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Subject: **Three Ethical Action Proosals; NSC**
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The Student World Assembly A Proposal for Ethical Action

A. Project description: This Ethical Action Proposal will promote the work of The Student World Assembly as described on the website: www.StudentWorldAssembly.org

B. Needs Assessment:

1. The Student World Assembly is an international youth project founded by , Paul Raynault, a member of the Ethical Culture Society of Bergen County. It would complement existing AEU youth projects.
2. The FES group will be exposed to an internet based international group that is focused on direct democracy.

C. Expected Outcomes:

1. The FES and YES contingency will have increased direct exchanges with students in 30 different countries.
2. Our members will have the opportunity to attend their international conferences all over the world.
3. The topic of humanist idealism as applied to direct democracy will be raised.
4. The awareness and exposure to youth activism will be more available in local Societies.
5. While members of the SWA are college students, we hope to develop a group in membership known as Friends of the Student World Assembly who will be committed to aiding the mission and aims of the group including fund raising.

D. Resources: The Student World Assembly already exists and has its own promotional materials, web-site and track record since 2003.

E. Budget: All funds will be raised by the participants themselves. Additional grants will be welcomed.

F. Implementation and time line:

First year: The project will be communicated to each Society and introduced especially to FES and YES members. At the end of the year, feedback from individual members will be offered at the next Assembly and a Friends group will be established. A report will be offered at some venue at the next National Assembly.

G. Evaluation plan: To be determined by the FES group who participated or joined in The Student World Assembly.

H. Appendix/Attachments: The website was developed by the student members and provides very useful information. The Founding Director, Paul Raynault, Bergen Society and Board Member of The Humanist Institute and the National Service Conference, is available to answer questions. Email Paul@StudentWorldAssembly.org

I. Author: While Martha Gallahue has written this proposal, Paul Raynault will direct and manage it with assistance from one member of the FES group to be determined. The National Service Conference has been in support of this growing initiative from the time of its inception. Paul has delivered highly successful Platforms at Brooklyn, Bergen, Riverdale Yonkers, Queens, Long Island and New York Societies.

Proposal for The United Religious Initiative (uri.org)

A. Project description: The United Religious Initiative (URI) is a global interfaith network which encourages interfaith cooperating circles on the local level. The purpose of The URI is to promote enduring daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence, and to create cultures of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings. The URI uses appreciative inquiry methodology as an organizing principle for its work.

This initiative began over five years ago and is present at the United Nations as an accredited NGO. The National

Service Conference is an active member organization there. On the local level in Brooklyn, NY, several interfaith projects arose after 2001 that illustrate models for local action appropriate to a URI circle. In 2001, in response to the World Trade Center disaster, the government initiated massive sweeps of muslim neighborhoods several of which were located in Brooklyn. A progressive Jewish temple, Presbyterian Church and Brooklyn Ethical Society joined muslim groups, buddhists, interspirituality groups and concerned citizens to plead for humane and just processes. We marched weekly outside a detention center for several months advocating for information and safety for the detainees. Out of this experience a muslim activist and Jewish rabbi instituted a Children of Abraham walk that has become a yearly rite, the Presbyterian Church joined with Brooklyn Society to create International Day of Peace ceremonies. This coalition is in process of forming a local uri circle to formalize their commitment to one another. We will be made up of buddhist, protestant, islam, jewish, humanist and atheist members. The United Religious Initiative was a meaningful presence at the Parliament of World Religions in Barcelona, Spain.

B. Needs assessment:

1. Ethical Culture was founded to promote interreligious cooperation for the sake of social transformation. The URI represents a 21st model for such work.
2. We are a congregational religious/philosophy that espouses local autonomy. This initiative is a grassroots initiative that is designed for such polity.
3. Ethical culture needs to find ways to demonstrate its mission and relevance in the local communities as a way of raising its visibility.
4. At the present time, the AEU does not have Funds to promote its mission. This unique initiative will provide the organizing structure to allow local Societies to do effective outreach without costing great sums of money.

C. Expected Outcomes: At the Parliament of World Religions, several communities in Thailand, Australian, England, etc., reported that the outcomes they noticed in their local circles was that they more clearly understood their own specific traditions as they conversed about them in the presence of other traditions. Because they were interfaith, it was easier to raise money for their projects. There was a synergistic benefit to the local projects they created because of shared resources and more intense motivation to behave cooperatively. Lay leadership was nurtured because in most circles, the laity both bring in the projects and implement them.

D. Resources: 1. the central URI is located in San Francisco, CA and has an informative network which will encourage local partnerships that may cooperate with one another. Thus, an Indonesian network can interface with a circle in Louisiana to address the aftermath of natural disasters.

2. Local Societies will generate the impetus to create local circles as local issues arise.
3. Ethical culture members from Brooklyn who have experienced such local interfaith cooperation circles can help with whatever groups need start up support.

E. Budget - There is no expense to the AEU. Monies will be raised in the local communities according to the projects chosen.

F. Implementation and time line: Brooklyn is in process of beginning a local circle now with buddhist, humanist, jewish, moslem and protestant members. The National Service Conference is a founding member of this group at the UN

G. Evaluation plan: at the end of three years, there can be a caucus of local Societies that either started them or are participating in them. They will be the source of any feedback that can be used to evaluate their benefit.

H. Appendix/ Attachments: The website, uri.org and Appreciative Inquiry. The Birth of a Global Community: Appreciative Inquiry in Action, by Sally Mahe and Charles Gibbs (Crown Custom Publishing, Cleveland, Ohio, 2003)

I. Author: Martha Gallahue, President of The National Service Conference of The American Ethical Union. NSC has members from Bergen, Brooklyn, New York Societies, and ESWoW. In addition, Society memberships in Philadelphia, Westchester, northern Westchester, Queens, Suffolk, Riverdale, northern Virginia, North Carolina, and Austin, TX.

The Millennium Development Goals - Proposal for Ethical Action

A. Project description:

The AEU Millennium Development Goals Campaign Initiative.

This AEU Ethical Action Proposal is designed to implement the AEU Resolution in support of the Millennium Development Goals at the 2003 AEU Assembly and to integrate the already existing programs and projects in our local Societies that do this.

B. Needs Assessment:

1. To demonstrate to all humanists throughout the world the AEU's viability as a global entity that is a model for cooperating social transformation. (branding)
2. To promote in practice our allegiance to the ethical principles stated in UN Declarations and founding documents especially the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the 21st century.
3. To heighten interaction among our Societies through information without increasing task demands
4. To reinforce local autonomy in Societies regarding choice of projects at the same time linking Societies to the national/global level
5. To demonstrate throughout our movement particular loyalty to the care of the environment, one of the Millennium Development Goals.
6. To demonstrate AEU relevance in the US.

7. To raise the visibility of The National Service Conference in local Societies including ESWoW

C. Expected outcomes:

1. Integrated understanding in Societies of the value/practicality of The Millennium Development Goals.
2. InterSocietal practice of social action projects that can be different in form, yet the same in purpose.
3. Increased opportunity to have intersocietal exchange and cooperation.

D. Resources:

The UN Millennium Development Campaign Office (posters, brochures and strategic campaigns) and website.

The National Service Conference Executive Committee and membership will spread this throughout the country.

Since this is essentially a networking project, there should be minimal Funds required --- one person from the NSC who could travel to Societies, hold tele-conferences, etc. . We already give Platforms in different locales, so we should be able to promote MDG's as we visit different Societies.

E. Budget:

None at the present time, if the AEU can provide internet access to the project. Each Society must be willing to designate a liaison who will accept local tele-conferencing costs.

F. Implementation Plan and Time Line:

One person from The National Service Conference will manage the initiative.

First Year:

Using the list of local Ethical Action projects, each Society will be contacted and informed which projects they are already conducting satisfy the MDG's agenda.

They will be invited to use their initiative to join with other Societies.

The projects will be broken into the respective MDG and Societies will become affinity groups. The first year will be to heighten awareness among Societies and promote interaction around their initiatives. Strategies and implementation plans will be developed.

At the end of the first year, a report of projects and lessons learned will be offered at some venue at the national Assembly.

Recommendations will be offered for the second year's initiatives including fund raising.

Second Year:

Promising initiatives that have arisen in a local Society will be tried in other Societies and restructuring of affinity groups will take place. We will explore possibilities for grants and focus on the experience of intersocietal cooperation and present findings at some venue of the national Assembly.

Each year we will further assess our success in terms of inter-societal cooperation and skill in developing assessment tools for these projects.

G. Evaluation Plan:

We will use data from the UN's Millennium Development Campaign office to educate the progress of the MDG's throughout the world to see if any of their assessment tools will help us assess our progress. In addition, we will measure how many of our members participated, how many projects were included in this campaign, how far outside our membership did the projects extend, what was the anecdotal experience of those participants, how well did we train others outside the NSC to manage and continue this initiative. We will also look to see if any important initiative or ethical action strategy grew out of our collaboration.

H. Appendix/Attachments (optional) Listed above in resources.

I. Authors: Martha Gallahue - plus all others who join this effort. National Service Conference Executive Committee includes Rose L. Walker, Lucile Kleiman, Donna Pang, Paul Raynault, Sylvain and Phyllis Ehrenfeld, Kurt Johnson, Lyndon Wilburgn, among others.

About the MDGs

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) commit the international community to an expanded vision of poverty reduction and pro-poor growth, one that vigorously places human development at the centre of social and economic progress in all countries. The MDGs also recognise the importance of creating a global partnership for change, as high-income nations must reform their domestic and international policies related to agriculture, trade, and sustainable development; enhance the effectiveness of their aid programmes; and help poor countries to reduce their debt burdens. For their part, low-income nations must address fundamental issues related to governance, rights and social justice. In all cases, countries must set their own strategies and policies, together with their global partners, to ensure that poor people receive their fair share of the benefits of development.

What are the MDGs? - The Global Challenge: Goals and targets

The Millennium Development Goals are an ambitious agenda for reducing poverty and improving lives that

world leaders agreed on at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. For each goal one or more targets have been set, most for 2015, using 1990 as a benchmark.

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target for 2015: Halve the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day and those who suffer from hunger.

2. Achieve universal primary education

Target for 2015: Ensure that all boys and girls complete primary school.

3. Promote gender equality and empower women

Targets for 2005 and 2015: Eliminate gender disparities in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015.

4. Reduce child mortality

Target for 2015: Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate among children under five.

5. Improve maternal health

Target for 2015: Reduce by three-quarters the ratio of women dying in childbirth.

6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target for 2015: Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

7. Ensure environmental sustainability

Targets:

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- By 2015, reduce by half the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water.
- By 2020 achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

8. Develop a global partnership for development

Targets:

- Develop further an open trading and financial system that includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction – nationally and internationally.
- Address the least developed countries' special needs, and the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States.
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems.
- Develop decent and productive work for youth.
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies – especially

information and communications technologies.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION 12 OCTOBER

Earthquake in South Asia: UN Coordinates Massive Relief Effort in Pakistan
(Web Article, October 2005)
http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2005/webArticles/101105_earthquake.html

United Nations Staff Dig Deep for Hurricane Victims (Web Article, September 2005)
By Sally Bolton
http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2005/webArticles/092105_Katrina.html

Smart Infrastructure (Issue 1, 2005)
By James Cho
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2005/issue1/0105p39.html>

Responding to Natural Disaster (See special segment) (Issue 1, 2005)
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2005/issue1/0105cont.htm>

'Development Is Not an Overnight Affair' (Issue 3, 2004)
Anwarul K. Chowdhury, speaking with the UN Chronicle.
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2004/issue3/0304p38.asp>

Exchange: Why Do Schools and Hospitals Collapse in Earthquakes? (Issue 3, 2003)
By Ben Wisner and James Lewis
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2003/issue3/0303p49.asp>

Interview with Julia Taft (Web Article, May 2003)
Nuchhi R. Currier, speaking with the Director, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP.

http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2003/webArticles/052103_interview_julia_taft.html

We May Know in 2100 What Caused the Floods of 2002? (Issue 4, 2002)
<http://www.un.org/Pubs/chronicle/2002/issue4/0402p62.html>

LINKS TO RELATED RESOURCES AT THE UNITED NATIONS

[International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction 12 October - DHL](http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/disaster/)

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/disaster/>

[World Conference on Disaster Reduction](http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/) <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/>

[2005 World Disaster Reduction Campaign - UNISDR](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2005/2005-announcement.htm)

http://www.unisdr.org/eng/public_aware/world_camp/2005/2005-announcement.htm

[Disaster Management Programme - UN-HABITAT](http://www.unchcs.org/programmes/rdmu/) <http://www.unchcs.org/programmes/rdmu/>

[Reducing Disaster Risk : A Challenge for Development - UNDP Online](http://www.undp.org/bcpr/disred/english/publications/rdr.htm)

Publication

<http://www.undp.org/bcpr/disred/english/publications/rdr.htm>

[UN Works in Emergencies - UN](#)

<http://www.un.org/works/emergencies/emergencies2.html>