

BLUE BERET



Autumn 2023

UN Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav
Jenča visits Cyprus

Plus:
UNFICYP marks first international day of police cooperation

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FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION
AND ABUSE**



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Editor's note

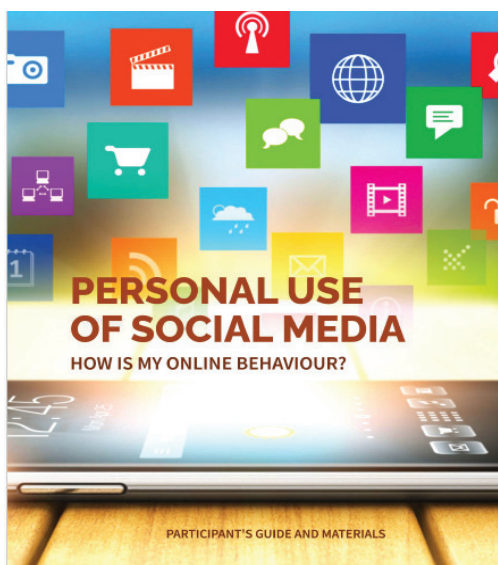
Dear readers, with the arrival of Autumn, we have the pleasure to launch the latest edition of the Blue Beret magazine covering the missions' highlights from September to October this year. In this edition, we cover SRSO Colin Stewart's meetings with key stakeholders, including his meetings with the diplomatic community, his presence at the ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary of the Association for Historical Dialogue & Research and his participation in the Cyprus Forum in late September. In addition, we also feature a special visit of Miroslav Jenča, the UN's Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and the Americas, to the island in August and his meetings with a variety of stakeholders, including the leaders of both communities and to Pyla/Pile. You will also find several stories on the work of our military and police colleagues and how the Mission marked some important UN dates and observances including the first ever International Day of Police

Cooperation focusing on women in policing. In this edition, we also include pictures from our most recent medal ceremonies and the work our peacekeepers are doing inside the buffer zone and some of the interesting trainings and conversations held with civil society representatives and a townhall on combating sexual exploitation and abuse and human trafficking. We are proud of the commitment of our Civil Affairs Section and the Good Offices Mission and how the team continues to engage with civil society groups from both communities of the island and is promoting several in person activities. In this edition we included two articles featuring the UN youth champions for environment and peace and how they are working to promote green skills to their peers after having joined the programme as part of the UN's efforts to promote the Youth, Peace and Security agenda on the island. In the next few pages, read about how UNFICYP continues to implement its mandate inside the UN buffer zone, and much more. Enjoy reading!

2023 Leadership Dialogue

Since 2013, managers in the United Nations Secretariat, host a yearly conversation with their direct reports related to the ethical challenges we face in our day-to-day work. UN Ethics Office provides managers with a Leadership Dialogue Guide and a model presentation as well as the participants with a Participant's Guide. The topics vary from year to year, based on the evolving focus of the Organization. In this dialogue, managers discuss with their direct reports what to do, where to get assistance and our roles as staff members in handling ethical dilemmas. The decisions we make are critical to our collective success. Each head of department or mission leads the first Leadership Dialogue session with his/her direct reports. Following that initial session, those direct reports schedule and lead the next sessions. The dialogues have been planned to occur in a "cascading" fashion, until all managers have engaged their staff in a Leadership Dialogue. UNFICYP, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Cyprus and the Office of the Third Member of the Committee on Missing Persons are currently undertaking the 2023

Leadership Dialogue which was on Personal use of social media and are expected to finalize the conversations by November, when data collected from the dialogue will be shared with UN headquarters.



BLUE BERET

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SRSG engagement with stakeholders and the diplomatic community

Stewart welcomes Canadian High Commissioner to Cyprus

On 5 September, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, welcomed the High Commissioner of Canada, Anna-Karine Asselin, to the UN Protected Area this afternoon for a briefing on the Mission's efforts to promote peace on the island.



Peace day celebrated in Famagusta

To mark International Day of Peace on 21 September, top United Nations official in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, welcomed the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot mayors of Famagusta, Simos Ioannou and Suleyman Uluçay's strong show of friendship on Peace Day. They spoke of upcoming activities and collaboration opportunities with the UN in the region.



SRSG speaks at the Cyprus Forum

On 29 September, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, attended the opening of the Cyprus Forum. Stewart stated that "confidence building measures or gestures that strengthen integration, especially those with economic impact, take Cypriots a step closer to the future they want and should not require a quid pro quo. The benefits they deliver are far more important - they pave the way to a settlement.

He also mentioned in his remarks: "if there is to be any hope for a durable peaceful future for Cyprus, the crucial bicomunal work on education must resume as a matter of priority.

"Next year, the UN in Cyprus will be marking 60 years on the island. A resolution to the Cyprus issue is long overdue," Stewart concluded at the Cyprus Forum.



UN Assistant Secretary-General Miroslav Jenča visits Cyprus

On 28 August, the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and Americas in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, Miroslav Jenča, had a fruitful discussion with the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities on the island, Ersin Tatar and Nikos Christodoulides, regarding the Cyprus issue. He reaffirmed the UN's continued commitment to preserve peace on the island and efforts to find common ground.

On 29 August, Jenča visited the CMP anthropological laboratory inside the United Nations buffer zone and praised the Committee on Missing Persons in Cyprus, which conducts important purely humanitarian work. On the same day, he visited the east part of the buffer zone located in sector 4 and lauded the work of UNFICYP peacekeepers on the ground. Recognizing the crucial role of

women in peacebuilding and diplomacy the Assistant Secretary-General for Europe, Central Asia and Americas in the United Nations Department of Political Affairs, Miroslav Jenča, visited the open-air photo exhibition 'Inclusive Diplomacy: Women's Participation in the Cyprus Talks' located outside Ledra Palace Hotel in the buffer zone. Concluding his 2-day visit to Cyprus, Jenča, also praised the UN's commitment: "Grateful to head of the UN mission in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, UNFICYP and Good Offices Mission staff. Their knowledge and dedication to support all Cypriots are critical for the UN's work on the Cyprus issue."

He finalized stating: "Proud to meet UNFICYP peacekeepers from Slovakia, UK and Argentina as UNPOL and civilian personnel. Inspired by their professionalism, commitment and serving for peace in Cyprus," he stated.



Peacekeepers in action

Peacekeepers prepare to prevent fires inside the buffer zone

On 2 August and on 10 October, despite the blistering heat, UNFICYP's Fire Unit conducted firefighting and rescue exercises for newly arrived peacekeepers, including female firefighters as part of their Response Plan for High Fire Risk during the warm months in Cyprus.



Annual Kokkina/Erenköy crossing

On 8 August, UNFICYP's Civil Affairs, UNPOL and military worked closely together to facilitate access to the United Nations buffer zone during the annual Kokkina/Erenköy crossing in Cyprus.

Kokkina/Erenköy is a coastal exclave and is surrounded by mountainous territory, with the Morphou Bay on its northern flank.



Argentinian military visits UNFICYP

On 14 August, UNFICYP's Force Chief of Staff and acting Force Commander, Colonel Ben Ramsay, together with some of our Argentinian peacekeepers, welcomed the Brigadier Major Fernando Luis Mengo from Argentina, for a briefing on the Mission's work on the island.



Peacekeepers awarded peace medals

Sector 2

On 13 September, acting Force Commander Ben Ramsay awarded medals to 210 UNFICYP peacekeepers from the UK for serving for peace in Cyprus.



Sector 4

On 16 September, 102 UNFICYP peacekeepers from Slovakia who were awarded the United Nations medals for serving for peace in Cyprus. We thank them for their contributions!



UNFICYP marks first international day of police cooperation

On 7 September, UNFICYP marked the inaugural commemoration of the International Day of Police Cooperation highlighting the vital role of women in policing. Women police officers play a crucial role across the full spectrum of policing, from crime prevention to criminal investigations, the protection of human rights, and safety and security. Evidence shows that their full, equal and meaningful participation in all policing functions is vital to achieving more effective, efficient and accountable services. The advantages of a more diverse and inclusive police workforce are clear. Women's equal participation in decision-making and leadership drives attention to women's unique needs and rights and the importance of mainstreaming gender-responsive approaches across all police functions, including in the development of plans, strategies and budgets. Women's participation in policing is emphasized by the landmark Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, which emphasizes the importance of women's full involvement in decision-making roles as well as in conflict prevention and resolution. The increased participation of women in all areas of public life, including policing, is also vital to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls



under Sustainable Development Goal 5. Women's participation in policing has important implications for access to justice, including for victim-survivors of domestic, sexual and other forms of gender-based violence, who may be more likely to seek help if they have access to a woman police officer. The police are one of the most visible representatives of the state. As such, women's visibility and participation, in national police services and United Nations policing, continues to inspire and attract others to pursue careers in the policing profession. Transforming police organizational practices to be more gender-responsive requires an improved understanding of gender-specific barriers to women police officers' full, equal and meaningful participation. Increasingly, police services are becoming more aware of discriminatory practices in their recruitment processes and standards, which include gender stereotyping, paternalistic attitudes of

police management, discrimination, harassment, including sexual harassment, and the absence of family-friendly policies. The United Nations is working to promote gender-sensitive working environments, including appropriate accommodation, for women personnel serving in the field.

UNPOL meets Hungarian delegation

On 8 August, UNFICYP's Force Chief of Staff and acting Force Commander, Colonel Ben Ramsay, together with the Mission's Senior Police Advisor, Assistant Police Commissioner Satu Koivu, welcomed a delegation from the Hungarian Police Education and Training Center led by Police Colonel Ildiko Seres, for a briefing on the Mission's work on the island and UNPOL's role. The delegation also met with some of our peacekeepers from Hungary.



UNPOL at Normandie Pour La Paix forum

On 29 September, at the Normandie Pour La Paix forum, next to the UN's Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UNFICYP Senior Police Advisor, Assistant Police Commissioner Satu Koivu, shared her experience on the important contribution of women in peacekeeping to peace operations and the key role played by youth in peace efforts.



UN efforts to engage with both communities on the island

Youth, Peace and Security at the table in Cyprus

On 29 September, the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Cyprus, in collaboration with the Cyprus Forum, hosted a discussion at the Home for Cooperation inside the UN buffer zone, to raise awareness about realizing meaningful youth participation in decision-making including peace related initiatives as well as renewing commitment for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Four young Cypriots joined by Deputy Head of the Peacebuilding Support Office, Awa Dabo, shared their expertise, journeys, thoughts, and policy recommendations to foster youth empowerment and engagement across the island, including in the peace process.



Running for peace

On 23 September, runners from across the island gathered for a run for peace to mark International Peace Day joined by top United Nations official in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, outside Ledra Palace Hotel in the UN buffer zone. The run through Nicosia old town facilitated by the technical committee on culture underscored importance of healthier lifestyles, togetherness, and common heritage cultural sites.



Youth and women speak about memory in conflict

On 23 and 24 September, UNFICYP held discussions in Nicosia and Larnaca on the role of memory in conflict and peacebuilding. Young people from across the island got together with women organizations, artists, activists, and academics to share their views and perspectives. The conversations were led by Dr. Orli Fridman from the Belgrade based Center for Comparative Conflict Studies.



Öykü Tural: “The environment has no borders; a greener Cyprus is possible”



intercommunal initiatives to promote the Youth, Peace and Security agenda and to encourage youth participation across the island. For Öykü, “this programme ignites a collective effort towards a more ecologically conscious future.”

Öykü also speaks loudly about environment issues and uses her social media platforms to share articles, tips, and success stories related to sustainability. “The programme honed my leadership skills, enabling me to initiate and organize local events and workshops. I’ve also gained a better understanding of teamwork and collaboration through its activities, which helps me work with community members to achieve common goals. Overall, these skills have empowered me to actively connect with and inspire others in my community to contribute towards a more sustainable future,” Öykü describes.

Despite the programme’s conclusion, her engagement never stopped: “My commitment to fostering a more environmentally conscious world remains unwavering: I engage actively in endeavours that promote ecological well-being. As Youth Champions, we convene regularly to share insights and collectively address pressing environmental

issues. This ongoing engagement serves as a testament to the impact of the programme on my active involvement in creating a greener world,” Öykü highlights.

As the world is embarking on a green transition, young people such as Öykü serve as active agents in their communities to lead a shift towards an environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly spaces. Young people like her are not only for responding to the global climate crisis but are also advocates in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

For UNFICYP, engaging with young Cypriots plays a vital role to foster meaningful interactions and increase understanding and trust between the communities and, in the case of the Youth Champions initiative, it provides them with the necessary tools to help amplify their voices and inspire a transition towards a greener future.

“ I believe small actions can create a big impact, and by spreading knowledge and inspiring others, we can collectively work towards a greener future ”

Öykü Tural is a young Cypriot and an environmental activist who is passionate about raising awareness towards a sustainable and more resource-efficient society on the island. She does so by advocating simple steps that can be taken in young people’s daily lives to be more environmentally friendly. “I believe small actions can create a big impact, and by spreading knowledge and inspiring others, we can collectively work towards a greener future,” Öykü says.

In late 2022, she joined the third edition of the UN Youth Champions for Environment and Peace programme, which aims to bring young people to work together on shared environmental concerns, helping to build trust and confidence between young people across the divide.

She acknowledges the importance of such intercommunal initiatives: “by bringing young minds together and fostering discussions, the programme encourages innovative solutions. It goes beyond the conventional format of lectures and embraces an interactive approach that enhances engagement and collaborative thinking,” she explains. The programme comes as part of UNFICYP



UN Youth
CHAMPIONS
FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PEACE

Rafail Dimitriou: “Green skills are the key to unlocking a sustainable world”



Rafail Dimitriou is a young Cypriot who is passionate about raising awareness and mobilising young people in Cyprus to tackle climate change and its effects while also advocating for the rights of youth across the island. As a social and environmental activist, Rafael realises how important it is for his and future generations to empower young peoples’ voices to address climate change, so he joined the Local Conference on Youth in Cyprus (LCOY). The LCOY conference hosted by UNFICYP in October 2022, at the Ledra Palace Hotel inside the buffer zone, saw the first group of young Cypriots come together and contribute to the fight against the climate crisis and advocate for an island-wide effort to empower young Cypriots and ensure their participation in decisions affecting their lives.

LCOY is an event under the umbrella of YOUNGO, the official youth constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and aims to be a space to boost youth climate action locally and create an input into the international conferences. It represents a

national version of the international Conference of Youth, which takes place immediately before the Conference of Parties (COP), the annual UN-Climate Conference.

The aim of the conference is to enhance the global and regional contributions towards an environmentally sustainable and climate-friendly world that has as keys the Sustainable Development Goals. Referring to the experience gained from the conference, Rafail says: “The LCOY served as a great source of multiple opportunities of awareness and education, knowledge exchange, strengthening of collaborative efforts, policy advocacy and empowering of young voices, youth engagement, social and economic inclusion, dissolvment of gender gap are some examples of practices that can recalibrate the social compass of our times.”

Rafail, who was born and raised in Limassol with roots from Famagusta, notes that “coming together with people from other communities in Cyprus and individuals from different nationalities can be a transformative and enriching experience. More importantly,

engaging with individuals from different backgrounds helps bridge divides and fosters understanding, while it provides an opportunity to dissolve stereotypes and misconceptions that may exist among different groups.”

“As the custodians of tomorrow, we have a crucial role to play in safeguarding the environment, combatting climate change, and promoting sustainable practices. I strongly believe that together we have the power to create meaningful

change and make a more sustainable and just world,” Rafail wishes. For him, “green skills are the key to unlocking a sustainable world. By developing expertise in areas but not limited to renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, waste management, eco-friendly technology, and conservation each one of us, in our own field, can drive innovation and inspire positive change,” he concludes.

“As the custodians of tomorrow, we have a crucial role to play in safeguarding the environment, combatting climate change, and promoting sustainable practices”

YOUTH LEADING THE WAY ON CLIMATE CHANGE



SRSG Stewart praises teachers working for peace

On 5 October, as we joined the world to mark Teachers Day, in Cyprus, we pay tribute to all teachers who are working for peace, transforming education and providing lasting impact on the lives of others and contributing to shape their future. On 21 September, at the ceremony to mark the 20th anniversary

of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR), top United Nations official in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, stated: "The "Teaching for Peace" Award ceremony recognizes the dedicated educators who have made a remarkable contribution to education for peace on the island."



Argentiniens mark 30 years of service in Cyprus

On 16 October, UNFICYP marked 30 years since the first Argentinian peacekeepers were deployed in Sector 1, which covers approximately 90 kilometres of the buffer zone in Cyprus. They are based in San Martin Camp and patrol from Kokkina village on the western coast of the island to Mammari, west of Nicosia. Their headquarters and Command Company are located in San Martin Camp, which is near Skouriotissa village. Support Company finds its home at Roca Camp, near Xeros in the north. The two line companies are deployed along four permanently manned patrol bases while

also conducting mobile patrols from San Martin and Roca camps. Earlier in the month, on 2 October, the Mission's Flight Unit marked 29 years since it has been under the responsibility of the Argentinian contingent. The Argentinian UN Flight peacekeepers demonstrate the skill and flexibility derived from working in a wide range of difficult terrains, such as Antarctica, Patagonia and the warmest areas of northern Argentina. We thank them for their contributions and commitment to serving for peace in Cyprus.



UNFICYP raises awareness on human trafficking

Communicating with the communities we serve effectively helps prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse. On 25 September, UNFICYP hosted a townhall for military, police and civilian staff to raise awareness of the impact of human trafficking with guest speakers Jane Lasonder, a survivor of child trafficking and member of ODIHR/OSCE's International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council and, Rachel Witkin, a Counter-Trafficking Practice Consultant. The conversation was facilitated with the support of Step Up and Stop Slavery, a Cyprus-based NGO disrupting trafficking and modern slavery. At the townhall, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Cyprus, Colin Stewart, stated: "Human trafficking

is an abhorrent violation of human rights, and one that has a disproportionate impact on women and girls. Trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation continues to be one of the most common forms of trafficking. The ever-changing global environment, where we are experiencing increased climate related emergencies, conflict and forced displacement, economic vulnerability, and the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the prevalence of trafficking. These challenges make the work of our guests today even more vital." On 3 October, Lasonder and Witkin held a second session of their initial presentation for military and police personnel in UNFICYP headquarters.



Women in diplomacy

On 1 August, the open-air photo exhibition, 'Inclusive Diplomacy: Women's Participation in the Cyprus Talks,' prepared by the UN Good Offices Mission in Cyprus has received an overwhelming response and due to popular demand, the exhibition is now back outside Ledra Palace Hotel in the buffer zone where it will be open to visitors in the coming months. The exhibition, open to the public since March this year, seeks to highlight and celebrate the important, yet little known, contribution of women to the Cyprus talks over the years with the twofold objective: to inform and to inspire.

Discussing arts for social action

On 17 October, UNFICYP's Civil Affairs section hosted its monthly networking forum focusing on the "Fringe and Arts for Social Action" at Ledra Palace Hotel where Andri Christofides from the Home for Cooperation, Alden Jacobs from Visual Voices and Alexandros Peletie from CARDET's A(rt)ction project shared the journeys of their organizations and the power of culture and art to inspire artists to become green activists and ways to incorporate sustainable procedures to protect their art.



UNFICYP marks International Day Peace and Youth Day

In August, UNFICYP had a conversation with two inspiring young Cypriots, Romanos Tofis and Gizem Öner, talk about green skills for youth and how they are tackling environmental issues in Cyprus to mark Youth Day on the island.



In September, UNFICYP's podcast out loud spoke with several of our Mission's peacekeepers and Cypriots from across the divide to talk about their ambitions for peace and how they are working towards advancing the Sustainable Development

Goals in Cyprus. We spoke with Dr Iris Charalambidou and her ambitions to the global goals on life on land, an interview with Meryem Özkan from The Society for the Protection of Turtles (SPOT) and her ambitions on life below water. We also interviewed UNFICYP Youth Champion and LCOY Cyprus coordinator, Tuğçe Demirsöz on her ambitions on climate action. To address different Global Goals, we also spoke with Christina Dymioti and Michalis Pantelidis from the Fashion Heritage Network Cyprus and their ambitions to the global goals on climate action. And finally, for our special September edition, we spoke about gender equality and the need to empower women and girls on the island in an interview with Lauren McAlister, UNFICYP's Gender Affairs Officer.



UNFICYP staff embraces healthy lifestyle with #BEActive campaign

On 27 September, several UNFICYP staff from UNPOL, military and civilian components joined today's #BeActive campaign organized inside the UN Protected Area. They gathered with family, friends, and pets in the afternoon to walk, run and cycle in the area. The campaign is organized yearly to celebrate and promote the importance of physical activity.





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