

## **Hawa Diallo: How to get involved with the UN**



*Ms. Hawa Diallo during presentation*

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 our class hosted Ms. Hawa Diallo, a dignitary from the United Nations. Ms. Hawa Diallo born in the nation of Sierra Leon. However, she was raised in New York in a politically active family. When she was young one of her first jobs was working for the UN as a tour guide, but now works in public information and advocacy. According to Diallo, the three main functions of the UN are Economic/social stability, human rights, and peace among nations. She has gone along on multiple peacekeeping tours throughout the world.

One of the main functions of the UN, as previously mentioned, is keeping peace among nations. This comes in many forms and in many ways. I personally find peacekeeping to be a good thing and quite interesting. There are many conflicts throughout the world, whether internally within a country or externally between two countries. Peacekeeping is a way minimize damage and hopefully end conflict without direct involvement. There are two types of peacekeeping: sending in troops to separate opposing sides and a more diplomatic and negotiation approach.

When many people think of peacekeeping, they think of UN soldiers in blue helmets and armored vehicles. However, this is not the case all of the time. Many times a diplomatic approach, with just everyday citizens with no specialized combat experience, help in these peacekeeping missions.

There are multiple qualifications to go on a peacekeeping mission with the UN. There are also two types of peacekeeping missions: support service and professional. Most individuals can serve a support service tour as long as they have graduated high school and met other requirements (like physical and special skills). Professional requires individuals with more specialized experience

and at least a college degree. With some of the jobs that are handled by the UN, there needs to be a variety of individuals and skill sets.



*Dr. Lago, Vice Rector for Global Engagement at UVU presents gift to VIP guest*

My personal reflection on peacekeeping is that it is a good program that has saved many lives throughout its existence. Many potentially devastating conflicts (many that we've heard of, many more that we have not) have been reduced or averted. Peacekeeping allows neutral parties (who are backed by a variety of nations) to try and settle problems and calm conflict. Few warring nations want to fight against neutral parties, potentially adding enemies and resulting in taking a hit of their own.

Peacekeeping is a wonderful opportunity for younger individuals to see the world and experience different cultures. It teaches them of effective conflict resolution and how people work throughout the world. Peacekeeping also provides a wonderful opportunity for individuals to gain experience in how other governments work and their perspective. Individuals learn how to effectively work with other to achieve a common united goal.

*Cougar Einfeldt, Utah Valley University student*