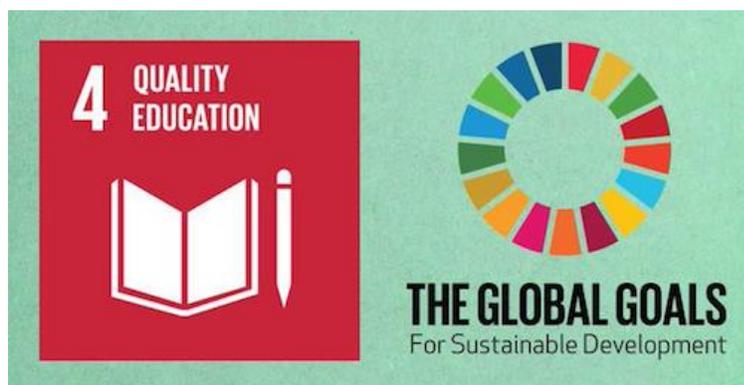


UNA-USA Leadership Summit, continued

MSU-UNA member Melanie Goerke reports: "We had fantastic meetings with Representative Sander Levin and his staff member Eden Forsythe, as well as a short informal meeting with staff members from Representative Mike Bishop's Office (8th Congressional District, representing East Lansing/Lansing). We also met with Representative Dave Trott and his staff member from the 11th congressional district, and had meetings with Legislative Coordinators from the offices of both Senator Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters. All of the people we talked to agreed that the UN is vital to the United States' foreign policy and new generation puzzle, and seem to be large supporters of what the UN does, as well as what our students in MSU and members of GLUNA do across cities in Michigan. Several members wished to meet later in the year in Lansing, to discuss how progress has been made in each of our chapters over the remainder summer months."



UNA-USA announces two-year focus on educating refugee and displaced children



The world is facing the biggest refugee crisis since World War II with over 20 million refugees and 40 million displaced persons, half of them children. Half of these 30 million children are receiving no education at all. The United Nations affirms the importance of quality education in [Sustainable Development Goal 4](#): Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong

learning.

Education is a basic right that restores hope and dignity to children driven from their homes. Without a chance to study, an entire generation is at risk. According to UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, *"In times of displacement, education is crucial. It can foster social cohesion, provide access to life-saving information, address psychosocial needs, and offer a stable and safe environment for those who need it most. It also helps people to rebuild their communities and pursue productive, meaningful lives."*

Given this critically important unmet need, a primary focus of UNA-USA and its more than 130 chapters for the next two years will be helping provide for the education of these 30 million refugee and displaced children around the world.

UNA-USA chapters—including GL-UNA—will hold special events to raise funds for “Adopt a Future,” a program to build classrooms and provide books and teachers for refugee and displaced children.. This initiative is in its early stages. Watch for updates in our next newsletter and email advocacy alerts.

New process for selecting the next Secretary General of the United Nations

Our 70-year-old United Nations is currently in the selection process of its ninth [Secretary-General](#). Led by current [UN president, Mogens Lykketoft](#) of Denmark, the selection process - unlike the past when the UN Security Council made its selection of the next Secretary General primarily behind closed doors—is transparent and involves the entire General Assembly of 193 member states (plus observers, etc.) The entire world was invited to submit questions for the candidates prior to interviews. You can learn about [the process](#), review the questions that were submitted, read other pertinent information, and watch video presentations of the dialogues that were held in mid-April 2016 with each of the eight candidates [here](#).

Half of the candidates are women, and three are from Eastern Europe, the only world region from which a Secretary-General has not been selected. Read a short description of each candidate in a recent Time.com column [here](#).

