

ADVOCACY TRAINING: UNITED NATIONS

Marcia Barlow



What I wish someone would have explained to me.



Focus on Advocacy:

1. Goals/Ideology

2. Relationships

3. Documents/language





The United Nations System

UN Principal Organs

General Assembly

Security Council

Economic and Social Council

Secretariat

International Court of Justice

Trusteeship Council⁵

Subsidiary Bodies

Main and other sessional committees
Disarmament Commission
Human Rights Council
International Law Commission
Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

Programmes and Funds

UNCTAD United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
• **ITC** International Trade Centre (UNCTAD/WTO)
UNDP United Nations Development Programme
• **UNCDF** United Nations Capital Development Fund
• **UNV** United Nations Volunteers
UNEP United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA United Nations Population Fund

Subsidiary Bodies

Counter-terrorism committees
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)
International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

Military Staff Committee
Peacekeeping operations and political missions
Sanctions committees (ad hoc)
Standing committees and ad hoc bodies

UN-HABITAT United Nations Human Settlements Programme

UNHCR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF United Nations Children's Fund

UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNRWA¹ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

UN-Women United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

WFP World Food Programme

Research and Training Institutes

UNICRI United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

UNIDIR¹ United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

UNITAR United Nations Institute for Training and Research

UNRISD United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

UNSSC United Nations System Staff College

UNU United Nations University

Other Entities

UNAIDS Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

UNISDR United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

UNOPS United Nations Office for Project Services

Related Organizations

CTBTO PrepCom Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization

IAEA² International Atomic Energy Agency

OPCW Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

WTO³ World Trade Organization

Advisory Subsidiary Body

UN Peacebuilding Commission

Functional Commissions

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
Narcotic Drugs
Population and Development
Science and Technology for Development
Social Development
Statistics
Status of Women
Sustainable Development
United Nations Forum on Forests

Regional Commissions

ECA Economic Commission for Africa
ECE Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCSA Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Other Bodies

Committee for Development Policy
Committee of Experts on Public Administration
Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names
Other sessional and standing committees and expert, ad hoc and related bodies

Specialized Agencies⁴

ILO International Labour Organization
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
UNESCO United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO World Health Organization
World Bank Group
• **IBRD** International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
• **IDA** International Development Association
• **IFC** International Finance Corporation
• **MIGA** Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency
• **ICSID** International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes

IMF International Monetary Fund
ICAO International Civil Aviation Organization
IMO International Maritime Organization
ITU International Telecommunication Union
UPU Universal Postal Union
WMO World Meteorological Organization
WIPO World Intellectual Property Organization
IFAD International Fund for Agricultural Development
UNIDO United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNWTO World Tourism Organization

Departments and Offices

EOSG Executive Office of the Secretary-General
DESA Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DFS Department of Field Support
DGACM Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

DM Department of Management
DPA Department of Political Affairs
DPI Department of Public Information
DPKO Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DSS Department of Safety and Security
OCHA Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

OHCHR Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIOS Office of Internal Oversight Services
OLA Office of Legal Affairs
OSAA Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
OSRSG/CAAC Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

UNODA Office for Disarmament Affairs
UNOG United Nations Office at Geneva
UN-OHRLS Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing States and Small Island Developing States
UNON United Nations Office at Nairobi
UNOV United Nations Office at Vienna

NOTES:

¹ UNRWA and UNIDIR report only to the General Assembly.

² IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly.

³ WTO has no reporting obligation to the General Assembly (GA) but contributes on an ad-hoc basis to GA and ECOSOC work inter alia on finance and developmental issues.

⁴ Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of ECOSOC at the intergovernmental level, and through the Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) at the inter-secretariat level. This section is listed in order of establishment of these organizations as specialized agencies of the United Nations.

⁵ The Trusteeship Council suspended operation on 1 November 1994 with the independence of Palau, the last remaining United Nations Trust Territory, on 1 October 1994.

This is not an official document of the United Nations.

UN General assembly

- ▣ Our work is done primarily with the Second & Third committees

First Committee	Disarmament & International Security
Second Committee	Economic, Demographic
Third Committee	Social & Humanitarian
Fourth Committee	Special Political & Decolonization
Fifth Committee	Financial & Budgetary
Sixth Committee	Legal

Commissions

Economic & Social Council

- ▣ Commission on Social Development, CSocD (56th Session) Held in February each year
- ▣ Commission on Status of Women, CSW (62nd Session) Held in March each year
- ▣ Commission on Population & Development, CPD (51st Session) Held in April each year
- ▣ High Level Political Forum (HLPF) New. Held in July

Commissions

Economic & Social Council

- ▣ Commission on Social Development (56th Session) Social Summit, 1995 (Copenhagen)
- ▣ Commission on Status of Women (62nd Session) 4th World Conference on Women, Declaration/Platform 1995 (Beijing), + Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against women, 1981 (CEDAW)
- ▣ Commission on Population and Development (51st Session) Int'l conference on Population & Development (ICPD), 1994 (Cairo)
- ▣ High Level Political Forum (HLPF) Agenda 2030 (SDGs)

What is CSW?

- ▣ Commission on the Status of Women
- ▣ CSW is a functional commission of the UN Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC)
- ▣ Been in existence since 1946, but rose to prominence after the Beijing Conference (1995)
- ▣ Used to promote values and understandings of the Beijing Declaration & Beijing Platform for Action



Focus on Advocacy:

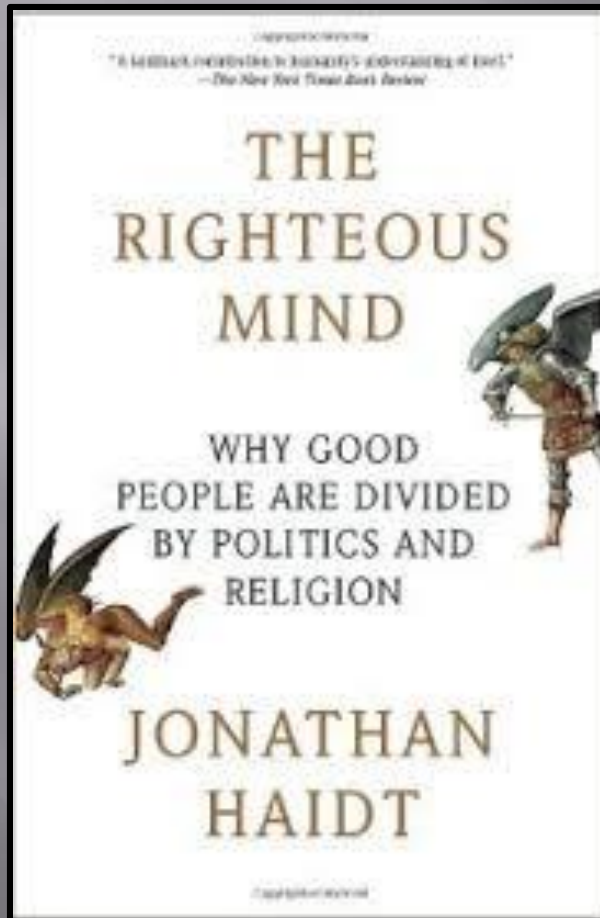
1. Goals/Ideology

2. Relationships

3. Documents/language



Six Core Values or Principles people respond/react to:



- Care/compassion
- Fairness/equality
- Liberty
- Loyalty
- The Sacred
- Authority

The Left/Liberal's Three Highest Values:

1. Sexual Liberty
2. Equality
3. Environment

Conservative's Three Highest Values

1. Faith
2. Family
3. Freedom

Focus on Advocacy:

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Relationships

UN Delegates/Diplomat

Delivering your message - facilitating your goals.

- ▣ Mission Visits – protocol – “Blue Book”
- ▣ Happenstance
- ▣ Parallel/Side Events
- ▣ Forums/Retreats
- ▣ On-site Exhibitions
- ▣ Oral/Written Statements
- ▣ Universal Periodic Reviews (HRC – Geneva)

Relationships

State Department & Equivalents

Dependent upon which administration controls the capital

- ▣ Contacts within a country
- ▣ Briefings
- ▣ Become part of a delegation

UN Agencies

- ▣ UN Women/UNICEF/UNFPA
- ▣ “Bureau”

Relationships

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- ▣ **UN NGO Committees**
- ▣ **UN Caucus**
- ▣ **Coalitions (UN and domestic)**
- ▣ **Parallel/Side Events**

Relationships

Security

- ▣ Get to know them!
- ▣ Flyers/Leaflets

What about those UN badges?

S - Secretariat

D - Delegate

N - NGO

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Types of documents produced through Eco/Soc

1. Resolution
2. Conference
3. Convention/Treaty



Types of UN documents

1. Resolutions

- ❑ Most of UN business is communicated through General Assembly resolutions
- ❑ Non-binding on all parties. Suggestions for structuring international and domestic policy
- ❑ Drafted as part of some come conferences. Countries can generate.

Examples of what was negotiated at CSW 2013:

- ❑ “Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS”
- ❑ “The Empowerment of Rural Women and their role in poverty”
- ❑ “Eliminating Maternal Mortality and Morbidity through the Empowerment of Women”
- ❑ “Gender & Empowerment of Women in Natural Disasters”
- ❑ “Indigenous Women: Key Actors in Poverty Eradication”
- ❑ “Release of Women Taken Hostage during Armed Conflict”

Type of UN documents

2. Conference Documents

- ❖ Generated at the various commissions
- ❖ Written by unknown drafting committee
- ❖ Non-binding, yet influential, particularly the “review” conferences (+5, +10, +20)
- ❖ Soft Law - building precedent, a body of “law”

Examples:

- ▣ Int’l Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Cairo
- ▣ 4th World Conference on Women (Beijing platform)
- ▣ World Summit for Social Development

Type of UN Documents

3. Conventions

- ❖ Include an unelected group of “experts” that serve on “compliance committee”
- ❖ Compliance Committee tasked with measuring a countries commitment to the convention
- ❖ **Binding to the degree that countries decide to comply – often referred to as “binding”**

Examples:

- ▣ Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1990
- ▣ Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1981
- ▣ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) 2006

Treaties

- ❖ Binding legal instruments
- ❖ Includes sanctions and “punishment” if not adhered to.

Examples:

- ▣ Law of the Sea Treaty
- ▣ Agreement on Trade and Tariffs

“Consensus”



Negotiations

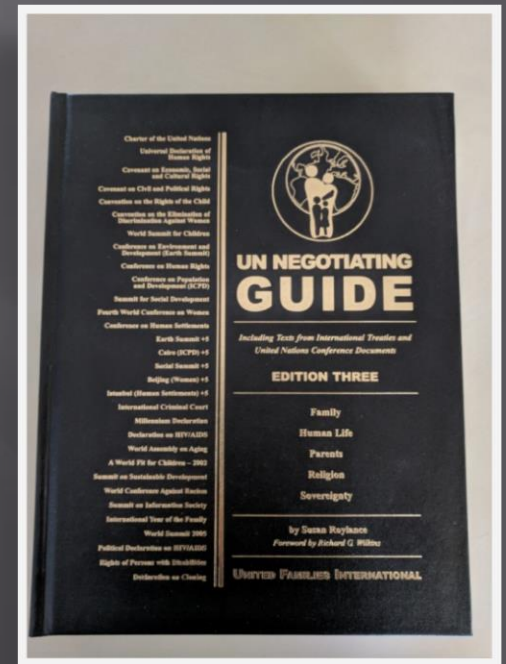
How they work.

- Not the same as a legislature or on Capitol Hill
- “Agreed Conclusions” or “Outcome Document”
- Drafting Committee
- Progression of Negotiations
- Relationships!
- Monitoring

Language!

- Words and phrases matter.
- Know the language and where to find it
- Consensus Language
- Tools:

UFI's UN Negotiating Guide
"Women's Human Rights" App



Constructive Ambiguity

Words and phrases matter.

Search for keywords in a document:

“Famil” (family, families, basic unit of society, “various forms”)
“Right”
“Sex” (sexual, sex education, sexual orientation)
“other status” (related to SOGI)
“Religi” (respect for religious, ethical & cultural values)
“Parent” (parental rights, right to guide education)
“regional review” (“reaffirm” “recognize”)
“Reprod” (health, services, rights)



I just walked into the UN. What do I do?

- UN Journal - <http://undocs.org/rss/unjournal.xml>
- Electronic Schedule Boards
- Plenary
- Side Events (will have checked Parallel Event schedule as well)
- Attend events, develop relationships, follow negotiations – including working on language



You've got this!





www.UnitedFamilies.org
www.WorldFamilyNews.com
www.WorldFamilyForum.com