



**UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT**  
Communication of Engagement 2016



**UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT**  
**Communication of Engagement 2016**

**Statement from Secretary-General of Humanitarian Affairs United Kingdom**

I am pleased to validate that Humanitarian Affairs continues to support the ten principles of the **UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT** (UNGC) in particularly, the areas of Human Rights, Labour and Environment.

We are committed to advancing the principles to our employees, partners and young people who attend our programme.

Since our inception of the annual Leadership in Social Change program, Humanitarian Affairs has provided training to 3,300 global emerging youth leaders with the basic principles of the UNGC. Last year, alone the Organisation has equipped 900 young people from over 60 nations, the principles of the United Nations Global Compact. We will continue to teach life skills skills to young people and will continue to impart the ten principles of the UNGC.

Becoming a member of Global Compact is a great privilege, this has given us the responsibility of upholding our promises to the ten principles of the UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT whilst encouraging the young global leaders we bring together to do the same.

We are committed to supporting the ten principles of the UNGC, and we will continue to promote them among our employees, partners and future leaders.

**Kind Regards,**

**Kim Solomon**  
**Secretary-General**

## MISSION

The mission of **Humanitarian Affairs** is to empower young people and facilitate youth developments in the areas of social change and social justice. The organisation was established with a vision to set an action based example for young people interested in making a difference to those less fortunate than themselves. It aims to translate their intention and ideas into action, and provide comprehensive exposure for the development of well-rounded future leaders.



**Humanitarian Affairs** seeks to create a drive and sense of purpose in young leaders by equipping them with the rights skills and tools to spark a generation of dynamic individuals paving the way for the larger social good. Besides championing the cause of the young, it has developed several humanitarian initiatives in Southeast Asia: relief missions in disaster prone areas, offering educational services, distribution of provisions to the needy, and providing bicycles and stationary to children, aiming to make their access to education physically easier and possible.



## HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLE

At the core of what Humanitarian Affairs stands for is the promotion of Human Rights. We strongly uphold with the principles stated in the Universal declaration of Human Rights. We stand securely in the advancement of basic rights such as freedom of speech, privacy, health, life, liberty and security, as well as an adequate standard of living.





## Ethnic Minorities

In the Year 2015, Humanitarian Affairs organised an experiential learning program for 900 young people to learn about the communities in need.

Each activities exposes the harsh realities of various global social issues. One of the activities has tackled the issue of human right abuses of the ethnic minority. In this experience, the youth was shown the realities of the rights of people not being respected. The youth were shown an animated comic which demonstrated the impact on ones future; by belonging to a family with an ethnic minority background. Even though, they might have the same or better qualification as another person, their ethnic background ultimately determines what they will be able to achieve in life and what will be unreachable for them simply because of their ethnic background.

The youth participants were both shocked and angry at such injustice, they learnt that these types of injustices were happening around the world daily. Humanitarian Affairs are committed to exposing these realities, in the belief that young people across the world will be inspired to be part of the solution in seeing these injustices end worldwide, starting in their own communities.

## Refugee Run



Humanitarian Affairs organised a simulation exercise “Refugee Run” which focus of the plight of the refugees. It is the same refugee simulation exercise which UN Secretary-General; H.E. Ban Ki-moon has experienced during the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Our goals is to allow youth leaders not only to listen to an inspiring speech or watch a documentary about the world refugee crisis but rather for them to feel for these refugees through the refugee simulation exercise.

The participants are able to briefly step ‘into the shoes’ through simulation, of those refugees who suffer or has lost their lives in their pursuit of happiness and hope. The participants experienced simulated attacks, hunger, illness, ambush and violation of their basic human rights.



Many of the youth participants leave the refugee simulation in shock and disbelief that so many people around the world go through such turmoil. Compassion for refugees quickly turns into a passion to act and to end such human right abuses.

Humanitarian Affairs is devoted to supporting the UN Global Compact goals of taking action to lessening the suffering of people forced to flee conflict zones.

## **Workplace Abuses**

Humanitarian Affairs brought 35 youth leaders to a secret location in Hong Kong to interact with domestic helpers who were abused in the homes of their employers. These domestic helpers stayed in a secret location while waiting for their court appearances. Sometimes, they have to stay for more than 2 years before their cases are heard.

In Hong Kong there has been several human right debates on the social standards given to domestic helpers. Our future leaders were given insight to the atrocities of what these helper's went through during their work. One participant, Stef shared in the closing session that "It was definitely hard to imagine all that they had to go through. And it made me think, 'What can I do to help them?'"

Humanitarian Affairs believe that compassion for humanity begins when you not only hear people's pain but actually feel their pain. These youth started the day not knowing anything about the afflictions of the vulnerable and they left inspired to make a change by bringing awareness to this issue.

## **LABOUR PRINCIPLE**

Humanitarian Affairs centres its priorities on ensuring our employees feel protected at work and socially, we provide opportunities for constant personal development, we also encourage social integration through team building activities throughout the year. As well as upholding the labour principle with our employees.

The Organisation take it as a responsibility to nurture each staff member to reach their fullest potentials; thereby increasing in their employability. Our goal is that each employees learn both new and developed skills making them more confident in the working world. We provide our staff will soft skills which promote contemporary leadership. This is done through leadership training, networking opportunities, world-class coaching from life coaches.

## Sweatshop Challenge

Whilst, imparting the right values to our emerging leaders to become more employable, we also saw it as an opportunity to give them a chance to see when labour principles being disregarded. This was shown by 80 young person being chosen to go through a sweatshop challenged.

This Challenge provided a powerful and unforgettable experience, which helped them grow in empathy and compassion on their journey to becoming better leaders. The participants undergo a gruelling 15 hour work beginning from sunset to sunrise. These youth leaders were able to experience first-hand the tiresome task which so many have to do worldwide without any compensation to show for it. This program was conducted by a former Regional Manager from the UN Inter-Agency on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.



## ENVIRONMENT PRINCIPLE

At Humanitarian Affairs, we pride ourselves in being great advocates of the environment principle the UNGC have committed their efforts to. We stand up for tackling environmental challenges in areas including climate change, water, energy, biodiversity and agriculture.



One way in which Humanitarian Affairs has responded to this global issue is through the recycling of materials in our workplace.



In addition, the Organisation organised programs to educate others to recycle their unwanted materials. These activities allow participants to learn making toys from recyclable objects and to give it to the disadvantage children. Our approach is to encourage young people to be responsible for climate change by engaging and inspiring them to take more responsibility over their earth.

*"Humanitarian Affairs UK has created a wonderful platform for youth leaders to discuss leadership and (their) own actions to deal with humanitarian and developmental challenges the world faces."*

Mr Haoling Xu  
Assistant Secretary General, United Nations  
Director for the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific  
United Nations Development Programme