



United
Nations
Association
of Australia

QUEENSLAND

Building a Just and Sustainable Future: HOPE Promotes UNAA Queensland's Leadership

The **United Nations Association of Australia Queensland Division (UNAAQ)** continues to play a vital role in linking global initiatives with local action. Through programs focused on human rights, environmental sustainability, and ethical leadership, UNAAQ advances community awareness of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and encourages Queenslanders to contribute to a more just and sustainable future (UNAA, n.d.).

As a community-based organisation committed to ecological and social wellbeing, **Householders' Options to Protect the Environment (HOPE)** is pleased to highlight UNAAQ's contributions to the global conversation on human rights and sustainability.

Human Rights and Climate Responsibility

The **Human Rights Report - July 2025**, coordinated by UNAAQ Vice-President Wendy Flannery, reminds us that human rights and environmental justice are inseparable. Nationally, the establishment of a permanent **First Peoples' Assembly in Victoria** reflects progress toward truth-telling and treaty processes with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (Flannery, 2025). Globally, the **Inter-American Court of Human Rights' ruling on state responsibilities in tackling climate change** underscores the principle that people have a right to a stable climate and a healthy environment (Flannery, 2025).

The report also highlights challenges including the **underpayment of young workers in Australia** and the **rollback of gender equality worldwide**, underscoring the importance of ongoing advocacy and action. Together, these issues demonstrate that social and environmental justice must be addressed in tandem to create meaningful change.

The Earth Charter: A Moral Compass for the Future

Complementing this work, UNAAQ's Earth Charter representative, Fien Van den Steen, recently participated in the **Earth Charter +25 Conference** in The Hague. The Earth Charter, first finalised in 2000, is a global declaration of principles that provides a moral compass for building peace, justice, and ecological integrity (Earth Charter International, 2025).

As Van den Steen (2025) observed, the Earth Charter is not simply an aspirational text; it offers a practical ethical framework for navigating today's complex challenges. Its 16 principles, grouped under *Respect and care for the community of life, Ecological integrity, Social and economic justice, and Democracy, nonviolence and peace*, provide guidance for policy, business, and education worldwide.

The conference reaffirmed that sustainability is not a "tick-the-box" activity, but a mindset and ethical imperative that links intergenerational justice, the rights of nature, and the flourishing of all species. Central to this vision is the idea of moving from despair and paralysis into actionable hope - a call that resonates deeply with HOPE's own mission of empowering individuals and communities to act sustainably.

A Shared Commitment

UNAAQ's engagement with both the **Human Rights Charter** and the **Earth Charter** illustrates how ethical and ecological literacy can shape practical solutions. HOPE sees great value in amplifying these frameworks at the community level, reminding households and organisations alike that everyday choices contribute to global transformation.

By working together, HOPE and UNAAQ demonstrate that Queensland voices can - and must - be part of the global movement for justice, peace, and environmental integrity.

Learn More

- UNAAQ Queensland: <https://www.unaa.org.au/about/state-teams/queensland/>
 - HOPE Australia: <https://www.hopeaustralia.org.au>
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References

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Flannery, W. (2025, July). *Human Rights Report – July 2025*. United Nations Association of Australia Queensland. [attached]

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Van den Steen, F. (2025, July 26). *UNAAQ Earth Charter Report*. United Nations Association of Australia Queensland. [attached]
