

## On the Occasion of the New York Comic Con, Comics Uniting Nations Partners Announce Comic Contest for Children and Youth, New Comics on Climate Action, Disabilities and Inclusion

**5 OCTOBER 2017, New York, NY:** The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) calls for young people to create the next global superhero to take on climate change and protect nature.

The [Climate! Comic! Contest!](#) -- announced today at the opening of the annual New York Comic Con – invites young people aged 25 or below to enter. Finalists for the contest will be announced and voted on in November during the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) taking place in Bonn, Germany.

“We know that young people are full ideas of on the best ways to reach their peers” said Shannon O’Shea, Agenda 2030 Partnerships Manager at UNICEF. “The competition offers a creative platform for them to share their passion for protecting the earth – and in a way that would appeal to other children and young people.”

The contest winner will be paired with a professional artist in the comics’ industry to bring their idea to life. The comic will be published and released online and at an event at UNICEF Headquarters in New York in 2018.

The *Climate! Comic! Contest!* is part of UNICEF’s broader work on leveraging comics to get children and youth interested and engaged on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Comics Uniting Nations (CUN) -- a partnership of PCI Media Impact, Reading with Pictures, PVBLIC Foundation and UNICEF – has now produced 15 comic books covering a variety of issues in the SDGs, working with some of the most iconic story-tellers and artists in the business.

On climate action, a new Marvel-produced comic book, [Guardians of the Galaxy Ozone Heroes](#), centers on the well-known *Guardians of the Galaxy* and *Iron Man* characters and their discovery that humans were the ones who solved the ozone layer crisis. “We do not need special powers or alien technologies to solve the world’s pressing problems. We do need collaboration, partnership and commitment. We are all ‘#OzoneHeroes’ and capable of overcoming immense difficulties to achieve goals for the benefit of everyone on Earth,” said Sean Southey, CEO of PCI Media Impact.

Two further additions to the CUN SDG comics’ series take on the issues of addressing inequalities and empowerment of all people, including those with disabilities: [Ali Finds a Way](#) and [The Goats of Anarchy Leave No One Behind](#).

In *Ali Finds a Way* a shepherd boy, Ali, who is blind, meets a Genie who comes to his aid after an earthquake. It cleverly demonstrates how buildings, cities and infrastructure can be made accessible for everyone, including people with disabilities, so that they can fully participate in and contribute to their communities.

“The principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ brings adults and children with disabilities to the center of the SDGs, as they are often the most excluded. Disability has been explicitly referenced in the SDGs across multiple targets and indicators and proper implementation of the SDGs will make the world a more inclusive place for all,” said Rosangela Berman-Bieler, Senior Advisor on Children with Disabilities at UNICEF.

In a comic aimed at younger children, CUN partnered with cartoonist [Denis Thomopoulos](#) and Instagram influencer Leanne Lauricella, founder of the animal sanctuary [Goats of Anarchy](#). The sanctuary is especially focused on animals that are disabled. The story of Angel, one of the animals living on the farm, was turned into a touching allegory on the importance of inclusion and leaving no one behind.

“I had never heard of the SDGs before this, but when I was approached with the idea of telling Angel’s story as a way to help children understand issues of equality, empathy, tolerance and empowerment, I was excited to be a part of the project,” said Lauricella. “It is so important for children to learn to care for and respect each other, and all living creatures, at an early age.”

To learn more about the *Climate! Comic! Contest!* See [here](#). To see all of the SDG comics visit [ComicsUnitingNations.org](#).

#####

**About Comics Uniting Nations:** Comics Uniting Nations (CUN) is a partnership of PCI Media Impact, Reading with Pictures, PVBLC Foundation and UNICEF. It aims to make the Sustainable Development Goals accessible to the citizens of the world of all ages through comics. Working with a wide array of artists and content creators CUN leverages the universal visual language and transformative power of comics to educate people about the SDGs and empower them to create positive and lasting change in their own communities and worldwide.

**Media Contact:**

Sean Southey, CEO, PCI Media Impact

Phone: 347-276-1354

Email: [ssouthey@mediaimpact.org](mailto:ssouthey@mediaimpact.org)

