

United Nations Association

Westminster Branch

Campaigning for a strong, credible and effective UN



Presentation of Ambassadors' Letters of Support for Olympic Truce held in historic United Nations location

Central Hall Westminster which hosted the first meeting of the UN General Assembly in 1946, witnessed the presentation of a unique collection of letters of support for the Olympic Truce written by ninety Heads of Missions to London, led by HE Mr Khaled Al-Duwaisan GCVO, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps. Their letters confirmed their countries' co-sponsorship of the UK's Resolution to promote the Olympic Truce unanimously passed at the United Nations on 14 October 2011, promoting human development initiatives through sport and cooperation with the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee and the sporting community in general.

Representatives of more than fifty embassies and many others witnessed the 75 minute programme which featured several presentations. The *London Peace Network* announced that on 21 September, the International Day of Peace, mosques, synagogues, temples and churches will welcome all visitors in an unprecedented act of cooperation. Presentations were also made by *Truce 20/20*, a youth initiative in the London Borough of Newham; *Peace Unlimited* which works with young people in Rochdale and district in Lancashire; and the Office of the UN High Commission for Refugees which reported on the *Giving is Winning* partnership with the Olympic Games organisers. World G18 Somalia announced the publication of the UN educational comic *Score the Goals* in association with UNA Westminster Branch and Somali Youth Vision reported on its work in Mogadishu and southern Somalia. Members of the United Nations Veterans Association, all former UN peacekeepers, were applauded as they marched on parading the flags of the United Nations and the Olympic Truce.

The event was also addressed by Conrad Bailey, Head of Conflict Department, FCO; HE Mr Alexander Yakovenko, the Russian ambassador and by HE Mr Khaled Al-Duwaisan who invited the Young Diplomats in London organisation and the UNA Westminster Young Professionals to stage a Round Table meeting to share best ideas from all countries in building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal. Mr Al-Duwaisan ceremonially presented the collected diplomats' letters to Phil Mulligan Executive Director, UNA-UK, who in turn presented them to Christine Elliott representing Methodist Central hall Westminster for safe keeping. The event opened with a short play *Big Bang+1 at Central Hall* which irreverently revisited the opening days of the first UN General assembly held in the same location in January 1946. This event was conceived and organised by UNA Westminster Branch.

see <http://www.tvapex.com/watch.aspx?i=tsS5ETz4LyM=&j=Olympic-Truce,-an-effort-by-United-Nations-Association&k=5>

and

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2258150&language=en>

<http://www.rusemb.org.uk/article/160>