Studio of Drama, about a young man beset with school and family troubles who considers suicide until helped by a peer, Sophia Angelica, who then sang her original song about hope.

Ambassadors Katalin Bogyay of Hungary and Lois Young of Belize, and the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Sierra-Leone Felix Koroma made spontaneous comments about the value of the event, linked to their country experience. See the report at <https://bit.ly/2Z5kzlj> and the UN webcast of the full event at <https://bit.ly/2H8vfFy>.

Artificial Intelligence and Technology Tools for Mental Health

The third event in the series, co-sponsored by IAAP, the UN Mission of Iraq, the UN Major Group on Children and Youth and the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, was held at the UN on 16 May 2017 during the STI Forum on the topic of "*Artificial Intelligence and Technology Tools for Mental Health, Well-being and Resilience: Bridging the treatment gap in the cases of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Hispanic workers in the USA and youth in humanitarian crises.*" The event, again moderated by Kuriansky, again enlisted the organizing team, with Dr. Judy Otto from the Palau mission and youth assistants, IAAP UN youth representatives Alexandra Margevich, Joel Zinsou and Janell Lin as well as students from Dr. Judy's class at Columbia University Teachers College on "Psychology and the United Nations".

The event highlighted the gap between the dire need for mental health services and access, given that an estimated one-in-four persons worldwide will suffer from a mental health condition during their lifetime according to WHO, yet 75%-85% of persons in low and middle-income countries do not receive care. This gap is even greater in low resource and humanitarian crisis settings. Technology tools, including Artificial Intelligence (AI) are increasingly being used to fill this gap, with potential but also with limitations.

Creative examples of applying technology for mental health were presented, including in Lebanon, China, the United States and elsewhere, with the interesting demonstrations and diversity of speakers that are typical of the IAAP team's side events. Speakers underscored that: (1) Technologies must be embedded in a strong health system that supports holistic physical, mental, social and spiritual health; (2) Policies must address complex ethical, legal and management issues and; (3) Programs must provide rigorous research. See the report at <https://bit.ly/2mghjOH> and the webcast of the full event at <http://bit.ly/2meg0Ap>.

Again, panelists represented an appealing multi-stakeholder perspective. Ambassador Otto noted the importance of a holistic health system incorporating mental, physical, social and spiritual health. Assistant Secretary-General Thomas Gass and Dr. Astrid Hurley from the UN Office of Social Policy and Development of UN-DESA (the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs) underscored the uniqueness of this side event and the promise of technology. Academician and AI expert Dr. David Luxton, Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington, described examples of virtual therapists counseling Vietnam veterans with PTSD (www.simcoach.org). AI applications were presented, including a project that uses virtual advisors in Lebanon; a program that is piloting AI-based texting for uninsured Spanish-speaking transient farm workers in California; and a technology-based program about shelter and mental health after disasters, deployed in Nepal after the 2015 earthquake. A video was shown of a robotic baby seal developed in Japan to provide psycho-social support, reduce stress and stimulate socialization for dementia patients and children with learning disabilities.

In another example of a unique performance element that has become the signature of IAAP events produced by Kuriansky, her graduate students demonstrated a project they designed, using WeChat a Facebook equivalent

popular in China, to educate Chinese youth about research and techniques for positive mental health and reducing stress that is pervasive in the youth population, from excessive academic and social pressures.

The Declaration at ICAP 2014 & 2018

Significantly, the advocacy campaign described above for the UN Agenda was supported by IAAP members and other attendees at the 29th ICAP, held 26-30 June 2018 in Montreal, Canada, on the topic “*Psychology: Connecting Science and Solutions*.” A declaration drafted by Kuriansky was presented, as a follow-up to the declaration she earlier championed, that had been unanimously approved at the closing ceremony of the 28th ICAP held 8-13 July 2014 in Paris, France, on the topic “*From Crisis to Sustainable Well-being*.” That ICAP meeting in Paris in 2014 had provided an important boost to the advocacy for mental health and well-being, by consolidating IAAP’s support for the campaign, and also providing a formal statement that was used in the advocacy. See the declaration at: <https://bit.ly/2YPBXLv>.

Eradicating stigma

Stigma about mental health is a major impediment to well-being. IAAP has co-sponsored events related to the eradication of stigma, including a Forum at the UN on 17 December 2014, sponsored by the UN Missions of Liberia, Guinea, Uganda, the United States and the Netherlands, on “*Eradicating stigma & promoting psychosocial wellbeing, mental health and resilience in the Ebola epidemic through policies and practices to protect the global community*,” co-organized by Kuriansky, who also spoke on the panel. See the UN webcast at: <https://bit.ly/2K1MbjS>.

WHO Health Day: “Depression: Let’s Talk”

The World Health Organization sponsored Mental Health Day on 7 April 2018, was on the topic of “Depression, Let’s Talk,” where Kuriansky was invited to speak on one of the two panels. She presented her 3 S’s: stigma, silence and shame and also showed the video she produced with IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou, profiling psychosocial projects worldwide. See: <https://youtu.be/VtN5z8aqQFE>.

Many UN Ambassadors spoke at the event, including from the Mission of Sri Lanka, Dr. Amritha Rohan Perera, and from the Mission of Trinidad and Tobago, Ambassador Penelope Beckles, as well as the Deputy Permanent Representatives of Zambia, Christine Kalamwina, and the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Belgium, Pascal Buffin. The Canada UN Ambassador Marc-André Blanchard, whose country is in the forefront of support, told the heartbreaking story about his then 15-year-old son’s depression after his girlfriend committed suicide. IAAP’s Mahroo Moshari shared her years-long experience hosting youth from varied cultural backgrounds in a summer institute to learn about the UN and mutual understanding. See the webcast of the full event at: <https://bit.ly/2pm362e>



Out of the Shadows: Making Mental Health a Global Priority

A pivotal meeting that highlighted the importance of mental health, investment in mental health, and innovative projects that can be scaled up, was convened by the World Bank and WHO, entitled “*Out of the Shadows: Making Mental Health a Global Priority*.” IAAP’s Kuriansky was invited to speak about the successful advocacy campaign with Ambassador Otto on “*Engaging Governments, Engaging Communities*.” At the meeting, impressively, the Minister of Finance of the government of Canada announced a commitment of 39 million Canadian dollars to mental health over 5 years. Many civil society groups described their projects, in presentations or in a poster exhibit.

Anti-Bullying

The increase in the incidence of bullying throughout the world, with its deleterious impact on youth, has garnered attention at the UN. IAAP co-sponsored a side event on 31 May 2017 at the UN Church Center, organized by the

NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-New York and moderated by IAAP's Kuriansky. The keynote address was given by then-Deputy Ambassador of Mexico to the UN, H.E. Mr. Juan Sandoval-Mendiolea, who pledged his country's commitment to addressing the issue. The opening address was given by the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, Ms. Marta Santos Pais.

Panelists shared personal experiences, including Bruce Knotts, Director of the Unitarian Universalist Association and Chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, about being bullied by several youth for his sexual preference. Student Fatma Ismail was taunted about wearing a hijab. Teen pop star Meredith O'Connor, who is an AntiBullying Icon Celebrity Youth Activist for UN Women's Planet 5050, was teased about being tall, yet ironically, she eventually got a modeling contract. And, singer-songwriter Sophia Angelica debuted her new anti-bullying music video. Lisa Picker came from St. Louis to tell her story about being the mother of 18-year old son Liam who was bullied, became depressed and tragically took his own life. A recording was played of the original musical composition of Liam performed by international Japanese pianist Gohei Nishikawa, whose bonding with the family, along with Liam's plight and his mothers' commitment to help prevent similar tragedies, brought tears to many attendees' eyes.

Civil Society Groups to Prioritize Mental Health

Civil society groups of mental health experts and advocates have come together in various groups, of which Kuriansky has been a member. The group mhNOW held an event called "Closing the Mental Health Gap: Collective Action Agenda in Cities" on 20 September 2016. Currently, the BluePrint Group, founded by former advisor to Prince William's Heads Together campaign about mental health, coordinates such activities, and was present at both the First Ministerial Summit on Mental Health held in London in the fall 2018 and in Davos in January 2019. The group holds regular conference calls to share and plan activities and also meets in person in London, their headquarters. Major advances in mental health advocacy, as those described in this article, are presented in a video produced by Kuriansky and edited by Zinsou, available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/1cdru9s2r50rqfl/MHWP%20Jan%202019%20FINAL.m4v?dl=0>.

Time to Act

The attention to the urgency of mental health was brought to the United Nations General Assembly at the NYC headquarters in September 2018 for the first time in a side event organized by United for Mental Health, with an impressive lineup of speakers including Ministers of Health, Mental Health and Public Health, as well as the mother of Lady Gaga, Cynthia Germanotta, who runs the singer's Born This Way Foundation based on her struggles with depression and anxiety. WHO Director General Dr. Tedros spoke about WHO plans and actions. IAAP was a co-sponsor of this important event, with Kuriansky giving the closing comment, acknowledging the importance of the event and lifting spirits at the end calling for acknowledgement of progress made. See webcast of the full event at: <https://bit.ly/2MIBYA2>.

IAAP co-sponsor, Mental Health event during UN General Assembly 2018



General Assembly 2019

In September 2019, at the prestigious UN General Assembly, IAAP is a co-sponsor of a major side event sponsored by the UN Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the UN, about "Achieving SDG 3 and Universal Health Coverage: Innovative Projects, Policies and Financing Models to reach those left furthest behind." Taking place a few days after the Universal Health Coverage Summit, the side-event features United Nations Member States and stakeholders working towards accelerating progress on attaining Sustainable Development Goal 3 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda on "Ensuring Health and Wellbeing for All," including commitments to mental health, and in achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC), by serving those left furthest behind. Innovative models are featured, illustrating public-private and people-centric partnerships that leverage innovative approaches and innovative financing instruments. Implementations will be showcased that represent partnerships that bring multi-stakeholders together. These include the "Health in Your Hands" (HIYH) initiative to reach those with least access to care, developed by IAAP's Kuriansky and Dr. Shariha Khalid Erichsen in their role as members of the UAE's

“SDGs in Action” SDG3 Global Council on Health. Also featured is the Ethio-American Health Medical City in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, registered as the EADG Healthcare City Centre, PLC. The event is highly prestigious in that it features the First Lady of Sierra Leone, Fatima Bio, presenting the health project of the Maada and Fatima Bio Foundation Sierra Leone, the foundation by the President of Sierra Leone Julius Maada Bio and his wife with a particular focus on the health and well-being of girls, women and disabled persons.

The Union of Mental Health

An important partnership was confirmed in 2019 with IAAP joining the impressive roster of organizations co-sponsoring the “*III Congress on Mental Health: Meeting the Needs of the XXI Century*” on the theme “*Children, Society and Future*” to be held in Moscow in June 2020, given Kuriansky’s major role in the two previous congresses. Also, IAAP President Christine Roland-Lévy was invited to be a speaker. As in two prior Congresses, Kuriansky is on the international organizing committee, and will once again help draft and then deliver the final declaration. The 2019 theme focuses on the mental health of children, with one of the special components on disaster that Kuriansky will organize. Impressively, the Congress is once again under the patronage of four ministries of the government of Russia. See the website of the Congress at <http://www.mental-health-congress.ru/en/> and engaging videos of past Congresses, from 2016 at <https://yadi.sk/i/HWH8FPv-ik1slw> and from 2018 at <https://yadi.sk/i/p3iX9X6bAxdq7Q>.

Happiness and Well-being

Happiness has become an increasingly acknowledged topic at the United Nations. First recognized as an important measurement of progress for a nation by the Kingdom of Bhutan by its King in 1972, the United Arab Emirates took up leadership of this issue in the international community in 2015, highlighting the value of happiness and well-being in all aspects of governance and public life. This was directed by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who wrote an excellent book on the topic. UAE commitment is also very evident in their appointment of a Minister of State of Happiness and Well-being, H.E. Ohoud al-Roumi and her activities to integrate well-being into all levels for the government and for the public.

Celebration of the International Day of Happiness annually on 20 March is mandated by a United Nations Resolution from 2013, initiated by then-Ambassador of Iraq to the UN, H.E. Hamid Al-Bayati. Events are held at the United Nations, and the public is encouraged to hold events all over the world.

IAAP’s involvement began with Kuriansky and O’Neill Berry being invited to the High Level meeting on “Happiness and Well-being; Defining a New Economic Paradigm,” 2-5 April 2012 at UN NYC headquarters. Hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan, the vision was a new development paradigm, replacing the present narrow system based on GDP (Gross Domestic Product) with “Gross National Happiness.” Kuriansky wrote the final press release about the event, available at <https://bit.ly/2Z0ETVK>. The civil society group that came to together for that meeting still maintains contact and shares information about their events and projects on a network basecamp of the Global Happiness and Well-being Movement, open for membership.

Under their leadership about happiness, the UAE organized events and panels at the UN on the International Day of Happiness. A panel and roundtables based on five dimensions of happiness, to reflect topics in their Happiness Report, was held in March 2018. IAAP’s Kuriansky assisted in organizing the panels, with Ambassadors as chairs, and experts and diverse stakeholders as participants. The UAE also hosted Global Dialogues on Happiness during their World Government summit in 2015 and 2017, to which Kuriansky was invited; these efforts coinciding with the promotion of well-being among the governments at the UN.

Celebrations of the International day of Happiness

The first celebration of the International Day of Happiness (IDoH) at the United Nations headquarters in 2013 was organized by the United Nations Academic Impact in association with the Permanent Mission of Bhutan to the UN.

Due to her involvement in the issue, IAAP's Kuriansky was invited to present the psychological dimension of happiness. UN Ambassadors, academicians and youth also spoke. See: <http://vimeo.com/69441235>.

In 2017, Kuriansky spoke on the panel organized by former Ambassador of Iraq to the UN, H.E. Hamid al Bayati, who was responsible for getting the Resolution about the International Day of Happiness adopted by the General Assembly (see video at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1p5Nuy1zYfl). Speakers included Ambassador Katalin Bogyay of the UN Mission of Hungary; the UN High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and former UN Ambassador of Qatar Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser; and the Deputy Permanent Representative of Iraq to the UN, Mr. Mohammed Sahib Mejid Marzooq. IAAP's Kuriansky showed a video about techniques from her toolbox used in her projects for psychosocial healing from natural disasters, poverty, epidemics, refugeeism, in Africa, Haiti, China and Japan, and in Jordan with Syrian refugees, about "Transforming Trauma to Healing, Hope and Happiness." See video at: <https://youtu.be/bfdJ9jAomMw>).

Promotion of International Happiness



The International Day of Happiness at the UN: (left to right): IAAP's Judy Kuriansky, Buddhist nun Ani Choying Drolma, and actor Daniel Craig



In Dubai at the Global Dialogue on Happiness: Members of the UAE government, IAAP's Judy Kuriansky and Minister of State of Happiness and Wellbeing, H.E. Ohood al Roumi

The 2016 International Day of Happiness Day at the United Nations

One of the most elaborate of these UN happiness celebrations was in 2016, with an all-day ten-hour spectacular event of speakers and performances held in the largest UN conference room. With an impressive partnership with member states, the event was hosted by the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of São Tomé and Príncipe, and co-sponsored by the UN Missions of the Republic of Palau and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. UN Ambassadors from many other countries were present, including Hungary, Italy, India, Tajikistan and others.

On the theme, "Happiness and Well-being in the U.N. 2030 Agenda: Achieving a New Vision of Sustainable Development for the People and the Planet," produced by Kuriansky and IAAP representative Russell Daisey with help from Judy Otto, Ambassador Otto's wife, speakers promoted happiness as key to secure peace, tackling climate change and other global issues. Then-UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon sent a video, saying that the best way to celebrate International Day of Happiness is by taking action to alleviate suffering.

The day was a tribute to the Kingdom of Bhutan, with the Ambassador of the Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan as a speaker. It also honored Ambassadors key in securing mental health in the SDGs, especially Palau's UN Ambassador Dr. Caleb Otto, as well as Vietnam Ambassador Nguyen Phuong Nga and Benin UN Ambassador Jean-François Zinsou. Ambassador Otto pointed out the importance of heart and spirit. Ambassador Nga noted her country's motto of independence, freedom and happiness. In her keynote address on "Wellbeing in the U.N. 2030 Global Agenda," Kuriansky described the campaign about mental health and well-being, partnership with Ambassador Otto, and progress in promoting mental health and well-being for all people.

Entertainment abounded. An original anthem, "Happy People Happy Planet," written by Kuriansky and Daisey to synch with the event theme, was performed, while soft stuffed plush globes representing the planet, donated by Hugg-A-Planet founder Robert Forenza, were tossed around the auditorium and hugged by Ambassadors and audience alike. The ancient Chinese instruments *erhu* and *pipa* were played by musicians Feifei Yang and Jiaju Shen. A video was shown of Pharrell Williams' song *Happy*. UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Buddhist nun Ani Choying Drolma, who came from Nepal for the event, sang sacred chants. Cultural performances included classical Indian dance, interpreting the "essence of being."

Celebrity actor "007" Daniel Craig attended. And the President of the U.N. General Assembly, a native of Denmark, noted appreciation that his country had been rated by the Happy Planet Index as the happiest nation in the world.

Philosophy professor Dr. Dan Haybron described research on Happiness, for which he received a \$5.1 million grant from the Templeton Foundation, A doctor promoted kindness and Greek entrepreneur Georgia Nomikos described the positive outcomes of welcoming refugees, happening in Greece. Founder of Orphans International Worldwide James Luce, and Lions Club representatives, spoke about "Happiness Through Service" and gave a Global Citizenship Award to Hungary's UN Ambassador H.E. Katalin Bogyay. Many attendees said they had never been to such a spectacular event at the UN.

International Day of Happiness 2018

In 2018, IAAP cooperated with the UAE Mission in their International Day of Happiness celebration. The UAE events always highlight the latest editions of the Happiness Report, in its 7th edition by 2019. Based on Gallup World Poll data, the report reveals rankings of 156 countries according to self-reports of happiness or injustice, social support, and healthy life expectancy. In 2019, Finland ranked happiest, followed by Denmark, Norway, Iceland, Netherlands, Switzerland and Sweden, in a consistent trend. The United States ranked 19th and countries at the bottom of the rankings included South Sudan, Afghanistan, Rwanda, Yemen, Malawi and Syria.

The 2018 event in the prestigious UN Delegates Dining Room consisted of roundtables, for which Kuriansky helped worked with UAE'S Hana AlHashimi, and secured Ambassadors to host. She also co-chaired a roundtable on Mental Health and Well-being with Bahrain Deputy Permanent Representative Hayfa Matar, with exceptional representation of people from all sectors of government and civil society. All the attendees made short presentations on the topic. Matar mentioned the launch of HRH Princess Sabeeka bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women Empowerment, reflecting her country's support of women's rights. Kuriansky described the Global Happiness Dialogues at the World Government Summit in Dubai, and the future of artificial intelligence and technology tools for access to mental health support, especially for underserved populations. Ambassador Marc Pecsteen of the UN Belgium Mission emphasized that "the mental health dimension" is critically important in relation to traumatized refugees who need access to psychological support. Senior Advisor for the UN Alliance of Civilizations Ms. Hanifa Mezoui mentioned their efforts to uncover the root causes of mental health problems, including violence and intolerance. First Secretary of the Mission of Morocco to the UN, Hanaa Bouchikhi, described her country's legislation about mental illness. And, Dr. Judy's student Layla Al-Neyadi, a UAE national, reported results of her study on defining and expressing Kindness, showing some cultural specificities but many commonalities. All participants enthusiastically enjoyed the event, and the fact that the participants represented such diverse sectors, from government, academia and civil society, as well as youth, discussing local, national and international perspectives of mental health, well-being and happiness.

World Dialogue on Happiness

The World Dialogue on Happiness was held in Dubai in February 2017, attended by invited guests from around the world, hosted by the first appointed Minister of Happiness, Her Excellency Ohood Al Roumi, referred to above, who is mandated to mainstream happiness across all government ministries and public awareness campaigns. The day-long meeting, to which Kuriansky was invited, explored measurement indexes, education, and the science of happiness, to encourage governments to adopt happiness-related policies and programs. Opening addresses were delivered by the Director of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) Helen Clark; the Prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay; Alenka Smerkolj, the Minister for Development Strategic Projects and Cohesion in Slovenia; and Freddy Ehlers, Secretary of State for Buen Vivir, Ecuador; noted well-being expert Ed Diener; Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, Founder of the Quality of Life Research Center; OECD Chief Statistician Martine Durand; the President of The Centre for Bhutan Studies; the Director of the UK What Works Centre for Wellbeing in the UK; and the Director of the Harvard Study of Adult Development.

Two days of the World Government Summit followed on the topic of "*Shaping Future Governments*," with participation of over 3,000 policymakers, academics and representatives from international organizations exploring the future of governments by technological advances and innovations.

Health

Consistent with the World Health Organization definition of health to include mental health, IAAP activities have included advocacy about health in general. It is also significant that mental health was identified as the 5th NCD (non-communicable disease), along with cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and respiratory diseases. Target 3.4 in the UN 2030 Agenda links NCDs with mental health, and much advocacy about this connection occurs at the United Nations and WHO conferences.

SDGs in Action Global Health Council 3 initiative of the United Arab Emirates

Through much participation in the topic about Global Health at the UN, and in the Happiness Dialogue in Dubai sponsored by the UAE government, IAAP's Kuriansky was invited to join the SDGs in Action Global Health Council 3 initiative of the United Arab Emirates. The council is part of the "*SDGs in Action*" initiative of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), briefly referred to above, that commits to the implementation of the SDGs.

The “SDGs in Action @WGS” initiative was launched in 2016 at The World Government Summit (WGS), the largest global platform highlighting future trends in government services, leadership, and innovation, bringing together over 4,000 leaders, policy makers, academics, and representatives from international organizations, to exchange innovations and experiences and to build partnerships. The collaborating organizations include the United Nations, World Bank, OECD and other partners.

The WGS event the next year in 2017 explored Science, Technology and Innovation-driven solutions to accelerate implementation of the goals, with outcomes shared during the UN Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation in May 2017 at the United Nations New York headquarters. A concurrent forum was held on the “SDGs in Action” with panels on the different SDGs, consisting of teams of experts from varied organizations, including the World Bank, UN Foundation, WHO, academic institutions and many others. A contest was held for the most innovative project related to the SDGs. The team for SDG3 on Health, of which Kuriansky was a member, won for their platform, Health in Your Hands, to offer access to those at the last mile, left furthest behind. The project was then presented at the UN at the UN STI Forum, on Science, Technology and Innovation, that May 2017.

The “Health in Your Hands” (HIYH) initiative is a multi-stakeholder innovation to enable delivery of accessible healthcare solutions to those “at the last mile,” who are left behind, with least access. The project was subsequently launched during the UNAIDS “Health Innovation Exchange” panel in May 2019 at the World Health Assembly and continues successfully under direction of co-founders Judy Kuriansky and Dr. Khalid Erichsen.

SDG3 Global Council members are leading global health experts from regions around the world, including from WHO, the Gates Foundation, Harvard University, Columbia University, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, the World Public Health Association, ECOSOC-accredited NGOs and UHC2030. The Deputy Prime Minister/Minister of Health of Malta serves as chair.

The World Health Assembly, May 2019

IAAP’s Kuriansky was invited to attend the World Health Assembly in Geneva in 2019. Contact was made and discussions held with many high-level officials, other civil society groups, including the Every Woman every Child UN campaign, and with Ministers of Health of various countries, e.g., Uganda, Mali, Finland, Egypt and Botswana, and as well as with the co-chairs of UHC2030 about Universal Health Coverage.

Efforts supporting Universal Health Coverage

The IAAP team supported Universal Health Coverage through membership in the Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2030 and at many events. This included a panel during the 2019 Commission on the Status of Women where Kuriansky spoke about “*Agenda 2030: Addressing the Global Burden of Disease through Universal Health Coverage for Mental, Neurological and Substance-use Disorders.*”

Universal Health Coverage

During the intensive efforts at the UN promoting Universal Health Coverage (UHC) at many events, IAAP’s Kuriansky was very active in advocacy about mental health to be included in the Declaration. On behalf of IAAP and PCUN, Kuriansky submitted a statement to the co-facilitators, the UN Missions of Georgia and Thailand, stressing the importance of inclusion of mental health in the Political Declaration for Universal Health Coverage, which was the first such statement submitted, and which was considered seriously. The statement recommended that reference to mental health and well-being be included in the zero draft being prepared for this declaration. The recommendation was written in the specific concise UN style for such statements, with clear requests and recommendations, and references to research and supportive UN documents. The advocacy was based on principles and evidence that there is “no health without mental health,” and that primary health care is not only essential to the achievement of universal health coverage, but that it is essential to integrate mental health care into such primary health care. Supportive documents were referenced, from WHO, UN documents, the World Bank, and the Lancet Commission

Mentions of Mental Health in the Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on UHC

The Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage “*Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world*” was slated for adoption at a one-day High-level Meeting on Universal

Health Coverage at UN Headquarters on 23 September 2019, the day before the start of the General Debate of the Assembly at its Seventy-fourth Session. See: <https://www.un.org/pga/73/event/universal-health-coverage/>. Impressively, it includes mentions of mental health. Notably, the first paragraph pledges governments to “Reaffirm the right of every human being, without distinction of any kind, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.” In the final version, slated for adoption, additional mentions appear in several places. These include: Paragraph 11.c., about mental disorders and other mental health conditions associated to NCDs; Paragraph 36, to promote and improve mental health and well-being as an essential component of universal health coverage, including treatment for people with mental disorders and other mental health conditions as well as neurological disorders, providing psychosocial support, promoting well-being, strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, noting that mental disorders and other mental health conditions as well as neurological disorders are an important cause of morbidity; Paragraph 62, to promote the recruitment and retention of mental health professionals; Paragraph 64, to ensure health workers’ physical and mental health by promoting policies conducive to healthy lifestyles; and Paragraph 70, to address physical and mental health needs of those who are at-risk and can be left behind.

DPI/NGO Health meetings

Intense advocacy about mental health dates back to the 2010 UN DPI/NGO conference in Melbourne, Australia, on the topic of “*Advance Global Health: Achieve the MDGs.*” IAAP’s Kuriansky organized an exhibit booth, enthusiastically endorsed by then-IAAP President Ray Fowler as a partnership between IAAP and the Australian Psychological Society and others, on “*Psychology for Global Health.*” The exhibit showcased innovative projects of the partners. IAAP journals and tip sheets were available, and a computer screen showed videos about IAAP field projects. The accompanying comprehensive website that was developed and debuted was unfortunately discontinued due to lack of continued funding.

Advocacy about including mental health in Primary Health care

The IAAP team has been advocating, along with other entities, about the importance of integrating mental health into primary health care. WHO has long advocated about his link. Notably, in 2019, the UN Secretary-General launched his plan that mental health services would be included in the UN staff health programs. Also, notably, IAAP collaborated with the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) on this issue, drafting a policy statement used in the advocacy at the Global Conference on Primary Health Care at Astana, Kazakhstan in October 2018. This statement was co-written by Kuriansky and MGCY representative Lucy Fagan, with important input from IAAP experts on this topic, namely, IAAP Division 17 current President Robyn Vines, with Immediate Past President James Bray. It was also co-sponsored by the Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited at the United Nations (PCUN), the World Council for Psychotherapy, the Union of Mental Health and Western Sydney University. The statement highlights the evidence-base for this holistic approach and calls for integration of mental health promotion, diagnosis, screening and treatment into primary health care, as well as acknowledgement and implementation of this integrated approach globally. See the statement at <https://bit.ly/2KVd3At>.

IAAP’s Vines and Bray are advocating about provision of the true Bio-Psycho-Social model often talked about in medicine, psychology and allied health professions - but still rarely “truly” delivered in primary care settings, where patients first seek help.

The 2018 conference was intended to firm up commitments to primary health care to achieve Universal Health Coverage and the SDGs, from the original Alma-Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care, and to strengthen the link between physical and mental health, especially to insure leaving no-one left behind on the road to universal health care. A session on mental health included two young people with lived experience of mental health challenges, and national perspectives from Chile, Sri Lanka, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kazakhstan.

The final Astana Declaration, unanimously endorsed by all WHO Member States, recognized the key role that strong primary care can play in addressing these issues as “the most inclusive, effective, and efficient approach to enhance people’s physical and mental health as well as social well-being”. Further, multiple references note the need for “continuous, integrated services” to meet full and comprehensive needs of people and communities.

Epidemics: Ebola

The re-emergence of the Ebola virus in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 2018, in a country where multiple previous outbreaks have occurred, and its widening impact, claimed over 1,800 lives by summer 2019, with some cases, and also threats, to neighboring countries. The fragile health system and economic status is further being compromised. Fortunately, the vaccine seems to be helping alleviate the spread, but communities still harbor myths and mistrust, and people, religious leaders and health workers have been murdered, given long-standing conflict and violence in the region. Finally, in July 2019, after much pressure, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC), and \$300 million was added to the \$100 million donation by the World Bank.

Yet, partners on the ground say they have not seen any of these funds, and have emphasized the desperate need for community engagement and psychosocial support, for which they requested the grassroots assistance of IAAP, given previous successful interventions and the awareness-raising of the United Africa Congress and the Friends of Congo diaspora in the USA.

IAAP's involvement in supporting psychosocial support in the epidemic dates back to the previous outbreak in West Africa. In September 2014, IAAP's Kuriansky was invited to Congressional hearings in Washington DC where panelist Ted Alemayhu, founder of U.S. Doctors for Africa, acknowledged the important role of psychology in helping with dire emotional issues.

Raising Long-term awareness about Ebola at United Nations Event



Further, IAAP co-sponsored events held at the UN during 2014-2015, including a panel organized by Voices of African Mothers (VAM), and a side event organized by the Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited at the UN (PCUN), with co-sponsorship of many UN Member States, as well as of representatives from UNWomen, UNICEF and the CDC. Kuriansky spoke about psychosocial needs at both of these. See the PCUN program at <https://bit.ly/2N96lJI> and the VAM program at <https://bit.ly/2Mkg7cn>.

Subsequently, Kuriansky went to Sierra Leone during the outbreak to provide psychosocial trainings and workshops for communities, especially children, survivors, and burial teams, collaborating with IsraAid and CARITAS, and participating in the pillar groups hosted by UNICEF. See videos at <https://bit.ly/207xXL7> and <https://bit.ly/2Mwe3eg>. Also, see the edited book *"The Psychosocial Aspects of a Deadly Epidemic: What Ebola has Taught Us about Holistic Healing"* that Kuriansky edited about the importance of cultural considerations, experiences of people on the ground, models of interventions, including her own, and the United Nations response. See: <https://www.abc-clio.com/ABC-CLIOCorporate/product.aspx?pc=A4983C>.

Continuing to raise awareness at the UN even after that outbreak was under control, given the ongoing suffering of survivors, IAAP joined with the Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN in sponsoring a major side event addressing the inter-linkage between health, poverty and education (SDGs 1, 3 and 4), held during the 2018 Commission for Social Development. The exceptionally impressive group of UN Missions, UN agencies and civil society groups as co-sponsors, represented another excellent example of multi-stakeholder partnerships. The event, *"Achieving Poverty Eradication by Sustainable Health, Well-being and Education: The Case of Ebola in West Africa and other Epidemics and Infectious Diseases Worldwide"* emphasized important psychological research that emotional trauma is ongoing after a crisis like Ebola. The main sponsor, the Mission of Sierra Leone to UN, gravely affected by Ebola, was joined by Ambassadors and delegates from the Missions of Botswana, Canada, China, Cuba, France, Germany, Morocco and the Republic of Guinea. Other Ambassadors attended, e.g., from Trinidad and Tobago. The number of ambassadors present at a side event was truly impressive. Delegates from UN agencies WHO and UNICEF also made presentations, as did representatives from civil society including IAAP, PCUN and the United African Congress. A full report is at <https://bit.ly/2KDHNqK>. The event opened with an engaging music

video of the original song “Hope is Alive” written by IAAP’s Kuriansky and Daisey (see: <https://youtu.be/YkLbxn2lrrw>) that Kuriansky had shared with groups on the ground, including survivors, girls in the First Lady’s training camp, and children and adults in the community. Members of these groups had remembered the lyrics and sung it back to her on her return mission. In her opening remarks as moderator, Kuriansky showed a sign given to her by a family she met in Sierra Leone that read, “I am African I am not a virus,” – that had become a theme during the epidemic -- to challenge prevailing stigma.

Attending his first meeting at the UN since assuming his post as Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations, H.E. Ma Zhaoxu shared observations about recovery from the epidemic, including attention to counseling. To this day, the representative who accompanied the Ambassador talks about how impressed the Ambassador was with the event. The Ambassador of Cuba pointed out the immediate and intensive response of her country’s medical teams, called “Cuban Medical Internationalism.” One of three doctors who participated in the response and was in danger from the epidemic, was present, and acknowledged.

Testimonials from the field were shown in a video including from members of the Sierra Leone Association of Ebola Survivors passionately appealing for help with lingering physical and mental problems. See: <https://youtu.be/dAMstBnzFVE>. WHO External Relations Officer for the WHO United Nations office in New York Fatima Khan underscored the need for long-term resilience and recovery. Child protection specialist from UNICEF, Ibrahim Sesay, a native Sierra Leonean, highlighted problems for orphans. A representative from Liberia of the organization, Community Support for Ebola Orphans and Survivors (COSEOS), told of psychosocial support to survivors. The National Chairman of the United African Congress Dr. Mohammed Nurhussein described their early advocacy at an event at the UN in August of 2014 and a follow-up major event and concert in 2015 at the UN in the General Assembly to create awareness about Ebola. And, IAAP’s Reichman gave examples of programs improving the lives of the most vulnerable in undeveloped countries, including work for the homeless and a Student Training for Entrepreneurial Promotion program in Uganda. The full event is available on UN WebTV at: <https://bit.ly/2N7i7Ez>.

With the new outbreak in 2018 in the DRC, IAAP joined with the United African Congress (UAC) in efforts to raise awareness and resources. In reaction to this new crisis, UAC leadership and UAC Trustee, IAAP’s Kuriansky, formed a coalition, partnering with several groups. These include the Congolese-US organization “Friends of the Congo”; a religious organization with ties to the sect in the Hot Zone; organizations on the ground, including Hope and Health Vision that Kuriansky had brought the UN for a mental health event at the Commission for Social Development described earlier in this article; and with the church community of Pastor Dr. Kasereka Kasomo of the African Christian Community Church of Southern California and HaltEbola also with ties to those in the Nande community most affected on the ground. A local university and schools are also being engaged. The coalition efforts are aimed at developing a grassroots psychosocial assistance project requested by groups on the ground, who said that the millions of dollars ascribed to this effort was not reaching their villages and that many aid organizations had left due to the violence.

Meetings were made with key stakeholders, including the US Government’s National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases/National Institute of Health (NIAID/NIH) in Washington DC to review vaccinations being used; with Doctors Without Borders, who had sent staff home after a bomb attack on their health treatment center; and with the Mission of the DRC to the United Nations. Importantly, the team received a formal welcome from the UN Emergency Ebola Response Coordinator (EERC) to contribute capacity.

The Way Forward

Given these major accomplishments, IAAP is continuing to build on advocacy for mental health and well-being, in conjunction with health issues like NCDs. Multi-stakeholder partnerships have already been established and new ones are continually being formed.

Poverty and Decent Work at the United Nations

Activities, Achievements and Contributions of the IAAP New York Team

Dr. Walter Reichman

Activities, discussions, debates, events and agreements at the United Nations are centered around the global goals. From 2000-2015, these were called the Millennium Development Goals. In that agenda, Goal #1 was to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. In 2015, the Member States (governments) at the United Nations adopted a new, expanded set of goals, called the Sustainable Development Goals, to be achieved by the fifteen years from then, namely, in 2030. Goal #1 is still to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, showing its primacy. Ending hunger became its own stand-alone goal, #2. This article describes some of the IAAP UN team activities related to the elimination of poverty.

The elimination of poverty is the focus of the United Nations, thus the IAAP team in New York has focused its activities on this goal as well as on many others.

While the elimination of poverty is related to all the goals, it is specifically tied to Goal #8, that addresses decent work. As a result, the IAAP team advocacy has connected poverty issues to work issues, including of course entrepreneurship. This topic is relevant of course to projects, research and interests of a number of IAAP members, as well as to IAAP Division 1 on Work and Organizational Psychology, our UN team Board liaison Gary Latham, and past Presidents José Maria Peiro and Michael Frese.

The State of Poverty Elimination in 2005: Implications for the IAAP TEAM

IAAP's commitment to Goal #1 dates back many years, to the beginning of accreditation at the UN. As one of the early activities, at the 59th Annual Civil Society Conference (then called the DPI/NGO Conference), in September 2005, speakers described how then-MDG 1, the elimination of poverty, was falling short of its objectives, and speakers described ways of improving the process of eradicating poverty.

For example, Salit Shetty, Director of the UN MDGs complained about how little the developed nations contribute to poverty reduction. Wahu Kaara, the Ecumenical Coordinator for MDGs urged rich countries to contribute 0.7% of GNP to end poverty. Melbo Pria Olarrieta from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico called for coordination among developing countries, and for business organizations to accept responsibility for development, and not to help just for their own financial gain and to avoid taxes.

From IAAP's perspective, one of the most important statements was made by Juan Somavia, Director General of the International Labor Organization (ILO). This statement was very prescient in that it linked, as mentioned above, the eradication of poverty to the provision of decent work (now SDG 1 and SDG 8). He said that jobs are the critical element in ending poverty and promoting development. He pointed out that globalization will be good only if it *provides* jobs and does not *cost* jobs. He also talked about the concept of Decent Work (now SDG 8). The ILO defined decent work as work that is productive, and also delivers a fair income, and provides security in the workplace and social protection for families. Thus, this concept of Decent Work resonated with the IAAP UN Team and motivated the team to advocate to have Decent Work incorporated into the SDGs -- as it has been, in Goal 8. This Goal 8 calls for promoting "sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all."

As every researcher knows, in order to measure successful outcome – in this case the countries' achievement of the SDGs -- it is important to have an "Indicator." Thus, the IAAP UN team continues to advocate at the United Nations to have an Indicator of Decent Work included among the Indicators of the successful implementation of the SDGs.

Promoting poverty eradication

The IAAP UN Team continues to monitor presentations on the status of poverty eradication, present documents to Commission meetings, hold side events at Commission meetings relevant to poverty reduction and present papers, webinars and publications and book chapters on poverty reduction and the SDGs. These are discussed at psychological professional organizations including ICAP, and also promoted to business organizations that are of course an important stakeholder in this process.

At a UN meeting in 2010, Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, reported that the proportion of people living in extreme poverty (earning less than \$1.90 per day) had dropped from 52% of the population to 25.7% of the population. This decrease was due mostly to the economic changes in China. But since the world population had also increased, there were actually 36 million more people living in poverty. He also made the important comment that to really understand the nature of poverty, you also have to consider social deprivation, social exclusion and lack of participation. These elements have to be taken into consideration when promoting the concept of decent work. What was said then, remains relevant today.

The 50th Session of the UN Commission for Social Development in 2012

An important forum for discussion about poverty is the annual United Nations Commission for Social Development. The IAAP team is continually involved in these meetings, including in presenting side events, in partnership with governments and other groups, examples of which are described in the section below.

At the 2012 Commission meeting, it was reported that there were three billion people living in poverty and that 20% of the world's population hold 70% of the world's income. The spokesperson for the Commission called for a human rights approach to the elimination of poverty and called for a universal protection floor to protect those at the bottom of the economy from living in poverty. The representative from Venezuela said that microeconomic policy fails to deal with poverty and poverty reduction must be linked with equality. He pointed out that there were many plans, but what is needed are institutions with the capacity to implement plans. Daniela Bas, Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development in the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) – with whom the IAAP team has partnered on any side events -- made important comments relative to the inclusion of persons with disabilities into decent work as a major requirement for eliminating poverty. She pointed out the high percentage of poverty among persons with disabilities. Ms. Bas is disabled from an early accident herself, so knows the issues from a personal as well as a professional perspective.

At an open meeting for civil society, IAAP's representative Reichman asked the members to discuss the cultural implications on people who are not living in poverty when there is a significant proportion of the population that are living in poverty.

ECOSOC Ministerial Review

“Promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the MDGs” Side event, SIOP and IAAP



Leveraging Psychology to Eradicate Poverty by Promoting Decent Work

The International Labour Organization's (ILO) Decent Work Agenda offers a blueprint for creating an inclusive growth and development. The ILO's research and reports have provided the international development community with important findings on the role of psychology in breaking the cycle of poverty, creating sustainable livelihoods, and generating of risk reduction and translating the ILO's agenda into a broad development strategy.

This side event will focus on the how the science and practice of psychology can be leveraged to help eradicate poverty by promoting decent work and well-being. Panels will explore the role of psychology in breaking the cycle of poverty, creating sustainable livelihoods, and generating of risk reduction and translating the ILO's agenda into a broad development strategy.

Chair:
Walter Reichman - Co-Editor, UN NGO International Assoc. of Applied Psychology (IAAP)

Panelists:
Lori Foster-Thomsen - North Carolina State University, UN NGO Society for Industrial & Organizational Psychology
Mary O'Neill Berry - Stone Savory (retired), UN-NGO IAAP
Janice Bloch - UN NGO IAAP
Michael S. Kimmel - Commissioner for Virginia, IAAP, IAAP
Judy Katarafsky - Columbia University Teachers College, UN NGO IAAP
William Saltsman - CogWorley

Where: CR 6 NLB
When: Monday, July 9th
1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Contact: Walter Reichman at walrreichman@gmail.com

Side Events

In 2013, IAAP and other members of the Psychology Coalition at the UN presented a side event at the ECOSOC High-Level Segment of the Annual Ministerial Review at UN NYC Headquarters, stemming from the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Decent Work Agenda. At the event, entitled "*Leveraging Psychology to Eradicate Poverty by Promoting Decent Work*" and moderated by IAAP's Reichman, six panelists presented how psychological research supports decent work as a major factor impacting the ability of individuals to climb out of, and stay out of poverty. IAAP's Mary O'Neill Berry described the model of the Girls Empowerment Camp which she and IAAP's Judy Kuriansky had conducted in Lesotho, Africa as an IAAP project with backing of the Mission of Lesotho to the United Nations, the First Lady and her Office in Lesotho, government ministries and local organizations on the ground; where girls initiated entrepreneurial projects after the experience. Research showed considerable success of the program in the girls starting their own businesses. The research was published in the South African Journal of Psychology and widely presented at UN meetings, where governments expressed great interest in its application in their country.

IAAP's Janice Bloch, an expert on autism spectrum disorders (ASD), described how many of these individuals have abilities and motivation to work but encounter serious problems in finding positions. Her analysis of over 500 replies to a twitter survey – innovative in that this was in the still-early days of that social media becoming widely used - confirmed that the lack of decent work opportunities coupled with employer's lack of knowledge about the strengths and challenges of individuals with ASD directly correlated with feelings of depression and low self-esteem for the respondents.

The CEO of management consulting firm OrgVitality, Jeffrey Saltzman, reported findings of a research project about job satisfaction of 800,000 employees in 61 companies worldwide that satisfaction was highest among people who considered their workload to be about right, while those who say they are under-worked are even less happy than those who say they are overworked.

A Side Event was held in 2014 at a meeting of the Summit on MDGs+10 entitled *Accelerating Progress Toward the MDGs*. Representatives attended from major international companies such as Accenture, Heineken, Avon, Vodafone, Pfizer, Coca-Cola, and PepsiCo. The major message of the meeting was that business is at the heart of reducing poverty by providing jobs and opportunities to low-income people. The involvement of the private sector is crucial in the achievement of SDG 1.

At a Side Event entitled *Psychological Contributions to Empowerment*, IAAP's Kuriansky summed up the presentations by stating that economic policies need to be complimented with psychological and psychosocial policies. Her summation was based on the presentations of the panelists, including IAAP member Corann Okorodudu, who stated that mental health and well-being are often left out of the discussion on eliminating poverty, IAAP's Berry's description of empowering vulnerable girls to engage in income producing activities, and Dr. Pete Walker's description of the relationship between climate change and poverty.

This connection between SDG1 and SDG8 with SDG 3, and specifically target 3.4 about mental health and well-being (described extensively in the article by Kuriansky about this topic in the APAW issue), was made at a very major Side Event at the United Nations on "*Mental Health at the Heart of the SDGs*" in 2016, by Reichman in his presentation about "*Programmes in Developing and Developed Countries*." His presentation reported on various programs around the world, profiled in his book about Humanitarian Work Psychology. These included entrepreneurship training in Kenya, hiring refugees in Minneapolis, the Girls Empowerment Program in Lesotho by the IAAP team, and a project promoting the same salary for the same work in Papua New Guinea.

In more efforts to highlight the issue, another side event was held on the topic of "*Decent Work as the Most Important Strategy for Poverty Eradication*" on 10 February 2017, organized by IAAP's Reichman and O'Neill Berry. Panelists presented examples of decent work in South Africa; a leadership development program developed by IBM called "Corporate Services Corps (CSC)" helping the Cross River State of Nigeria reduce child mortality and improve the well-being of the most underprivileged citizens; a project for women in Nicaragua (presented by former IAAP rep Virginia Shein); and Project GLOW (Global Living Organizational Wage), a 25-country, five-generational, multi-sector, interdisciplinary partnership to Foster Living Wages, that could be used as best practices and scaled up. A presentation on "*Employer Practices to Improve Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Disabilities*" emphasized that disability increases the risk of poverty, e.g., by lack of access to workplace, missed earnings, extra costs of living) and poverty increases the risk of disability (e.g., malnutrition, poor healthcare, dangerous

working conditions). The overall conclusion was that business, the corporate sector, and corporate social responsibility programs should be actively engaged.

Another important side event at the UN Commission for Social Development that year, in February 2017, was on “*Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing for Youth as a Strategy for Social Integration and Poverty Eradication.*” This event, organized and moderated by IAAP’s Kuriansky, profiled concrete means of implementation of strategies that aim to end poverty and also promote mental health. Again, the UN Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development in DESA, Daniela Bas, was on the panel. Projects were presented that are ongoing in Africa and Afghanistan that aim to support impoverished and at-risk youth in those countries. This side event was a co-sponsorship of IAAP with the Missions of Afghanistan and of Belgium to the UN.

Continuing the team’s presentations at the Commission for Social Development, the side event in 2018 was on the topic, “*Achieving Poverty Eradication by Sustainable Health, Well-being and Education: The Case of Ebola in West Africa and other Epidemics and Infectious Diseases Worldwide.*” This event, again co-organized and moderated by IAAP’s Kuriansky, again showed tremendous partnership working with UN Missions, as the event was sponsored by Mission of Sierra Leone to the UN, with Ambassadors of nine missions co-sponsoring, and attendance by the Ambassadors of many others. This is described in more detail in the article about mental health by Kuriansky in this issue. Reichman again made a presentation about various projects worldwide that deserve our attention that are addressing poverty eradication and promoting decent work. He sat next to a Deputy Permanent Representative and Ambassador of Canada to the United Nations, forging a good relationship with a government that has been highly supportive of our advocacy about the role of psychology in achieving the SDGs.

Publications

Consistent with this IAAP focus on Goal 8 about decent work, O’Neill Berry and Reichman were co-authors with SIOP UN representative and IAAP member, Stuart Carr of an article about living wages.

In 2014, IAAP representative, Walter Reichman edited a book titled “*Industrial and Organizational Help the Vulnerable: Serving the Underserved*” (Palgrave MacMillan). This volume described how organizational psychologists were using their knowledge and expertise to help the vulnerable people in the world to achieve empowerment, peaceful solutions to their conflicts, improved education and decent work. The volume stemmed from the recognition that organizational psychology could have an impact on reducing poverty and improving the well-being of people.

The book was also generated by the development of a branch of organizational psychology called Humanitarian Work Psychology. This was the recognition that organizational psychology could and should be used for humanitarian purposes and that humanitarian activities should become a part of the workplace. An article in the book by IAAP’s O’Neill Berry, Kuriansky and Martin Butler described how an interdisciplinary team of psychologists can effectively work together to achieve progress on these issues.

A publication also related to the SDGs and elimination of poverty was edited by IAAP member Ishbel McWha-Hermann, Daniel Maynard and IAAP UN representative Mary O’Neill Berry. It is entitled “*Humanitarian Work and the Global Development Agenda.*” It presents case studies on goal setting in India, emotional exhaustion in conflicts, partnerships for higher education, and mentoring initiatives.

As mentioned above, private sector involvement is critical. A chapter by the sustainability expert at PepsiCo, Dan Bena, with IAAP’s Judy Kuriansky about *Contributions of the Private Sector to Sustainable Development and Consumption: Psychological and Corporate Shifts from Shareholders to Stakeholders*, is in her co-edited book *Ecopsychology: Advances in the Intersection of Psychology and Environmental Protection, Vol. II: Interventions and Policy*.

Attention to disabled persons is increasing at the UN. IAAP’s Reichman led the drafting of a statement, assisted by Kuriansky, Okorodudu and Florence Denmark, about equal employment opportunities for disabled persons, described in the chapter on this topic in this issue. It is important, and prestigious, that this statement, submitted during the Commission for Social Development, was accepted for formal posting by the Economic and Social Council. See: <http://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2018/NGO/30>.

The statement is presented here, as it is interesting to see how a statement is written. The image shows the first page, to show what an official statement looks like, followed by the text.



Commission for Social Development

Fifty-sixth session

31 January–7 February 2018

Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly: priority theme: strategies for the eradication of poverty to achieve sustainable development for all

Statement submitted by the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP), Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), Institute for Multicultural Counseling & Educational Services (IMCES), International Council of Psychologists, and the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

Statement text: Reducing Poverty by Employment of Persons with Disabilities: Contributions of Psychological Research and Practice

The purpose of this statement is to advocate for governments, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society and all stakeholders to focus on employment issues for persons with disabilities, informed by psychological principles and research, to achieve the sustainable development goals.

The Commission for Social Development has long been involved with activities to improve the well-being of persons with disabilities. It is entirely fitting that advocacy for persons with disabilities be a major component of the 2018 Commission meetings. Advocacy for persons with disabilities is essential to achieve SDG Goal 1 to eradicate poverty and to “leave no one behind.” This is a major concern for psychologists who represent NGOs accredited by ECOSOC at the United Nations, as well as a subject of psychological research and practice.

Research shows a direct link between disability and poverty. A greater percentage of individuals with disabilities live in poverty compared to the percentage of individuals without disabilities. According to a report by the OECD (2010), 21% of all households with a person with a disability live below the poverty line as compared to 14% of households without a person with a disability. Poverty and disability are a circular process; people living in poverty are more prone to becoming disabled than those not living in poverty, and poverty conditions mitigate against good health and increase the probability that disability will be a consequence.

Furthermore, discrimination against employing people with disabilities increases the likelihood that they and their families will be living in poverty. This circular poverty-disability issue is multi-dimensional, leading to psychological, economic and workforce problems. The solution demands multi-stakeholder cooperation among multiple stakeholders including United Nations Member States, United Nations agencies, the public and private sectors, academia, and others. Fortunately, the poverty-disability link can be broken. This statement urges those multiple stakeholders to act to sever this link.

A critical cause of the cycle of discrimination and poverty is the reluctance of employers to hire persons with disabilities. This is true for persons with physical as well as intellectual and developmental disabilities. Those setting employment policies have succumbed to the myths about persons with disabilities that have been documented as untrue: for example, the myth that absentee rates and health care costs of persons with disabilities are higher than for persons without disabilities. Such discrimination is caused by a lack of knowledge and understanding about disabilities, as well as by stigma and negative emotional reactions to people with disabilities based on ignorance and fear.

Even where laws prohibit discrimination and where there is a conscious effort to employ persons with disabilities, there is a lack of inclusion within the organization. This lack of inclusion leads to workers with disabilities being dissatisfied with their jobs, having negative attitudes to their employers and lower engagement with their work and organization, and suffering other psychological distress such as low self-esteem. This cycle has been shown to be mitigated in situations in which there is interaction among employees with disabilities, among employees with and without disabilities, and between employees with disabilities and their supervisors. A culture of promoting such interactions reduces dissatisfaction of workers with disabilities and increases productivity and greater involvement between workers with and without disabilities. A culture of inclusiveness must be established within the organization that specifically targets employees with disabilities.

Therefore, the sponsor/co-sponsors of this statement urge all Member States, Governments, UN entities, NGOs and CSOs, the private sector, and other stakeholders to focus on the achievement of Goal 8 of the Sustainable Development Goals (i.e., Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all) with regard to persons with disabilities, as specified in target 8.5 (i.e., By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value).

We therefore recommend that these entities:

- (1) Acknowledge the outstanding existing work in the DSPD section of UNDESA, particularly for the 2018 Flagship Report on Disability and Development (A/RES/69/142) and strengthen all efforts of this work program related to employment of persons with disabilities.
- (2) Urge Member States to request in a resolution of ECOSOC to the General Assembly that the Secretary-General include a section on the status of employment and rights thereof for persons with disabilities in his Report on “Mainstreaming disability in development,” to be submitted to the Commission for Social Development; that this resolution also call for an interagency working group to be formed to address the above objectives, and that a high-level meeting be convened on this topic.
- (3) Ensure that all efforts related to employment of persons with disabilities be informed by psychological research and practice, especially regarding the field of humanitarian work psychology (Carr et al., 2012; Reichman, 2014).
- (4) Develop, elaborate and promote a policy statement on employment of individuals with disabilities that provides an example that can be adjusted to each national context; and establish a national organization on disability and employment that implements this policy, and commits to promote work opportunities for individuals with disabilities and to keep records on the employment of workers with disabilities. All information on these policies and their implementation should be sent to the UNDESA/DSPD section, which will act as a clearinghouse for information relevant to promoting employment for persons with disabilities.
- (5) Document corporations and programs that are already addressing the employment of persons with disabilities to serve as models that can be replicated and scaled up.
- (6) Form a multi-stakeholder partnership as called for in SDG 17 to work on the above objectives, that includes Member States, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other UN agencies, the private sector, representatives of UN Major groups, humanitarian groups, academic institutions, media, youth, psychologists with expertise in this area, and other stakeholders. The policy statement mentioned above will set the groundwork for increasing the recruitment, hiring and inclusion of persons with disabilities in the workforce at national and global levels. It will further set standards for developing a culture of inclusion for persons with disabilities in the workplace and lead to the desired decrease in the number of persons with disabilities and their families living in poverty.

We recommend that such policy statements:

1. Contain the goal of having a workplace that is accepting and accommodating to persons with disabilities identify initiatives to implement the policy
3. Establish hiring goals and a method for tracking the ratio of job applicants, and hires, of persons with disabilities to job applicants, and hires, of persons without disabilities

4. Set procedures and steps to build a disability-inclusive culture within an organization through training, education and promoting interactions within teams including employees with and without disabilities
5. Introduce a process for maintaining the same policies for employee assessment, rewards and promotions for employees with and without disabilities
6. Support programs developed for employees who become disabled while working for an organization

We recommend that a summary of this statement be included in the Outcome Document of the 2018 Commission for Social Development.

Poverty Discussion at Psychology Day at the United Nations

Psychology Day at the UN, as described in another article in this issue, is an opportunity for psychologists to present their work to the wide UN community to show that psychology has much to contribute to the global agenda. At Psychology Day at the United Nations 2012, Humanitarian Work Psychologist and IAAP member Dr. Stuart Carr, Professor of Psychology in the Industrial and Organizational Psychology Program and the Poverty Research Group at Massey University in New Zealand, and member of the Global Task Force for Humanitarian Work Psychology, presented on “Poverty Eradication in the Lives of Women and Children: The Role of Humanitarian Work Psychology”

Webinar

IAAP UN representative Reichman, a partner in a management consulting firm, OrgVitality, held a webinar for clients entitled “*Why Doing Good is Good for Business.*” The webinar consisted of representatives from major organizations committed to implementing the SDGs describing the benefits of their involvement to society and to their organizations. The presenters were from DuPont, Pfizer, Wildlife Conservation Society, Dow Chemical and the United States Council for International Business.

European Congress of Psychology – July 2019

IAAP’s UN representatives Walter Reichman and Judy Kuriansky teamed up with Stuart Carr to present a symposium on the subject of international models and progress in poverty, work, and mental health, at the European Congress on Psychology in Moscow, Russia in July 2019. The event was moderated by IAAP UN team liaison Gary Latham, Ph.D., Secretary of State Professor of Organizational Effectiveness at the University of Toronto, and former President of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA), the Society for Industrial-Organizational Psychology (SIOP), and President of IAAP’s division of Work and Organizational Psychology. The presenters gave an overview of the global goals at the United Nations, with a focus on Goal 1 about poverty, Goal 8 about decent work and Goal 3 about health and well-being, that affect psychologists globally. Programs that address these goals were presented as models that can be adapted and scaled up, including integrating education, entrepreneurship and empowerment, as well as integrating mindset into entrepreneurship training. Events that have been organized at the UN regarding these specific topics were described. The process of advocacy regarding work and disability was described, leading to the statement described and shown in the figure above, that was accepted by the UN Economic and Social Council about *Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All and the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.*

Ways in which all psychologists can contribute were described, as the IAAP US always strives to involve more IAAP members and other psychologists to participate with their work and ideas. As such, Kuriansky presented an overview of the function of the United Nations, the Sustainable Development Goals with its focus on eradicating poverty and more explicitly as they relate to mental health and well-being. She showed videos she produced, with IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou, and described opportunities for involvement in the SDGs and UN activities. The success was evident by the impressive number of attendees wanting to talk afterwards and know more.

Reichman spoke about the importance of Goal 1 about poverty and linked it to the activities of the Secretariat of the United Nations and their mandate to bring about gender equality among UN employees, improving the mental health status of UN employees and bringing about a more efficient organization. He described the ways psychology can assist the UN accomplish these goals.

Carr spoke about his research on instituting the new concept of a living wage to replace the minimum wage. He said that everyone has the right for health and well-being, food, shelter, clothing, medical care and social services.

The response to these rights has been the institution of the minimum wage. However, the minimum wage is insufficient to achieve these rights for many people in the world. He pointed to families who work 60 hours a week on multiple jobs who still cannot meet their basic needs. Carr advocates the substitution to the concept of a “living wage” that is a wage large enough to meet subsistence in one’s specific community. Resistance to instituting a living wage is the fear that small and medium-sized businesses will go out of business and thereby increase unemployment and poverty. Carr is searching for an algorithm that will set a tipping point at which a living wage can be paid while maintaining the viability of the company. This tipping point will differ by community but can be determined in each case. This may well be the future of a process of eliminating poverty in the world.



Walter Reichman, Judy Kuriansky and Stuart Carr presenting about IAAP SDG 1 and 8 at the 2019 ECP meeting in Moscow

Support for the Living Wage

While the Geneva IAAP team’s report is in another article in this issue, it is relevant to mention here that the Geneva team organized a colloquium entitled “Is a Living Wage Bad for The Economy?” held on 10 June 2017 at the University of Geneva. The objective was to contribute to the implementation of SDG 8 of the UN 2030 Agenda and to propose additional deliberations on the Decent Work Agenda promoted by the International Labour Organisation (see program at <http://www.csend.org/publications/negotiation-a-diplomacy/item/382-deliberation-onpost-mdg-2015-development-agenda>).

The Way Forward

The elimination of poverty and achieving decent work will continue to be a priority among the IAAP representatives. The team will continue to use the science of psychology to give input into the deliberations of the United Nations to achieve SDG1. Further, the team will be supportive of the Project GLOW and cooperate with Dr. Carr in his endeavor to find an algorithm to determine a living wage for different communities around the world. In addition, the team will advocate for indicators of decent work, and make the connection between SDG1 and 8 and target 3.4 about promoting mental health and well-being.

Women's Issues at the United Nations

Activities, Achievements and Contributions of the IAAP New York Team

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

Activities and contributions of the team representing the International Association of Applied Psychology at the United Nations in New York is in sync with the IAAP's "special project" and articles describing IAAP's commitment to women's issues presented in the previous June 2019 issue on "Applied Psychology and Women's Issues" in this journal of Applied Psychology Around the World (APAW). Notably, IAAP President Christine Roland-Lévy and IAAP's Luminița Pătraș (formerly President of the IAAP student division) joined the IAAP UN team for the 2019 Commission on the Status of Women (described below).

Women are making their voice heard at the United Nations and the New York team representing IAAP at the United Nations has been supporting and advancing those efforts.

Women make up essentially half the world, but still do not have equal rights and are often overlooked or actively suppressed. Goal 5 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks to rectify this, calling for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Two UN bodies lead this way: (1) UNWomen, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and (2) the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

At annual two-week long CSW meetings in March, thousands of women and men come from around the world to United Nations headquarters in New York City to review policies and present programs that promote the rights of women and girls, document the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shape global standards on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls (www.unwomen.org). A foundational document is the Beijing Platform for Action, which maintains, "Equality between women and men is a matter of human rights and is a condition for social justice and a necessary and fundamental prerequisite for development of equality and peace". Progress on this issue is reviewed at the meetings.

IAAP has consistently co-sponsored and co-organized side events at these meetings and written statements, with IAAP representatives moderating or speaking on panels. IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky and IAAP member Corann Okorodudu have consistently led these draftings. Examples are described below.

Women comprise one of the nine important Major Groups of the NGO community at the UN that were created at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Women's Major Group (WMG) is an official participant in the United Nations processes on Sustainable Development, responsible to facilitate women's civil society active participation, information sharing and input into the policy space provided by the United Nations (e.g., participation, speaking, submission of proposals, access to documents, development of sessions). The group is exceptionally active, and also successful in its advocacy and getting their voice heard.

50-50 parity

A major step forward in gender equality at the UN occurred at the high-level opening session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2017, when Secretary-General António Guterres (SG) announced his intention of "50-50" Parity," aiming for half of UN staff to be female. The announcement was greeted by extended applause.

The SG is keeping his word. Notable female hires have included the Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and the Youth Envoy, Sri Lanka-born Jayathma Wickramanayake, who succeeded Ahmad Alhendawi of Jordan, a male who served as the first Envoy on Youth from 2013 to 2017.

Goal 5

Goal 5 of the SDGs calls for gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls, the elimination of violence and inclusion of women "at the table" in decision-making and political processes. An important foundation of Goal 5 is Security Council Resolution 1325, the first document from that UN body to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict. The resolution was championed in 2000 by H.E. Anwarul Chowdhury, then-Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UN and President of the Security Council (a friend who has collaborated with Dr. Kuriansky on a number of events at the UN and who also pioneered the International Day of Peace. "1325,"

as it is known, also recognizes women's role in peace and security. Further Security Council Resolutions (1888, 1889) accelerate implementation and aim to improve women's participation in the peace process.

UNWomen

The former President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, was the first Executive Director of CSW, a post currently held by Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka from South Africa. The governing Executive Board consists of five officers representing the five regional groups of the UN Member States, with the presidency rotating among groups every year. In 2019, the Presidency rotated into the Latin America and the Caribbean Region, electing the Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago H.E. Penelope Althea Beckles. The four Vice-Presidents of the Board in 2019 represent Australia, Hungary, Kenya and Yemen.

Ambassador Beckles, a friend of IAAP's Dr. Judy Kuriansky, spoke at Kuriansky's class on "Psychology and the United Nations" at Columbia University Teachers College in Spring 2019, where she explained important issues facing women. Supportive of the UN Secretary General's 50/50 parity promise (that 50% of UN staff will be women), Ambassador Beckles nevertheless criticizes that these hires have to be "qualified." "Why does a woman have to prove she is *qualified*?" she asks, since just meeting the criteria for the job, like any man, should be enough. She wisely points out that women, in her country and others, make up a great deal of the agriculture industry and may not have an advanced academic degree, but are highly "qualified" and contribute considerably to the economy. (This reminded this author of the revolutionary idea in the 1970s women's movement to respect women homemakers by putting a monetary value on their home chores, e.g., home cooking equates to a chef, driving kids to school demands a chauffeur salary.) Once on the Cricket World Cup Committee in her country, Ambassador Beckles is passionate in her Presidency of the UNWomen executive Board to promote women in sports and mental health, given that such participation promotes well-being – a project IAAP (and WHO) will partner with her on, with the Missions of Qatar and Monaco. The mission of Monaco co-sponsored the IAAP side event on women and sports and health during CSW 2017, that honored champion Jamaican sportswomen who survived cancer, as described below. Ambassador Beckles is also a role model of the SDG 5 target to include women in politics, given that she has served as the First Female Minister of the Environment and the first woman as Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, Minister of Gender Affairs – as well as Minister of Health, and Social Development. Always sensitive to the importance of mental health, she has invited IAAP's Kuriansky many times to be on her panels about women's issues, to give the psychological perspective. Her sensitivity to mental health and women is further evident in her having been President of a Rape Crisis Center in her home country.

Ending Violence Against Women

The elimination of discrimination against women is an issue of grave importance at the United Nations. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is one of the international human rights treaties of the United Nations that requires the Member States to undertake legal obligations to respect, protect and fulfill women's human rights. Adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, the Convention has been ratified by 187 countries. The convergence between the CEDAW Convention and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are examined during CSW.

A collegueship between IAAP's Judy Kuriansky and the legal advisor to the Mission of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas to the UN led to including a counselor, for the first time, in their mission-organized side event for CSW, on "*Gender-based Violence in the Caribbean: A Cause for Concern and Time for Action.*"

The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is celebrated every November at the UN, to raise awareness that violence against women is a human rights violation <https://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/>. In 2019, IAAP is the co-sponsor of a side event on this topic in cooperation with the United African Congress, the WHO New York Office at the United Nations, and the Mission of Trinidad and Tobago. WHO data confirms that women are under-represented in sports, especially at older ages, and comparatively less frequently in developed compared to developing countries, leading to health risks.

A tragic form of violence against women, trafficking is a major issue addressed at the UN. In 2017, the President of the General Assembly called for continued contribution to a United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. At the kick-off years ago in 2010, Hollywood actors (now divorced) Demi Moore and Ashton Kutcher, spoke, with the latter eliciting audience approval to his comments that, "Men need to know that girls don't

grow up saying, 'When I grow up, I want to sleep with strangers' and his appeal to "Stop calling it 'the oldest profession' as if it were a job."

The Girls Empowerment Camp: An IAAP co-developed Project

Since the UN emphasizes the importance of implementation of the SDGs, to bring policy into reality, and acknowledges that NGOs are the entities able to do this work, one of the special projects undertaken by the IAAP UN NGO representatives was the development and evaluation of a camp for out-of-school rural girls in Lesotho, Africa. This project started when IAAP's Kuriansky, also on the Board of US Doctors for Africa (USDFA) and director of psychosocial programming, was invited to a special USDFA forum held in Los Angeles, California for First Ladies of Africa to exchange information about their health projects. At that meeting, the First Lady of Lesotho, Mrs. Mathato Mosisili, wife of the Prime Minister of Lesotho, approached Kuriansky to help her office further develop their Psychosocial Camp for OVCs (Orphans and Vulnerable Children) and to include a formal evaluation component. The team of IAAP representatives met with the Lesotho Mission to the UN in NY to begin planning the project. Kuriansky directed the clinical intervention, recruiting local partners; Mary O'Neill Berry and Martin Butler headed the evaluation team; Norma Simon contributed a nutrition component; and Walter Reichman handled logistics and coordination. Kuriansky and O'Neill Berry donated their time and expenses, going to Lesotho for planning in February 2010 and for the implementation of the new camp design in April 2010.

Important partnerships were created on the ground, consistent with the multi-stakeholder approach at the UN (SDG 17), with Kuriansky and O'Neill Berry meeting with innumerable NGOs, government officials, UN officers and others, including the Clinton Foundation, The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the United Nation's Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Local UNDP office, as well as the Girl Guides Association and Global Camps Africa who provided invaluable human capital in the form of additional trainers and local traditional components. See video at: <http://youtu.be/Yg9znQvAmcl>. Also, many articles are in the reference article in this issue about this project.

Rural girls especially need to know their rights. Another partner in the project, the Ministry of Gender and Youth, Sports, and Recreation, helped promote girls' rights through a lecture and materials (<https://acjr.org.za/resource-centre/us-department-of-state-human-rights-report-lesotho-2012>). These rights include The Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act and that the legal minimum age for consensual sex is 18, in contrast with younger customary practices. The Act is intended to prevent young girls yielding to "transactional sex," meaning giving in to have sex for money in exchange for food and school fees. The camp process evolved into an outstanding model of a multi-stakeholder partnership, and a program intervention to achieve sustainable development. Young mothers from a local school also came to talk to the girls, to warn them against following in their path.

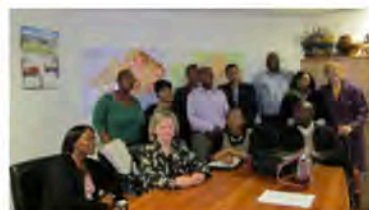
The program included life skills and entrepreneurship skills. Outcome results from pre-post self-reports were very impressive, showing that a majority of the girls after the experience had higher self-efficacy and self-esteem, elected to take an HIV/AIDS test, and initiated money-making efforts (e.g., hair-braiding, phone card selling, vegetable growing). These were documented in professional papers. The First Ladies office continued a version, that was sadly interrupted, due to a government changeover.

Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Program for Girls Model multi-stakeholder project in Lesotho, Africa

**SDG 5 (empowering girls) and SDG1 (poverty), SDG 3 (Health, HIV/AIDS),
SDG 4 (education), SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 17 (partnerships)**



Empowerment Activity with the village girls



IAAP team Judy Kuriansky and Mary O'Neill Berry with First Lady of Lesotho office and local partners

The model is an impressive best practice combination of life skills and entrepreneurship training, that has been presented at many international conferences. When hearing about the program, many African nations have requested it for their country, although necessary funding has not been available.

Statements

Statements related to the empowerment of women and girls have been annually co-drafted and co-sponsored for CSW conferences. These include an advocacy statement and event held in 2012 for CSW, on “*Psychological contributions to the eradication of poverty among rural women and girls*,” co-written by IAAP’s Okorodudu, Kuriansky, O’Neill Berry and Janice Bloch, with APA’s then-UN representative Deanna Chitayat. In 2013, IAAP’s Berry, Okorodudu and Kuriansky drafted a statement for the 57th CSW Session on “*Psychological Perspectives on the Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls*.” Sponsored by IAAP and SPSSI, and co-sponsored by the World Council for Psychotherapy (WCP) and other members of the Psychology Coalition of NGOS accredited at the UN (PCUN), the statement built upon the 1993 Human Rights Conference in Vienna that officially recognized violence against women as a human rights violation. It also increased awareness about the forms and levels of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, rape in armed conflicts, sexual exploitation in trafficking, genital mutilation/cutting, and forced prostitution, and called for education, training, services and research, taking into account important contributions that psychological perspectives and approaches can make to treating, eliminating and preventing violence against women and girls (VAWG) worldwide.

Other annual CSW statements co-sponsored by IAAP include for CSW 2014 on “*Psychological Perspectives on the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls: Access to and Participation in Education, Training, Science and Technology, Including for the Promotion of Women’s Equal Access to Full Employment and Decent Work*”; for CSW 2015, on “*Psychological contributions to the full realization of the twelve critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action*”; for CSW 2016 on “*Elimination and Prevention of Trafficking and All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls as Crucial Pathways to their Empowerment and Contribution to Sustainable Development*”; and for CSW 2017, on “*Psychological contributions to the economic empowerment of all women and girls, with special focus on women and girls of African descent*.”

Publications about women

Many articles have been written about IAAP’s participation in events about women, listed in the reference article in this journal. For example, IAAP UN team members Walter Reichman and Mary O’Neill Berry and intern Megan Lytle contributed a chapter entitled “*Violence Against Women in the Workplace*,” to a book edited by APA’s Janet Sigal and IAAP’s Florence Denmark, entitled, “*Violence Against Girls and Women: International Perspectives, Volume II: In Adulthood, Midlife, and Older Age*” and O’Neill Berry presented at the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology (SIOP) Special Event Alliance Invited Session on “*I-O’s Alignment with the International Labour Organization’s Decent Work Agenda*.” Also, Kuriansky was a co-editor of a new book, *The Changing Lives of Women Around the World: Psychosocial Perspectives and Insights*.

Videos

Many videos have been shown at CSW events, produced by Judy Kuriansky and edited by IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou. These include for the 2014 side event about efforts of First Ladies of Africa to improve maternal and child health, promote education and gender equality, empower women and girls, eradicate poverty and combat HIV/AIDS (see <https://bit.ly/2LVjhis>). Others include related music videos, including with original anthems by Kuriansky and IAAP’s Russell Daisey, e.g., “*Every Women, Every Child*” (see: <https://bit.ly/2t1bCbc>).

Side Events

IAAP has co-sponsored many events at the UN, including during CSW, with speakers and cultural performances organized yearly, showcasing projects and profiles that promote the rights of women and girls.

These include CSW 2010 events on “*Keys to Women’s Empowerment: Mental Health and Human Rights*,” and on “*The Critical Role of Women in the Attainment of the MDGs*” organized by the ECOSOC-accredited NGO, Voices of African Mothers (VAM), where Kuriansky spoke as a panelist, and serves on the Advisory Board. VAM’s founder, Ghana-born Nana Fosu-Randall, worked with the UN for nearly 30 years including in her role as Chief Financial Officer with the UN Peace Keeping Forces.

A side event in 2012 was on “*Transforming Communities through Psychosocial Empowerment of Poor Rural Women and Girls*” (<https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/documents/July2012.pdf>, part13); and in 2014 on “*The Impact of Women’s Peacemaking/Peacebuilding on Progress in Achieving Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women and Girls and the MDGs: Human Rights and Psychosocial Perspectives*” and in 2015 on “*Women’s Mental Health and Well-being in the Post 2015 Agenda*”

(http://blacktiemagazine.com/society_2015_march/Women_Mental_Health_and_Wellbeing_in_the_post_2015_agenda.htm).

Kuriansky also presented at the “*First Ladies Forum: Building Bridges for Peace and Health Disability*” at the General Assembly 68th session side event on 24 September 2013 organized by the UNESCO Center for Peace, on “*Programs for Advancing the UN MDGs by First Ladies and Partners.*”

An elaborate and impressive side event held in the sacred space of the UN Church Chapel during the CSW in 2014 celebrated “*Projects of First Ladies of Africa in advancing the MDGs focusing on women and the girl child, and the UN’s ‘Every Woman Every Child’ Initiative*”

(http://blacktiemagazine.com/society_march_2014/commission_on%20the_status_of_women.htm).

The UN Chapel’s Reverend Dionne Boissière welcomed the full capacity crowd and invited everyone to write a message about peace on a sheet posted on the side wall. Youth Sheimyrah Mighty, backed up by the Hunter College Elementary School Chorale, performed the original song “Every Woman Every Child” written by Kuriansky and IAAP representative Russell Daisey, to commemorate the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s initiative of the same name. In another performance, given that the 3/11 date of the event coincided with the third anniversary of the tragic tsunami/earthquake in Japan, Japanese opera star Tomoko Shibata performed “Towers of Light” (also written by Kuriansky and Daisey) in Japanese, an anthem performed many times at 9/11 and 3/11 memorials. Moderator Kuriansky showed a video about African First Ladies projects to support women. Founder of Voices of African Mothers Nana Fosu-Randall spoke about her new collaboration with CANIGE, an NGO of the First Lady of Equatorial Guinea, whose representatives, who had traveled from the nation, expressed their appreciation. Also presented was the First Ladies Community Initiative, building birthing shelters in Namibia. See reports in the IAAP Bulletin, and a video about First Ladies of Africa projects to support women, available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oO7ZojYJido&feature=em-upload_owner.

CSW 2018

For CSW 2018, the Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago invited IAAP’s Kuriansky to be a panelist on a CSW side event to present the psychological perspective. Held at UN headquarters on 20 March, the event, on the topic of “*Challenges Women Face to Attain Economic and Political Power,*” raised awareness, promoted sensitization and encouraged action to address those challenges. This focus is critical to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5 to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”, particularly target 5.5, which seeks to “ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life”.

The event emphasized that the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is integral to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets. The message is that the achievement of full human potential and sustainable development is not possible if one-half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities. Women and girls must enjoy equal access to quality education, health care, economic resources and political participation, as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels.

Thus, it is important to eliminate of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls; to include systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into national policies; and to provide an enabling environment for the empowerment of women and girls.

Rural women and girls: relationship to food security and SDG 2 to end hunger

The Priority Theme of CSW62 in 2018 was “*Challenges and Opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.*” Another side event during that CSW session, held on 12 March at UN NY headquarters, again sponsored by H.E. Ambassador Beckles of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the UN, was on “*Rural Women as actors in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.*” Again, Ambassador Beckles invited IAAP’s Judy Kuriansky to speak about the psychological perspective.

The important theme was that rural women represent up to 43% of the agricultural labor force in developing countries, thus, rural women play a key role in food security, building resilience of the communities, and contributing to rural development. Yet, barriers exist for their rights.

Speakers included the Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago with responsibility for Gender and Child Affairs; Director of the FAO Office to the United Nations; and representatives of the European Union, the Network of Rural Women Producers in Trinidad and Tobago and of My Sister's Health Watch.

A related side event during CSW62 in 2018 about the important role rural women play in achieving SDG2 to end hunger, was sponsored by the Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations. Entitled, *"The role and contribution of rural women in food sovereignty and achieving the SDGs by 2030,"* Kuriansky was invited to serve as moderator. The concept paper outlined that women make up more than 50% of Africa's population with 80% of them residing in rural areas, and over 60% employed in rural areas in the agriculture sector. As in the event noted above, the event honored the important role women in rural communities play in developing the economy and achieving the SDGs, challenges they face about with gender inequality and unequal access to power and resources. An inspiring film was shown of cooperatives by rural women as farmers, coming "together as one", with scenes of them in the markets and in the fields, singing and planting cabbage, onions and Irish potatoes, under the theme, "We Grow to Grow." See: <https://youtu.be/93HvQsz9dY4>.

Respect for these women was emphasized by the Minister of Social Welfare, Gender and Children's Affairs at the time, Honorable Isata Kabia, whom IAAP's Dr. Judy had interviewed when she was in Sierra Leone during the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak, about her heroic efforts to educate her community about the realities of the virus and prevention of its spread.

Commitments to aid Sierra Leone were described by the Counselor in charge of Foreign Affairs and Human Rights of the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN, Micheal Tierney, on behalf of Irish Aid, and on behalf of UNWomen by the UN Women Regional Director for Western & Central Africa. Tierney is also a major supporter of mental health and wellbeing, participating in the UN Group of Friends of Mental Health and Well-being for which Kuriansky is an advisor.

Women as Role Models in Health and Sports

Another event co-sponsored by IAAP during CSW62 in 2018, held in the prestigious UN Delegates Dining Room, focused on the role of sports to promote health, by honoring Jamaican elite athlete, Novlene Williams-Mills, as a role model of a successful rural woman with a positive health message. Williams-Mills battled cancer at the peak of her athletic career and went on to great athletic triumphs. The event, entitled *"Any Girl Can: Celebration of Novlene Williams-Mills from Cancer Survivor to IAAF World Champion and Olympic Games Medalist,"* ambitiously and effectively addressed the inter-linkage between Goal 5, the Empowerment of Women and Girls, and Goal 3, Ensure Good Health and Well-being, as well as with Goal 4, Quality Education for All and Goal 17, on Multi-stakeholder Partnerships, with sports as a cross-cutting issue. Ms. Williams-Mills' inspiring story about growing up in a small village on the north coast of Jamaica and working tirelessly to become a world-class athlete, brought tears to attendees' eyes. In 2012, one month prior to the London Olympic Games, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, but felt obliged to lead and captain the Jamaican women's team into the Olympic Games, winning a bronze medal in the 4x400m relay. Immediately afterwards, she underwent three surgeries and a double mastectomy. She recovered and competed in the 2015 Beijing World Championships, winning a gold medal for her relay team, and went on to win a silver medal in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Now, at age 35, Ms. Williams-Mills mentors young female athletes, provides school supplies to children's hospitals and lectures about the importance of getting health services, guided by her mantra, "Find hope no matter how hard the battle gets."

Besides IAAP, the co-sponsors were The Permanent Missions of Jamaica and of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA, the lead United Nations agency promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights) and NGOs including the United African Congress, Give Them a Hand Foundation (members of the United Nations diplomatic community members who assist less privileged communities worldwide), the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development/NY, the Medical Women's International Association, and Pink Ribbon Monaco, a non-profit organization of volunteers to spread awareness of a healthy lifestyle to help prevent and heal from cancer.

The concept paper stressed that over 400,000 women are newly diagnosed with breast and cervical cancer every year, of which one-fourth die worldwide. The event presented information about cancer awareness and prevention,

sexual and reproductive health, and methods to reach disadvantaged populations and promoted universal health coverage, and advances of women in sports organizations, and as coaches, agents and broadcasters.

Luncheon and panel discussion speakers included United Nations Ambassadors, representatives from UN agencies and the health sector and sports notables. Speakers included the Ambassadors of the missions of Jamaica and Monaco; the Executive Director of UNFPA Dr. Natalia Kanem; and representatives of the International Olympic Committee Strategic Communication and Women in Sports Programs, the International Association of Athletics Federations, the Jamaica Athletics Administrative Association, the Jamaica Cancer Society, the Jamaica Olympic Association, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Pink Ribbon Monaco, the Breast Cancer Research Foundation, Odulair (a company that provides cancer screening in mobile clinics), and Project Sunshine (that offers psychosocial support to young cancer patients in hospitals worldwide). The moderator was the President of the United Nations Correspondents Association, Sherwin Bryce-Pease. The event was co-produced by IAAP's Kuriansky with the United African Congress' Gordon Tapper.

CSW63 in March 2019

An increasing number of women are climbing the corporate ladder, yet still face challenges in assuming leadership roles. A session on 15 March 2019 at the 63rd Commission of the Status of Women at UN HQ in NYC addressed that issue. The event, on the topic of "*Challenges Women face in Leadership Roles*," was organized again by the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago and chaired by H.E. Ambassador Penelope Beckles, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and, as mentioned above, an outstanding example of a leader herself, given her eminent career in politics and her appointment as the 2019 President of the Executive Board of UNWomen. Ambassador Beckles once again invited Kuriansky to present the psychological perspective.

Speakers consisted of successful women, representing various generations, ethnicities and professions who shared their personal journey of trials and tribulations in achieving leadership roles in their respective fields.

The voice of youth was represented by a girl advocate from the Working Group on Girls, an NGO group working for girls' rights (<http://girlsrights.org/>), who called for educators to examine their biases against girls taking leadership roles. As another youth voice, a student described her journey from a disadvantaged neighborhood in Trinidad and Tobago, hearing the disparaging adage, "Nothing good comes from behind the bridge" to becoming a student at Munroe College in New York in 2015, graduating with a 4.0 GPA and currently pursuing an MBA.

A Sergeant spoke about her difficult journey to become one of the 300-strong police squad of Tobago. As a victim of domestic violence, and faced with questioning by her father, peers and others about wanting 'to shine' and not settle for what she had, she often 'beat herself up' until education made her 'push back against the push back,' change her attitude about being a woman, and take on leadership roles in the police. Another speaker, an entrepreneur, redefined her career from being a Wall Street banker to owning an award-winning restaurant, and called for women supporting each other ("having a squad" for "power of the collective" as she had with four sisters) and learning from a "fear of failure". The Vice President for Community Impact Women's Sports Foundation founded by sports icon Billie Jean King, outlined their three goals: increase participation; educate the public on the benefits of sports; and advocate for policies that provide equal access. She described challenges that remain, e.g., pay disparity, since a single woman athlete is featured on the 2018 Forbes top 100 list of highest paid athletes. The Senior Advisor on Women's Leadership for UN Women outlined six obstacles for women in leadership: (1) lack of gender equality laws in most countries; (2) stereotyping wherein a leader is often perceived as a white, middle-aged man; (3) sexual harassment; (4) violence; (5) lack of role models: and, (6) fear of failure. Echoing the power of the collective, she said, 'When one woman is a leader, it changes her, but when more women are leaders, it changes politics and policies.' Aerospace engineer and space scientist Dr. Camille Wardrop Alleyne from Trinidad and Tobago credited her mother's encouragement for her 25-year career and advocacy in the non-traditional role in engineering, science and space and called for (1) female role models in schools; (2) policies to support women at work in terms of childcare centers; and (3) a forum for men to support women and be raised with a more inclusive mindset.

In addressing psychological issues of women's leadership, IAAP's Judy Kuriansky pointed out "fear of success" (not just "fear of failure") resulting from guilt, isolation and jealous peers, that holds women back from reaching their fullest potential. She reported research in leadership about two different management styles: women practice a more "transformative" style (democratic and empathic, focusing on development and growth of others) compared

to men's more common "transactional" (top-down, authoritative) style, with findings that the former is more effective in some important contexts.

Another side event during CSW 2019, the day before, on 14 March, was also sponsored by Ambassador Beckles of Trinidad and Tobago, this one on the topic of "*Exploring the linkages between SDGs 5, 11 and 16: Women's Access to Justice, Social Protection and Inheritance are key to achieving the SDGs,*" that focused on the challenges that widows face worldwide. The co-sponsors were UNWomen and the Global Fund for Women. IAAP's Kuriansky was honored to again be invited to give the psychological perspective on this issue.

Significantly, Ambassador Beckles announced that widows' rights will be brought up for the first time in the concluding discussions of the CSW session.

CSW 2019: SDGs 5, 11 and 16, Widows Rights



(left to right): Susan O'Malley, Nyakan June, Dr. A.H. Monjurul Kabir, Ambassador Penelope Beckles, Dr. Judy Kuriansky, Vikas Khanna, Dr. Padmini Murthy, Heather Ibrahim Leathers, Dianha Kamande, Adaphia Trancoso-Ribeiro

Speaker Heather Ibrahim Leathers described her Global Fund for Widows that has raised over \$1,000,000 for economic empowerment programs in Egypt, India, Tanzania, Nigeria, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic. Widowhood impacts 300 million widows around the world, half of whom live in poverty and 53% of whom are under the age of 39. Three major violations widows endure are: disinheritance; discrimination and harmful traditional practices (punishing widows' sins of her husbands' death) that lead to impoverishment (SDG1), food insecurity (SDG2), violence and human trafficking (SDG5), poor health (SDG3), lack of access to justice and inequality (SDG 16). A widow's children are in turn adversely affected, becoming vulnerable to poor education, extremist indoctrination, child marriage, and the unconscionable phenomenon of the child widow. Widows need economic empowerment, access to work, and laws to protect them and access to justice and social protection.

The founder of Timeless and Magnificent Places Limited linked widowhood in Kenya to lack of access to education, tribal cultures, and religion, but noted that the country has put in place interventions which enable women and girls to inherit land and offer a better life for them and their children. Also, from Kenya, a mother-of-two related how she formed a widows' organization after her husband tried to kill her and took his own life; secured unclaimed assets belonging to widows; and educates village widows on their rights. An NGO representative of the American Medical Women's Association and the CSW/NGO committee, Dr. Padmini Murthy (who collaborates with IAAP's Kuriansky on many events), noted common physical abuse against widows (e.g., blamed for HIV/AIDS), no access to care, and diminished health and mental health. A representative of UNWomen; Chair of the NGO/CSW Susan O'Malley noted the importance of the role of NGOs and Civil Society to implement the SDGs. Celebrity chef, author and filmmaker Vikas Khanna screened the trailer for his new brilliant film, "*The Last Color*" about a persecuted lower-caste street girl who became a Supreme Court judge who helped change the law of widows in India to allow them to play with colors during the Holi festival. A Supreme Court law was passed in India in 2012 against discrimination and for rehabilitation of widows in India. The message was that education is key to salvation and out of poverty, marginalization and violence.

Kuriansky provided the psychological and mental health perspective of widowhood and women's rights, consistent with the event title, linking target 3.4 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (promoting mental health and well-being) to SDG 5 (women's empowerment), SDG 11 (safe cities), and SDG 16 (peace and security). She pointed out the dire challenges for young girls 7,8 or 9 years old, trapped in child marriages who become widows, and the need for protection for women who are not legally widows but who are left alone when their husband migrates to another country. She also noted that widows in developing countries, besides those in developed countries, suffer, facing legal inheritance battles, emotional pain and even stigma. Also, she emphasized that widowers suffer, recalling groups for men that she led after the tsunami in Sri Lanka when many men felt depressed, hopeless, helpless, and suicidal because they couldn't save their wives or children.

Psychology Day at the UN 2019

The 2019 Psychology Day at the United Nations, co-sponsored by IAAP, held at the UNHQ in NYC on 25 April 2019, addressed the topic of "*The Time is Now: Psychological Contributions to Global Gender Equ{a}lity*," given statistics that women make up half the world.

The event was a tribute to H.E. Ambassador Caleb Otto of the Mission of the Republic of Palau to the United Nations for his outstanding support of psychology and of Psychology Day at the UN for years. Speaking about Ambassador Otto, IAAP's Kuriansky highlighted his integral role in the successful intergovernmental campaign to ensure the inclusion of mental health and well-being in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in which she partnered (described in the article about Mental Health in this journal). His diverse contributions to the UN (about NCDs, peace, climate change, the oceans and, about women's rights) were shown in a video, produced by Kuriansky with assistance from IAAP representative Russell Daisey and Ambassador Otto's wife, Dr. Judy Otto, who also co-produced many events about mental health with the IAAP team, and edited by IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou (see video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fqggBHMs5g>). Attendees were visibly moved, some to tears. Kuriansky mentioned many adjectives that describe Ambassador Otto (tragically, recently deceased), which he would always be too modest to accept, but that are agreed by his Ambassador peers, and she recalled how the co-chair of the SDG negotiations, Ambassador Macharia Kamau of Kenya would call on Ambassador Otto to wish everyone "good health and well-being" after intense sessions.

Co-Sponsors of the event were the Permanent Missions of the Dominican Republic and of the Republic of Palau, with psychology organizations, including IAAP, the American Psychological Association, the Society for Industrial and Organizational Psychology, the International Council of Psychologists, the World Council for Psychotherapy, and others.

H.E. Ambassador Richard Arbeiter, Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations, was the perfect choice as moderator, as he is also involved the Mankind Project that encourages men to speak openly about feelings, to prevent depression and suicide. In opening remarks, H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay, Permanent Representative of the Mission of Hungary to the UN eloquently emphasized the importance and relevancy of psychologists' efforts at the UN, noting that "Psychology works with the very foundations of our societies" and identifies social norms, attitudes, and underlying cognitive processes that impact power relations.

A Professor in the Department of Women's Studies at San Diego State University, spoke about "*Gendered Journeys: Migration, Psychology, and Inequality*," pointing out that about half of the 244 million migrants worldwide are women and girls and that migration is both emancipatory (escaping domestic violence) as well as subjugating and dangerous for women (exposed to violence, e.g., at border crossings). She recommended educating governments and the public about the benefits of migrants (e.g., the "diversity dividend", increase in productivity and entrepreneurial ventures, especially of women) and implementing policies that eradicate sexism and racism and that protect migrant women. A professor from George Washington University Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences presented about empowering women and girls in the context of feminist psychology (emphasizing female strength, resilience and optimal functioning) and Feminist Liberation psychology (conscious awareness of the relationship between personal wants and social oppression). She recommended: encouraging self-awareness; acknowledging legacies of discrimination and oppression; understanding girls and women in their sociopolitical and geopolitical contexts; and using indigenous and complementary/alternative forms of healing.

A psychologist from the University of California in Santa Cruz spoke about "Transforming Structural Inequities that Allow the Continuation of Violations Against Women," emphasizing that more rights afforded to women (e.g., about land ownership) leads to more power with male partners, which in turn lowers physical and psychological violence.

Industrial/organizational psychologist Dr. Virginia Schein, Professor Emerita of Management and Psychology at Gettysburg College, spoke on “*Women at the Top: From Gender Bias to Gender Balance*,” focusing on SDG 5.5, about the enhancing women in positions of power and influence. She noted that currently, women hold only 29% of senior positions in companies across 35 countries and 24.3% of seats in parliament worldwide. Her main points were that: (1) gender stereotype endure globally: males view men as more likely than women to possess characteristics necessary for managerial success (called *Think Manager – Think Male*) but females view men and women as equally likely to possess those characteristics; (2) A meta-analysis showed that women members of business boards led to better financial returns and market performance; (3) Countries with higher gender equality have less involvement in inter and intra-state conflict, and (4) The 24/7 work culture may be *convenient* for an organization, but is *not necessary* to achieve the same performance.

The UN webcast of the full event is at:

<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/security-council/watchbr%20/watch/the-time-is-now-psychological-contributions-to-global-gender%2%A0equality-12th-annual-psychology-day-at-the-united-nations/6030064139001/?term=&sort=date&page=34>

Awards Events

In 2015, VAM presented an event “*Millennium Development Goals: 2015 Progress Awards Gala*” for which Kuriansky was asked to give the closing salute on behalf of IAAP. The distinguished honoree was H.H. Princess Nauf Bendar Al Saud, who spoke about the Empowerment of women artists and promotion of scientific studies or optimal health. Awardees included Danielle Butin who ships supplies to needed areas, speaking on the mobilization of global health care assistance and Isha Sesay for efforts in education of the African child. Several gala events honoring First Ladies of Africa in elegant award ceremonies have been co-sponsored by IAAP and hosted by IAAP’s Kuriansky. These include the health summit noted above for First Ladies of Africa organized by U.S. Doctors for Africa, and another gala for the Voices of African Mothers honoring First Ladies of Africa for their projects protecting the health of women and girls, held in the UN headquarters in the elegant Delegates Dining Room. See: https://www.flickr.com/photos/equatorial_guinea/9041341707/

Projects of First Ladies of Africa: Advancing the MDGs
Panel at the 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 58)

TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2014
12:15 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Church Center for the United Nations
(Corner: 44th Street & First Avenue)

Program:
Moderator: **Judy Kuriansky**, International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) & the Psychology Coalition at the UN
Welcome: **Reverend Dionne Boissiere**
Opening Address: **Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury**, former Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations
Music Performances:
❖ “Every Woman Every Child” **Sheimyrah** (soloist),
Hunter College Elementary School Chorale (Ayana Lowe, H.C.E.S. Music Director),
The Dr. Nyjeri Norman Singers & Russell Daisey (Music Director)
❖ “Towers of Light” **Tomoko Shibata** (Soloist),
Russell Daisey (Piano)

Panelists:
Ted Alemayhu, Founder, U.S. Doctors for Africa
Nana Fosu-Randall, Founder, Voices of African Mothers with **CANIGE NGO Representative of the First Lady of Equatorial Guinea**
Ada Okitka, US Federation of UNESCO Clubs, Centers and Associations New York State
Nicole Field Brzeski, The First Ladies Community Initiative

Co-Sponsors: IAAP UN @IAAPUN
IAAP PCUN SSS



Women’s Rights in Lebanon

ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality in Beirut, Lebanon is a model center promoting sustainable and social development in the Middle East and North Africa region through the empowerment of marginalized groups, especially women. This includes ABAAD’s pioneering Men’s Center that facilitates emotional self-awareness and healthy coping mechanisms for males in order to end violence against women. IAAP’s Judy Kuriansky was invited to give a keynote lecture for this event, on 22 February 2018, on the topic of “*Global Mental Health: Advances at the United Nations and International Stage for Women and Girls*” at their “*National Seminar on Mental Health and Social Security: Between Clinic and Civil Activism*” held at the Mövenpick Hotel in Beirut. IAAP youth representative

and Lebanon national Khawla Nasser AlDeen accompanied her on this trip. The conference strengthened the multi-sectoral coordination between national and international experts in mental health and the judicial health system to protect families against violence. It was hosted under the patronage of the Lebanese Ministry of Public Health, and organized with TABYEEN, a Center for Psychosocial Counseling and Training headed by Lebanon psychiatrist Dr. Abbas Makki.

Kuriansky also delivered a women's empowerment workshop to the Pink Steps group, a community-support intervention group initiated by Fulbright alumna Nataly Nasser AlDeen to promote healthy habits among female cancer survivors in Lebanon. She also facilitated another empowerment and resilience-building workshop, for a group of displaced youth in Saida, Lebanon, hosted at the Busma Youth Community Center, where participants participate in programs about life-skill development, non-formal education, and expressive art therapy. A group of young girls presented an original play to portray images of gender-based violence experienced in their community, with suggestions about hopeful solutions for preventing and coping with such violence. In Saida, a discussion session was also held with the Development for People and Nature Association (DPNA), where staff and volunteers described their innovative community development programs within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Female Ambassadors

Governments are making more efforts to appoint females in leadership roles in UN delegations. There were 31 women ambassadors, out of 193 Member States, serving at UN Headquarters in New York in 2014, a number that at least doubled within two years, with female deputy ambassadors also appointed. Yet, the number of women ambassadors in the Security Council fell from six women in 2014 to four in 2015 to just one in 2016. The NGO Committee of CSW-NY annually hosts a luncheon for Women Ambassadors to the UN to honor and thank them. IAAP's Judy Kuriansky served on the committee for the 2017 event sponsored by H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay, Permanent Representative of Hungary, held at their elegant mission, and attended by a record number of female ambassadors, including male guests, at which youth Sheimyrah Mighty sang the original anthem "Every Woman Every Child" noted above on another occasion, written by IAAP representatives Kuriansky and Daisey, linked to the UN campaign about "Every Woman Every Child" that addresses maternal and child health.

Awards for Promoting Women's Issues

For her long-time excellence in work on women's issues, IAAP's Florence Denmark received many well-deserved awards, including the Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award recognizing her accomplishments as an educator to inspire transformational work in the community, at a ceremony November 9, 2013, at The Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, and an award from the Association for Women in Psychology in Rhode Island in March 2019. Judy Kuriansky received the "Planting Seeds of Peace: Humanitarian Award" from Voices of African Mothers at an event on September 23, 2010 as well as an "Global Stakeholder Gender World" award during the UN CSW63 session, at a ceremony at Nigeria House on March 15, 2019.

Men and Boys

Interestingly, the UN does not have the same structure for males as for women, although many speakers when addressing women's issues, point out that men and boys must be considered. A point that is consistently raised relates to the stereotype that persists, but that is still true, that men and boys, as well as the relationship between the sexes, can benefit from males speaking more about emotions. More centers, like ABAAD mentioned above, are starting services for males. A video produced by Kuriansky and edited by Zinsou, features a project in the UK that facilitates males to talk about their feelings, and reveal their mental health issues, when sitting in the Barber chair (see: <https://bit.ly/2tdhBt5>). Kuriansky discovered this project, as a demonstration at an innovation booth at the 2017 meeting of the World Government Summit in Dubai. The prescience of addressing this topic is reinforced by an article in the September 2019 edition of *The Nations' Health*, a publication of the American Public Health Association, reporting on a study in the new *England Journal of Medicine* that barbershop interventions are a valuable place to improve health outcomes, by providing males, with a safe place to talk about their problems, and especially for black males who research shows are less likely to get health check-ups. The staff at some salons and barbershops are trained to recognize signs of stress and depression and to stimulate conversation. As mentioned above, Canadian Ambassador Richard Arbeiter participates in a project encouraging men to talk

about feelings, as part of his commitment to gender rights. In one project, shaving their beards was connected to progress in the initiative.

The Way Forward

Innumerable events are in planning stages by the IAAP team to promote SDG 5, in connection with the upcoming CSW as well as other marker days at the UN related to gender equality and women's rights. and empowerment. These events are being organized as multi-stakeholder partnerships, as called for in SDG 17. Specific partners include UN Member States, the WHO Office at the United Nations, the United African Congress, PCUN members and others.



Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



Climate Change and Disaster Recovery at the United Nations

Activities, Achievements and Contributions of the IAAP New York Team

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

Earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, floods and other natural disasters are increasingly threatening people and the planet, leaving millions of people suffering from loss of loved ones and livelihood. This dire situation makes this topic and conference of urgent importance to IAAP activities related to the United Nations and to the world.

The power of advocacy at the UN always rests on international agreements. Importantly, psychosocial support for disasters risk reduction is recognized in paragraph 33 (o) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, that outlines government agreements and commitments, “to enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need.” Given the urgency to turn commitment into action, it is essential to institute policies and programs that provide access to such psychosocial services, to “close the treatment gap” and “leave no one behind” in the wake of disasters, where research shows that people suffer not only immediate, but also long-term, emotional after-effects.

For this reason, team members representing the International Association of Applied Psychology at the United Nations in New York have been exceptionally active advocating about the importance of “psychosocial resilience” after natural disasters and epidemics, to offer support to communities immediately and also over the long-term.

Disaster recovery is intricately linked to SDG 13, about climate change, and also to SDG 14 about “Life Below Water” and SDG 15 about “Life on Land”. The IAAP UN team’s activities, achievements and contributions in these areas are described in this article.

The UN holds many events about these issues, and when possible, IAAP co-sponsors (without financial support) interventions in emergencies. IAAP also participates regularly in events and conferences by the UN Office on Disaster Recovery, now called now UNDRR (United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction), formerly called the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). The office was established in 1999 as a dedicated secretariat to facilitate the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR).

IAAP also co-sponsors events by other NGOs accredited at the UN that align with the IAAP mission; for example, a side event at the 2019 UN Commission on the Status of Women, organized by the International Association of Women in radio and TV (IAWRT), on “*Community Models for Disaster Preparedness and Risk Assessment*,” given IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky being a veteran journalist.

The 3 E’s

Given the focus on people and the planet of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, IAAP’s advocacy has focused on the 3 E’s of disaster recovery: Environmental Restoration, Economic Recovery and Emotional Resilience. Policy and programs must address these three holistically. This triad is evident in the collaboration of the IAAP team with a US neuropsychologist, Dr. Darlyne Nemeth, and an environmental scientist, Dr. Yasuo Onishi, who appreciates the connection between science and emotions. Onishi has organized ongoing educational seminars at a Japanese university Higashi Nippon International University in the affected prefecture, that Kuriansky has done by skype to students and others in the tsunami/earthquake area, to teach them about psychosocial resilience and to offer techniques for ongoing emotional strength. The wife of the Japanese Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN (Ambassador Toshiya Hoshino who is a good friend), was recruited to go to Japan on behalf of the team to offer psychosocial help, especially as she is a social worker. Many articles and videos about the post-tsunami interventions in Japan are in videos and article in the IAAP Bulletin and other sources. The essential connection between science and psychology in climate change is emphasized in the book, *Living in an Environmentally Traumatized World: Healing Ourselves and Our Planet*.

Projects

Promoting psychosocial resilience and forming partnerships with other advocates and activists at the UN has led over many years to post-disaster field projects around the world. Operating with no budget on IAAP’s behalf, these have been done by voluntary commitments. When the earthquake hit in Haiti, IAAP representatives Wismick Jean-Charles, a Haitian priest and Ph.D. educational psychologist, and Kuriansky, went immediately to his home country

to offer psychosocial support (see video at: <https://bit.ly/2JIZbLK>). This led to many years of such work, and Jean-Charles founding a center for mental health (CESSA), the Centre de Spiritualité, d'Évangélisation et de Santé Mentale with Kuriansky's support. Annual mental health conferences were also held in Haiti. Books about CESSA, with Kuriansky's chapters, are in this issue's reference list.

Psychosocial support was also conducted in Japan after the tsunami/earthquake there, that began with Kuriansky meeting the Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations and forming a partnership with the founder of a community support organization from the region of the disaster, after an encounter at a UN event to support the recovery (see video about the mission at: <https://bit.ly/2LXh8CY>). Attendance at UN events about the tsunami is ongoing, including for Tsunami Day, hosted annually in November by the Mission of Japan to the UN.

After speaking at a regional psychology conference in Tehran, Iran, about psychosocial resilience, Kuriansky was asked by the youth division of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Society of Iran to go with their representatives to the region of Kermanshaw that had suffered an earthquake, where she worked with locals to lead events for children. Similarly, before the IAAP regional conference in Hanoi Vietnam, given major floods in the southern region of the country, Kuriansky went to the southern region to provide psychosocial support to orphans with IAAP youth representative Quyen Nguyen.

Research has shown that anniversaries of traumatic events lead to resurgence of the trauma. Engaging civil society advocates in IAAP events at the UN led to a multi-stakeholder project in Sint Maarten, to provide psychosocial support on the anniversary of the tragic Hurricane Irma in the region. A five-day train-the-trainers skills-building workshop was designed to train teachers to conduct the activities with children, specifically adapted for the context of Sint Maarten, and drawing on extensive techniques in Kuriansky's toolbox, that have been applied in varying contexts and shown to be effective. The project was a perfect example of a multi-stakeholder initiative, given the collaboration of IAAP as the international NGO, with a foundation that has served the youth population for years, called Arts Saves Lives Foundation, as well as with a local partner, the National Institute of Art in Philipsburg, and with government, namely, the Sint Maarten Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth & Sport.

Many ongoing resilience workshops were also conducted after the disaster of Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana, USA, in collaboration with local neuropsychologist Dr. Darlyne Nemeth, working with community churches and other organizations. Research on these interventions showed the importance of such continued support, given that "anniversary reactions" on the date of such a disaster revive emotional reactions. Many presentations and publications in journals and books describe this work, some of which are listed in the reference article in this issue.

These projects have shown the value of community engagement and of training volunteers to add capacity, and the potential for post-traumatic growth.

Psychosocial Support Sri Lanka, Japan, Sint Maarten, Haiti



The World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan

Major advocacy for “psychosocial resilience” has been conducted at the World Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction, including in Sendai, Japan in March 2015. During the four-day pre-conference of the Major Group on Children and Youth, IAAP’s Kuriansky made several presentations including IAAP youth representatives Joel Zinsou and Quyen Nguyen and representative Father Wismick. A presentation was made during the “Ignite Stage” (meant to stimulate new ideas) about the model program promoting youth resilience using psychosocial techniques, music and art that was implemented in Japan and many other settings, e.g., in Haiti and Africa. A performance by Japanese pop star Shinji Harada preceded a description of the relevance of the technique as a means of implementation of the post-2015 agenda, as well as research outcomes (see: <http://bit.ly/1Xz5fEs>).

Importantly, IAAP had a valuable voice in advocacy, through (1) the collective NGO statement – the final draft for which Kuriansky collaborated with two members of Peace Boat, and (2) in being called upon to make a verbal statement (see: <http://bit.ly/1EL5TZs>).

Collaboration with governments is crucial for IAAP advocacy about psychosocial resilience, given the central role of government. Most fortuitously, the Ambassador of Palau in Japan, H.E. Frances Matsutaro, came from Tokyo to the final government session just in the nick of time to deliver a statement drafted by Ambassador Otto, who was back in New York, that promoted the importance of psychosocial resilience in disaster recovery.



The 2017 UN Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

Presentations and advocacy about psychosocial resilience was continued at the next World Conference of Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Cancun, Mexico, in May 2017, where Kuriansky and IAAP youth representative Alexandra Margevich presented at workshops in partnership with the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth at their Youth Forums. Also, statements about psychosocial resilience were drafted and distributed.

In her role as journalist and having assisted after many emergencies, Kuriansky also presented in a Media Workshop about the role of media in disaster recovery. In September of 2007, she moderated a panel at the UN DPI/NGO conference on “Partnerships to Mobilize Community Health and Mental Health Resources for Recovery, Resilience and Risk Reduction of Climate-Related Disasters: What Multi-Stakeholders and NGOs Can Do.”

The 2019 UN Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

At the next Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) in Geneva Switzerland two years later, in 2019, IAAP co-sponsored an invited 3-hour workshop on the topic of “Resilience and Artificial Intelligence, Technology Tools and Robotics in Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery: Innovative techniques and new models for a holistic approach to implementation of the Sendai Framework” for the Innovations Platform. Technology tools, including artificial intelligence, are increasingly getting attention, as they offer possibilities to reach those furthest behind, and efficient and cost-effective ways of prevention and response regarding disasters. The organizers significantly offered Kuriansky a long session for this presentation.

The session was in several segments, including a presentation by a technology company about tech tools, e.g., artificial intelligence and robotics, that can be applied in disasters for communication, deployment of personnel and equipment; a presentation by IAAP's Kuriansky and Russell Daisey on innovative interventions in disasters around the world for psychosocial recovery; and two panels moderated by a partner, Dr. Shariha Khalid Erichsen, in the UAE's Global Health Council (described in the article about Health in this issue). These panels were on "*Perspectives From The Field: Technologies and Innovations For the Last Mile in Disaster Risk Prevention, Reduction and Recovery - What Is The Reality On The Ground?*" and on "*Resilience dividends and returns on investment - Innovative Approaches to Financing Disaster Risk Reduction & Recovery using an innovation, climate and gender lens*". The speakers included the Executive Director of Youth Innovations Lab, also representing the UN Major Group for Children and Youth; the focal point for e-health from the World Health Organization (WHO); a representative of IFRC; and a medical doctor providing services to refugees in Greece.

The session was very well attended, and attendees reported significant benefits and learning. Further, some attendees said they welcomed this topic at the conference and wanted to see more of this type of programming in the future. Notably, Kuriansky also made a statement during one of the major sessions about disaster, to raise awareness again about the need for attention to the long-term effects of disaster on survivors and the importance of distinguishing psychosocial resilience from structural resilience, focusing on people, not just buildings.

Gender and Disaster

For a special issue of the Journal of Ecopsychology on Disaster and Change, Kuriansky authored several articles, including "*Gender and Natural Disaster: The Case of Men after the 2004 Asian Tsunami*"; "*Superstorm Sandy 2012: A Psychologist's Personal Account and Experience of the Impact on Ecology and Emotions*"; "*A Model for Post-disaster Wellness Workshops: Preparing Individuals and Communities for Anniversary Reactions after Hurricane Katrina*"; "*Psychology at the United Nations: Advocacy and Contributions to Policy and Programming on the Global Agenda*"; and "*Can the Private Sector Help Heal the Planet?*" co-authored with Daniel W. Bena, Senior Director of Sustainable Development for PepsiCo, offering the private sector perspective valued by the UN.

Issues of disaster are integrally linked to climate change. Thus, the IAAP team has given attention to the plight of "climate refugees" – persons forced to leave their homes due to climate events, as will increasingly be a risk for island states surrounded by water (e.g., the Marshall Islands). As a result, Kuriansky is increasingly working with UN Member States that greatly affected, including those who are part of the PSIDS group (Pacific Small Island Developing States). Further, she addressed this issue with colleagues at the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting in 2017, and in a policy on climate change and mental health.

Advocacy about psychosocial resilience was also presented by Kuriansky at many meetings, including a symposium at the APA conference in August 2017 on "*Resiliency Workshops Can Help People Start Over After Environmental Trauma*"; on "*Global Approach to Trauma Prevention and Intervention: Policy and Practice*"; at the World Congress of Psychotherapy in Paris in July, 2017, on "*Recovery and Resilience from Trauma: the Case of Haiti and other Natural Disasters*" and on "*How Eastern Practices Embrace the World and Connect to Achieving the United Nations Agenda*"; and at the American Psychological Association about "*Human Strengths and Resilience: Cross-Cultural and International Perspectives*" organized by Dr. Grant Rich leading to a book chapter on the topic.

In light of the extreme devastation and destruction caused by the 2017 major hurricanes in the Caribbean and in the USA, the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY convened a panel to discuss the aftermath and steps that can be taken. The event, held on 29 September 2017, in the UN Church Center, co-sponsored by IAAP and moderated by IAAP's Kuriansky, highlighted the need for ongoing help from individuals and the international community. Speakers included three UN Ambassadors from the affected region: Ambassador Dr. Walton Alfonso Webson, of the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda; Ambassador Loreen Ruth Bannis-Roberts of the Permanent Mission of Dominica; and Ambassador Penelope Beckles of the Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago. Ambassador Webson, describing how 90% of Barbuda was destroyed, was very candid about the reaction of several nations that did not adhere to basic pledges made at the UN in reference to the SDGs and who did not extend help to Barbuda and other small island states. Three speakers who had been on their home islands during the hurricanes described their harrowing experiences. Kuriansky gave the psychological perspective concerning emotional needs and urgency to provide psychosocial support.

A similar side event took place on “*Building Support for Our Ocean*” on 31 July 2019 at UN headquarters, organized by the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development-NY, sponsored by Ambassador Penelope Beckles of the UN Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago. (Ambassador Dr. Walton Alfonso Webson of the mission of Antigua and Barbuda spoke again, as well as the Ambassador of the Mission of Vanuatu. H.E. Odo Tevi. The Ambassador of Kenya to the UN, H.E. Lazarus O. Amayo also spoke, referring to the upcoming Oceans Summit, hosted by his country with Portugal, to take place in Nairobi in June 2020. When Kuriansky mentioned the importance of these countries playing attention to emotional long-term aftereffects of the severe Hurricane Irma in their region, given for example the extensive damage to Barbuda, they all agreed and admitted sadly that not enough attention is paid to this issue. Other speakers, including academicians, private sector actors and climate activists all explained the dangers to the oceans and the heart-wrenching plight of marine life, critical for food supply and economies, especially from dumping plastic waste. Urgent action is necessary.

Statements

Advocacy statements have been continually written and presented by IAAP with PCUN about the psychological perspectives of disaster recovery. Variations of this have been written and used for advocacy at many meetings. A sample is the following.



Statement about the Importance of Psychosocial Resilience and Mental Health and Wellbeing in the 2030 Agenda

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, From Commitment to Action Cancun, Mexico, May 2017

The importance of psychosocial resilience is key to disaster risk reduction and recovery. Target 3.4 of the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development urges governments to “promote mental health and wellbeing.” Also, 33 (o) of the Sendai Framework indicates: “To enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people in need.” Now, there is growing support to go a step further, to recommend the following:

- (1) To support programs that promote and implement action to enhance recovery schemes to provide psychosocial support and mental health services for all people.”
- (2) To develop national strategies for the prevention and treatment of psychosocial and mental health conditions
- (3) To allocate necessary funds to carry out the above
- (4) To integrate psychosocial services into all DRR plans and policies
- (5) To work with multi-stakeholders in partnerships to achieve the above
- (6) With regard to the Framework current wording, to recognize that where ‘resilience’ is mentioned, it refers not only to infrastructural but also psychosocial resilience

The rationale for including these points was pointed out, listing international agreements and statistics.

Advocacy dating back to 2007

Advocacy about psychosocial resilience by IAAP dates back to 2007, with panel presentations and a statement for the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) First Session in Geneva. Kuriansky was at that time a board member of the NGO Committee on Mental Health. Significantly, the panel on the topic of “*The Integration of Mental Health and Psychosocial Issues into Disaster Risk Reduction and the Hyogo Framework.*” included the then-Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Margareta Wahlstrom, who supported the importance of integrating psychosocial and mental health interventions into the Hyogo Framework for Action, as part of a comprehensive program of disaster preparedness, response and recovery. Also, the now well-known “*Guidelines on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergency Settings*” (IASC) were announced by Mark van Ommeren from the World Health Organization, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse. A unique multi-stakeholder model was described by Dr. Inka Weissbecker (who co-organized the advocacy with Kuriansky) that was being applied in a developing country (Belize), involving government, school and community agencies and university departments. Significantly,

Kuriansky read a statement about the importance of mental health and psychosocial support at the closing plenary, and she and Weissbecker subsequently submitted an extensive written report on the topic, the advocacy process, and the meeting outcomes.

CILA 2009

In 2009, Kuriansky was asked to organize a journalism program for youth coming to the Dominican Republic to attend a model UN, for the first time expanding the Conferencia Internacional de las Américas (CILA 2009) to an international level. At the conference, organized by the United Nations Association of the Dominican Republic (UNA-DR) with support from the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (GFDD) and Fundación Global, the youth participated in sessions that follow the model of those at the United Nations itself, taking on roles as delegates of countries around the world, negotiating and making agreements. Under her supervision, as news director (building on her years as a television reporter), the youth did electronic and print reports about the sessions. One of the major tracks the youth followed was about climate change, looking ahead to the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly known as the Copenhagen Summit to be held that December. Two of the students in her program produced a video called “Seal the Deal” to promote a framework for climate change mitigation, recognizing that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of the present day and that actions should be taken to keep any temperature increases to below 2 °C. The video was brilliantly done, and included youth giving actions they will take, like using less water during tooth-brushing, stopping littering, turning off TV, and encouraging their parents to buy a hybrid car. See the video at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP-yjpdXO8M>.

For her accomplishment, Emil Chireno, then-UNA-DR executive director, arranged for the President of the Dominican Republic at the time, Leonel Fernández, to give Kuriansky an award at the closing ceremony for her dedication to youth.

Goals 14 and 15

Goals 14 and 15 about preserving life below water and life on land relate to respect and care for the environment. The planet is a major pillar of the SDGs and one of the five P's: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.

Goals 14: Life Below Water

Increasing attention is being paid at the United Nations to the oceans. World Ocean Day is celebrated on 8 June. See: <https://www.un.org/en/events/oceansday/>. The issue of the oceans is integrally tied to disaster recovery, thus IAAP's commitment. IAAP representatives have participated in World Ocean Day as well as World Tuna Day on 2 May. See: <https://www.un.org/en/events/tunaday/index.shtml>.

The UN Secretary-General António Guterres has connected the Oceans and Goal 14 to Goal 5 about the Empowerment of Women and Girls, when he said, "I urge governments, international organizations, private companies, communities and individuals to promote gender equality and the rights of women and girls as a crucial contribution to meeting ocean challenges."

The purpose of World Oceans Day is to remind everyone of the major role the oceans have in everyday life, as “the lungs of our planet, providing most of the oxygen we breathe.” The goals are to inform the public of the impact of human actions on the ocean, to develop a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and to mobilize and unite the world's population on projects for the sustainable management and preservation of the world's waters.

IAAP's Kuriansky has been asked to support planning regarding the summit on the oceans to be held in Nairobi, hosted by Kenya and Portugal. The former Ambassador of Kenya to the UN, H.E. Macharia Kamau, is central to this planning, as is John Mosoti, Chief of the Multilateral Affairs Branch of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), both of whom are friends of Kuriansky, with Mosoti having been a co-sponsor of the event for CSW about the Jamaican sports star who survived cancer (reported in the article on women in this issue) and Ambassador Kamau being the co-facilitator of the negotiations for the SDGs (reported in the article about mental health in this issue).

Goal 15: Life on Land: The environment

An emerging field in applied psychology is Ecopsychology, examining the crossover between psychology and environmental studies. IAAP's Division 4, Environmental Psychology, with its affiliated Journal of Environmental Psychology, is of growing interest. Chapters in a two-book anthology, *Ecopsychology: The Intersection between Psychology and Environmental Protection* co-edited by Kuriansky (listed in the reference article of this issue) address transformational growth workshops in the biodiverse environment of Belize as well as paradigm shifts in UN policies and programs about the environment and climate change related to nature and well-being. Research is reviewed in a summary chapter from IAAP Division 4 presentations from the ICAP2104 in Paris. For example, studies on causes of pro-environment behavior (PEB) reveal that energy-saving behavior was more encouraged by following others than by providing information (in research presented by IAAP Division 4 Past President Linda Steg). Other research shows that visual messages influence PEB more than text; that walkable neighborhoods positively affect mental health; that volunteering helps the helper; and that concepts like "ecological resilience" and "cosmopolitan identity" cultivate socially responsible values and behavior (e.g., recycling, purchasing biodegradable products). Research in areas like these, and projects presented in that anthology, are greatly promising, given the foundation of the inclusion of well-being in the UN global agenda. In support of these efforts, Kuriansky has made statements at the UN about preservation of the environment and the respect for nature.

Other policy efforts

As part of advocacy about mental health, IAAP's Kuriansky belongs to the Mental Health section of the American Public Health Association (APHA), with a recent focus on climate change. APHA considers climate change a priority, including its effect on mental health as well as physical health. Climate change was the theme for the APHA 2017 annual meeting on *Creating the Healthiest Nation: Climate Changes Health*, marking a Year of Climate Change and Health, asserting that "Climate Change is happening today and it undeniably poses many risks to our health, making it the greatest public health challenge. Public health professionals need to work towards safeguarding all communities against climate risks by protecting people's health, wellbeing, and quality of life from climate change impacts." Their new Center for Climate, Health and Equity intends to inspire action on climate and health, advances equitable climate policies, and galvanizes the public health field to address climate change.

The Way Forward

IAAP will continue to be heavily involved in the issues of climate change. The Climate Summit takes place September 23 at the United Nations during the high-level General Assembly when leaders around the world will be present. The focus in 2019 is on initiatives to address climate action that represent commitments of multiple stakeholders, preferably that have government as one of the partners, and that can also be scaled up. These will be brought to the attention of the Secretary General. An entire day on the previous Sunday will be devoted to youth involvement, with youth from around the world invited and selected to attend.

IAAP continues to discuss the issue of psychosocial resilience in the face of natural disasters, especially with the Member States of countries whose people are endangered as "climate refugees" and those who suffered a disaster and need long-term emotional support. This is a topic that is increasingly recognized by Ambassadors as critical and that needs far more attention.

Disaster recovery will be the topic of an important Ministerial meeting in the Netherlands, to which Kuriansky was invited, where Ministers of Health will gather with selected civil society representatives to talk about the issue.



Human Rights at the United Nations

Activities, Achievements and Contributions of the IAAP New York Team

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

Activities by the team representing the International Association of Applied Psychology at the United Nations in New York underscore that human rights is at the basis of all the sustainable development goals and that mental health and well-being is a human right. Thus, IAAP is committed to the fact that all issues relate to equity, protection and freedoms due people everywhere regarding their rights and mental health.

Activities at the United Nations by IAAP related to human rights have been diverse and varied, throughout the time of IAAP's accreditation at the United Nations by ECOSOC (the Economic and Social Council) and affiliation with DGS, the Department of Global Communications (formerly, DPI, the Department of Public Information) (<https://iaapsy.org/iaap-and-the-united-nations/>).

Following a broad definition of the term "human rights," these activities include presentations, conferences, workshops, statements, and advocacy related to all the issues currently outlined in the United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in its 17 goals. These goals include the eradication of poverty, the empowerment of women and girls, preservation of the environment, decent work, prevention and recovery from climate-related disasters, ensuring peaceful societies, and promoting mental health and well-being. The term further envelops all the issues related to equities, protections and freedoms due people everywhere, including human rights and mental health of all persons at-risk and vulnerable, and in the context of disaster and conflict.

The team's work is guided primarily by three documents.

(1) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Issues of human rights relevant to IAAP's work are referenced in the important document, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. These references include, specifically, Article 2 on Overcoming Discrimination to Realize Human Rights and Dignity for All; Human Rights and Human Security, referenced in the preamble; Human Rights Education and Learning as a Way of Life, also noted in the preamble; and Addressing Gross Human Rights Violations: Prevention and Accountability, as affirmed in article 28..

(2) Mental Health and the UN Human Rights Council

IAAP's efforts are also guided by the historic resolution on *Mental Health and Human Rights* adopted by the UN Human Rights Council, *to eliminate all forms of discrimination, stigma, violence and abuses in the context of mental health and [provide] access to people-centered services*.

In a major step, this important resolution on *Mental Health and Human Rights* was adopted on 1 July 2016, by the UN Human Rights Council. The effort was led by the Missions of Portugal and Brazil to the UN, with support by many countries. The resolution highlights: (i) that "persons with mental health conditions or psychosocial disabilities, in particular persons using mental health services, may be subject to, *inter alia*, widespread discrimination, stigma, prejudice, violence, social exclusion and segregation, unlawful or arbitrary institutionalization, over-medicalization and treatment practices that fail to respect their autonomy, will and preferences," and (ii) "the need for States to take active steps to fully integrate a human rights perspective into mental health and community services, particularly with a view to eliminating all forms of violence and discrimination within that context, and to promote the right of everyone to full inclusion and effective participation in society." The resolution provides considerable impetus to address human rights in mental health and also signals a commitment by countries to achieve this. It builds on the "Quality Rights" campaign launched several years ago, at an event which IAAP's UN representative Judy Kuriansky attended and reported on. See: <http://www.humnews.com/humnews/2012/8/6/saving-the-world-from-madness-report.html>.

Resolution text

Language of UN resolution is typically in long sentences with many points linked together and substantiated by past agreements (as in legal documents).

The text of the resolution on *Mental Health and Human Rights* indicates:

The General Assembly resolution A/HRC/36/L.25, of the thirty-sixth session 11–29 September 2017 of the Human Rights Council on the “Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development,” guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all relevant international human rights treaties, in particular, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reaffirmed the Human Rights Council resolution 32/18 of 1 July 2016 on mental health and human rights and its resolutions on the rights of persons with disabilities as well as the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and emphasizing that mental health is an integral part of that right; welcomes the SDGs including Goal 3 (on ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages), and its specific and interlinked targets and its close interlinkages with Goal 1 (on eradicating poverty) and Goal 10 (on reducing inequalities); underscores that the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all contributes to the efforts to implement the SDGs, while recognizing that discrimination, stigma, corruption, violence and abuse present major obstacles; and recognizes the need to protect, promote and respect all human rights in the global response to mental health-related issues, stressing that mental health and community services should integrate a human rights perspective so as to avoid any harm to persons using them and to respect their dignity, integrity, choices and inclusion in the community; recalls the definition of health according to the Constitution of the World Health Organization as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, as well as the leadership of WHO in the field of health and also its work to integrate a human rights perspective into mental health, and the commitment of States to achieve this through the implementation of the Organization’s Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020; urges the need to take all appropriate measures to ensure access to mental health and community services that are gender-sensitive, given that women and girls with mental health conditions or psychosocial disabilities at all ages face increased vulnerability to violence, abuse, discrimination and negative stereotyping; urges States [and all stakeholders] to take active steps to fully integrate a human rights perspective into mental health and community services, and to adopt, implement, update, strengthen or monitor, as appropriate, all existing laws, policies and practices, with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination, stigma, prejudice, violence, abuse, social exclusion and segregation within that context, and to promote the right of persons with mental health conditions or psychosocial disabilities to full inclusion and effective participation in society, on an equal basis with others.

(3) The Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists

Ensuring human rights requires following ethical principles. IAAP past-President Janel Gauthier took the lead in drafting The Universal Declaration of Ethical Principles for Psychologists, that was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly of the International Union of Psychological Science in Berlin on July 22, 2008, and by the Board of Directors of IAAP in Berlin on July 26, 2008. The Preamble states that, given that ethics is at the moral core of every discipline, this *Declaration* guides and inspires psychologists worldwide toward the highest ethical ideals in their professional and scientific work, and reaffirms the commitment of the psychology community to help build a better world where peace, freedom, responsibility, justice, humanity, and morality prevail.

Other commitments

Given appreciation for human rights, IAAP is committed to raise public consciousness about prioritizing mental health in development; advocating for all individuals of all ages to have the right to realize their full potential for physical and mental health; working towards the eradication of stigma; and facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships in these efforts. In connection with these goals, IAAP explores application methodologies, e.g., the use of media and new technologies to promote human rights.

In all these efforts to promote human rights, IAAP joins other psychology NGOs, as described in a chapter in *The Cambridge Handbook of Psychology and Human Rights* that gives an overview of the history of activities of psychology organizations in human rights, and profiles IAAP as well as other psychology NGOs.

Support for the Relationship of Human Rights to Goal 3 of the UN Agenda 2030

That human rights is integrally related to Goal 3 on Health and Well-being in the UN Agenda 2030 was emphasized in the event on “Healthy lives, well-being and the human right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,” the second meeting in a planned series of events entitled “Dialogues on SDGs and Human Rights: Building Synergies and Sharing Good Practices,” organized to explore the inter-linkages between human rights and the SDGs. The event, held on 24 October 2017 at UN NYC headquarters, co-sponsored by the Missions of Chile, Ecuador, and South Africa to the UN, and organized by OHCHR in partnership with WHO, addressed the questions “What can human rights bring to SDG implementation, particularly in the health sector?” “How do the SDGs, including SDG 3 on ‘ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages’ relate to the human right to health?” “Could paying closer attention to the inter-linkages between SDGs and human rights deliver better results and contribute to ensuring that no one is left behind?” Speakers affirmed that SDG 3 is closely interrelated with “the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”, enshrined by Member States in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as well as in the Constitution of the World Health Organization which states that “the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being without distinction of race, religion, political belief, economic or social condition”. Speakers also focused on the human rights contribution to ensuring no one is left behind, including in relation to the Global Strategy on women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health, and to ensuring universal health coverage and access to medicines.

It is important to know which countries and officials support this issue, in order to know with whom to connect for advocacy. The speakers at this event included H.E. Ambassador Mr. Horacio Sevilla Borja, Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the UN; Mr. Ephraim Leshala Mminele, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN; Ms. Kate Gilmore, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights; Dr. Nata Menabde, Executive Director of the WHO Office at the United Nations; and Dr. Dainius Pūras, Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. A summary was given by Mr. Andrew Gilmour, Assistant Secretary General of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Meetings and conferences

IAAP has co-sponsored and participated in many meetings on the topic of human rights. Some of these are presented below.

Psychology Day at the UN on Human Rights

IAAP was a co-sponsor with other PCUN members of the Third Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations, on the topic of “Psychology and Diplomacy: Negotiating for Peace And Human Rights.” Held on 4 February 2010, the event was chaired by then-IAAP UN representative Peter Walker, who introduced the keynote speaker, Harvey Langholtz, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at the College of William & Mary and Executive Director of the Peace Operations Training Institute, who spoke on the topic of “The Psychology of Peacekeeping.” IAAP UN representative Kuriansky, who also serves as Psychosocial Director of U.S. Doctors for Africa, having just returned from the mission for psychosocial support in Haiti after the devastating earthquake in January, spoke on the topic of “Mobilizing Humanitarian Access and Aid: Examples of Models and Methods.” IAAP UN representative Florence Denmark served as co-coordinator of the planning committee and made opening remarks.

IAAP UN representatives speak at Psychology Day at the UN on Human Rights



(left to right): Harvey Langholtz with IAAP UN reps Wismick Jean-Charles, Peter Walker, Florence Denmark and Judy Kuriansky

The NGO Conference on Human Rights

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) - originally signed in Paris, France - the 61st annual conference of NGOs affiliated with the United Nations Department of Public Information, was held in Paris in September 3-5, 2008, at the headquarters of UNESCO (the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), with the title of *Reaffirming Human Rights for All: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 60*. IAAP co-sponsored a comprehensive panel on human rights and mental health, entitled “*International Community Mental Health Education: Human Rights Based Grassroots and Professional Models*,” co-organized by IAAP UN representative Judy Kuriansky with fellow board members of the UN NGO Committee on Mental Health.

DPI/NGO Conference on Human Rights Paris, France 2008



Seated: Jan Wetzel, IAAP's Dr. Judy Kuriansky (back row, left to right): Dr. Tara Pir, Judith Heistein, Dr. Waseem Alladin, Rene Stockman, IAAP's Dr. Janel Gauthier

Papers based on the presentations at the panel were collated, with additional chapters, into a special edition of the *Journal of Counseling Psychology*, co-edited by Kuriansky and the journal's Editor-in-Chief Dr. Waseem Alladin. This special issue presents groundbreaking and exceptional models developed and implemented by mental health professionals concerning grassroots and professional mental health education and service projects focused on promoting human rights. Chapters describe models of *Grassroots & Professional Community Mental Health Education Models of Human Rights* from all regions of the world, that focus on multiculturalism, ethics, multi-dimensional clinical services, cross-cultural community cooperation, youth activism, educating youth about tolerance, developing courses in human rights, and preserving human rights post-disaster. The special issue is unique in that it covers a wide spectrum of the topic of human rights and mental health, including theoretical underpinnings, ethical considerations and approaches, youth participation, and the application of myriad formats, including service delivery and use of multi-media like art, design and film. The models serve as excellent examples of collaborations, that are capable of being replicated and adapted with diverse populations in varied settings and across diverse cultures.

A chapter about the activities of the Brothers of Charity by its Superior General Dr. René Stockman, describes their work with marginalized and disadvantaged people in North and South America, Africa, Asia, Europe and Oceania since 1807, and their human-rights based methods focused on principles about international equality -- abandoning all signs and attitudes linked to paternalism, colonialism and superiority from any countries -- and developing local structures and partnerships.

In another chapter, IAAP then-President Dr. Janel Gauthier describes an international Code of Ethics for psychology that he was instrumental in developing with colleagues from the International Union of Psychological Science, using the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a template.

A 9-dimensional model, an *Ethno-Bio-Psychosocial-Spiritual Human Rights Model for Educating Community Counselors Globally*, developed by Alladin, represents a two-tiered human rights approach. Tier 1 places human rights within the client-centered counseling approach and humanistic values of (1) unconditional positive self-regard, (2) compassion, and (3) empathy; and Tier 2 honors human rights in the context of common spiritual values drawn from major world religions, pledging to do no harm in dealing with others and respecting the dignity of others and their way of being and relating in a global world.

Other chapters addressed related topics. A multi-cultural center addresses eliminating disparity in mental health service delivery, implemented at the Multicultural Counseling & Educational Services in Los Angeles, California, founded by Iranian psychologist Dr. Tara Pir. A model for psychologists of cultural perspectives on child trafficking,

human rights and social justice, was presented by Rita Chi-Ying Chung. The context and consequences of diversity in a global era were described by psychologist Anthony Marsella. Programs of the Global Youth Connect were outlined that provide services to youth (ages 14-30), who are considered “the next generation of human rights activists,” from a wide range of ethnic, national, economic and religious backgrounds, with opportunities to take action on pressing human rights issues through experiential training and workshops, skills development in grassroots organizing, conflict transformation and leadership, and experience in human rights work. Also, a chapter about mental health as a human right in the context of recovery after disaster and conflict, was written by Global Mental Health and Psychosocial Advisor for the International Medical Corps psychologist, Inka Weissbecker.

Chapters also describe programs about human rights education, that is an increasingly emerging field. This includes a model using media, e.g., cinema and popular television series, to teach about bioethics and human rights, developed by University of Buenos Aires psychology professor Juan Jorge Michel Fariña. Challenges of teaching ethics to future psychologists in a developing country was described by University of São Paulo college professor Julieta Quayle. A model design education and public outreach project in California is described by Mariana Amatullo, featuring students’ renditions of images of human rights. And a unique program is outlined that teaches human rights to young people in Mexico, developed by human rights activist Sergio Kopeliovich, called Journeys for Peace, whereby youth meet with world leaders, and do community service projects.

Youth participation and perceptions, that is increasingly valued and emphasized at the UN, was evident at this NGO conference on Human Rights, including through the International Student Journalism Program, co-founded and directed by Kuriansky. Students from around the world (e.g., Venezuela, Cameroon, Canada, Moldova), majoring in various disciplines, including psychology as well as political science, international relations, and journalism, covered the conference workshops and events in various media. A youth from Saudi Arabia covered panels about disabled women’s human rights, information about which she intended to bring back to her country. A Roosevelt University clinical psychology master’s degree student, Natalie J. Hall, reported about cross-cultural issues and psychology undergraduate student Helene Ganser focused on cultural diversity. The human rights issue that particularly captured the students’ attention was about “*Child Brides: Stolen Lives*,” with panelists relaying personal stories of abuse. Some students expressed frustration about little positive change that was happening in human rights despite international resolutions, for example, Security Council Resolution 1820 that confronts sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, and that states that rape during war constitutes a war crime and a crime against humanity, and that demands that all parties in armed conflict protect civilians, including specifically women and girls, from all forms of sexual violence. One psychology student specifically noted the importance of personalizing human rights, consistent with social identity theory that personalizing the “other” facilitates resolving conflict. Consistent with the moral edit that “For every right there is a corresponding responsibility,” the youth committed to become global citizens and to be leaders in promoting human rights on their campuses and in their communities, through methods like launching websites, writing statements, and speaking out human rights.

Rights of Specific Constituencies

IAAP activities have supported the rights of various groups. Some of these are described below.

Human Rights of the Aged

IAAP UN representative Florence Denmark has been active regarding the rights of the ageing. She holds leadership positions in the NGO Committee on Ageing and co-organizes the International Day of Older Persons held at UN NYC headquarters.

Denmark served as discussant at an event on “*Mental health, emergency medicine and human rights: ageing in a world of all ages*” in February 2009, in commemoration of the International Year of Reconciliation. The event was co-sponsored by the NGO Committee on Ageing and the NGO Committee on Human Rights, as well as the Committee on Mental Health Working Groups on Racism, Related Intolerances and Mental Health, and the Working Group on Children, Youth and Mental Health. The program explored new ways to realize “*Human Rights for All*” in the 21st century by turning attention to the relationship between mental health, emergency medicine, human rights and ageing in a world of all ages. Panelists included Craig Mokhiber, who is in the important position of Deputy to the Director in the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Rights of Youth

IAAP co-sponsored a side event at the Civil Society DPI/NGO conference in August 2015, about “*Youth and Mental Health at the UN*,” organized by Kuriansky who also spoke on the panel. Highlighting youth rights to mental health, the IAAP-sponsored video was shown about “*Youth and Mental Health: youth and UN Ambassadors Speak Out*,” written and produced by Kuriansky and edited by IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou, that is referred to in another article in this issue about IAAP’s contributions to Mental Health; see: <https://bit.ly/2HXvr83>. Ambassador Otto of the Mission of Palau to the UN also spoke, emphasizing the need for attention to youth depression given such high statistics about this problem, as well as the daily stress that youth face in countries around the world. Attention to these issues, he said, is a matter of human rights.

IAAP youth representatives reports about Human Rights

Engaging youth in attending events about the human rights is an essential goal of IAAP, to introduce young people to how they can contribute to the world, and to insure the future of psychology at the UN. Writing reports about events they attend is a valuable way to help them focus on the issues. More about youth participation is in the article about youth in this issue. Examples of youth participation specifically in human rights include the following. IAAP youth representative, Janell Lin, a Smith College student, reported on “*Youth Can Make A Global Impact--14th annual International Human Rights Summit*” held at United Nations NY Headquarters, organized by Youth for Human Rights International, a global non-profit organization with 150 chapters worldwide, aiming to “advocate for tolerance and peace through education on the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

A session on “*Leadership and Community Activism*” with youth, included a music video of “Myself is Who I Am” by youth Sophia Angelica whose work in human rights and youth has been promoted by IAAP at the UN, given her song’s theme of self-acceptance, anti-bullying and spreading human rights awareness. Another youth, Malika Kanatbek Kyzy, presented her photography project, “*Life in Silence*,” about rural girls in Kyrgyzstan who suffer from infringement of their rights due to traditions, e.g., early marriage, unreported bride kidnapping, domestic violence, sexual harassment and violence, and human trafficking, using art for visual perception to reveal social problems and make people aware of human rights. Another youth, Emmy Coffey-Nguwen, who is an International Spokesperson and Project Officer of Sport Against Racism, Ireland, shared her experience of racism during team sport at secondary school due to her mix-racial heritage. Tatiana Gibilondo talked about the use of children’s songs to inspire happiness, tolerance, and understanding among diverse community.

Several youth IAAP representatives who attended IAAP Judy Kuriansky’s class about “Psychology and the United Nations” at Columbia University Teachers College, reported about human rights meetings and sessions. A report about an event on “*Mental Health and Human Rights: Debating the Future of the Biomedical Model: A Conversation with the United Nations Special Rapporteur*” held at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, written by Joanne O.S. Qina’au, featured the presentation of psychiatrist Dr. Dainius Pūras, the third United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. Rapporteurs are unpaid independent experts; in this case, who are appointed by the Human Rights Council to analyze and report on a human rights theme. Pūras presented about his 21-page 2017 report, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health*, including that mental health is “coming out of the shadows,” but three impediments are: (1) power asymmetries, (2) excessive use of the biomedical model with overuse of pharmaceuticals, and (3) the biased use of knowledge and evidence that leads to exclusion, discrimination, stigma, violence, excess medication, and helplessness, and hidden violations of the civil rights of patients. Another speaker, Melissa Arbuckle, MD, PhD, who is an Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, pointed out that access to health care is a human rights issue around the globe. Human rights advocate Celia Brown, who is a former member-at-large of the NGO Committee on Mental Health at the United Nations, described how she overcame mental health problems in spite of over-medicalization in the psychiatric treatment that she considered abusive, citing the 2006 United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities with its 50 articles “to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.”. Psychologist Adeyinka Akinsulure-Smith, a psychologist and Associate Professor the City College of New York, originally from Sierra Leone, called for repeal of the 1902 Lunacy Act in Sierra Leone that stigmatizes and ostracizes people suffering from mental health concerns.

Student IAAP member Han Lim Kim reported on a parallel event at the 2017 UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61) on “*Private sector, development agenda and women’s human rights: synergies or contradictions?*” held on 20 March 2017, at UN NYC headquarters. In light of the rising role of the private sector in public projects, speakers discussed public private partnerships and its impact on country-level policies, international funding and finance institutes, and implications for women’s rights. For country perspectives, H.E. Ms. Helena Yáñez Loza, Deputy Permanent Representative to the Mission of Ecuador to the UN and H.E. Ms. Cristina Carrión, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Uruguay to the UN, described examples of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in their countries and their impact on the country economy and human rights. The latter highlighted her country’s extension of maternal and parental leave, based on the priority her country has placed, since 2008, on reducing the gender gap, with tax reform, and economic and labor policies that promote gender equality, as well as that encourage the involvement of civil society. Senior Policy Analyst from Third World Network, Ms. Bhumika Muchhala, exposed private-public funding practices that disadvantage the economic and human rights development of developing countries. Another speaker, Dr. Corina Rodríguez Enríquez, an Executive Committee Member for the Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, (DAWN), a network of feminist scholars, researchers and activists from the economic South working for economic and gender justice and sustainable and democratic development, challenged the notion that public and private ventures benefit women’s rights, noting the emphasis on profit, and urged the need for governance and accountability especially with regard to women’s rights. The moderator, Ms. Maria Graciela Cuervo, also representing DAWN, posed the questions, “What does private sector involvement in the public sector mean for women’s human rights?” and “Is the current structure of global governance able to monitor corporates compliance with human rights obligations?”

Human Rights of other groups

The human rights of Women and Girls, Migrants and Refugees and of Disabled Persons are covered in other articles on these groups in this special issue. Human rights and drug treatment and prevention is covered in the article in this issue by the Vienna UN IAAP team.

The Way Forward

The IAAP team intends to continue participation in, and advocacy about, human rights in events at the United Nations and elsewhere, consistent with the mission of the United Nations, and of IAAP and the psychology community at the UN.



Peace and Justice at the United Nations

Activities and Contributions of the IAAP New York Team

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

Besides human rights, the other pillar on which the United Nations was founded is peace, Goal 16 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Formed after WWII, the UN was dedicated to prevent future such conflicts. Representatives of the International Association of Applied Psychology at the United Nations in New York have been active on the topic of peace, participating in, and co-organizing, events about peace, and the related topic of interfaith harmony that is essential in order to achieve peace.

The importance of a mindset approach to peace is evident in the UNESCO Constitution that, “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” A stone with this inscription, in many languages, stands in the garden at UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

DPI/NGO conferences

IAAP’s involvement in peace in UN activities dates back to a workshop at the UN DPI/NGO annual conference in September 2005, on “*Achieving collective security: Partnerships to prevent fear, violence, genocide and terrorism through targeting the MDG goals*”. The event was co-moderated by IAAP’s Kuriansky, with Reichman serving as a discussant, and reporting in detail about the conference for the IAAP Bulletin January 2006 issue. The workshop concept addressed efforts related to the Secretary General’s report “*In Larger Freedom*,” focused on preventing fear and promoting security through human rights education. Speakers called for zero tolerance for violence and no longer thinking of “us” and “them”. Kuriansky emphasized a shift from weapons and war including through initiatives like the “*Hope not Hate*” campaign, involving town halls, campus discussions, and videoconferences targeted to youth on improving relationship between the West and Islamic world, founded by panelist Seth Green’s American for Informed Democracy after the 9’11 terror attacks, as well as by grassroots education and services that reduce people’s suffering, stress, anger and depression that leads to violence.

His Excellency Stanislas Kamanzi, then-Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Rwanda to the United Nations, a country that suffered genocide, called for sustained political will to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide that stipulates the necessity for international co-operation to liberate the mankind from the odious scourge of genocide. He also called for overcoming “complacency” in the name of unconditional subscription to national sovereignty, where the international community “simply closes its eyes and leaves those crises up to the affected countries or to some hegemony controlling those countries,” including in the Security Council and at the UN, which he pointed out that happened at the time of his country’s crisis.

The DPI/NGO conference on Disarmament

In 2009, IAAP co-sponsored a workshop at the UN DPI/NGO conference on “*DISARM NOW: For Peace and Development*” held in Mexico City in 2009. The workshop was entitled, “*Abolishing Tools of War and Creating Projects for Peace: Models of Citizen Activism for Psycho-social Health of Communities Now and in the Future.*” Moderated by IAAP’s UN representative Judy Kuriansky, panelists included youth speaking about their peace projects, from the Journeys for Peace NGO in Mexico and from the World Association of Girl Scouts and Girls Guides, as well as by a representative from Landmine Action speaking about disarmament. IAAP representative Russell Daisey, an international composer and musician, led the attendees in an original peace anthem co-written by Kuriansky called “*Stand Up for Peace*” (see: <https://youtu.be/rO8sm8fgFI>). Their Stand Up for Peace Project also performed a special peace concert on the night before the conference opening, also featuring Japanese rock star and peace activist Shinji Harada, and a local youth choir.

During this conference, in a major effort, students reported on the entire conference, as part of a student journalism program from the Department of Public Information/NGO Relations that replicated a real news operation. This program was co-developed by Kuriansky, who also served as news director, assisted by Daisey, in supervising students from around the world who applied and were accepted to come to the conference and cover the events. These were published in a special edition newsletter produced by the students with all the reports, at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eCUJw2ToOsMrV_RR8diV5-wwUCdGyVhT/view?usp=sharing.

Partnerships for Peace

Another IAAP co-sponsored workshop addressed the topic of “*Model Partnerships for Youth: Education, Business and Technology Projects to Further Peace, Well-being, Community Action and Resilience*” which featured youth panelists presenting about student initiatives. These included an Alliance for Indigenous Nations in the Amazon, supporting lifestyles consistent with UN-defined sustainability; an MIT student project teaching computer science to high school students in the Middle East; and a teen group building schools in Africa. Held in 2011, the workshop also featured a performance of the peace anthem “Stand Up for Peace” and ended with a peace flag ceremony. In this ceremony, participants at the workshop choose flags of various countries, and come to the front of the group one by one, declaring, “May peace be in (mentioning the country name).”

DISARM Now DPI/NGO Conference in Mexico Panel and Concert



Peace and Education

In 2018, on 30 May, in United Nations Headquarters, IAAP co-sponsored the event “*Sustaining Peace and Conflict Prevention Through Multi Track Education and Initiatives for the Culture of Peace and SDGs*,” in partnership with The New York City Peace Museum, the Inter Parliamentary Coalition for Global Ethics and Religions in Dialogue, and the World Council for Psychotherapy.

The Culture of Peace

The UN holds important annual events to commemorate the Culture of Peace and the International Day of Peace. These have been attended and reported by IAAP representatives. Themes for the 2102 celebration of the Culture of Peace, established in UN resolution 53/243, were outlined by the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser from Qatar, centered around the “light of peace.” These included that, (1) All sectors of society must be engaged, with civil society taking a primary role, including parents, teachers, interfaith religious leaders and artists; (2) Youth and women must be at the forefront and in full participation; (3) Education is the focus, with peace education essential; (4) Everyone should do one action of peace; and that (5) Peace and development go hand in hand. H.E. Ambassador Jean-Francois Zinsou of the Mission of the Republic of Benin to the UN, and father of IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou, emphasized the essential need for spirituality and democracy within an ongoing standing objective of peace.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson recalled that former UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold, who tragically died in plane crash, favored evening gatherings and listening to music as pathways to intimate understanding of peace. To achieve peace, he said, “Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something.” Eliasson noted that he always carried a copy of the Charter of the UN in his pocket.

H.E. Ambassador Chowdhury, former Permanent Representative of the Mission of Bangladesh to the UN, referred to the importance of psychology in saying, “We are looking into the psychology of teaching children about peace. Children must grow up with peace. Instead of giving toy guns to children, give them peace toys...and teach them to spell peace.” Deputy Executive Director of UN Women Lakshmi Puri made an impassioned appeal to recognize the role of women and girls as agents of sustainable peace. Actor and, peace activist Forest Whitaker launched his Peace Earth Foundation that focuses on “peace-building and community empowerment in areas of conflict,” with projects in South Sudan and Uganda, that latter with which he is familiar, given his 2006 portrayal of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in the film, *The Last King of Scotland*.

For those events, an advocacy statement was prepared by members of PCUN about “*Psychological Contributions to Building Cultures of Sustainable Peace*.” Copies were handed out by Kuriansky to attendees at two major meetings about peace at UN headquarters in New York, namely, the General Assembly High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace held 14 September 2012 and the High-Level Debate at the United Nations on the Occasion of

the International Day of Peace, including to the newly elected President of the General Assembly, the Deputy Secretary-General, UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador/actor Forest Whitaker, and former President of Mexico Leonel Fernández. Such statements and their distribution are an essential part of effective advocacy.

On 14 February 2013, an event was held entitled “*United for a Culture of Peace Through Interfaith Harmony*” at the General Assembly Hall, with speakers, prayers by religious leaders, songs by the Junior Four Chorus of the United Nations International School, and a World Peace Flag Ceremony. IAAP’s Mahroo Moshari, founder of the Manhattan Multicultural Counseling Center, was part of the Religious NGOs Planning Team.

A public forum about terrorism was co-sponsored by IAAP, held at Fordham University on 1 August 2017, entitled “*How can the USA best deter world terrorism by better understanding and reducing ‘radicalization’ of ‘homegrown’ terrorists?*” Organized by Fordham professor and PCUN member Harold Takooshian, the event featured former UN Ambassador of Iraq Hamid Al-Bayati, whose new book, “*A New Counterterrorism Strategy: Why the World Failed to Stop Al Qaeda and ISIS/ISIL, and How to Defeat Terrorists*” was edited by Kuriansky as part of her Praeger Publisher’s series on Practical and Applied Psychology. The strategy includes references to the importance of understanding the psychology of terrorists, and of combatting the public fear they purposefully attempt to incite. Panelists included Karen Lynne Kennedy Mahmoud from the United Nations’ Secretariat Iraq desk and IAAP’s Kuriansky who spoke about how to counteract the psychological impact of terrorism.

All these activities are in alignment with the new IAAP Task Force on Terrorism and Peacebuilding, created in 2016 by then-IAAP President Janel Gauthier, to understand the sources and approaches to violence and its prevention. The task force, chaired by IAAP Division 6 President Maria Paz Garcia-Vera, with Kuriansky appointed as a consultant, has the ongoing support of IAAP President Christine Roland-Lévy (see: <https://iaapsy.org/policies-initiatives/task-force-on-terrorism/>).

In January 2011, IAAP’s Kuriansky received the ‘Friends of the UN’ Award for Lifetime Achievement in Global Peace and Tolerance. The ceremony took place during the 8th Annual United Nations Youth Assembly at UN headquarters in New York.

Middle East Peace

With the Middle East being one of the central regions needing peace, IAAP UN representatives have been involved in events related to Israeli-Palestinian rapport and reconciliation, putting aside political issues and concentrating on the common goals of both cultures, namely, a better life for their children and the need for peace.

Activities date back to 2009, when Kuriansky spoke at a conference organized by youth activist and leader Raymond Ratti, who founded Transformative Global Learning, an organization devoted to peace between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, his homeland. Meetings were held during a model UN for youth, chronicled in an article about “*Moving Forward: A Renewed Approach to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*” published in an APA Division newsletter. Copies of two books edited by Kuriansky have been used in advocacy with UN delegates, and given to them complimentary, to highlight the psychological contributions to resolving the conflict, instead of just focusing on political debate, entitled, *Terror in the Holy Land: Inside the Anguish of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. <http://www.abc-clio.com/Praeger/product.aspx?pc=D9727C> and “*Beyond Bullets and Bombs: Grassroots peacebuilding between Israelis and Palestinians*” <https://www.amazon.com/Beyond-Bullets-Bombs-Peacebuilding-Palestinians/dp/0275998800>.

Japanese- American Rapport

IAAP has also contributed to rapport between Japan and America. For example, at the UN DPI/NGO conference on disarmament held in Mexico, described above, IAAP’s Kuriansky and youth representative Julianne Casey presented a poster in the exhibit hall on “*Global Harmony*,” outlining innumerable related activities at the UN and in the public arena. IAAP has been represented at many events for such global harmony, including at annual commemorations, held in the United Nations Church Center including one with a Hibaku piano that survived the atomic bomb during WWII, as well as at events at other churches, and at Floating Lantern ceremonies on Manhattan’s West Side piers, with interfaith leaders. IAAP has also maintained close relations with the Japanese mission at the United Nations, in activities described in the article about disaster in this issue, including Tsunami Awareness Day at the UN, and especially given that IAAP’s Kuriansky and Daisey conducted a healing mission in Sendai after the tsunami/earthquake (see video at: <https://bit.ly/2LXh8CY>). Also, Kuriansky has been teaching

about psychosocial resilience for the Higashi Nippon International University, in courses organized by noted environment expert, Professor Yasuo Onishi, focusing on the 3 E's for recovery, that echo the United Nations pillars: Economic Recovery, and Environmental Reconstruction as well as Emotional resilience.

Plot for Peace

In recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom, the UN General Assembly declared 18 July as "Nelson Mandela International Day". UN Resolution [A/RES/64/13](#) recognizes Mandela's values and his dedication to the service of humanity in many areas. These include conflict resolution, race relations, promotion and protection of human rights, reconciliation, gender equality and the rights of children and other vulnerable groups, the fight against poverty, and the promotion of social justice. The UN resolution acknowledges Mandela's contribution to the struggle for democracy internationally and the promotion of a culture of peace throughout the world.

While much is known about the anti-apartheid movement, less is known about an important figure who helped bring this about. A film, called "Plot for Peace," about this Frenchman's heroic efforts, was screened at the UN with a discussion moderated by IAAP's Kuriansky. The special guest for the event was the very man featured in the film, Jean Yves Olivier. The film chronicles his little-known but definitely important role in major world events that contributed to peace in Angola, Namibia, and South Africa, as well as in the release of Nelson Mandela, the end of apartheid, and even the end of the Cold War. See: <http://www.plotforpeace.com/>.

The special event was held at the United Nations on the evening of 26 May 2015. The forum was hosted by Ambassador Raymond-Serge Balé of the Mission of Congo-Brazzaville to the UN. Many attendees were exceptionally moved by Olivier's courage and persistence in very sensitive negotiations.

Building Bridges Across Boundaries

Under the umbrella theme of *Building Bridges Across Boundaries*, a title conceived by Kuriansky, IAAP has co-sponsored many side events. Many events on this theme have been co-sponsored with the United African Congress (UAC), particularly focused on interfaith harmony and cultural diversity that is essential to achieve peace.

Cultural Diversity and interfaith Harmony

In order to achieve peace, appreciation of cultural diversity is essential. As such, IAAP co-sponsored a side event at the United Nations on 22 May 2017, with the Missions of Jamaica and Ethiopia to the UN, UAC and the Give Them a Hand Foundation (a humanitarian organization of UN staff) to commemorate the World Day of Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, declared by UN General Assembly resolution 57/249. This event was an opportunity to deepen the understanding of the value of cultural diversity and to advance the goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted in October 2005. Given that 2017 was the year of Sustainable Tourism for Development, the conference theme was "*Local Culture as a Driver for Economic Growth*," combining culture, tourism and the promotion of local business. Panelists included the Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of Ethiopia to the UN, H.E. Ambassador Mahlet Haiku Guadey; Director of the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York, Ms. Marie Paule Roudil; human rights lawyer Jenifer Rajkumar, who is Director of Immigration Affairs and Special Counsel in the Office of New York State Governor Andrew L. Cuomo; and Hanifa D. Mezoui, PhD, then-Senior Advisor of Humanitarian Affairs and Civil Society of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

The second panel, moderated by IAAP's Kuriansky, presented examples of culture and arts that promote economic growth while also build the community. These included a unique concept of country style community tourism, called "Villages as Businesses," pioneered in Jamaica, whereby villages become important hubs of economic growth within the tourism sector. Other speakers were the Senior Officer of the UN WTO liaison office in New York, Mr. Sarbuland Khan, as well as ProjectArts' Grace McDonald who talked about arts education, and HRH Princess Dr. Nisreen El Hashemite, the Executive Director of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust and granddaughter of King Hussein, the first King of Iraq and founder of the Modern State of Iraq, who described her Science program for girls. Mine Anlar of World of Travel described tourism in Turkey and Italian artist Grimanesa Amores showed her unique art using light to reflect culture, which is exhibited around the world.

Interfaith Harmony

IAAP has co-sponsored major events held at the United Nations for World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), in 2016 and in 2019, in collaboration with the United African Congress. These events have included panelists from diverse range of faiths – including Catholic, Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist -- as well as cultural performances. IAAP's Kuriansky has both co-produced both and co-moderated the panels. In 2016, prayers in the various traditions were offered. See article and photos:

http://blacktiemagazine.com/rose-billings/World_Interfaith_Harmony_Week_2016.htm#sthash.TkkS9hXQ.dpuf.

The World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), conceived to promote a culture of peace and nonviolence, was first proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan at the United Nations in 2010 and adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution (A/RES/65/5) declaring the first week of February each year as World Interfaith Harmony Week, calling on governments, institutions and civil society to observe it with various programs and initiatives that would promote union in the quest to love and support one another to live in harmony and peace in an environmentally sustainable world.

As said by the Chairperson of the United African Congress, our partner in this series of events, Gordon Tapper, "Our world continues to be beset by conflict and intolerance with rising number of refugees and the internally displaced persons in a hostile and unwelcoming world. Sadly, we are also witnessing actions and messages of hate spreading discord among people. The need for spiritual guidance has never been greater. It is imperative that we escalate, efforts to spread the message of love and harmony based on our common humanity, a message shared by all faith traditions."

A video produced by Kuriansky about events co-sponsored by IAAP and spearheaded by the United African Congress (UAC) related to interfaith harmony is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7lwJzAWGWOK>.

In 2016, the UN had just launched the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and it was also the year when one of the worst global health emergencies, the Ebola pandemic, was finally coming under control after tragically claiming more than 11,000 lives and crippling livelihoods, mainly in the West African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. IAAP's partner in many events at the UN on multiple topics related to the global goals, the UAC, had been among the first organizations to call attention to the looming health emergency as early as Aug 2014 by holding an awareness-raising forum at the UN followed by a concert in the UN General Assembly Hall in March, 2015. Additionally, IAAP's Kuriansky, also a Trustee of the UAC, had gone to Sierra Leone during the Ebola epidemic to provide psychosocial support to communities devastated by the virus. She subsequently wrote a book about lessons about holistic healing from the epidemic, *The Psychosocial Aspects of a Deadly Epidemic: What Ebola Has Taught Us about Holistic Healing*, and produced several videos, including about working with a burial team and about psychological issues during and after the epidemic, listed in the reference list at the end of this issue.

World Interfaith Harmony Week at the UN Co-sponsored by IAAP



Noting the interconnectedness of the quest for peace and harmony, given such global health emergencies as the Ebola pandemic and given the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the theme for the 2016 WIHW was on the overriding title of *"Building Bridges across Boundaries"*. To underscore the significance of the theme, the group of interfaith speakers was broadened to include a Native American Spiritual leader, a ceremonial ritualist from the Mohawk Nation. His message about the need to protect 'Mother Earth that nurtures and sustains us', imparted through chants and dance, was warmly and widely embraced.

In 2019, already four years into the Sustainable Development Goals, the creative focus of the WIHW event was on the relationship of the goals to achieve interfaith harmony, with the theme, *“The Path to Sustainable Development through Interfaith Harmony.”* The theme was inspired by the recognition that at the core of all the faith systems and traditions is the fact that we are united in our quest to love and support one another to live in harmony and peace in an environmentally sustainable world. The interfaith leaders on two panels addressed the relationship between interfaith harmony and the SDGs of eradicating poverty, empowering women and girls, achieving health for all, disaster recovery, and peace.

The event was held in the largest conference room of the UN headquarters that holds over 600 people, showing how well attended these events are. Attendees are so inspired, that they request these events to continue, finding the interfaith message of peace and harmony spiritually uplifting, and enjoyable, with people obviously bonding with each other in the room.

The Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations was again the sponsor of this event, as it has been in prior years, as well as with other side events. Ambassador Courteney Rattray gave an inspiring opening speech. True to his engaging nature, he pointed out that the colorful array of the audience’s attire reflects the diversity honored in this event. He appreciated the creative connection of interfaith harmony to the UN agenda of sustainable development, in saying, “It is our responsibility to ensure that interfaith harmony is mainstreamed in the implementation of each of the 17 sustainable development goals.” He noted that every religion has something to contribute to the Agenda, and that, “The recognition of interfaith dialogue is an important contribution for sustainable peace.” A fuller report of this is by one of Kuriansky’s students, Regina Francis, posted on the IAAPsy.org UN website. IAAP’s Kuriansky served as co-moderator with the President of the United Africa Congress, Gordon Tapper.

Fulfilling the aim of the event, panelists very effectively linked interfaith harmony to the specific goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to obtain peace and prosperity for all.

Speaking on Sustainable Development Goal 13, “to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts,” Senior Executive Minister of the The Riverside Church, Reverend Michael Livingston, quoted statistics that by 2030, up to 122 million more people could be forced into extreme poverty due to the effects of climate change; many of them women, so people of faith of all religion must “be on the front line as voices and insist that our government take precedent action to combat climate change.”

Speaking about on Sustainable Develop Goal 1, “to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.” Imam Shamsi Ali, President of the Nusantara Foundation, said we must overcome greed and revive compassion, and that governments must end corruption.

Speaking to Sustainable Development Goal 4 to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all,” Venerable Yu Wang, Buddha’s Light International Association (BLIA), emphasized that education should be inclusive, giving examples of their scout program where youth do community service; their education and vocation program for youth in slums; and their Performing Arts Group that merges traditional Chinese and African dance, song, and instruments, giving South African young women, access to quality, affordable education, while learning Mandarin Chinese and computer literacy.

Speaking on Sustainable Development Goal 5, to “achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls,” Rabbi Alvin Kass, Senior Chaplain of the New York Police Department, said that the best way to teach gender equality is through religious faith because religion is indispensable to life and integrates us into the universe.

In the second panel, speaking on SDG3, *“The Role of Interfaith Harmony in achieving Health and Wellbeing for All,”* Reverend Dionne P. Boissière, Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations and the first woman of African Descent to hold this position, referred to the event theme of building bridges across boundaries, saying, “It is not about building bridges but being a bridge” to oneself and others.

Speaking about SDG 16, and the role of Interfaith Harmony to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.” Swami Sarvapriyananda, Minister and Spiritual Leader of the Vedanta Society of New York, said that, “Peace is a challenge that we are all striving to obtain globally.”



Speaking about SDG10, “The Role of Interfaith Harmony in reducing inequality within and among countries,” Dr. Uma Mysorekar, President of the Hindu Temple Society of North America, and an expert in disabilities, emphasized that, “If we can help each of our communities, we can collectively do a good job of reducing poverty and inequality.”

Speaking about SDG 15, “*The role of Interfaith Harmony in achieving sustainable use of ecosystems and life on land,*” Reverend Dr. T.K. Nakagaki, director and founder of the newly established non-profit organization, Heiwa Peace and Reconciliation Foundation of New York Ltd., a Buddhist priest ordained in the 70-year old Jodoshinshu tradition of Japanese Buddhism, presented the audience with 4 powerful words to achieve beginning with the letter L (1) Listen: we must be open minded and listen to each other; (2) Learning: when you listen you learn; (3) Linking: we are all connected; and (4) Liberate: Once you realize these things, we can liberate ourselves. Moderator Kuriansky noted that another “L” word can be added, namely, “Love,” about which Reverend TK heartily agreed.

Speaking about SDG2, “The role of Interfaith Harmony in ending hunger,” Imam Jaiteh, Founder and President of Omar Mosque, a native of Gambia and Islamic scholar, underscored that there is no lack of resources or ideas, but corruption must be stopped that impedes our efforts.

As is typical of the dramatic events co-sponsored by IAAP and UAC, the event also had performances that reflected diverse cultures. St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church French Choir, located in Harlem in Manhattan, performed after Ambassador Rattray’s opening remarks. In the first performance, a female sang a beautiful solo in French while the choir, wearing traditional African printed skirts, slowly walked up the aisle before arriving to the stage. Children carried baskets of fruit up the aisles to meet the adults. In a second performance, the singers brought the audience to their feet in appreciation of their melodic and strong voices, accompanied by a five-piece band, with drums, guitars and piano. In a spectacular conclusion to the event, the choir sang an original song, accompanied by IAAP’s Russell Daisey and written by him and Kuriansky.

The lyrics of the song, called “One in Faith,” mentioned varied practices by faiths but how all are united. It was sung in English and also in French. As such, it was the perfect way to conclude the evening, underscoring the entire theme of the event, with a rousing and uplifting finale.

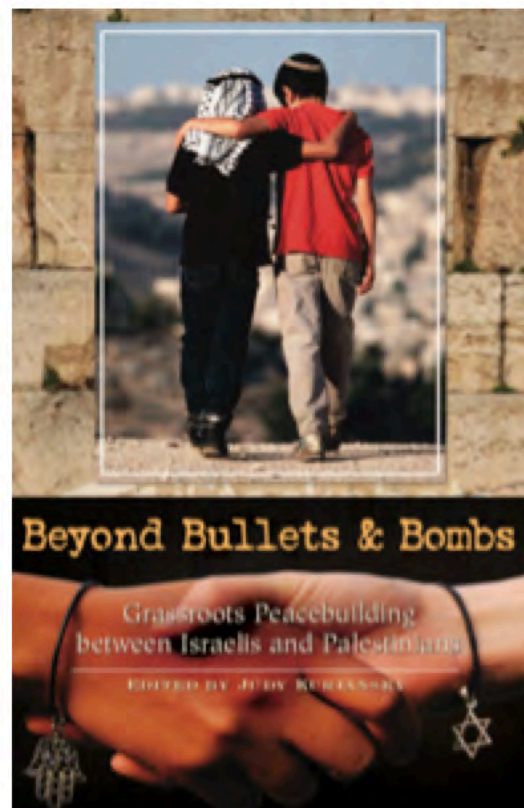
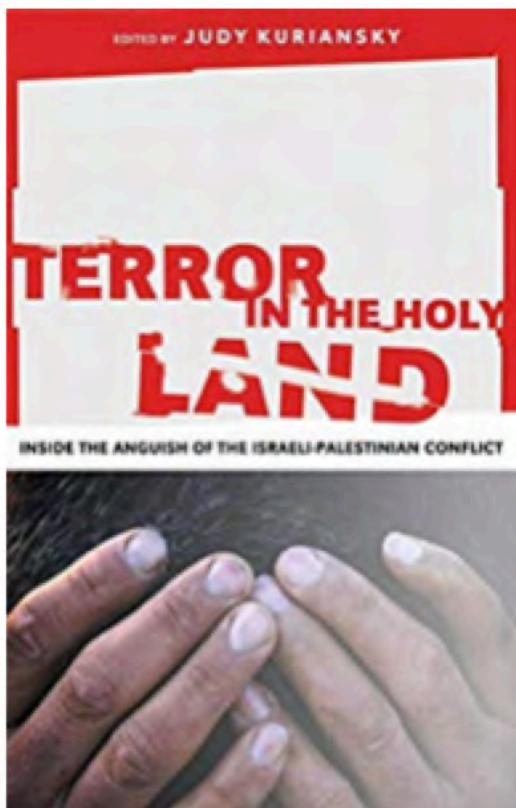
Sample lyrics are:

Your faith, my faith, our faith, ONE IN FAITH.
His faith, her faith, their faith ONE IN FAITH.
Ta foi, Ma foi, Notre foi, Tous unis.
Sa foi, Sa foi, Leur foi, Tous unis.
One, yes we are one, in our humanity.
One, Together as one, in this sacred place.
We commune in different ways in Harmony.
We are one, yes we are One In Faith.
You read the Vedas, and he recites the Quran.
They study the Bible. These Sacred texts our faith is built on.
You go to Varenessi. She journeys to the Wailing Wall.
You pilgrimage to Mecca. These holy sites inspire all.
You pray to Shiva-Shakti. You pray to Yahweh. You pray Allah. And You pray to God.
One yes we are one big family.
We raise our voices prayerfully to you.
We are here, to join our hearts in Harmony.
We are one. Yes we are One In Faith.

@Dr. Judy Kuriansky and Russell Daisey

The Way Forward

The IAAP team will continue to collaborate on events related to the theme of SDG16 about peace, including through participation in events like the International Day of Peace (the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Peace is 21 September 2019) and the International Day of the Culture of Peace; and co-sponsoring and co-organizing events like World Interfaith Harmony Week. IAAP's partner in the latter, the United Africa Congress, plan to do events not just during the official week in February, but throughout the year, on the theme of "Building Bridges Across Boundaries."



Disabled Persons Rights at the United Nations

Activities and Contributions of the IAAP New York team at the United Nations

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

The team representing the International Association of Applied Psychology at the United Nations in New York is active in participating in events and activities at the UN to improve the lives of persons with disabilities and to break the cycle of disability, discrimination and poverty.

For the United Nations, the rights of persons with disabilities, including persons with autism, as enshrined in the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#), is an integral part of its mandate.

Awareness of, and attention to, a wide range of disabilities, as well as specifically autism and Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), has grown worldwide in recent years. World Autism Awareness Day (WAAD) recognized annually on April 2, spotlights challenges faced by people with autism, and others who love them.

Disability is recognized by the World Health Organization as a human rights issue, a global public health issue and a development priority. Statistics show that more than one billion people in the world – about 15% of the global population – live with some form of disability, half of whom cannot afford health care. 1 in 4 people are affected by a mental disorder at some point in their lives, and depression, in particular, will be the leading cause of disability worldwide by 2030. While persons with disabilities report seeking more health care than those without disabilities, they are also more likely to experience barriers to accessing health care and information, due to prohibitive costs, limited services, physical barriers to facilities and equipment, and cultural stigma, leaving them with greater unmet needs. A recent survey of people with serious mental disorders showed that between 35% and 50% of people in developed countries, and between 76% and 85% in developing countries, did not receive needed treatment.

Research shows that mental health and physical disabilities are inextricably linked. Addressing mental as well as physical health in a holistic context is a development issue, critical to the achievement of the SDGs. Since risk for mental health challenges are multi-factorial, responses need to be multi-layered and multidisciplinary, involving research, policy, and practice, in the areas of employment, education, environment, justice, welfare, the arts, and sports. This is necessary in order to increase participation and social connectedness, essential for mental health.

Persons with disabilities need quality health care that is accessible, affordable and available. This has to be accomplished through policy and legislation, financing, service delivery, human resources, supported by data and research. The Political Declaration of Universal Health Coverage adopted by the governments of the United Nations in September 2019 is an important step in this direction.

The WHO Global Disability Action Plan 2014-2020 and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities maintain that disability exists on a continuum that applies to all persons, depending on various factors, including health and environment. Since all persons may be vulnerable to disability at some point in their life, a universal and multidisciplinary approach, including psychological, neurological, sociological and technological considerations is crucial and essential.

Statement to the Economic and Social Council

In 2018, IAAP was the primary sponsor of a statement on *“Reducing Poverty by Employing Individuals with Disabilities: Contributions of Psychological Research and Practice,”* co-sponsored by the Psychology Coalition of NGOs accredited at the United Nations (PCUN) and the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues (SPSSI), that was submitted to the 56th session of the UN Commission on Social Development (CSocD). The CSocD session was on the theme, *“Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly priority theme: Strategies for Eradicating Poverty to Achieve Sustainable Development for All. Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.”* Noting the cycle of disability and poverty, the statement, written by IAAP UN representatives Walter Reichman with Judy Kuriansky, Corann Okorodudu and Florence Denmark, included recommendations about building a disability-inclusive culture within organizations and national policies ensuring workplaces that are accepting and accommodating to persons with disabilities. This statement, promoting the involvement of the UN and member nations in encouraging employment for persons with disabilities, was accepted for formal publication by ECOSOC

and posted on the website of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). See <http://undocs.org/E/CN.5/2018/NGO/30>. This official acceptance is very important in terms of IAAP activities at the UN, as a recognition of psychology's contributions to the global issues in general, and for IAAP and our partners, in particular.

UN Events

In 2005, the Working Group on Human Rights and Mental Health of the UN NGO Committee on Mental Health, for which Kuriansky served on the Board of Directors, sponsored an invited lecture at the UN Church Center, featuring Kate Millett, feminist and activist at the forefront of women's movement from the 1970s. Millett focused on protection of human rights for persons with disabilities, whether these are due to blindness, deafness or psychiatric, in nature, and their right to make choices. This is important, given that there are few resources for such populations in many countries, and given the need to encourage countries to develop relevant policies. Sharing her personal battle with mental illness, Millett expressed frustration of being "up against governments of countries that go along with convention of viewing people with disabilities" and her hope that the "UN will have a better plan... and more elastic solutions to how a society deals with individual behaviors that are different, and permit people to exercise greater freedom." She added that, "The position of women in the world is getting worse because of fundamentalism. In Africa, women are being exterminated and despoiled because of predatory male behavior, because we have no authority to say 'no'." Her message is, "Women need to get their voice."

Psychiatrist Gary Belkin, then-Department Chief of Psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital in New York, prompted a debate over the definition of disability, namely, differentiating between persons who are blind and deaf and those with psychiatric illness. The debate highlighted the lack of a standardized definition across countries that leads to confused dis-abused labeling, stigmas, fears in third world countries, and problems with insurance companies in developed countries. Some attendees favored considering psychiatric disabilities together with other disabilities while others maintained that people with psychiatric disabilities have important issues that may not be covered by convention agreements on the topic if all disabilities are lumped together.

The Quality Rights Campaign: "Nothing About Us Without us"

Launched in 2012, the World Health Organization's QualityRights campaign aims at improving the quality and human rights conditions in mental health and social care facilities, reforming national policies and legislation in line with best practice and international human rights standards, providing training, stopping human rights violations, and empowering civil society organizations to advocate for the rights of people with mental and psychosocial disabilities (www.who.int/mental_health/policy/quality_rights/en/index/html).

An event and landmark release of a toolkit was held on June 28, 2012, attended by about 100 invited health professionals, UN agency officials, academics, representatives of nongovernmental organizations, journalists and guests, and held at the Millennium Hotel's Diplomat Ballroom in New York City, across the street from the main United Nations headquarters. A video and report about the event were produced by Kuriansky.

See: <http://www.humnews.com/humnewscom/tag/dr-judy-kuriansky>.

Respecting the voice of those with such challenges, the phrase "Nothing about us, without us" was emphasized throughout. Speaking passionately about this necessity, Mrs. Robinah Alambuya of Uganda, President of the Pan African Network of People with Psychosocial Disabilities that monitors inhumane health care systems, made a plea for respect, saying, "Derogatory words are used to describe us, such as mentally disturbed, having unsound minds, idiots, lunatics, imbeciles and many other hurtful labels... [that] devalue us and form the basis of discrimination and the loss of inherent dignity."

Panelists represented a wide range of perspectives, including UN and government officials, a Hollywood producer, an African woman with disabilities, and a former prisoner from the slums of India.

Then-Deputy Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the UN Carlos Enrique Garcia Gonzalez described his government's recent advances in ambitious health care reform, including a social development component with a human rights approach. The initiative built on the WHO 2010 Mental Health and Development Report and the framework of the *UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*, which asserts that "human rights standards that must be respected, protected and fulfilled in all facilities." The toolkit provides information on required standards, procedures to assess services, and steps to make recommendations.

H.E. Ambassador Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th session of the UN General Assembly, recommended mainstreaming mental health care, noting that his own country of Qatar introduced a resolution to the UN General Assembly to introduce an International Day of Autism, that continues to be held at the UN to this day.

Dr. Michelle Funk, Coordinator of Mental Health Policy and Service Development in the Mental Health and Substance Abuse department at WHO, acknowledged Spain and Portugal for their funding assistance to produce the toolkit, and pointed out the extent of the problem, i.e., that one in four people will experience a mental health condition in their lifetime yet less than one psychiatrist serves 200,000 people in almost half the world populations and poor quality services and human rights violations are pervasive, where patients are often exposed to inhuman and degrading treatment, and physical, emotional and even sexual abuse.

Hollywood film producer Gary Foster described his evolution from the field of filmmaking to become a mental health advocate when producing the film "The Soloist," a true-life story about a former cello prodigy who developed a mental health condition and became homeless on the streets of Los Angeles. Foster, who also produced the films "Sleepless in Seattle" and "The Score," spent time on skid row to get a true feeling of the experience while making the film, where he discovered that all people have "dream for success."

Film Screening and Panel

A powerful event was held at the UN in the ECOSOC Chamber on October 18, 2018, to screen the documentary, "Jean Vanier: The Sacrament of Tenderness," about humanitarian Jean Vanier who set up homes for disabled persons. Director Frédérique Bedos is a journalist and founder of the French ECOSOC-accredited NGO Le Projet Imagine, "Inspire to Act," intended to motivate people to do good in the world. The documentary depicts the story of Jean Vanier, a Canadian humanist who founded The Arche in 1964. L'Arche grew to become an international federation active in 35 countries dedicated to support people with mental disabilities.

Sponsored by the Mission of France, given that the director is French, IAAP co-sponsored the event and Kuriansky was asked to moderate, given her leadership about mental health at the UN and her role as advisor to the Group of Friends of Mental Health and Well-being. Plenary addresses were given by the Ambassador of France to the UN, François Delattre, and by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada to the UN, H.E. Richard Arbeiter, who is a co-president of the Group of Friends of Mental Health and Well-being at the UN and a major advocate of gender rights. The panel included then-Executive Director of the WHO Office at the United Nations in New York, Dr. Nata Menabde, and a representative of New York City's THRIVE program that promotes mental health, Meagan van Harte, who is the Senior Director for the Office of Community Resilience in the Division of Mental Hygiene's Bureau of Systems Strengthening and Access. A video about the event is at:

<https://vimeo.com/324929286>.

A report with photos is at: blacktiemagazine.com/society_2018_november/jean_vanier.htm

**Film screening and Discussion
Disabilités and Mental health**

(left to right):
*H.E. Ambassador Richard Arbeiter (Welcome), Mission of Canada to the UN
*Dr. Nata Menabde, Executive Director, WHO Office at the UN (panelist)
* H.E. Ambassador François Delattre, Mission of France to the UN (Sponsor, Opening Address)
*Dr Judy Kuriansky, IAAP (moderator)
*Hayfa Matar, Deputy Permanent Representative, Mission of Bahrain to the UN
*Pierre David Jean, UN Mission of Canada



World Health Organization NYC Health to Frenchspeakers
Discussion & Film Screening on Mental Health
18 October - 6:30pm
Jean Vanier
Le Sacrement de la Tendresse
jeanvanier-eveniments.fr

Vanier, who passed away in May 2019, initiated a revolutionary approach to mental disabilities, whereby disabled and abled-bodied people live together, that started in a residential home in northern France and expanded to 35 countries. The beloved Vanier, formerly a Navy man turned humanitarian was awarded the Templeton Prize, for \$1.7 million dollars, that had also been given to Mother Teresa, Reverend Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama.

Side event at the United Nations

On June 12, 2019, IAAP co-sponsored and co-hosted a side event at the United Nations headquarters in NYC, entitled “*Reaching Higher Standards of Health and Well-Being through Cultural Engagement, Empowerment, and Inclusion*” as part of the week-long United Nations Conference on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The co-sponsors included the World Health Organization (WHO), the Permanent Missions of Norway and the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, IAAP, the United African Congress (UAC), and the Psychology Coalition of NGO’s Accredited at the United Nations (PCUN). IAAP’s Kuriansky partnered in the event production with Eva Kiegele from the WHO Office at the United Nations.

This event highlighted examples of initiatives around the world raising awareness on achieving better health outcomes for those challenged by disability by presenting positive policies and innovative programs including community projects and talents of persons with disabilities.

At the traditional high-level opening session, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres affirmed that “Disability inclusion is a fundamental human right,” and “central to the promise of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development” and that “excluding people with disabilities from the world of work can rob countries of as much as 7 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product.” He admitted, frankly, that an earlier report commissioned for a comprehensive review of performance on disability inclusion revealed “not a pretty picture.” This first-ever UN Flagship Report on Disability and Development issued in December 2018 highlighted core challenges: disproportionate levels of poverty, lack of access to education, health services, employment and the under-representation of persons with disabilities in decision-making and political participation.

Thus, he announced the launch of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy of Action to raise the standards of the UN performance on disability inclusion across the board and action to bring about unified and transformative change. See his comments at

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2019-06-11/secretary-generals-remarks-the-12th-session-of-the-conference-of-states-parties-the-convention-the-rights-of-persons-disabilities-delivered>,

and the Disability Strategy at:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/06/secretary-general-of-the-united-nations.pdf>.

It is significant to the IAAP team that the distinguished President of this current Conference was from Ecuador, namely, Ambassador Luis Gallegos, given that Ecuador is a country that is very supportive of mental health and well-being, and that once had a Minister of Well-being, and is one of the four co-Presidents, along with Canada, Belgium and Bahrain, of the Member States’ Group of Friends of Mental Health and Wellbeing, for which Kuriansky is an advisor, having founded it with Ambassador Otto of the Mission of Palau, during the negotiations for the UN Agenda 2030. Ambassador Gallegos led the drafting of the Convention that eloquently states, “to transform society and development to be inclusive, accessible and sustainable for all”.

The event co-sponsored by IAAP was in line with the thematic focus of the 12th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the CRPD on social inclusion and the right to the highest attainable standard of health as well as inclusion of persons with disabilities in society through participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sports. As such, the side event examined barriers to health care and community services and demonstrated the importance of inclusion through effective policy and initiatives.

A guiding principle of the conference was that persons with disabilities have significant talents in self-expression that enhance their self-esteem, facilitate communication with others, and contribute to the enrichment of their relationships, families, community and society. These talents need to be respected, encouraged and highlighted. Creative engagement can decrease anxiety, stress, and mood disturbances. Thus, it is crucial to empower persons living with disabilities and to remove barriers preventing them from participation in their communities, accessing quality education, securing decent work, and having their voices heard in program and policy design.



Organizing team



Sierra Leone



**Convention on the Rights of
Persons with Disabilities**
UN missions, IAAP, WHO, UAC
UN, 12 June 2019



Norway



Georgia

The event highlighted practical examples, initiatives and interventions to raise awareness on the importance of reaching better outcomes of mental health for persons with disabilities through Universal Health Coverage and engagement in society through cultural life. New and innovative practices were shared for consideration in expanding the engagement and rights for persons with disabilities.

In opening remarks, Mr. Werner Obermeyer, then-Executive Director Ad Interim at the WHO Office at the United Nations noted, as mentioned above in this article, that the World Health Organization recognizes disability as a global public health issue, a human rights issue and a development priority. As mentioned, about 15% of the world population lives with a form of disability and that mental health, and depression particularly in youth and the elderly in particular, will be the leading cause of disability worldwide by 2030. A recent survey showing that between 35% and 50% of people with serious mental disorders in developed countries and between 76% and 85% in developing countries did not receive needed treatment.

A captivating video, produced especially for the event, was shown to set the stage for the event, showcasing initiatives in several countries in the world, including in Russia, highlighted at the international Congresses held by the Union of Mental Health; in community mental health centers in Georgia; by L'Arche, an organization of community living centers around the world; and in Rabat, Morocco, at an innovative public restaurant run by disabled persons at the Hadaf Rehabilitation Center. Taped messages were included from noted singer/songwriter and U.N. Messenger of Peace Stevie Wonder and the recent Tony Award winner for the Broadway musical "Oklahoma," Ali Stroker, the first person in a wheelchair to win the coveted award. The video was produced by IAAP's Kuriansky with assistance from IAAP representative Russell Diasey and edited by IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou. See: <https://youtu.be/30XVy4EYj8c>.

Impressively, the UN Missions who spoke at the event about the issue represented various regions of the world, namely, Sierra Leone, Norway and Georgia.

Speaking on behalf of the co-sponsoring United Nations Member State of Norway, Minister Jan Christian Kolstø, Vice Minister from the Ministry of Culture of Norway, reported a recent Norwegian study where half of individuals with a disability reported considerable mental difficulties. He emphasized their Strategy for the Quality of Persons with Disabilities, especially addressing children and young people's mental health, and a new 4th Action Plan focusing on mental health in women and children. "Combatting prejudice and intolerance is fundamental to my government," he said, as well as holistic care, including physical, social, mental and economic support, participation in cultural life and sports activity.

Norwegian representatives present included Mission of Norway to the UN Counselor Annika Evensen, former President of Rehabilitation International Worldwide Jan Monsbakken, Kjersti Skarstad and Guri Gabrielsen.

Representing the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, H.E. Victoria Mangay Sulimani described that recent traumatic events in Sierra Leone of the 11-year old war, the 2014-2015 Ebola outbreak, and the 2017 mudslide increased rates of disability, leaving survivors with hearing, speech, and vision impairments. But the country has taken action, by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ten years ago; signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the adjoining country of the Republic of Guinea to eliminate barriers to access and inclusion of people with disabilities: passing the Disability Act of 2011 mandating free health care for people with disabilities; providing compulsory screenings at health care centers in 2018 for early identification of people with disabilities; and planning to repeal the antiquated Lunacy Act of 1902, to remove stigma. Other plans include a mid-term national plan of 2019 to 2023, centering on “Education for All” incorporating unprecedented visibility and inclusion of people with disabilities; a national commission focused on people with disabilities; creation of the Director for People with Disabilities in the Ministry of Social Welfare and Health; and administrative plans including the formulation of mental health programs to protect the rights and dignities of people with mental disorders; and a foundation by the First Lady of Sierra Leone, Ms. Fatima Maada Bio, that includes initiatives to increase living standards for persons with disabilities.

Also speaking at the event was Mr. Joseph Y. Fofanah, Administrative Assistant and Disability Coordinator representing the Sierra Leone Embassy in Washington DC. Himself a disabled person, Mr. Fofanah enumerated needs for the disabled including and made an impassioned appeal for donations of crutches, wheelchairs canes and educational materials (musical instruments, learning tools in Braille), as well as for volunteers to provide psychosocial counseling and trainings in various skills.

“We have disabled persons who did not go to school and are not educated, but who have skills and talents,” he said. “If we have partners who can empower them and train them, we can make a better world.” He added, “We also have disabled who can sing well. If we have someone who can empower them in the area of music, we can go higher and higher.”

On his wish list is a separate building in Freetown, to serve as a centralized secretariat that addresses all the services for persons with disabilities, with different departments for education, health and transportation.

The Sierra Leone delegation was considerable, including many who came to the conference from the home country, including from the Sierra Leone Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children’s Affairs, Director of Social Welfare Mohammed Francis Kabia; from the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Finance and Administrative Assistant Francis F. Solokor; from the Sierra Leone National Commission for Persons with Disability, Finance Manager Ibrahim Jimissa; and from the Sierra Leone National Commission for Persons with Disability, Chairman James Taiwo Cullen and Executive Secretary Saa Lamin Kortequee. First Secretary at the Mission of Sierra Leone to the United Nations, Linda Senesie also offered support.

The country of Georgia was represented by Ms. Elene Agladze, Deputy Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations, who described the “National Strategy and Action Plan” for her country for 2015-2020 that calls for a shift away from long-stay hospitalization to a balanced service, including community-based centers, crisis intervention centers, social services, and a mobile team of doctors and psychologists who visit patients at principal of ensuring treatment of anyone with mental disorder with respect in a human rights framework, providing access to care, and ending discrimination and stigmatization. Georgia has also increased its financial commitment; in 2008, the mental health budget was increased by 33% (about USD\$2 million) to improve community care services.”

Georgian Psychiatrist Dr. Rouzi Shengelia, currently a psychiatrist at Bronx Lebanon Hospital in New York City, described the innovative “Mobile Crisis Team” where a team of health service providers goes to visit people at home for care. Georgian psychiatrist Dr. Mariam Menteshashvili supported the claim that the program can be replicated worldwide.

In an exceptionally powerful testimonial that brought tears to many attendees’ eyes, Mr. Kade Clemensen, shared his mental health challenges as a child and his attempt to end his life at the age of eight using his father’s gun. He explained how, to his own confusion, this act was in stark contrast to his outward success in swimming and basketball sports and having many friends and siblings. He emphasized that parents, teachers, clergy, siblings, and friends need to know how to talk about suicide and mental health issues. Kade founded The BiiG Picture, an NGO that encourages open discussion by youth, parents, teachers and all others, in a safe space of empathy and

love, to talk about mental health without stigma or shame, as if talking about the flu or a broken arm, and to encourage Access, Funding, and Education. Kade was supported at the event by his friend, Daniel Gimenez, Counsellor in Global Health, Education, Funds & Programmes, UNICEF, and Financing for Development, at the Mission of Norway to the United Nations.

"We need to remind ourselves and children all around the world that it's okay to open their hearts and share what they're going through, and to remind ourselves to listen and offer support," Kade said.

Innumerable attendees were visibly moved, to tears, at his testimony. Kade mentioned that this was his first time speaking publicly about his story, that shook him emotionally as well.

In another account of a personal journey, Mr. Christopher Bailey, who founded the Arts and Health Programme at WHO, performed his monologue entitled "The Mark of Cane: Journey Into Blindness," describing the gradual loss of his eyesight, to 5% of normal, and how he handled and overcame his disability. 49 million blind people and 249 million clinically low-sighted people are in the world, 90% of whom live in developing countries with little access to technologies.

The plastic brain gets rewired, he explained, so when visual information is reduced, the brain collects the equivalent of visual information through other senses as smell, touch, taste, and hearing. Thus, he interacts with audiences using hearing and smell, saying, "If I said something that made them laugh, or made them gasp, it had the effect through the echolocation of lighting up the room." To walk in a busy thoroughfare, he described that he uses the Doppler Effect of Ambient Sound Reflection, by listening to the vanishing point of moving traffic to determine the physical dimensions around him. To end his monologue, Bailey quoted the familiar phrase from the spiritual hymn "Amazing Grace": "I was blind, but now I see."

Attendees to the event included Richard Blewitt, Head of the Permanent Observer Delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to the United Nations; President of the United Africa Congress Mr. Gordon Tapper; Broadway producer Pat Addiss; students from Kuriansky's "Psychology and the United Nations" class at Columbia University Teachers College, Ran Fang and Candice Noble; and Maria Viola Sánchez, Fielding Graduate University and American Psychological Association Society for Media Psychology and Technology, who came all the way from California for the event.

In closing remarks, Kuriansky commended the speakers on their brains and hearts, and acknowledged Norway, Sierra Leone, Georgia and other countries for innovative policy and programs that are ongoing in their nations.

She acknowledged four projects: the Visibility and Inclusion Strategy launched by the Secretary General of the UN at the conference opening; the "Health in Your Hands" platform launched at the World Health Assembly in Geneva in May, for those with least access; the WHO-approved Arts and Health program promoting cultural performances of people with disabilities; and the "Big Picture" for youth openness.

She recommended:

- * Emphasizing the importance of policies and holistic and multi-level programs, including cultural creations to support inclusion and dispel myths and stigma about persons with disabilities,
- * Creating multi-stakeholder partnerships that include Persons With Disability.
- * Moving away from institutions to community settings.
- * Ongoing focus on "Reaching Higher Standards of Health & Well-Being through Cultural Engagement, Empowerment & Inclusion."

Finally, she voiced collective determination to continue promoting Access, Visibility, Love, and Respect for all.

The full event can be viewed on UN webcast at: <http://webtv.un.org/search/reaching-higher-standards-of-health-well-being-through-cultural-engagement-empowerment-inclusion-cosp12-side-event/6047595825001/?term=&lan=english&cat=Meetings%2FEvents&page=2>.

Other meetings

Given expertise in autism spectrum disorders, IAAP's Janice Bloch (now sadly deceased) attended many sessions on this topic, that is becoming increasingly acknowledged at the UN. For example, at the General Assembly High-level Meeting on Disability and Development held on 23 September 2013, the outcome document ensured equal enjoyment of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities following the phrase, "nothing about us without us." UN Messenger of Peace world-famous and sightless singer-songwriter Stevie Wonder stated, "I am a man of hopes and dreams. We can create a world where persons with disabilities face no

limits,” emphasizing the importance of “technology for the blind, and we must make it more available to every single blind person all over the world.” The Israeli delegate at the event noted that, “The composer Beethoven was deaf when he composed his greatest symphony. People with disabilities can make immeasurable contributions to society when given opportunities and support.”

Meetings were held with the Nigerian UN Mission in 2014 resulting in a partnership with a Nigerian NGO focused on disabilities championed by IAAP professional affiliate Grace Charrier. Charrier participated in grassroots advocacy efforts leading successfully to legislation, the Bill of Persons with Disabilities, passed by the Senate in Abuja that legally protects persons with disability from discrimination, ensuring that Persons With Disability (PWDs) are “given equity, dignity and equal opportunities as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” Charrier also founded an initiative to support women with fibroids.

The Way Forward

The IAAP UN team will continue to contribute to the rights of persons with disabilities within the United Nations system, to work with already-established partners and cooperate with multi-stakeholders, given the commitment of the UN Secretary-General’s, Member States, UN agencies and other civil society groups.



Migration, Refugees and Mental Health at the United Nations

Activities, Achievements and Contributions of the IAAP New York Team

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

Given record-breaking numbers of migrants fleeing their countries of origin due to political instability, poverty, persecution and a number of life-threatening conditions, the United Nations had to respond. This led to The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (the 'Global Compact' or the 'Compact') described below. The team representing the International Association of Applied Psychology at the United Nations in New York has been involved in the process, through civil society colleagues and also through connections with Member States, as described in this article.

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

The Global Compact is the first intergovernmental negotiated agreement under the auspices of the United Nations to cover all dimensions of international migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner. It outlines concrete and viable commitments, means of implementation and a monitoring and review framework.

See <https://undocs.org/en/A/CONF.231/3> and <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>.

The Compact is one of the four major agreements negotiated by the government's member states of the United Nations in the past five years that have major international importance, and in which IAAP team representatives were honored and proud to be involved, as part of civil society. These include the final negotiations for the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that took place during 2014-2015, at which Kuriansky played a major part as described in another article in this issue. She also represented IAAP in the meetings for the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Cancun and Geneva, described in the article about Disaster in this issue, and for the negotiations for the Political Declaration for Universal Health Coverage, for which she advocated successfully for the inclusion of mental health.

Process

A major part of the process of drafting the Global Compact was a conference at the United Nations in 2016, which IAAP's Kuriansky attended, at which the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants was adopted. In that document, all Member States of the UN committed to work within a framework of principles, commitments and understandings on international migration that facilitates cooperation and addresses all aspects of migration, such as humanitarian, development and human rights issues, in line with the path set by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Permanent Representatives of Missions of Mexico and of Switzerland to the United Nations co-facilitated the process leading to the adoption of the compact, having been appointed by the President of the UN General Assembly. Notably, Ecuador – a country that has been supportive of mental health at the UN including as a co-President of the Group of Friends of Mental Health and Wellbeing for which Kuriansky is an advisor and founded with Ambassador Otto of Palau -- is also a pioneer country in advanced policies on human mobility and human rights. Their constitution includes principles of universal citizenship, free mobility and non-discrimination, which guarantee and promote respect for the human rights of all persons in an inclusive, fair and supportive society.

During 2018, final negotiations were held by member states at the United Nations headquarters in New York about the "Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration," finally adopted in December 2018 in Morocco See: https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180629_draft_rev_3_final_0.pdf. Representing IAAP, Kuriansky and youth representative Khawla Nasser Al Deen participated in a major way in the civil society advocacy during the negotiations, and at the meetings in Morocco, as described below.

It is significant that the Global Compact was developed through an open, transparent and inclusive process that included consultations and negotiations, and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, as well as the private sector, academic institutions, parliaments, diaspora communities, and migrant organizations, in both its preparatory process as well as in the intergovernmental conference.

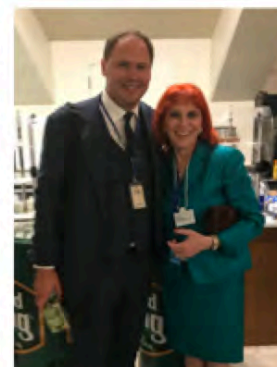
NGO advocacy

As a member of the NGO Committee on Migration (NGO CoM), that led the NGO advocacy with governments, Kuriansky participated in the civil society advocacy and meetings with member states of diverse regions, e.g., the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, Lebanon, India and Pakistan. These meetings covered many issues of concern, including the definition of “regular” versus “irregular,” with Kuriansky recommending specific inclusion of mental health issues on behalf of IAAP and the psychological community.

An important Civil Society Meeting was held on 8 July 2018 at the Open Society Foundations, to review the 3rd draft of the Compact and to craft the final advocacy with points that members of civil society wanted to collectively present to the government facilitators. This experience was another example about advocacy mentioned in the introductory article in this issue, namely, that it is important to keep track of meetings and to make the effort to find out where they are, go to them, and to assertively speak up.

Advocacy: Global Compact for Migration

Civil society: IAAP’s Judy Kuriansky and Khwala Nasser AlDeen with reps from the Pacific Islands Association of NGOS



Government: IAAP’s Judy Kuriansky & members of the NGO Committee on Migration with delegates from the UN Missions of Lebanon & Russian Federation

Since groups at this meeting could select – or even suggest - a committee on their issue of concern, Kuriansky spoke up to form a committee about migration in disaster contexts. Two representatives of the Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organizations (from New Zealand and Fiji), joined, to make four members, counting in IAAP youth representative Khawla Nasser AlDeen. This subcommittee on disaster and psychosocial issues in migration drafted a statement, elaborating on the need for psychosocial support for migrants in disaster context, and calling for inclusion of “integrating cultural and traditional knowledge and practices,” an issue of great importance. Discussion focused on attention to the plight of “climate refugees,” persons living in areas threatened by climate-related disasters, given that after the multiple 2017 hurricanes in the Caribbean, and even loss of their homeland, as is happening for some Pacific Island small developing states. IAAP was then a signatory of the final statement submitted on 13 July 2018 to the co-facilitators, on the “*Joint Civil Society Statement at the Conclusion of Negotiations on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration.*”

At the Negotiations

In order to participate in the final stages of the negotiations, it once again proved important to keep track of the process carefully, and to apply when necessary since inclusion at various meetings was not automatic.

For example, an application was required, for only a limited number of slots –some allotted specifically for youth-- to participate in the important final negotiations of the Compact in Marrakesh, Morocco, in December 2018, for a

two-day civil society meeting and then an interactive meeting with governments. Kuriansky and Nasser AlDeen were fortunate to be accepted to go to those meetings to represent the interests of IAAP and of psychology and mental health.

The two-day civil society meeting was meant to prepare representatives for advocacy both last-minute and also going forward. Leaders of civil society in the migration space spoke, as well as government officials, including H.E. Ambassador Arturo Cabrera Hidalgo from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Ecuador, also the Chair of the 2019 “Global Forum on Migration and Development” (GFMD).



After the civil society days, select pre-registered and accepted civil society members were allowed to attend the first day of the governmental meetings with civil society and sit in on the negotiations. This meeting, attended by Kuriansky, was called the “Global Forum on Migration and Development, Common Space 2018: From global commitments to multi-stakeholder action: inspiring implementation at the regional, national and sub-national level.” An example of a session was “Alternatives to detention for children and youth in Mexico” with speakers, Mr. Jorge Gonzalez Mayagoitia from the Permanent Mission of Mexico and Ms. Silvia Gomez, Global Advocacy Coordinator of the International Detention Coalition.

Difference between Migrants and Refugees

A distinction between migrants and refugees is important. Refugees are persons who are forced to leave their country of origin under the fear of persecution, conflict, generalized violence or other circumstances that have seriously disturbed public order and, as a result, require international protection. Migrants are persons who change their countries of usual residence, irrespective of the reason for migration or legal status. Migrants make a conscious choice to leave their country to seek a better life elsewhere.

Importantly, the leads for the two agreements differ, splitting after the 2012 conference. The UN Member States took charge of the agreement for migrants and the High Commissioner for Human Rights took leadership of the document for Refugees.

The Global Compact: A credit to mental health and to children

Notably for the field of mental health, there were substantial references in the Compact. These include the following:

(A) References to the word “psychosocial” = 2

(1) Objective 17, 33a, under “Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration” says: Enact, implement or maintain legislation that penalizes hate crimes and aggravated hate crimes targeting migrants, and train law enforcement and other public officials to identify, prevent and respond to such crimes and other acts of violence that target migrants, as well as to provide medical, legal and **psychosocial assistance** for victims.

(2) Objective 21, 37h under “Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration” says: “Facilitate the sustainable reintegration of returning migrants into community life by providing them equal access to social protection and services, justice, **psychosocial assistance**, vocational training, employment opportunities and decent work, recognition of skills acquired abroad, and financial services, in order to fully build upon their entrepreneurship, skills and human capital as active members of society and contributors to sustainable development in the country of origin upon return.

(B) References to the word “psychological” = 2

(1) Objective 7, 23c, under “Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration” says: To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Develop gender-responsive migration policies to address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women, girls and boys, which may include assistance, health care, **psychological and other counseling services**, as well as access to justice and effective remedies, especially in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation.

(2) Objective 10, 26h, under “Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration,” says: To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Provide migrants that have become victims of trafficking in persons with protection and assistance, such as measures for physical, **psychological and social recovery**, as well as measures that permit them to remain in the country of destination, temporarily or permanently, in appropriate cases, facilitating victims’ access to justice, including redress and compensation, in accordance with international law.

(C) References to the word “counseling” = 3

(1) Objective 3, 19c, under “Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration” says: To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Establish open and accessible information points along relevant migration routes that can refer migrants to child-sensitive and gender-responsive support and **counseling**, offer opportunities to communicate with consular representatives of the country of origin, and make available relevant information, including on human rights and fundamental freedoms, appropriate protection and assistance, options and pathways for regular migration, and possibilities for return, in a language the person concerned understands.

(2) Objective 7, 23c, under “Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration” says: To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Develop gender-responsive migration policies to address the particular needs and vulnerabilities of migrant women, girls and boys, which may include assistance, health care, **psychological and other counseling services**, as well as access to justice and effective remedies, especially in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, abuse and exploitation.

(3) Objective 12, 28d, under “Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral” says: To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Develop and conduct intra- and cross-regional specialized human rights and trauma informed trainings for first responders and government officials, including law enforcement authorities, border officials, consular representatives and judicial bodies, to facilitate and standardize identification and referral of, as well as appropriate assistance and **counseling in a culturally-sensitive way**, to victims of trafficking in persons, migrants in situations of vulnerability, including children, in particular those unaccompanied or separated, and persons affected by any form of exploitation and abuse related to smuggling of migrants under aggravating circumstances.

(D) References to the word “mental health” = 3

(1) Objective 6, 22i, under: “Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work” says: To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Provide migrant workers engaged in remunerated and contractual labor with the same labor rights and protections extended to all workers in the respective sector, such as the rights to just and favorable conditions of work, to equal pay for work of equal value, to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and to the highest attainable standard of physical and **mental health**, including through wage protection mechanisms, social dialogue and membership in trade unions;

(2) Objective 7, 23 f, under “Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration” says:

To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Protect unaccompanied and separated children at all stages of migration through the establishment of specialized procedures for their identification, referral, care and family reunification, and provide access to health-care services, including **mental health**, education, legal assistance and the right to be heard in administrative and judicial proceedings, including by swiftly appointing a competent and impartial legal guardian, as essential means to address their particular vulnerabilities and discrimination, protect them from all forms of violence and provide access to sustainable solutions that are in their best interests;

(3) Objective 15, 31e, under “Provide access to basic services for migrants” says:

To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Incorporate the health needs of migrants in national and local health care policies and plans, such as by strengthening capacities for service provision, facilitating affordable and non-discriminatory access, reducing communication barriers, and training health care providers on culturally-sensitive service delivery, in order to promote physical and **mental health** of migrants and communities overall, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations from the WHO Framework.

(E) Reference to the word “mental integrity” = 1

(1) Objective 13, 29f: Use immigration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives, says: To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Reduce the negative and potentially lasting effects of detention on migrants by guaranteeing due process and proportionality, that it is for the shortest period of time, that it safeguards physical and **mental integrity**, and that, at a minimum, access to food, basic health care, legal orientation and assistance, information and communication as well as adequate accommodation is granted, in accordance with international human rights law.

(F) Reference to the words “resilience” and “self-reliance” = 4

(1) Objective 2, 18b, f, i and k, under “Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin” says: To realize this commitment, we will draw from the following actions:

Invest in programs that accelerate States’ fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals with the aim of eliminating the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin, including through poverty eradication, food security, health and sanitation, education, inclusive economic growth, infrastructure, urban and rural development, employment creation, decent work, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, **resilience** and disaster risk reduction, climate change mitigation and adaptation, addressing the socioeconomic effects of all forms of violence, nondiscrimination, rule of law and good governance, access to justice and protection of human rights, as well as creating and maintaining peaceful and inclusive societies with effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

(2) Objective 2, 18f: Strengthen collaboration between humanitarian and development actors, including by promoting joint analysis, multi-donor approaches and multi-year funding cycles, in order to develop long-term responses and outcomes that ensure respect for the rights of affected social **self-reliance**, and by ensuring these efforts take migration into account.

(3) Objective 2, 18i, under the subheading of Natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation:

“Develop adaptation and **resilience strategies** to sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change, and environmental degradation, such as desertification, land degradation, drought and sea level rise, taking into account the potential implications on migration, while recognizing that adaptation in the country of origin is a priority.

(4) Objective 2, 18k: Harmonize and develop approaches and mechanisms at sub regional and regional levels to address the vulnerabilities of persons affected by sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, by ensuring they have access to humanitarian assistance that meets their essential needs with full respect for their rights wherever they are, and by promoting sustainable outcomes that increase **resilience and self-reliance**, taking into account the capacities of all countries involved

A credit to Children

To its great credit, the GCM is also child-sensitive. Children are mentioned many times, including in overriding principles that uphold the rights of the child, including unaccompanied and separated children, trauma-informed training for first responders and government officials as well as appropriate assistance and counseling in a culturally-sensitive way, to victims of trafficking in persons, migrants in situations of vulnerability, including children.

In support of host countries, the compact says that States and relevant stakeholders will contribute resources and expertise towards policies and programs that take into account the specific vulnerabilities and protection needs of girls and boys, children with disabilities, adolescents, unaccompanied and separated children, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, and harmful practices, and other children at risk. Depending on the context, this will include resources and expertise to support integrated and age-sensitive services for refugee and host community girls and boys, including to address mental health and psychosocial needs, as

well as investment in national child protection systems and cross-border cooperation and regional partnerships to provide a continuum of protection, care and services for at risk children. Capacity development will be supported for relevant authorities to undertake best interests' determination and assessment to inform decisions that concern refugee children, as well as other child-sensitive procedures and family tracing. UNHCR will work with States to enhance access by refugee boys and girls to resettlement and complement.

Group of Friends of Migration

At the United Nations, governments (Missions) from the "Group of Friends" advocate about particular issues, e.g., peace, NCDs, children, Mental Health and Well-being, and Migration. The lead in the Group of Friends of Migration invited American Psychological Association NGO representative to the UN, Rashmi Jaipal, to organize a briefing about the psychological issues in migration, given recognition that these emotional issues fueled the negotiations about the Compact and would influence follow-up. Jaipal invited Kuriansky, knowing her involvement in the advocacy, and another psychologist, to join a panel for the briefing. The meeting took place in March 2019 at the Mission of Mexico to the United Nations, at the invitation of Fernando de la Mora of the Mexico Mission to the UN.

The Group of Friends of Migration is chaired by the Missions of Mexico, Bangladesh, Benin, and Ireland, with 26 member countries. Representatives from various countries who support the Compact were present.

Being familiar with the process of the Compact evolution from the civil society perspective, having advocated with Member States and conducted trainings, and being familiar also with the psychological issues, Kuriansky presented about *"Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Migration: Advocacy, Principles, Policy, Partnerships and Action."* She acknowledged the positive process of the Compact negotiation, using a 360-degree feedback model, looking at the process from all angles, using multi-rater and multi-source feedback, to come to an assessment in comparison to just a bottom up or top down model. Importantly, the process of drafting the Compact had also included civil society, in comparison to other member states negotiations that selectively exclude civil society, much to the chagrin of the NGO community at the UN. She also compared the agreements about Migration and that of Refugees, being that the former was negotiated by member states and the latter was drafted by UNHCR. It is important to note that the agreement about refugees is also favorable to mental health, with mentions of the word "psychosocial," "mental health" and "resilience".

Positive and negative issues of migration were pointed out in the briefing, related to whether the destination country is undermined or enriched. On the negative side are arguments about migrants being job-stealers and taking up housing from local residents, not integrating into the host country's culture, and having a language gap. On the positive side, evidence shows no impact on salaries of people in the host country and instead, having a positive long-term fiscal impact (e.g., in terms of taxes); bringing new skills, and opening up society. If migrants return to their country of origin, they bring new knowledge. Psychologically, the nature of the subject evokes emotions and trust issues, with the possibility of a mindset that invokes prejudice (e.g., "Us" versus "Them"). Kuriansky also covered the meaning of "home" in terms of national sovereignty/borders as well as research that a stable home leads to "ontological security"/continuity, and about concepts from the field of ecopsychology of "place attachment", "settlement identity" "generic place dependence" "homesickness" and sense of belonging. She also described new developments in technology, including projects using chatbots and artificial intelligence to reach out to migrant populations with mental health support.

Migration entails risks to children, including losses; malnutrition and disease; vulnerability to sex abuse, exploitation and transactional sex; problems from not attending school; and trauma deriving from forcible separation from parents. Women also face risks, based on gender roles, that are either more rigid or more open in the new society or in the workforce, and in either escaping from, or being newly subjected to, domestic violence.

In presentations and statements at the UN, recommendations are always important. Kuriansky's recommendations included to:

- Pay ongoing attention to psychological issues in the process of following-up and reviewing implementation of the Compact by countries.
- Ensure education and access to health and quality services of migrants.
- Protect women and children from exploitation and violence.
- Educate other governments and the public about the impact of migration on the mental health and well-being of persons in countries of origin, transit, and destination.
- Support research on migration and forced separation of children from parents.

- Promote approaches to combat stigma, xenophobia, discrimination and marginalization in countries of transit & destination.
- Continue to engage civil society and all stakeholders.
- Reach out to the media about these issues.

Jaipal presented about cultural perspectives and reported about the new Subcommittee of the NGO Committee on Migration, to combat xenophobia and racism and to identify best practices promoting social inclusion of migrants. She pointed out the importance of working together, cooperative living, minimizing competition, establishing a common good, sanctioning by authorities and finding common good. The third presenter was UN NGO representative Carmen Vazquez, who recounted clinical cases and issues in working with the migrant population and clients over her 40 years of experience. She mentioned the concepts of “familismo”, referring to the centrality of the family, and of “orgullo”, that is central to pride, and how prejudices are developed given that they are not inborn.

The mission delegates agreed heartily that mental health is crucial in order to implement the Compact. They were very interested in questions like how to overcome attitudes that migration is a threat, or criticisms that migrants do not speak the local language, and how to integrate migrants into the community, and to help families overcome fear of losing their identity.

Conference on Migration

Two community-based conferences on “*Coming to America in the 21st Century*” were held at St. Francis College in New York City on the topic of Migration, with paper presentations, panel discussions, and clinical sessions, with a research, clinical, advocacy, and/or experiential focus. The co-directors were Drs. Daniel Kaplin, Halyna Lemekh and Uwe Gielen, Psychology Director of the Institute for International and Cross-Cultural Psychology. At the conference on 29 March 2019, Kuriansky gave the closing remarks, reviewing all the day-long events on topics like “*Mindfulness-Based Interventions with Immigrants and Refugees*” and “*Overcoming Stigma in Syrian Refugees: A Psychoeducational Intervention Integrating Biology, Metaphor, and Storytelling.*” In addition, a performance was given by Japanese opera singer, Tomoko Shibata, who had participated in many IAAP-sponsored events at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, giving commentary and performing songs that reflected cross-cultural sensitivity, consistent with the conference theme.

Earlier events about the Migration issue

IAAP’s involvement in the issue of mental health and migration dates back to 2012, when then-IAAP UN representative Martin Butler was active in the NGO CoM, including presenting at a meeting on “*Sustainable Development and Migration: An update on the UN NGO Committee in preparation for Rio+20.*” In presentations on the topic, Mary Jo Toll of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur spoke about the slow onset of climate changes caused by such processes as drought and heavier monsoons, and the problem of small island nations and coastal cities losing their land, with a large number of people unable to fish, farm or maintain their former lifestyles, or who are forced to move from their homeland. IAAP member Okorodudu indicated the need for an advocacy document with recommended strategies for government and civil society. Eva Sandis, chair of the CoM and UN representative for the International Council of Psychologists, noted the importance of statements at UN meetings on the issue.

On 23 April 2013, Butler organized a side event entitled “*Vulnerabilities of Children in International Migration: Human Rights and Psychosocial Perspectives*” for the 46th Meeting of the UN Commission on Population and Development held at UN NYC headquarters. UNICEF Chief of Child Protection at the Program Division Susan Bissell emphasized that children’s needs should be considered both individually and in the family context. Steve Coupeau, president of NYIHA Media, described a new trend of migration from Haiti to Brazil, rather than to the Dominican Republic as was previously common, due to less hostility and racism, and increased visa, residency, healthcare and humanitarian opportunities in Brazil. SPSSI UN representative Yvonne Rafferty likened child trafficking, a global shame, to modern-day slavery. Maria Pia Belloni of the World Association of Early Childhood Education claimed a criminology of migration, e.g., that migrants may be unaware of their rights or the reasons for their detainment. Also, she pointed out that when parents are detained, children suffer lifelong effects, often ferried from place to place or just released onto the streets. Solutions include schools and group homes for children. No child should be detained for more than 3–6 days, she said, and children should be released to refugee centers with their families.

Butler's report on a United Nations University (UNU) Midday Forum Program held on 12 October 2010 about the movement of people between and among countries, noted new trends: high value migrants (entrepreneurs, technical professionals and IT experts, scholars and scientists, international students, medical doctors and nurses, and cultural talent); the contrast of a "brain drain" to a "brain circulation" to describe migration; and the need for a framework, that did evolve in the Global Compact adopted in 2018.

Mission with Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Panel

In reaction to the Syrian refugee crisis, Kuriansky participated in a mission to provide psychosocial support. To establish government support, she contacted then-Ambassador of the Mission of Jordan to the United Nations Dina Kawar, who arranged meetings with government representatives in Jordan.

The mission in Jordan was organized by a humanitarian aid organization, the Atlantic Humanitarian Relief, that had been to the region many times. This mission consisted of a large team of medical doctors and, for the first time, included mental health professionals. The small team of psychologists consisted of Kuriansky, her student from Columbia University Teachers College, Michelin Aboukasm, a psychologist from California, and a psychiatry resident from the UK. The group set up clinics to help Syrian refugees in areas outside the capital of Amman. Kuriansky conducted a training of volunteers, including young local doctors, using a train-the-trainers model, to provide psychosocial support. The model was adapted from implementations in many other situations, including after natural disasters, that is described in the article about that topic in this issue. The techniques were directed at building resilience and a sense of empowerment. The trainees then applied the techniques to a group of children who were brought by their parents to the clinics.

An increasing number of presentations about the topic of migration were given at psychology conferences worldwide. A presentation was given on a symposium at the European Congress of Psychology on the theme of "Psychotherapy and psychosocial support interventions with refugees," specifically about "Psychosocial Intervention during a Medical Mission for Syrian Refugee Children in Jordan: Experiences and Lessons Learned and Importance for the People, Psychology Professionals and the International Community." Kuriansky's student Aboukasm presented her experiences and lessons learned. Psychologist Jessica Lambert from California State University provided background about the plight of refugees and Dr. Samuel Antunes from the Portuguese Association of Psychologists in Lisbon described a unique partnership with the Red Cross, "The Burnout Prevention Program for psychosocial technicians working on hosting and integration of refugees."

Humanitarian Mission for Syrian Refugees In Jordan



How the Global Compact was Reached: from the Mexico delegate

As many psychologists do not know much about advocacy and how an international agreement is reached, it is interesting to learn about these steps. Thus, Kuriansky invited the delegate from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations, Mr. Fernando De La Mora, mentioned above, to be a guest lecturer at her Columbia University Teachers College class on "Psychology and the United Nations," on 26 March 2019, to give a rare inside view of how an international agreement is arrived at, and in this case, to describe a unique approach.

Clearly appreciating psychology, De La Mora began by saying that the issue of migration is very much an issue of psychology, in that people's emotions are triggered and must be considered.

His insight was invaluable to the students, many of whom have a specific interest in the topic of migration. It was also special to hear from him, as he was one of the four team members, and incidentally, the only male, drafting the Global Compact for Migration. The process was co-facilitated by H.E. Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho of Mexico and the Ambassador of Switzerland, to purposefully achieve a balance of a "south" and "north" country, a combination sought by the United Nations when selected facilitators of agreements. Also, Mexico is a country quite familiar to the issue, given the many migrants coming from South America to Mexico, to hopefully make their way into the United States.

Uniquely qualified for this role, Mr. de la Mora, a career diplomat in the Mexican Foreign Service, serves as Second Secretary in the Mission, and served abroad in Consulates General of Mexico in Texas and Arizona, areas of the United States clearly affected by migration. He earned a B.A. in International Relations and a master's degree in US Legal Studies from the University of New Mexico, and has published on topics of international migration, human security and public diplomacy, all of which helped prepare him for the important task of drafting such a compact.

His class presentation mesmerized the students, hearing the inside story of a unique process whereby a document goes from an idea to a draft, that then gets inter-governmental agreement.

Three major phases were involved in the drafting. (1) Consultation, of 6 thematic sessions including Human Rights, Labor Mobility, social protection, integration of migrants, that took place in New York, Vienna and Geneva, the three locations of United Nations headquarters, where they gathered data about the numbers of migrants and the conditions and challenges that migrants face; (2) Stocktaking, in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, including diplomats listening to TED-Talk style presentations, writing "suggestions" on index-sized paper, and participating in "action groups" to analyze migration at various levels; and (3) Intergovernmental Negotiations, starting from garnering input from the "bottom up" and leading to the "360-degree" overview, with the unique feature of involving all stakeholders, including academia, civil society, and local governments.

The topic of migration was often met with resistance, he noted, due to the very psychological nature of the subject and the emotions it evokes, including of national sovereignty, border and security, and competing use of resources.

It is important to note that UN agreements are not legally binding. Some negative pushback and press occurred during the lead-up to the final hour negotiations of the Compact in Morocco, due to by right wing groups, and the fall of the Belgian and Danish governments over the issue. Nonetheless, de la Mora is proud of the coordination and arduous and innovative steps his team took, breaking from the "inertia and comfort of diplomacy" to create a document that is the first of its kind.

The Way Forward

The review process, as with other international agreements, will continue with regard to the Global Compact. Through participation in the NGO Committee on Migration and with contacts with Member States, the IAAP UN team will be involved in the future developments.

Youth and Ageing at the United Nations

Activities, Achievements and Contributions of the IAAP New York Team

Dr. Judy Kuriansky

The Sustainable Development Goals refer specifically to “all ages” in many places, respecting the constituencies of both youth and the ageing population. Several UN conferences also specifically focus on intergenerational issues. A recent conference featured a conversation between the United Nations Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Ms Jayathma Wickramanayake, and the former Ambassador of Ireland to the UN David Donoghue, who had co-facilitated, with the Ambassador of Kenya to the UN Macharia Kamau, the final negotiations for the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, and currently is Distinguished Fellow of the Overseas Development Institute. Their conversation, during the closing segment of the High-Level Political Forum in 2019, emphasized the value of such interaction and mutual understanding to close gaps between the generations that could be widening in this technological age.

Youth Focus

There are 1.8 billion youth in the world today, presenting a valuable resource to tackle global problems as outlined in the new UN 2030 Agenda. Youth is increasingly valued and emphasized at the United Nations, at events like International Day of Youth, and evident in efforts to continually include youth as panelists. The United Nations Major Group of Children and Youth (UNMGCY) play a major role negotiating at the UN about all global issues and organizing meetings. The New York team representing the International Association of Applied Psychology at the UN has continuously partnered with this group. Collaboration has included during advocacy for the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, given the groups’ commitment to mental health in acknowledgment of the extensive statistics about youth depression and anxiety; doing workshops at their youth conferences before the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan and in Cancun Mexico; and co-organizing many panels at the United Nations on a variety of topics.

Collaborations and conferences with youth groups or about youth

IAAP has organized and participated in many events and projects with, and about, youth, in varying formats. All of these have been significantly successful in solidifying partnership and in raising consciousness about the importance of the youth voice in global issues.

Collaboration on a Statement about Mental Health and Primary Health Care

Given the critical importance of integrating mental health into primary health care, a statement on “*Integrating Mental Health Care into Primary Health Care*,” was co-drafted by IAAP’s UN representative Judy Kuriansky with UNMGCY representative Lucy Fagan, with important input from IAAP member Dr. Robyn Vines, an expert on the topic of integrating mental health into primary health care who has presented at many ICAPs and other conferences on the subject and was President of the Independent Practice division, as well as with input from past division president Dr. James Bray. The statement was presented at the Global Conference on Primary Health Care, a conference to renew a commitment to primary health care to achieve universal health coverage and the Sustainable Development Goals, co-hosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, WHO and UNICEF, held at the Palace of Independence in Astana, Kazakhstan, 25-26 October 2018.

Video

To support the major advocacy campaign to include mental health and well-being in the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, described in the article about Health in this issue, a video about “*Youth and Mental Health: Youth and UN Ambassadors Speak Out*,” was produced by Kuriansky with IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou, in long and short forms. The video highlights young people talking about their mental health challenges and interviews with many United Nations Ambassadors about the importance governments need to place on this issue, including with Ambassador of Palau Caleb Otto (partner in the advocacy with Kuriansky) and co-chair of the Member States Open Working Group and Intergovernmental Negotiations, Ambassador of Kenya Macharia Kamau. Other Ambassadors who spoke on the video about the issue included from the Missions of Belize, New Zealand, the Czech Republic and the Philippines, and a delegate from Costa Rica about the importance of sports for youth

mental health. The Ambassadors also gave advice in their own language, for youth to be bold. This video was shown on many occasions, including at the UN and at the World Bank/WHO meeting on “Out of the Shadows.” The video also features youth talking about their challenges with mental health. See: <https://bit.ly/2LYfxwG> and <https://bit.ly/2HXvr83>.



Side Events

IAAP has also sponsored many side events at UN conferences, over many years, focused on the mental health of youth, including with youth speakers. For example, back in 2012, at the Civil Society conference organized by the DPI/NGO relations section and held in Bonn, Germany, IAAP sponsored a workshop about training and retaining youth volunteer leaders for intercultural cooperation to build stronger societies. In August 2015, IAAP’s workshop at this civil society conference was entitled “*Youth and Mental Health at the UN*,” organized by Kuriansky who also spoke on the panel along with youth civil society representatives and Ambassador Otto, partner in the successful SDG campaign. The IAAP video about youth and mental health was again shown.

Another panel, at the annual conference of the UN DPI/GO section held in New York at UN headquarters in August 2014, was presented on “*Promoting Mental Health and Wellbeing for Youth in the New Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda: Psychological Principles, Science and Practices*.” This panel was organized and moderated by IAAP’s UN representative Martin Butler, highlighting escalating stresses and mental health problems faced by youth worldwide, given alarming statistics about suicide rates and the World Health Organization prediction that by 2030, depression will be the leading global disease. IAAP’s Kuriansky presented advances in ensuring youth mental health at the UN and had yet another opportunity to show the video about youth and mental health at the UN.

Panelist Ambassador Otto explained the global crisis of youth in his country and worldwide, and the importance of attention to youth wellbeing for sustainable development. He noted that fortunately, governments will now be more sensitive to this issue, given the inclusion of mental health and well-being in the SDGs. Maria Pia Belloni and youth representative Amber Eriksson from the Organisation Mondiale pour l'Education Prescolaire presented their project helping refugee children in the Za’Atari Refugee camp in Jordan. Courtney White of the UN NGO Committee on Education shared survey results and related research on “*Youth Self Efficacy and Climate Change*,” and a new climate-related education project using psychometrics through a mobile app. The workshop concluded with a performance by IAAP representative Russell Daisey of the song co-written by him and Kuriansky, aligned with the UN Secretary General’s campaign about “Every Woman Every Child,” involving audience participation. See: <https://youtu.be/Lh9bMf7nML4>.

Another event at this DPI/NGO conference a few years later, in August 2018, was entitled “*Youth using technology and the arts to tackle global problems and insure resilience of cities and citizens through civil society and government partnership*.” Moderated by Kuriansky and co-organized with the UN Major Group for Children and

Youth and other NGOs, the event profiled creative projects that use technology tools and the arts to address issues like making cities resilient, insuring resilience in the face of natural disasters, and promoting mental health and wellbeing. The speakers included representatives from the JED Foundation, that creates program on the internet about youth an suicide, as well as from UN-Habitat, the Urban Catalyst Lab, and Art Saves Lives, a project the IAAP team collaborated with to train teachers in Sint Maarten post-Hurricane Irma. Also presented were creative projects from adult colleagues, e.g., the Psychology Guide for Young People, presented in a video from Dr. Anders Wahlberg from the Swedish Psychological Association, and a project by Portuguese psychologist Luz Melo, using photography to reveal psychological issues.

The International Day of Youth

Notably, the International Day of Youth, celebrated annually at the UN, addressed the topic of mental health on 12 August 2014, on the theme of “*Mental Health Matters*” (see: <http://undesadspd.org/Youth/InternationalYouthDay/2014.aspx>). Organized by the department of Social Affairs (DESA) and the office of the UN Secretary Generals’ Envoy on Youth, panelists included Assistant Secretary General of the Department of Social Affairs (DESA) Thomas Gass; the Secretary-General’s Youth Envoy, Ahmed Alhendawi; Ambassador Otto of Palau, talking about the problems of mental health in his country and his family and the need for a holistic approach; and two youth advocates for mental health, sharing their moving personal experiences overcoming serious depression.

IAAP’s Mahroo Moshari, Executive Director of Manhattan Multicultural Counseling, Inc., made a comment from the floor, describing the importance of attention to multi-cultural issues related to youth. Moshari conducts an annual summer youth program that educates adolescents about tolerance and diversity, with visits to the United Nations (see: <https://vimeo.com/104213632>).

Youth Interns

The Department of Global Communications (previously DPI) allows, and greatly encourages, NGOs to assign two youth representatives (from 18-32 years of age) to be involved in the United Nations. Youth can also be involved as representatives as “additional representatives” accredited b the Economic and Social Council. Interns are recruited from notices circulated at local psychology departments and recommendations (e.g., a government delegate approached Kuriansky after she spoke up about mental health at a UN meeting to say that her boyfriend, Paul Harrington, a recent psychology graduate from Ireland, would be interested; he turned out to be an excellent intern). Some summer interns have come through the Praxis program at Kuriansky’s alma mater, Smith College, where students get minimal support from the college to spend time learning from a college alum. Applicants can contact the President of IAAP’s student division; see his statement at the beginning this issue. The positions are voluntary and unpaid.

Interns play a major role, but also have major responsibility, to attend meetings at the UN and to report for the IAAP, to research issues, to participate in the team’s activities and with the extended NGO youth community, and to attend special youth meetings, like the UN Youth Assembly.

Their valuable assistance was most evident during the SDG negotiations when two interns from Smith College, Quyen Nguyen and Monica Kim, and another intern Paul Harrington, led by Hunter College student Joel Zinsou, dedicated long hours to help Kuriansky in meetings, and in preparing written materials and producing videos for the packets of information used for advocacy. Zinsou, an invaluable assistant, was introduced to Kuriansky by his father, Ambassador Jean-Francis R. Zinsou, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Benin to the United Nations and chair of the group of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) at the UN.

Interns have also traveled with Kuriansky to major IAAP conferences and other international congresses; e.g., Khawla Nasser AIDeen traveled to her home country, Lebanon, when Kuriansky gave an invite plenary about the UN and women’s rights at a women’s rights NGO, ABAAD, in Lebanon and conducted other meetings and workshops. Zinsou and Nguyen spoke at Kuriansky’s presentation about IAAP’s psychosocial resilience project at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan. Alexandra Margevich presented at four conferences in 2017 as an IAAP intern: (1) the World Disaster Risk Reduction Conference (WDRRC) in Cancun, Mexico, 22–26 May; (2) the European Congress of Psychology (ECP) in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 11–14 July; (3) the World Congress for Psychotherapy (WCP) in Paris, France, 24–28 July, where she presented a poster about the IAAP train-the-trainers project in Haiti; and (4) the American Psychological Association (APA) in Washington DC, 3–5 August. During the WDRRC, she assisted Kuriansky in delivering two interactive

presentations (for IGNITE Stage and at the UNMGCY Market Booth) demonstrating examples of the resiliency-building techniques for community members in the south of Haiti following Hurricane Matthew's devastation. This work was also presented in poster format, besides verbal presentations, at ECP, WCP and APA. During symposia at ECP and WCP, Dr. Margevich discussed her experiences as an NGO Youth Representative at the United Nations and the important role of psychologists in motivating governments to make mental health and well-being a priority for sustainable development.

*IAAP Youth Representatives
Presenting Posters
at International Conferences*



Alexandra Margevich
at World Congress of Psychotherapy, Paris
about her field work in Haiti



Emma Wookey (left)
at IAAP Regional Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam
About her field work in Kenya

Another intern, Janell Lin, who served as an IAAP intern during the summer of 2017 (as part of the Smith College Praxis program), assisted Kuriansky in presentations at APA and at the Caribbean Well-being Conference for youth, in training teachers to help youth build resilience. During these events, Lin also presented posters on behalf of IAAP youth representative Joel Zinsou about *“Action and Advocacy by Psychologists for Mental Health and Well-being in the SDGs at the United Nations,”* and on behalf of IAAP’s Alexandra Margevich, about *“Providing Psychosocial Support in a Culture Doubly Devastated by Natural Disaster: The case of Haiti.”*

Such experiences are invaluable to their personal and professional development. For the 2016 DPI/NGO conference in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, for the IAAP co-sponsored workshop on the topic of *“Advocating for Mental Health and Well-being at the United Nations”* and for their specific presentation on *“Lessons learned from college student interns,”* youth representatives Joel Zinsou, Paul Harrington, Monica Kim and Quyen Nguyen sent video messages about their experiences during their internship. They described their sense of pride and accomplishment in their activities, including about contributing to the SDG negotiations and being “pushed beyond their comfort zone,” for example, to approach high-level officials. Kim discovered her life’s passion to link the UN focus on “people” and on the “planet” through studying environmental protection, after being inspired when attending the “One Ocean Symposium.” Zinsou developed excellent research and writing skills, contributing to IAAP Bulletins and journal chapters with Kuriansky about UN projects and producing excellent videos for UN conferences. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZ4RuDRNsiQ>.

The IAAP experience also offers youth unique opportunities to be co-authors on professional articles in journals or books. Interns Meaghan LeMay from Columbia University Teachers College and Anjali Kumar from Smith College were included as co-authors for their research work on Kuriansky’s chapter about *“Paradigm Shifts in Nature and Well-Being: Principles, Programs, and Policies about the Environment and Climate Change with Actions by the United Nations for a Sustainable Future”* in a book about *“Ecopsychology: The Intersection of Psychology and Environmental Protection: Intervention and Policy,”* and LeMay presented a poster about *“Entrepreneurial Training for Girls in Africa: Outline and Outcome of a Model Programme”* at the ICAP Conference in 2014. Megan Lytle, Ph.D. candidate in Counseling Psychology at Seton Hall University, was a co-author on a paper about entrepreneurship and the Girls Empowerment Camp (Berry, Kuriansky, Lytle & Vistman, 2013) and Adrian Chu, Ph.D. candidate in Clinical Psychology at St. John’s University, presented results at the Eastern Psychological

Association meeting of a pilot study by IAAP's Kuriansky and Father Wismick Jean-Charles about youth volunteer helpers trained in psychosocial recovery after the Haiti earthquake. Many interns from Smith College like Lauren Berrill and from other institutions, also contributed to advocacy and wrote reports for the IAAP bulletin on meetings they attended at the UN. For example, LeMay and another clinical psychology master's degree student from Teachers College, Columbia University, Nora Aldhuwaihi, reported on the speech by Ahmad Alhendawi, the first-ever UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, at the DPI/NGO Youth Led Briefing on *Educating and Employing Youth: The Influence of the Public-Private Partnerships in a Technological Era*, where he stressed teaching youth *how* – not *what*- to think, producing youth who become “job inventors,” namely, entrepreneurs, as compared to just being “job seekers.”

Given that IAAP has had such a presence at the United Nations, Kuriansky was asked to teach a course about “*Psychology and the United Nations*” at Columbia University Teachers College. These students join IAAP's student division, and get accredited to attend UN conferences, reporting about them for IAAP (and other) communications. Examples include articles about the presentation of the third United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, by Joanne O.S. Qina'au; an article about “*Empowering Rural Women And Girls - Disability Inclusion*” covering a parallel event at the 2018 UN Commission on the Status of Women by Yves Augustin; and an article about “*Supporting Families Affected by Wars and Conflict: Experiences of NGOs in Qatar*,” about the side event at the UN Commission on Social Development by student Danielle Lianza.

IAAP student members in Columbia University Teachers College class by IAAP Judy Kuriansky on “Psychology an the UN”



Regina Francis from Jamaica talks with Ambassador of Jamaica to the UN

IAAP President Christine Roland-Levy guest lecture



Some young people have a dream to become part of the United Nations, that has become a possibility for them through the IAAP internship. IAAP's Reichman can particularly relate to this, as he had such a dream when he was a young boy, and it has now become realized in his being an IAAP representative and being so active. One of Kuriansky's students, Regina Francis, said in class that her dream is to become the Prime Minister of her country, Jamaica; then, she had the unique opportunity to start making that dream come true, when invited by Kuriansky to come to the IAAP-co-sponsored event at the UN about World Interfaith Harmony Week, that the Ambassador of Jamaica to the UN, H.E. Courtney Rattray was hosting, and at Dr. Judy's encouragement, to be bold enough to approach him. They ended up having a very engaging conversation, and the Ambassador subsequently invited her to another Jamaica-hosted event. She wrote about this event for the IAAP UN website, that further consolidated her experience. In this way, IAAP has played a major role in impacting a young psychology student's life course in a major way. The team is happy to provide these golden opportunities to committed youth.

Given IAAP's field projects, students have also had the invaluable opportunity to get rare humanitarian "on-the-ground" experience. Intern Alexandra Margevich came with Kuriansky on a mission to Haiti after a major hurricane. Other interns have presented at IAAP conferences. Emma Wookey came to the IAAP regional conference in Hanoi Vietnam and reported about her health education project in Africa. UN officials also guest lecture in class, giving students rare insights and contact with high-level officials, including the Surinam UN Ambassador about the UN Women HeForShe campaign about sensitivity to gender equality; the Deputy Permanent Representative of Canada about that country's investment in mental health; the Deputy Executive Director of the World Health Organization; the Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago about women's issues, given her role as President of the Executive Board of UN Women; the delegate from the Mission of Georgia about the drafting of the declaration about Universal Health Coverage and the delegate from the Mexico mission about the drafting of the Global Compact for Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration; the Chair of the Global Campaign on Mental Health and Mental Health Ambassador in Neuroscience External Affairs at Janssen R&D, a Johnson & Johnson company, talking about the private sector involvement in mental health; and IAAP's President Christine Roland-Lévy, talking about the value of belonging to an international psychology association.

These experiences, thanks to the opportunity offered by IAAP at the UN, have also led to career opportunities for youth. A native Emirati student was invited by the UAE Ministry of Happiness at Kuriansky's recommendation to attend the 2nd Global Dialogue on Happiness and the World Government Summit in Dubai, where she was then invited to meetings about her future interests and to discuss her pilot study on cultural differences in Kindness, coincident with the UAE Happiness campaign. Also, Kuriansky arranged for a Kuwaiti student who did a pilot study about harassment of females by Kuwaiti males to present on a panel at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Two other students participated in the presentation about disaster risk reduction in the endangered Pacific Island Development States given by Kuriansky with Dr. Judy Otto, a partner from the UN Mission of Palau, that was delivered at the 2017 American Public Health Association conference in Atlanta.

As student Clint Hougen said, "We learned the importance of advocacy, and how to merge psychology and policy, that the world needs psychologists' skills, and that we can start now – even without our PhD -- to do things we're passionate about to make an impact on the world."

The Student Journalism Program

The International Student Journalism Program was co-founded and directed by IAAP's Kuriansky in countries at UN DPI/NGO conferences around the world, including in Mexico and Melbourne, to cover the sessions in various media. Reports by these IAAP interns are in issues of the IAAP Bulletin online. Students also came to the Conferencia Internacional de las Américas (CILA 2009) in the Dominican Republic, held like a model UN, where they assumed roles as country delegates on global issues.

As noted in the article in this issue about women's issues at the UN, students in the journalism program in Paris were particularly moved by a presentation about "*Child Brides: Stolen Lives*" where panelists relayed personal stories of abuse. The experience stimulated their commitment to social justice, from being frustrated about little positive change despite international resolutions, e.g., Security Council Resolution 1820 that confronts sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, calling rape during war a war crime and a crime against humanity and demanding protection of women and girls from all forms of sexual violence. For their experience, the youth committed to become global citizens and leaders in promoting human rights on their campuses and in their communities, through methods like launching websites, writing statements, and speaking out human rights. Also, at the CILA conference, an excellent video about youth action on climate change was produced by two of the students, called "Seal the Deal" intended to promote agreement about climate change to take place at the climate conference a few months from then, in Copenhagen. See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vP-yjpdXO8M>.

Focus on youth: the case of Morocco

Due to connection with psychologists in Morocco and also with the health delegate from the Mission of Morocco to the United Nations, a unique project was initiated to address mental health of children in that country. Following the principle that it is important to notice the commitment of a country to an issue relevant to IAAP, and to build on that, Kuriansky noted that the Deputy Permanent of Morocco mission had spoken about the importance of mental health for children at a side event she had organized at the UN, and also that the Minister/Counsellor was participating in meetings of the Group of Friends of Mental Health and Well-being. A meeting was set up with this Minister/Counsellor with leading Morocco psychiatrist Kamal Raaddaoui when he came to New York, that led to his organizing a National Conference for the Promotion of Children's Mental Health and Wellbeing. This conference

became a reality, held in Morocco in November 2018. Kuriansky's plenary speech was on "*Mental Health and Wellbeing for Youth as a Rising Priority on the Global Stage: Implications and Implementations.*" Local experts addressed a wide range of issues, including problems of youth, child rights, child migrants and addictions. One of the major goals of the conference was to create a stronger network among the professionals in the country focused on youth mental health. A Morocco Plan for Action for Children's Mental Health and Well-being was written by Raddaoui and Kuriansky, outlining the substantial mental health needs for children and trainings, education, collaborations and partnerships needed. Also, a meeting was arranged with representatives of Her Royal Highness princess Lalla Meryem at her National Observatory of the Rights of Children, whose interest is in helping street children.

The Ageing population

IAAP UN representative Florence Denmark has been active regarding the rights of the ageing. Denmark, a President of the IAAP Division of Applied Gerontology, holds leadership positions in the NGO Committee on Ageing and in organizing the International Day of Older Persons held at UN NYC headquarters. At the 2010 IDOP celebration, the growth of the ageing population, to the point where persons over 60 years old are projected to number 2 billion by 2015, and their important contributions to society were emphasized, yet, problems were also highlighted for this age population, including ongoing marginalization as well as their vulnerability to poverty and even to HIV/AIDS infection.

NGO Representatives of the NGO Committee on Ageing/NY, including Peter Walker, prepared a position paper on "Older Persons and Transportation in 2009, that was of interest to IAAP Divisions of Environmental Psychology, Applied Geropsychology, Economic Psychology, and Traffic and Transportation Psychology, especially as transportation is essential to access community and health services.

See: <https://iaapsy.org/site/assets/documents/Older%20Persons%20and%20Transportation.pdf>,

In that same year, an event was held on "*Mental health, emergency medicine and human rights: Ageing in a world of all ages*" in commemoration of the International Year of Reconciliation, co-sponsored by the NGO Committee on Ageing and the NGO Committee on Human Rights, as well as the Committee on Mental Health Working Groups on Racism, Related Intolerances and Mental Health and the Working Group on Children, Youth and Mental Health. The event was held at the UN Church Center, with IAAP's Denmark serving as discussant. The program explored new ways to realize "*Human Rights for All*" in the 21st century by turning attention to the relationship between mental health, emergency medicine, human rights and ageing in a world of all ages. Panelists included Craig Mokhiber; Deputy Director in the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The World Health Organization is also focusing on the aged population, in an increased focus on dementia, its causes and research on prevention and treatments. The Mission of Japan to the United Nations has also taken a leadership role among Member States in the field of gerontology, coincident with its ageing population.

Opportunities for IAAP members to participate with the IAAP UN team and UN functions regarding ageing arise. For example, in August 2019, the Chair of the General Assembly Open-ended Working Group on Ageing sent an invitation to the NGO community with ECOSOC status to contribute input to strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons. Inputs had to be in English and only 800 words. They requested (1) Substantive inputs on the two focus areas of their 11th session, namely "*Right to Work and Access to the Labour Market*" and "*Access to Justice*" in the context of older persons; and (2) Substantive inputs, in the form of normative content for the development of a possible international standard on the protection of the rights of older people to "*Education, Training, Life-long Learning and Capacity Building*" and "*Social Protection and Social Security (including social protection floors)*", the two focus areas of the previous 10th session of the Working Group. Responses were to be sent by 31 October 2019 to ageing@un.org.

The Way Forward

The United Nations is putting increasing emphasis on issues related to the ageing population with more Missions, joining the Mission of Japan to the UN in events on this topic. IAAP will continue its activities in this area. Regarding youth, IAAP continues to offer internships and opportunities to youth to participate in the United Nations initiatives. Importantly, youth need to be involved in the UN, so they can further the advancements reported in these articles in this special issue, for example, expanding the importance of mental health and well-being in the next edition of the UN Agenda that will start to be planned about five years before its expiration in the year 2030.

Activities and Achievements of the IAAP Team at the UN in Geneva

Dr. Raymond Saner¹ & Dr. Lichia Yiu²

IAAP representation to the United Nations offices in Geneva goes back to the year 2006. The authors were invited to represent IAAP by former President Michael Frese in November 2005 upon the suggestion of Dr. Walter Reichman, one of the two IAAP-International Representatives based in New York. What follows is a description of the UN Agencies based in Geneva, as well as the major organizations which represent civil society, also based in Geneva. As second step, the authors give an example of the complexity and importance of UN decision making processes exemplified with the attempts to create a universal agreement on the protection of older persons. Finally, a description of the Sustainable Development Goals is listed with possible interlinkages with the divisions of IAAP (cf. Annex 1).

The UNITED NATIONS offices and main CSOs in Geneva

The United Nations office in Geneva has its roots in the preceding League of Nations which lasted from 1929 to 1938, but then lost its mandate and institutional *raison-d'être* with the advent of the Second World War. Once the atrocious WWII was over, a follow-on institution was created in 1945 called United Nations which has its headquarters in New York and Geneva and whose purpose is to prevent another world war.

The **United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)** is the second largest of the four major office sites of the **United Nations** (New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi). The Geneva UN office hosts the headquarters of several UN institutions and leading international NGOs. What follows is a non-exhaustive list of UN Agencies and NGOs based in Geneva

For NGOs and CSOs, following all the deliberations and negotiations at the major UN Agencies and leading CSOs is very demanding task. Some of the activities happen at the UN headquarters in New York while related activities might take place at UN Agencies based in Geneva. To follow and influence complex negotiations at multiple sites necessitates a comprehensive understanding of what gets to be negotiated, where decisions are taken and in cooperation with whom?³

Example of the complexities of UN negotiations:

Deliberations on an agreement concerning protection of older persons

To give a recent example of such complexity, the topic in point is human rights and protection of older people. Human society in most parts of the world has seen an unprecedented age bonus because of the extended life expectancy now reaching 80 years or higher in many developed economies. The number of people who are older than 60 years of age reached 901 million in 2015 representing 12.3% of the total world population. By 2050, it is forecasted that this number will reach 2.09 billion worldwide. This development has changed the demographic distribution of populations and the demand patterns for public services and resource allocation.

The distribution of the senior population across the world is uneven and correlates with the wealth of individual countries⁴. Presently, most of the advanced economies have 20-29% of the population older than 60 years of age. By contrast, African countries are expected to be the only ones to enjoy a youth bonus while the rest of the world is fast joining the silver society (UNDESA, 2015).

In the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the SDGs identify older people as an integral part of social development for instance in Goal 3 - "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages".

Different initiatives have been launched to bring to the public's attention that older people often experience severe discrimination (Ageism) and appalling situations in elderly care institutions and even at home in the context of family.

¹ Main Representative to the UN Office in Geneva

² Main Representative to the UN Office in Geneva

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_international_organizations_based_in_Geneva

Table 1: The United Nations Agencies and Non-governmental Organizations based in Geneva (non-exhaustive list)

UN Agencies and Institutions (Note 1)	NGOs with offices in Geneva (Note 2)
Conference on Disarmament	European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN)
International Bureau of Education	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
International Labour Organization	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Force
International Trade Centre	Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
International Telecommunication Union	Geneva Centre for Security Policy
Joint Inspection Unit	International Air Transport Association
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	International Bureau of Education
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	International Committee of the Red Cross
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
United Nations Human Rights Council	International Organization for Standardization
United Nations Commission on Human Rights	International Union for Conservation of Nature
United Nations Institute for Training and Research	Inter-Parliamentary Union
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	Médecins Sans Frontières
United Nations Research Institute For Social Development	World Council of Churches
World Health Organization	World Business Council for Sustainable Development
World Intellectual Property Organization	World Nature Organization
World Meteorological Organization	Internet Governance Forum
World Trade Organization	Geneva Call

Note 1: For a complete listing of International Organizations in Geneva, please visit http://www.genevainternational.org/pages/en/55;International_Organisations

Note 2: For a complete listing of the NGOs in Geneva, please visit <http://www.geneve-int.ch/categories/non-governmental-organizations>

The following institutions are contributing to the international efforts to create policies and an international agreement that could lead to an international convention for the protection of older persons:

1. **Open Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWGA) for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.** The Open- Ended Working Group on Ageing was established by the General Assembly by resolution 65/182 on 21 December 2010. The working group considers the existing international framework of the human rights of older persons and identifies possible gaps and how best to address them, including by considering, as appropriate, the feasibility of further instruments and measures. It meets regularly in New York. <https://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/>.

2. **The United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR).** The Report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly of 2017 focused for the first time on the human rights of older persons and it identified four main challenges that older persons are facing in terms of human rights like discrimination, poverty, violence and abuse as well as the lack of specific measures and services. The report further stresses several key areas for responses to the challenges as strengthening the international protection regime, elimination of financial exploitation and employment discrimination, establishing adequate care facilities and participation in political life. The meetings of OHCHR are mostly held in Geneva. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/issues/olderpersons/pages/olderpersonsindex.aspx>

3. **United Nations Economic Commission of Europe Working Group on Ageing (UNECE-WGA).** The Working Group on Ageing is an intergovernmental body which was first convened in 2008. It is made up of national focal points on ageing representing the member States of the UNECE region, along with representatives from international organizations, NGOs and academia. Members of the UNECE are countries from Europe, Central Asia and North America. Its meetings are held regularly in Geneva. <https://www.unece.org/population/wga.html>

4. **The World Health Organisation (WHO)** focuses on Ageing and Health. The Department of Ageing and Life Course organizes its work according to the 5 strategic priority areas identified in its Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health (2016-2020) such as commitment to action, age-friendly environments, health systems that meet the needs of older people, long-term-care systems and data and research. (<http://www.who.int/ageing/en/>). Its publication titled “Global Health and Ageing” (2015) focuses on the rights of older people and health related aspects of Ageing (see https://www.who.int/ageing/publications/global_health.pdf). For the policy framework on active and health ageing, the World Report on Ageing and Health (http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/186463/9789240694811_eng.pdf;jsessionid=CD4094A4741FD432B2B35373C77022E2?sequence=_) The WHO meetings are held in Geneva.

5. **Different NGOs** focus on the Rights of the Older people such as the **GAROP** (Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People)- <http://www.rightsofolderpeople.org/>; **The Grey Panthers** - (<http://www.graypanthersnyc.org/>); **The NGO Committee on Ageing** based in Geneva (<http://ageingcommitteegenève.org/>); and other NGOs such as the Centre for Socio-Economic Development, **CSEND**, an ECOSOC accredited NGOs (<http://www.csend.org/active-ageing-aging-with-dignity-and-the-sdgs/466-csend-geneva>).



The various anti-ageism advocacy NGOs are located in NY, UK, Geneva, Canada, Australia and other countries and their meetings are spread across the hemisphere necessitating continuous inter-NGO coordination and alliance building.

The example given above highlights the complexity of advocacy at the UN and at the international conference level. In order to achieve impact of its advocacy actions, IAAP representatives need to coordinate across New York, Geneva and Vienna as well as with different other civil society organizations located in different countries.

The SDGs and linkages to IAAP's divisions

To stay with a major contemporary topic namely the 2030 Agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals, IAAP representatives need to follow the various developments concerning the SDGs and attempt to bring perspectives and positions to bear from an IAAP psychology.

However, the SDGs are complex, consisting of 17 Goals, 169 Targets and 230 Indicators. In order to bring to bear psychological perspectives to the negotiation and implementation of the SDGs, the respective IAAP representatives need to identify which of the UN agencies and/or offices based in their city is in charge of which of the SDG goals and targets and how do these goals interrelate with each other.

Take the example of Geneva, different UN Agencies have custodian roles for SDG goals and hence responsibility to do their best effort to ensure achievement of the related targets linked to their custodian role till 2030 and to measure whether the targets and goals are being achieved applying indicators agreed upon by the UN General Assembly.

The list below (Table 2) gives an overview of the SDGs goals which are being implemented with support from UN Agencies based in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi. The second column lists the Geneva based UN Agencies and their role in regard to the SDGs. The next column lists the main NGOs involved with the respective

SDG and further to the right are our suggestions as to which IAAP divisions might be interested in following the SDGs.

Table 2 is a proposition to create closer links between the IAAP divisions and the SDGs. Identification of how the goals and targets are best matched with IAAP divisions' interests and thematic foci will require more discussions with IAAP leadership and the heads of the IAAP divisions.

It would also be very useful to reach out to other social science disciplines such as Sociology, political science, anthropology, economics, and environmental science to name some with academic disciplines close to Psychology.

Psychology and the other social science communities appear to be not as effective as they could be due to the self-imposed academic silo thinking which makes cooperation and alliance building difficult. This could be due to separate research funding, scope of research (lack of inter-disciplinary approach) and self-referential importance given to their respective discipline's literature.

As one of the largest professional groups of the social sciences, there is a need for IAAP to reach out and create alliances with other like-minded professional communities so as to strengthen the relevance of the field of Psychology and to better present the social and behavioral sciences at the UN.

There is no time to wait! As the top scientists of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change told us, the + 2.5 centigrade warming is approaching faster than originally forecasted (SDG 13). For the benefit of future generations, IAAP members should be more closely organized so that their expertise can be brought to bear in sustaining our planetary ecosystem.

Closing Comments

Psychology as a scientific community sometimes has to face criticism and negative perceptions from various stakeholders- government, NGOs and business alike. The most apparent is the amalgamation of Psychology with clinical practice. Clinical psychology is a core domain of Psychology but not the only domain of importance of IAAP.

Some UN delegates express interest in how Psychology can contribute to global wellbeing but often times such expression of interest is not responded positively by the different branches of Psychology and hence opportunities are missed to engage with the non-psychology stakeholder community.

What is needed is to bring to the attention of the international community that IAAP can contribute its varied applied fields to the UN efforts to eradicate poverty through higher productivity, more equitable development and decent work (cf. The call for volunteers at the beginning of this issue).

The challenges that the United Nations and its affiliated state and non-state actors face call for coordinated efforts to transform our global economic system from being driven by unsustainable consumption and production (SDG 12) to that of the living within planetary boundaries and shared and more equal forms of social and economic development.

The 2030 Agenda leaves us all with 11 years to accomplish its goals and objectives. IAAP can help the international community achieve a more fair and just distribution of wealth and support recognition of dignity for all regardless of gender, age, race and religion.

To move the IAAP and its members towards more participation in the discourse, deliberation and actions of the UN and the SDGs is not self-evident and requires major efforts to explain to the IAAP members the role and mandates of the UN Agencies and their link to the SDGs. This also requires a concerted effort and deeper reflection on how individual divisions of the IAAP can participate and support the various UN agencies in their fight against poverty, hunger, diseases, injustices and environment degradation.

Let's move IAAP beyond its traditional role of being mostly the convener of professional gatherings and instead bring about more engagement with the current challenges and risks that the world community is facing today. It is our hope that IAAP will mobilize its global presence and membership to achieve the greater good in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Let's work towards leaving a legacy for the future generations and make our planet a more sustainable and just world for all.

Table 2: Mapping of the SDG Goals, UN Agencies and Non-Government Organizations in Geneva with the Divisional Competences of IAAP

SDGs	UN Agencies and International Organizations in Geneva	University and NGOs based in Geneva (non-exclusive list)	Potential interest for IAAP divisions
Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO Rome/Geneva Representative Office • OHCHR, Geneva • UNDP Office in Geneva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agha Kahn Foundation • Caritas Internationals • CSEND 	5, 3, 7, 9, 11
Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAO, Rome/Geneva Representative Office • UNICEF, European Office in Geneva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FH Switzerland / the network of Food for the Hungry • Oxfam International • Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition 	3, 9, 11
Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO, Geneva • UNESCO Liaison Office in Geneva • UNICEF, New York • UNAIDS • UN Population Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Vision International GAVI Alliance • The Global Fund to Fight AIDs, Tuberculosis and Malaria • Medicines for Malaria Venture • Council on Health Research for Development • Roll Back Malaria Partnership 	8, 7, 6, 1, 11, 12, 14, 16
Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all inequality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Bureau of Education • UNESCO, Paris and Liaison Office in Geneva • UNICEF • United Nations Research Institute for Social Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enfants du Monde • NORRAG • Global Apprenticeship Network • World ORT (The Organisation for Education Resources and Technological Training) 	5, 3, 2
Goal 5. Achieve Gender Equality and empower all women and girls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Women, New York • UNFPA, New York • ILO, Geneva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO Committee on Women • CARE International's Geneva- based Secretariat • Women@TheTable 	1, 3, 6, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14
Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Water, New York • UNDP, New York, Paris, Geneva • UNEP, Nairobi, Geneva, Paris 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toilet Board Coalition • Geneva Water Hub • Waterlex • Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council 	1, 3, 6

Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNIDO, Vienna, Geneva • International Energy Agency • International Renewable Energy Agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Telecom Union, Geneva • Engineers without Borders, Switzerland 	1, 4, 3, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13
Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Labour Organisation (ILO) • International Trade Centre (ITC) • UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) • United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Int. Trade Union Office Employer's Association • NORRAG • International Social Security Association • Action Aid • CUTS International ODI, London 	1, 3, 6, 9
Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNIDO, Vienna • UN-Habitat, Nairobi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), Geneva 	1, 3, 6, 9, 13
Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCTAD, Geneva • WTO, Geneva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third World Network ODI, London • Geneva Social Observatory 	5, 3, 9, 10
Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHABITA, Nairobi • UNICEF, NYC/Geneva • WHO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty (WACAP) • IISD, Canada and Geneva • CSEND, Geneva 	4, 1, 3, 5, 6, 13
Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCTAD/circular economy, Geneva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IISD, Canada and Geneva • World Economic Forum • Circular Economy Incubator, Impact Hub, Geneva • Responsible Ecosystems Sourcing Platform 	9, 4, 1, 3, 5, 10, 11
Goal 13 take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Meteorological Organisation • Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change • UNEP, Nairobi, Paris, Geneva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Union for Conservation of Nature • Geneva Environment Network • IISD, Canada, Geneva • International Emissions Trading Association 	4, 1, 3, 5, 11, 13

<p>Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP, New York, UNEP, NY, Paris and Geneva, UNCTAD, Geneva 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Ocean Council • Save Our Seas Foundation • My Drop in the Oceans 	<p>4, 9, 1, 3, 5, 13</p>
<p>Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-REDD Programme, Geneva UNEP, Nairobi, Paris, Geneva • UNCTAD, Geneva • Basle Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste and Their Disposal • Group on Earth Observations • UN Convention to Combat Desertification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Forest Trust IISD, Canada, Geneva • Ramsar Convention on Wetlands • International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants 	<p>4, 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13</p>
<p>Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-OHCHR, Geneva, • UNHCR, Geneva • IOM, Geneva • Joint Inspection Unit of the UN • United Nations Office for Project Services • UN Office for Disarmament Affairs • International Court of Justice • International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICRC, Geneva • Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Geneva • Amnesty International – United Nations Office • DCAF, Geneva • Geneva Peace Building Platform • CSEND • The Graduate Institute • The Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights • ICT for Peace Foundation 	<p>1, 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14</p>
<p>Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Office at Geneva • UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) • WTO, Geneva • ITC, Geneva, • UNECE- PPP, Geneva • International Telecommunication Union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WBCSD, Geneva WEF, Geneva • Business Humanitarian Forum (BHF) • International Humanitarian Infrastructure Platform • Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Internet Society • Diplo Foundation 	<p>1, 9, 10, 11, 13</p>

Activities and Achievements of the IAAP Team at the UN in Vienna

Dr. Wolfgang Beiglböeck¹

Although Vienna is one of the smaller UN headquarters, it is nevertheless the seat of several important UN Commissions: the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) – both of which are functional commissions of the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, UNODC. Established in 1997, UNODC has approximately 500 staff members worldwide. The organization's headquarters are in Vienna and it has 21 [field offices](#) as well as a liaison office in New York. UNODC relies on voluntary contributions, mainly from governments (predominately the USA, which is of great political importance), for 90% of its budget. The main focus of CND is on research and analytical work to increase knowledge and understanding of drug-related issues and expand the evidence-base for policy and operational decisions, on normative work to assist States with the ratification and implementation of international treaties, the development of domestic legislation on drugs and the provision of secretariat services and substantive support to the treaty-based and governing bodies. CND also provides field-based technical cooperation projects to enhance the capacity of Member States to combat illicit drugs. The CCPCJ on the other hand facilitates international action to combat national and transnational crime, including organized crime, financial crime and money laundering, to promote the role of criminal law in protecting the environment (e.g. crime prevention in urban areas, including juvenile crime and violence) and to improve the efficiency and fairness of criminal justice administration systems in the Member States.

Other UN offices based in Vienna are the International Money Laundering Information Network (IMoLIN), the Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (which was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace), the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), the International Trade Law Division of the United Nations Secretariat / the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs and the UN Register of Damage Caused by the Construction of the Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (UNRoD).

Theoretically, NGOs/IAAP could work together with all organizations, however, in practice many offices have tried and still try to massively restrict this (e.g. UNOAS, IAEA, UNIDO). Furthermore, working together with all organizations is a question of human (and financial) resources and would require several full-time positions.

IAAP has been represented in Vienna since 2006, but until 2 years ago with just one person. Therefore, the decision was taken several years ago that IAAP would collaborate mainly with UNODC and CND. Now, our enhanced personnel capacity has allowed us to attempt to build up contacts with UNIDO. Although this was initially rather difficult, we are now pleased to report that we began to successfully establish a relationship several months ago.

In 2006 CND's work was predominantly focused on the enforcement of drug laws and crop eradication. Treatment and prevention issues played only a minor – if any - role in CND's political planning. The inauguration of President Obama brought about a dramatic and immediate change in this regard. He replaced the Ambassador to the UN in Vienna which led to a totally new political agenda: away from the "War on Drugs" and toward prevention and treatment. Subsequently a "window of opportunity" opened and the Committee on Narcotic Drugs (of which IAAP is a member) – developed a new plan of action for 2009 (called "Beyond 2008"). IAAP's goal was to include treatment and prevention as professional fields of applied psychology in "Beyond 2008" and hence in UNODC's political planning. This is of importance for psychologists as Member States commit themselves to support these measures in their respective states. We have been rather successful here as terms like **scientific evidence, primary prevention, treatment, care, rehabilitation, social reintegration and social well-being** have been included in the Political Plan adopted by the special session of the GA of the UN (UNGASS) on narcotic drugs in April 2016 in NYC and will be evaluated in years to come (<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/drug-prevention-and-treatment/index.html>).

¹ Main Representative to the UN Office in Vienna; Clinical and Health Psychologist, Organizational Psychologist, Executive Director of a Consulting Firm, Lecturer at several Austrian Universities.

Thanks to enhanced personnel resources IAAP was also in a position to seek contact with UNIDO, the specialized agency of the United Nations that promotes industrial development for poverty reduction, inclusive globalization and the environment. Unfortunately, this agency is one of those UN organizations that have little interest in collaborating with NGOs. Nevertheless, last year we were invited by the section Trade, Investment and Innovation of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to an awareness session for its staff and Dr. Eva Hofmann gave a presentation on “How Applied Psychology can Support UNIDO’s Goals” – the first step has therefore been taken...

This year IAAP was also represented at the European preparatory meeting for the 13th UN-Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, which will take place in Kyoto next year. In the minutes presented to the UN General Assembly IAAP was mentioned as contributing NGO.

During the last 12 years IAAP has established itself as a key resource for psychological issues at UNOV, and in particular at UNODC e.g., the Omani Deputy Minister of Health and the Ambassador asked for a meeting as they wanted to expand their drug treatment facilities and wanted to know for example which professions they should hire to run a half-way-house; the medical department of UNOV asked for training sessions for their department heads on how they could deal with alcohol and drug problems among their employees and the author has been elected twice as Vice-president Vienna of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CoNGO) (until 2018).

Founded in 1948, CoNGO is an independent, international, non-profit association of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that seeks to facilitate the participation of NGOs in United Nations debates and decision-making. It is most active at the major UN centers of New York, Geneva and Vienna but its work extends to all regions of the world (through regional committees of which IAAP is also a member in Vienna).

Membership allows improved access to the relevant UN bodies (at least in Vienna we have received a great deal of support e.g. from the UN liaison office) We can benefit from the experiences gained by CoNGO during the last 70 years of cooperation with the UN system and from networking with other NGOs to obtain greater consideration of psychological issues in UN resolutions. As CoNGO has been dominated mainly by faith-based and charitable NGOs to date, it provides an opportunity to increase the influence of scientific psychological issues on the work of other NGOs, too.

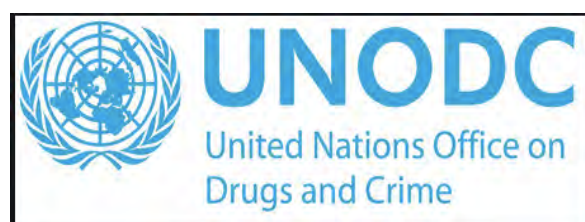
As the vice-president of CoNGO the author has also been able to organize three major events in the last three years at UNOV involving UN Offices, in particular the United Nations Information Service (UNIS). These conferences not only dealt with the contribution of the NGOs to the Sustainable Development Goals currently predominating in the UN, they also explored the contribution of the NGOs to overcoming the challenges presented by the current migration flows. Another event was dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the UN. These events not only offered an opportunity to position IAAP as a key stakeholder, but also – since several psychologists were invited to join the panels – to present psychology as an important resource in the context of the UN and issues of importance for the UN.

Future Developments

As since the beginning of this year, IAAP has been in the position to have four representatives in Vienna, the goal for the next few years is to expand cooperation with UNIDO in particular, despite the difficulties. This will be done first and foremost by increasing our work on the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. Furthermore, plans have been drawn up to found an NGO Committee on Youth Issues in Vienna. As we have the youngest IAAP representative in the world here in Vienna and another representative was formerly head of the Psychological Service of the City of Vienna Child and Youth Welfare Service we want to play an important role in establishing this committee.

NGO representatives in Vienna

Wolfgang Beiglboeck, Ph.D. (main representative)
Barbara Hartl, Ph.D.
Eva Hofmann, Ph.D. (until 2018)
Belinda Mikosz, Ph.D.
Anna Krenn, MSc



Annex 1. IAAP Divisions

Division 1 – Work and Organizational Psychology

Focuses on understanding, explaining and shaping attitudes and behavior in organizational settings and identifying conditions that promote motivation, creativity, competency, teamwork, leadership, health and wellbeing, as well as the central role of human resources in strategic organizational planning.

Division 2 – Psychological Assessment and Evaluation

Deals with the development of educational and psychological tests and their administration, the expansion of state and national educational testing programs, and the use of tests in work and clinical contexts. It also involves issues of test construction, administration and scoring, as well as adaptation from one language and culture to others.

Division 3 – Psychology and Societal Development

Is concerned in part with the ways psychology can contribute to human well-being at a societal level involving issues such as health, education, gender equality, ethnic tolerance, intergroup relations and even political disputes. Primary emphasis, however, is placed upon understanding how these are affected by different histories, cultures, ethnicities and epistemologies, and thus the call for applications of psychology to be cognizant of these differences.

Division 4 – Environmental Psychology

Examines the interactions between people and their physical settings and the effects that one has on the other. Emphasis is upon enhancing this relationship by improving society's investment in the built environment (buildings, streets, parks, the atmosphere), and reducing its negative aspects, especially in areas such as poverty, crime, terrorism and climate change, for example.

Division 5 – Educational, Instructional and School Psychology

Aims to help every student achieve the highest possible degree of maturity, including intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially, and how this is influenced by factors ranging from family, school, community, society and culture to diverse teaching methods, curriculum and a school environment that promote curiosity and encourages creativity.

Division 6 – Clinical and Community Psychology

Clinical Psychology focuses on understanding, preventing, diagnosing and treating psychological, cognitive, emotional, developmental, behavioral and family problems in children, adolescents and adults. Community Psychology is concerned with building competencies, behavioral changes and agency in individuals, communities and societies, thereby enhancing the quality of life at all three levels.

Division 7 – Applied Gerontology

Is typified by three areas of interest: age (concerned with difference between people of different ages), ageing (deals with changes in functioning across the life span), and the aged (focused upon the elderly). Essentially the aim is to help people adjust to age and ageing so as to add life to years rather than years to life, especially through having a positive self-perception on ageing and keeping active both physically and mentally.

Division 8 – Health Psychology

Focuses upon explaining and changing health-related behavior and on the role of psychological processes in health, illness, and healthcare delivery. Topics include symptoms and their investigation; cognitive, emotional and behavioral responses to illness; cognitive behavioral interventions; and treatment behavior.

Division 9 – Economic Psychology

Promotes and discusses research, as well as policy making, on the interface of psychology and economics including topics such as money management, spending, saving and credit use and debts as well as financial and psychological preparation for retirement, money and inflation, felt inflation and consumer spending, and contra-productivity such as tax non-compliance, shadow economy and fraud.

Division 10 – Psychology and Law

Although starting as a combination of the two separate disciplines of psychology and law, the field has emerged as one in its own right with its own epistemology, experimental techniques, and expertise. Within the field, however, there are two areas of specialization. One is based upon experimental psychology, epitomized in research into eyewitness testimony. The other is clinically oriented of which an example is the assessment of recidivism.

Division 11 – Political Psychology

Examines human behavior in a wide spectrum of settings, mainly national and international, in which psychology and political matters converge. Topics, for example, range at one level from voting behavior and political extremism through to nuclear threat and terrorism, and at another from their associated motives and attitudes (such as changing attitudes, especially among adolescents, to war and peace) through to conflict resolution and negotiation.

Division 12 – Sport Psychology

Sport Psychology is concerned with the study and application of psychological and mental factors that influence and are influenced by participation in physical activity in general, and in sport, exercise and physical education. Sport psychology may be divided into three main areas: psychology of motor learning, exercise psychology and applied sport psychology. Each of these areas has contributed substantially to the understanding of humans in movement.

Division 13 – Traffic and Transportation Psychology

Traffic and Transportation Psychology is substantially concerned with the what, the how, and the why of road safety. As well it is heavily involved in the field of evaluation of countermeasures, including work in simulators where research is often multi-disciplinary in nature involving engineers and statisticians. Specific areas in which Traffic Psychology is particularly visible include seat-belts, behavioral measures relating to enforcement, the development of road signage, speed limits, driver distraction, and the older driver-licensing question (when should people quit?).

Division 14 – Applied Cognitive Psychology

Concerns applications of cognitive studies arising out of interactions with allied fields such as cognitive ergonomics, psychophysics, cognitive neuropsychology, engineering psychology, human factors engineering, cognitive engineering, new information technologies, computer supported cooperative work (CSCW), cyberspaces and virtual life research, neuro-ergonomics, psychology of learning and instruction, natural language processing (speech competence, reading, writing), the legal process (eye-witnesses, face and voice identification), decision making, conflict resolution as well as creativity research and training.

Division 15 – Psychology Students

Aims to promote and support a network of students who share a common interest in international development, teaching, trends, applications, and research in applied psychology. Activities include exchanging scientific knowledge; sharing useful information for students such as mobility programs, scholarships, research grants, study and work abroad; and promoting international and cross-cultural research.

Division 16 – Counseling Psychology

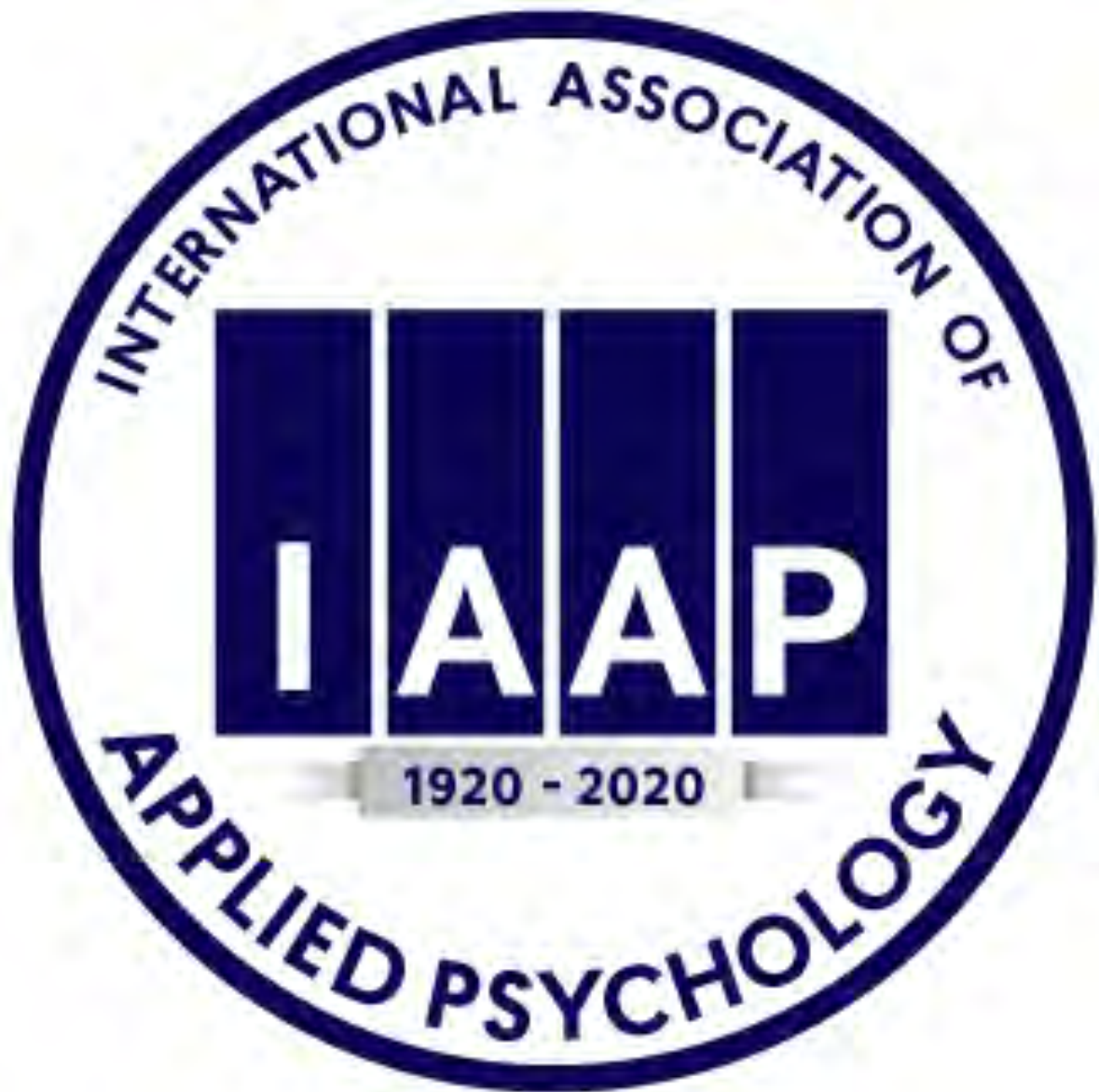
Aims to help individuals, families, groups and organizations with their educational, developmental and adjustment concerns and in so doing employs a wide range of assessment and intervention strategies. Generally speaking, clients experience moderate adjustment and psychological problems as opposed to severe psychopathology, interventions are short-term, service is out-patient rather than in-patient, the context is frequently educational or work, and emphasis is upon preventative interventions.

Division 17 – Professional Psychology

Places a strong emphasis upon evidence-based practice and covers a wide range of matters of central interest to practicing psychologists. These include accreditation, registration, quality and standards, supervision and mentoring, ethics, service delivery, workplace conditions, advertising standards, technological orientation, and political orientation and advocacy.

Division 18 – History of Applied Psychology

Fosters an historical approach to understanding, developing and reinforcing the institutional identity of our discipline. It encourages the preservation of technical reports in congresses and journals, qualitative and quantitative data collection procedures, and archival technique to keep safe documents that may well serve to maintain the identity of a tradition, a school or a national development.



Annex 2. References and Resources

Relevant to the Articles on the Activities and Contributions of the New York team representing IAAP at the United Nations

Note: The below are organized to relate to specific articles in this issue, with the same title, which correlate to the Sustainable Development Goals (by number or as cross-cutting issues). Other features of the list are that it is: generally organized by the type of reference, e.g., books, articles, videos, webcasts; represents only references and resources by, or about, the New York team representing IAAP at the United Nations, or referred to in the respective article; does not include all possible publications or media material, nor does it include presentations, which are innumerable.

Introduction and Overview

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Poverty and Decent Work

Books/Chapters

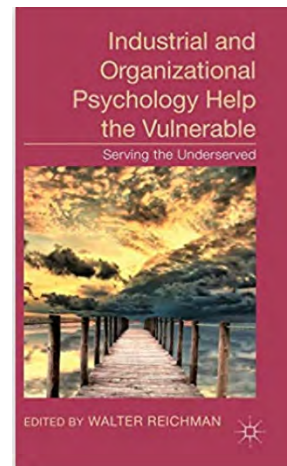
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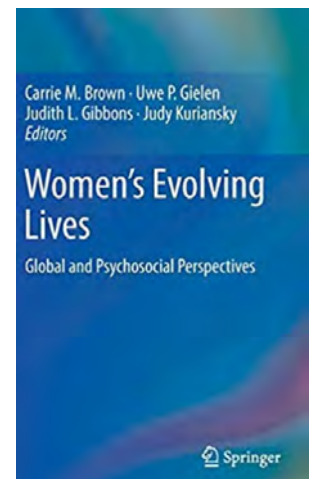
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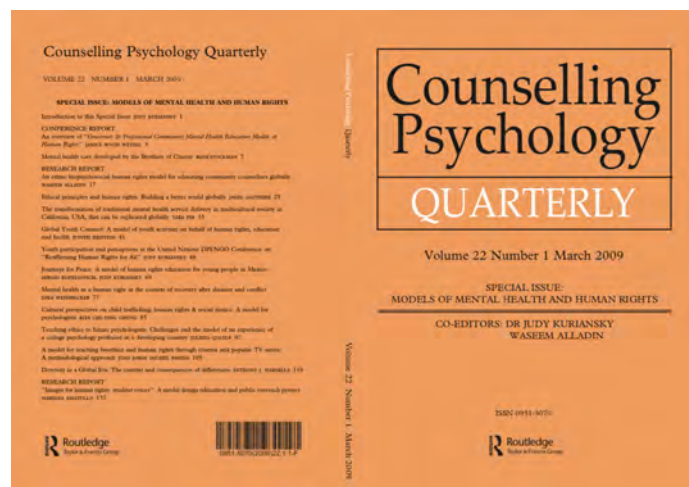
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APAW Mission Statement

Applied Psychology Around the World (APAW) is the newest of the three official publications of the International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP). We have two academic journals - *Applied Psychology: An International Journal* (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14640597>) and *Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being* (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/17580854/homepage/productinformation.html>). Our e-News is published once a month with a series of regular information about Applied Psychology and our community.

Applied Psychology Around the World (APAW) is our new publication; APAW has an ISSN registration number: 26939-6521. IAAP members are notified when a new issue is made available online. The APAW is only distributed online, with three thematic issues per year.

The purpose of APAW is to share news and reports about applied psychology, through theme-based articles. The themes are determined in advance so that one can prepare a paper in relation to the theme of the issue.

The themes of the upcoming issues and article deadlines are as follows:

Vol. 2. Issue 1: IAAP's Centennial Anniversary, papers due by December 1st (January issue)

Vol. 2. Issue 2: *Terrorism & Peace building*, papers due by April 1st (May issue)

Vol. 2. Issue 3: *Climate Change*, papers due by August 1st (September issue)

Vol. 3. Issue 1: *Work and Organizational Psychology: Challenges around the World* (January issue)

APAW welcomes submissions of papers addressing the themes of each issue; around a given theme, one can include scientific research projects, data analysis, information of various kinds (books on the topic, conferences, etc.), and practice related to applied psychology around the world on the theme of the concerned issue.

Submissions are encouraged from members in all regions of the world. Articles should be written in a way to be understood by a diverse range of readers with differing levels of expertise in psychology (undergraduate students, postgraduate students, practitioners or Professors), in correct English (using the US spell check).

How to Prepare Articles for APAW

Authors may correspond with the Chief-Editors, Christine Roland-Lévy at president@iaapsy.org and Christina Sue-Chan at secretarygeneral@iaapsy.org. In the subject line of your email, enter the subject: "Submission for Publication in APAW". All articles and news items for publication consideration should be submitted in electronic form only in a Word compatible file. Short papers are preferred.

For papers, a short title, the list of authors, their e-mail address, institutions, and the corresponding author (to whom communications about the articles should be directed). Papers must include an abstract of no more than 200 words and up to five keywords. Articles with references should follow the style of the American Psychological Association (author's name and date of publication parenthesized in the text) and all works cited should be listed alphabetically by author after the main body of the text. No space between paragraphs, no indentation, font should be Arial Narrow, size 11.

Figures (including color or black and white photos), if any, should be sized close to finish print size, at least 300 dpi resolution, and saved in a common graphic format (e.g., TIF, EPS, JPG, or PDF).

By submitting a paper or new items, authors imply confirmation that all listed authors have approved the text. Every submission is reviewed by the Editors for conformity to the overall guidelines and suitability for APAW. The copyright of all papers published in APAW is held by the IAAP.

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