From the Director's Desk

It is an exciting time for the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire as we begin hosting in-person programs again. This past July we hosted an in-person exchange and this fall will see four hybrid events with a socially distanced in-person component. With an eye toward more events like this in the future, WACNH proudly announces a $7,500 matching fund effort to end the year.

A number of generous donors have stepped up to the plate to set up this challenge fund and we need your help in reaching this ambitious goal. Now through the end of the year, WACNH will match, dollar-for-dollar, any donations that come in, doubling your impact. You can help put us over the top for our best fundraising year yet, poised to start 2022 on stable financial footing!

Tim Horgan
Executive Director

“It is unimaginable that due to the economic situation, we should continue to ignore what is right in front of our eyes...,” Rushan Abbas, Founder and Executive Director of Campaign for Uyghurs, speaking on human rights abuses in China at WACNH event.

Justice for Journalism: WACNH looks at Press Freedom in Fall Fundraiser

The World Affairs Council of New Hampshire believes in accurate and insightful discussions of global affairs. Much of the world’s understanding of these issues comes from journalists who do the difficult work of investigating government officials, criminal organizations, and other corrupt actors to expose the unsavory side of our global community. Unfortunately, all too often these people are harassed, threatened, and even killed, simply for shedding light on important issues.

This November 2nd, WACNH will host its annual Fall Forum signature event, focusing on Justice for Journalism. The panel discussion will shed light on the challenges that journalist around the world face, including here in the U.S., and why it is important for communities to support their vital work.

"In honor of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, WACNH is proud to help bring this engaging panel of speakers to our audiences for this insightful discussion," said Tim Horgan, executive director. "People may not think too often about the obstacles to good journalism, but if we are to understand the world around us, journalists need our support."

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First In-person Exchange of 2021

There is something special that happens when the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire hosts international exchanges, particularly when the exchanges are in-person. Relationships are built, best practices are shared, and everyone has a really good time. This was on full display in July this year when three Members of the Ukrainian Parliament visited through the Open World Leadership Program.

Over the course of their four-day program, the visitors had the opportunity to meet over one hundred people here in New Hampshire and share their stories. From discussions on judicial reform to the provision of school buses for high school students, it highlighted the power of exchanges.

"We are so happy to host these in-person exchanges again," remarked Tim Horgan, WACNH executive director. "The opportunity to build lasting relationships and share best practices in a face-to-face format cannot be replicated. These exchanges not only benefit the visitors, but our local hosts as well."

While the pandemic still rages across the world, WACNH and its partners remain vigilant about the safety of the community. It is not yet time to fully re-open for in-person hosting, but this little reminder of the power of these programs will help sustain the efforts of the Council while other exchanges remain online.

WACNH Goes Global

With the goal of providing more accessible programming, the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire launched its own podcast two and a half years ago. The Global in the Granite State podcast underwent a number of changes over the years, but the one constant is our goal to bring interesting global discussions to a wide audience.

From its humble beginnings, the podcast has grown its audience exponentially over the past year. In only nine months, the podcast has been listened to more than 7,800 times. People in 57 different countries and at least 34 different States have tuned in to learn more about global topics like the civil war in Ethiopia, Iran’s Presidential Election, rising authoritarianism in Brazil, and more.

In addition, the podcast had its first three episodes that had over 1,000 listens. It is a huge milestone for this program and something we hope to continue to grow and refine. This kind of reach for any of our programs was unimaginable just a few years ago.

We look forward to continuing to bring you insightful conversations and continuing to build global understanding through this digital format. If you have any suggestions for topics you would like to explore, please let us know. You can listen to all of our past episodes on our website, or wherever you listen to podcasts. wacnh.org/Global-in-the-Granite-State

Justice

The participation of the Committee for the Protection of Journalist and the James W. Foley Legacy Foundation, highlights the importance, as well as local impact, of threats to journalism. This is not simply a global problem. The United States barely ranks in the top 25% of countries when it comes to press freedom, according to Reporters without Borders. It is important to think of this as a worldwide issue.

“Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press,” said Thomas Jefferson, “and that cannot be limited without being lost.”

The dangers for journalists are real and present a challenge to promoting an informed citizenry. When journalists are not allowed to do their jobs freely, democracy suffers, as does understanding of global crises.

This program will feature both an in-person and online opportunity to engage. Masking and social distancing will be required for all in-person attendees. The proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support the work of the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire. Thank you for your support.

“You can be justly proud of the work the organization is doing. I have been recommending WACNH to friends and new acquaintances, who, I hope, will join.”

Carola Gouse
Sunapee
Thank you for your continued support of the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire. It is through your gifts that we continue to build our global community.

Academic WorldQuest Themes Announced

As the host of the World Affairs Councils of America's Academic WorldQuest competition for New Hampshire, provides high school students the opportunity to study global affairs and take their first step towards global citizenship. Through this program, teams of students study ten themes which gives them a deeper insight into top issues facing the world today. The winning team has the opportunity to attend the national competition in Washington, D.C. against teams from 45 other states.

Earlier this month the World Affairs Councils of America released the themes for each of the ten rounds, which can be found on WACNH’s website. These include climate related migration, ending the war in Afghanistan, the impact of digital currencies, and more.

For more information and to register a team, please visit www.wacnh.org/awq2022.