



Call for volunteers: Represent the American Psychological Association at the United Nations in New York

The American Psychological Association (APA) is seeking two volunteer doctoral-level psychologists to join its [team of representatives at the United Nations](#) (UN).

APA is an accredited nongovernmental organization (NGO) at the UN where it holds special consultative status with the [Economic and Social Council](#) (ECOSOC) and is associated with the [Department of Global Communications](#) (DGC). These credentials allow psychologist Representatives to serve as advocates at the UN. APA's UN team consists of 8 psychologists: one Main Representative, who is an APA staff member, a Lead Representative, and six volunteer representatives. The APA team fosters dialogue and information exchange between APA, UN staff, member state representatives, and other NGOs to encourage the development of psychologically-informed policies and programs to help achieve the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#).

The APA UN Representatives advance the APA [strategic plan](#) by making a positive impact on critical societal issues, embracing a global perspective, and promoting human rights. Based on APA advocacy goals and UN initiatives, APA volunteer representatives collaborate with APA offices and volunteer leaders, the global psychology community, UN representatives in Geneva, and other NGOs to develop substantive input to the UN, impacting social issues and human rights around the world. They do this through developing and disseminating to the UN position papers or fact sheets; organizing and participating in workshops, seminars, and side events; and disseminating to the APA membership information about UN priorities and events.

Volunteer Requirements

Appointments are for a 3-year term (the first year is probationary), with the potential for one renewal. The time commitment is on average 5 hours per week.

Representatives may be based in New York City, in which case they will participate in both in-person and virtual activities, or they may be based elsewhere in the country or the world. Representatives outside of New York will participate virtually via videoconference and other forms of electronic communication and contribute to written documents and other materials.

These are unpaid, volunteer positions. APA reimburses representatives in and around New York for: local travel within a 50-mile radius of New York City (including travel from suburban areas) on public transportation, or reimburses parking costs; membership on up to two UN-NGO committees; and pre-approved direct costs (i.e., registration fees). APA does not reimburse travel and registration costs for the APA Annual Convention.

Volunteer Responsibilities

Representatives will:

- Participate in one meeting per month with the APA UN team
- Contact and form relationships with key stakeholders at the UN, including staff at member states and UN agencies



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- Hold meetings, write statements, and organize events on the value of psychological science to the work of the UN
- Advocate for specific outcomes at the UN, which may include, for example, General Assembly Resolutions, agency projects, or Special Rapporteur statements
- Work closely with staff at the APA Office of International Affairs, who will facilitate connections with relevant APA staff, APA's UN representation in Geneva, and the [Global Psychology Alliance](#)
- Collaborate with other NGOs at the UN as helpful to APA priorities, including participating in UN-NGO Committees and helping plan the annual *Psychology Day at the United Nations*

Volunteer Qualifications

- Doctoral degree in psychology and APA membership
- Familiarity with the UN and its constituent agencies
- Commitment to advancing global human rights, psychology, and the Sustainable Development Goals
- Experience applying psychological science and tools to societal issues, particularly at a policy level
- Fluency in English
- Excellent writing and communication skills
- Ability to work as part of a team while also exercising personal initiative
- Ability to adapt to organizational timelines and structures
- Diplomatic and effective interpersonal style
- International experience and knowledge of other languages/cultures is an advantage
- Expertise in climate change or global mental health is an advantage

Application

The application letter (no longer than 750 words) should include a brief statement of interest that highlights your skills, experience, and interest in this position. Applicants should be specific with reference to ongoing or upcoming UN activities to which psychology can contribute.

Short-listed candidates will be invited to interview with a selection committee comprising members of the current APA UN team, the APA Committee for Global Psychology, and Office of International Affairs staff.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, and three references with contact information to Gabriel Twose, APA Senior International Affairs Officer, at gtwose@apa.org, by February 17, 2023.