



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.N. Assistant Secretary-General & Regional Humanitarian Coordinator To Speak In San Diego on Syrian Crisis

San Diego, California – March 22nd, 2016 - The U.N. Assistant Secretary-General and Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Syrian Crisis, Kevin Kennedy is visiting the local United Nations Association of San Diego (UNA-USA San Diego) on March 31st, 2016. U.N. Assistant Secretary-General Kennedy has chosen San Diego as the place to share with members of UNA-USA San Diego about the ongoing UN efforts in addressing the Syrian refugee crisis. “In speaking with Mr. Kennedy early last month, I felt his message and information would be of great interest to the San Diego region and as such we are opening up the invitation to the wider community” says President & CEO, Bettina Hausmann. Hausmann continued, “The timing of the visit is great as our organization is celebrating its 70th anniversary this year. This is an opportunity to show once again how we San Diegans care deeply about culturally diverse communities, world issues, and the continuous work towards a just and equitable future for all. At its core, Mr. Kennedy’s work is also directly aligned with that vision”, shared Ms. Hausmann.

Assistant Secretary-General Kevin Kennedy is traveling from Jordan where a total of **329,135** Syrian refugee children are officially registered with UNHCR. A staggering **6,000,000 children** are in desperate need inside Syria, while neighboring countries, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey, Egypt and others, host additional **4,882,165 Syrian refugee children**. These figures are even greater when considering the number of Syrian refugees in Europe.

During his visit on March 31st, 2016 the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator will update on the work of the United Nations in Syria, and its adjacent countries, focusing on the humanitarian side of the work as well as providing an overview on policy, operational and security challenges that further heighten the humanitarian crisis.

The event is scheduled for **March 31st, 2016 from 6 to 8 PM** at the House of Pacific Relations in Balboa Park. UNA-USA San Diego is proud to partner with the San Diego Diplomacy Council on this free, public event and extends a special thanks to its community supporters: Amnesty International, San Diego; Casa Cornelia Law Center; Collective 1939; German American Chamber of Commerce, California; Global Shapers Community; International House of the University of California, San Diego and Palestinian Children’s Relief Fund.

For Press inquiries please contact: Bettina Hausmann, president@unasd.org or 805.403.4773

About UNA-USA San Diego

As a program of the UN Foundation, UNA-USA San Diego is the local Ambassador to and for the United Nations. With its prestigious consultative status to the United Nations, UNA-USA San Diego links the local community with the United Nations and vice versa since 1999. With its programmes & events, the organization is expanding on the understanding of global issues through advocacy and mobilization for actions to influence legislation in supporting the principles and vital work of the United Nations. UNA-USA San Diego actively engages partners and stakeholders locally since 1946.