

UNITED NATIONS VETERANS ASSOCIATION (UK)



History

The inaugural meeting of the UN Veterans Association of the UK was held on 8 June 2011. The event was convened by UNA Westminster, represented by members of its Executive Committee. The UNVA (UK) was originally set up as a branch, or Post, of the well-established [Irish UN Veterans Association](#) with membership comprising UK-based former UN peacekeepers serving with UK or Irish forces. The meeting set out to confirm the creation of an independent UK-based organisation. The Officers of the previous organisation were confirmed in post and the constitution agreed.



Welcome messages

Messages of goodwill were received from:

Henry Bellingham MP, FCO Minister for Africa, the UN and Conflict Issues;

The Rt. Hon Andrew Robathan MP, Minister for Defence Personnel, Welfare and Veterans;

General Sir Michael Rose, Former Commander, UN Protection Forces, Bosnia 1994/95;

General Sir Rupert Smith Former Commander, UN Protection Forces, Bosnia 1995/96; Colonel Bob Stewart DSO MP, Former British UN Commander in Bosnia 1992 – 93.

These messages can be read in full in the *News Item* on 8 June, 2011. Since then, members of the UN Veterans Association have provided the Colour Guard for the annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Cenotaph, London to mark the International Day of UN Peacekeepers. For reports on all these ceremonies, [click here](#) and scroll to *News Item* on 8 June 2011.

Marking the Olympic Truce, 2012



On 16 August 2012, UNA Westminster organised the [presentation of Ambassadors' Letters of Support for the Olympic Truce](#), held in Methodist Central Hall Westminster which hosted the first meeting of the UN General Assembly in 1946. Members of the UNVA were applauded as they marched on, parading the flags of the United Nations and the Olympic Truce.

UNVA member urges support for UN inquiry

In 2014, UNVA member, John Wickham, who served with the Irish Defence Forces in the Congo (ONUC) in 1962 met HE Mr Daniel Mulhall, Ireland's ambassador, to urge that Ireland support the call in the forthcoming UN General Assembly debate (15 December 2014) to re-open the inquiry into the death of UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld and colleagues.



Mr Mulhall agreed to take forward Mr Wickham's requests and to keep informed of developments. [Click here](#) for a report of this meeting and scroll to *News Item* on 3 December 2014.

Sad loss of UNVA Chairman



On 18 January, 2017, UNVA announced the death of John Cooke, its founder Chairman. John Cooke first served with the Irish Guards in the British army but on moving to Ireland joined the 36th battalion of the Irish army. In 1961, he was posted to the 38th battalion then deployed by the United Nations to Elizabethville in the Katanga province of the Republic of the Congo. For a full report, [click here](#) and scroll to *News item* on 13 January 2017

Committee and contacts

Chairman:	Kieron Ryan
Hon. Secretary:	John Wickham
Hon. Treasurer:	John Culbert
Parade Marshal:	Chad Caress
Public Relations Officer:	David Irwin

For more information, contact:

David Irwin 07908 545 123

david.irwin1146@gmail.com