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# MUNFW 2019



*April 12, 2019*

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## *A Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter*

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The theme for the 69th annual Model United Nations of the Far West Conference is “A Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter.”

Secretary-General, Hannah Petitti and Under-Secretary General Robert Atha explained that they chose this topic “because of the movements of divisive politics and populism that are taking control all around the globe [and] while it is important to address these concerning governments, we must not let that hinder our ability to make a positive and lasting difference.” They hope that the focus of the conference will be on items that bring together nations from around the world. Goals for this year’s conference are centered around the theme.



Secretary-General Petitti stated that her goals for delegates are “to use old-school diplomacy to address new-age issues that the founders of the UN would’ve never been able to imagine.” She also added “Technology, social evolution, and the world’s agenda in general have changed so much, yet the UN still has its same goal in mind: to keep peace and bring the world forward.” Under-Secretary-General added that goals include “seeking to make a lasting impact when addressing global issues and making it all geared towards working together on resolutions through consensus, rather than focusing on the things that divide us as nations.”

### **A Day In The Life**

#### Secretary-General

“The day in the life of the Secretary General is unpredictable because my day is built around what delegates and chairs need from me. But mostly my day will revolve around visiting committees to see what delegates are up to and helping anyone who

needs it. So delegates are likely to find me walking around making sure everyone is acting in a way that reflects their member state, committees are moving forward with their agenda items, and we are having meaningful debate.”

#### Under-Secretary General

“Wake up early, get all of the supplies ready for the chairs to come pick up, placards and information for committees; meet with chairs from the various committees to see where they are in regard to making progress on resolutions; organize guest speakers and prepare speeches for events; address any concerns from delegation chairs; eat some lunch; go into each committee to make program announcements; spend time helping to guide committee chairs towards meaningful and impactful resolutions; finish committee and meet with all the chairs to discuss how their days went; eat some food, get some sleep and repeat the process until we have quality resolutions and another year hosting Model UN in the books.”

# Meet the Chairs of MUNFW 2019

## Human Rights Council



Left to Right: Josie Brun, Savannah Noel Overly, Alyssa Edmond

### Q1: What are you most excited for in your committees?

#### Savannah Noel Overly:

I'm most excited to watch delegates in the HRC deliberate over issues that have not previously been addressed. I'm also very excited to chair with two lovely ladies with which I have not previously worked with very much!

#### Josie Brun:

I am most excited to meet all of our delegates and to hear what they have to say about the issues we've presented.

#### Alyssa Edmond:

I'm excited to see how the delegates react to the topics we have prepared and how they decide to approach some really difficult topics.

### Q2: How many times have you been to Model UN, your positions held, and what has been your favorite experience so far?

Savannah Noel Overly: This is my second year at MUNFW--in 2018, I represented the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the 4th committee. My favorite experience was when 4th committee *finally* voted in a resolution regarding the issue of Palestine and Israel (which took all four days of the conference to nail down).

#### Josie Brun:

This is my third year at MUNFW. My first year I was a DPR for Ukraine in UNEP and last year I was a co-head delegate for Canada in the Commission on the Status of Women. My favorite part of MUN is meeting new people and the conversations we get to have; it's great to spend almost a week with people that care about the same issues and have the same interests that you do, and that want to talk about it.

#### Alyssa Edmond:

This is my 2nd year at MUNFW and last year I was a delegate for the Russian Federation. My favorite experience was walking out of committee after a roll-call vote on a resolution we didn't agree with.

### Q3: What is one thing you want everyone to know about you?

Savannah Noel Overly: No, I do not play basketball or volleyball, despite being 5'11". Yes, that's very tall. Yes, I'm still going to wear heels every day.

Josie Brun: I love traveling and also sometimes I can come off as mean because of my face but I promise I'm not! I'm happy to help

Alyssa Edmond: If you think my hair looks like it hasn't been brushed, that's because it hasn't.

# Meet the Chairs of MUNFW 2019

## General Assembly & Third Committee



Left to Right: Allison Krebs and Judy Smith

### Q1: What are you most excited for in your committees?

#### Judy Smith:

I'm most excited to hear the debate on Freedom of Information in the GA. There are so many different perspectives internationally and I can't wait to see what resolutions the delegates come up with.

#### Allison Krebs:

I am most excited to see how delegates in the General Assembly react to my issue, "Elaborating on Sexual Rights in the 21st Century." This is a topic of vast importance that I hold dear to my heart. I am looking forward to hearing debates about these meaningful issues and reading the resolutions that delegates create.

### Q2: How many times have you been to Model UN, your positions held, and what has been your favorite experience so far?

#### Judy Smith:

This is my third year at MUNFW. I was a South Korean delegate in UNEP my first year and one of the PRs for Russia last year. Representing Russia was my favorite experience and I loved visiting each of the committees.

#### Allison Krebs:

This is my third year at Model United Nations of the Far West (MUNFW). My first year I was a delegate for The Republic of Korea in United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), my second year I was a Permanent Representative for the Russian Federation and was assigned to the Security Council, and this year I am President of the General Assembly. My favorite experience at MUNFW so far was being a part of the Russian Federation and playing unapologetically in character last year. It was great being able to watch my delegates commit so thoroughly to their roles and shake things up in committee.

### Q3: What is one thing you want everyone to know about you?

Judy Smith: If I look unapproachable, that's just my face. Come talk to me!

Allison Krebs: If you're ever questioning my decisions as a chair, just remember "The Office" Season 4: Episode 16.



Left to Right: Ashley Shah, John Spenczak, and Brandon Ng

No comment was given from chairs.

# Meet the Chairs of MUNFW 2019

## United Nations Environmental Assembly



Left to Right: Maddie Dohrer, Amber Holland, Jenny Rooper, Jacen Miller

### Q1: What are you most excited for in your committees?

#### Maddie Dohrer:

I'm eager to see how creatively the delegates in our committee tackle our agenda items within the scope of the conference topic. It's an unusual and novel way to approach environmental issues as the UNEA, taking it with the context of the UN Charter, and I'm excited to see the results it brings.

#### Amber Holland:

I am so excited to see the different directions the delegates take the debate, and seeing them come together to create global solutions

#### Jacen Miller:

I'm very excited to meet my delegation and hopefully start on our Air Pollution topic first

#### Jenny Rooper:

I'm excited to see the directions the debates will take and the interpretations of each topic done by each state.

### Q2: How many times have you been to Model UN, your positions held, and what has been your favorite experience so far?

#### Maddie Dohrer:

This is my third year coming to MUNFW, but my first time chairing. I have also been to NWMUN in Seattle, twice to Mini-MUN, and to SIHMUN in Switzerland. I have represented a variety of countries, including Malaysia, Peru, Russia, Costa Rica, France, and was the head delegate for Zimbabwe at last year's MUNFW. My favorite experience was being able to go to Switzerland and experience the European style of MUN conferences, which were surprisingly different from those here.

#### Amber Holland:

This is my 8th conference, 3rd time at MUNFW. I have been a chair, head delegate, and a delegate for countries such as Portugal, UK, Russia, Bangladesh, France, and Kazakhstan.

#### Jacen Miller:

I've been to several conferences both in and outside the country. I've represented many countries, but my prized positions have been for Uganda, Portugal, China, and a Far West chair! My favorite

experience has definitely been chairing for Far West.

#### Jenny Rooper:

I've been doing MUN for two years now and have been to seven conferences, but this is my first time chairing. I've played a number of various delegates from p5s to developing countries.

### Q3: What is one thing you want everyone to know about you?

#### Maddie Dohrer:

I just got back a couple weeks ago from the UK, where I interned as a researcher and campaign content creator for an environmental social enterprise.

#### Amber Holland:

Last year I traveled to 10 countries and 6 states!

#### Jacen Miller:

I'd like to think of myself as a traveler-in-training. At this time, Japan is my favorite country I've visited. It would be my dream to visit every country in the world!

Jenny Rooper: I have a 30 lbs cat and am willing to show pictures.

## Meet the Chairs of MUNFW 2019

### United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Executive Council



Left to Right: Alexandra Russell, Madison White, and Piper Lowinger

#### **Q1: What are you most excited for in your committees?**

##### Piper Lowinger:

I am most looking forward to hearing the delegates' various perspectives on the committee's agenda topics. We will be discussing pressing issues that question societal values and demand the exercise of morality and rationality. I believe it goes without saying that we will all leave this conference with new knowledge, equipped with tools for understanding and cooperation.

##### Madison White:

I'm most excited to see the delegates in my committee tackle some of the world's toughest and most complex problems. I can't wait to see the thoughtful and creative solutions they come up with.

#### **Q2: How many times have you been to Model UN, your positions held, and what has been your favorite experience so far?**

Piper Lowinger: This will be my third year participating in the MUNFW, as a delegate, PR, and Chair, respectively. Last year was particularly enjoyable because I helped to present Whittier College's bid to host the 70th session of the MUNFW as the future President of the GA. I am pleased to announce that Whittier College will be hosting next year's conference!

Madison White: This is my third year at MUNFW, my first year I was a delegate for Lebanon in UNHCR, and last year I was the PR for Liberia. My favorite experience was my first year, working in my voting bloc to write our resolution. We had a really great group and I learned a lot.

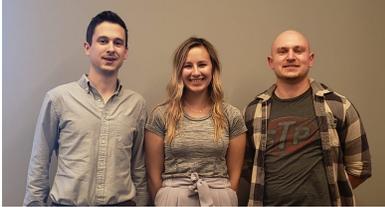
#### **Q3: What is one thing you want everyone to know about you?**

Piper Lowinger: I have been selected for two fellowships this coming Summer and Fall and will be traveling to Tanzania and France for a combined six months to conduct a self-designed research project. I would love to speak with anyone about their own experiences as a Fellow or researcher. If you see me around, please don't hesitate to ask me about my project or share some advice!

Madison White: One thing I want everyone to know about me is that I'm really looking forward to working with this year's delegates and excited to get to know them over the next few days.

# Meet the Chairs of MUNFW 2019

## Security Council



Left to Right: Andrew Long-Higgins, Katie Heinrich, and Sean Peterson

### **Q1: What are you most excited for in your committees?**

#### Catie Heinrich:

I am excited to work closely with a small group of delegates.

#### Sean Peterson:

I love the variability of the security council and how strategic it is. It will also be a good break from the monotony of regular committee processions.

#### Andrew Long-Higgins:

This morning's news of al-Bashir's ouster by military coup in Sudan, Bouteflika's resignation in Algeria, and Haftar's advance on Tripoli will likely thrust MENA to the top of the UNSC agenda. It will be interesting to see how the Council responds to the ever-growing list of threats to global security and stability—especially in light of deepening division amongst the P5. Additionally, continued conversations and division between the P5 and the E10 on issues of working

methods, Subsidiary bodies, and penholdership will likely compound the Council's challenges. I am eager to see how the delegates balance discussions on the internal workings of the Council with the pressing issues of international peace and security.

### **Q2: How many times have you been to Model UN, your positions held, and what has been your favorite experience so far?**

#### Catie Heinrich:

This is my third time at MUNFW. My first year I represented Hungary in the GA, my second year I was PR for Mongolia, and I am excited to spend my third year as the Security Council Co-Chair.

#### Sean Peterson:

This will be my 3rd time at this conference and my 5th overall. I am currently the President (ex-VP and Secretary as well) of the MUN club at Montana State University. Last year was my favorite experience, as I was a PR and was also able to fill in for the Security Council as El Salvador.

Andrew Long-Higgins: This is my second MUNFW conference, and fourth Model UN experience—all as a committee delegate.

Favorite experience: playing the US on 4th committee.

### **Q3: What is one thing you want everyone to know about you?**

#### Catie Heinrich:

I want everyone to know that I am I am easy going and available to help anyone with any questions about the conference.

#### Sean Peterson:

I am about to graduate with a political science degree and plan on attending law school in the fall at Widener University Commonwealth Law School in Harrisburg, PA.

#### Andrew Long-Higgins:

Amateur competitive cyclist.

# Meet the Chairs of MUNFW 2019

## United Nations Development Program



Maria Beatrix C. Bakabak, Michelle Therese Y Duran, Caryl Louise Anne Billones

### Q1: What are you most excited for in your committees?

Caryl Louise Anne

Billones: I'm looking forward on how the delegates will interact with each other and how will they come up with effective and efficient resolutions.

Maria Beatrix C. Bakabak:

I am looking forward to more intellectual discussions and debates from the delegates in my committee. I also want to see how they would all work together in addressing the agendas at hand

Michelle Therese Y Duran:

I'm most excited about learning new experiences and perspectives from each and every delegate regarding the UNDP agendas.

### Q2: How many times have you been to Model UN, your positions held, and what has been your favorite experience so far?

Caryl Louise Anne

Billones: I attended MUN in our school three times and this would be my second time in the MUNFW. I attended the 66th Session of the MUNFW last 2016 and I was part of the General Assembly Committee as a delegate from the Commonwealth of Australia. My favorite experience was getting to know other delegates during unmoderated caucus. I also had fun working with other delegates when we are trying to draft our resolution. I also remember the time when the delegate from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea brought a framed photo of Kim Jong-un in our committee and would always place it in his table.

Maria Beatrix C. Bakabak:

I have been to 7 Model UNs in the Philippines, Indonesia, and the US. This MUNFW will be my 8th and second time as a Chair. I will soon chair an international conference in the Philippines after a couple months. My favorite experience is back when I was a General Assembly delegate here in the MUNFW

last year. I was amazed at how some delegates were so much in character of the country they are representing. I never thought that I'd go back again this year as Chair. Michelle Therese Y Duran: I have joined a three Model UN conferences back in our school in the Philippines. This is my second time joining the MUNFW, the previous one was the 66th session when I was a delegate representing the Kingdom of Sweden. My favorite experience was meeting new people and listening to all their different stories.

### Q3: What is one thing you want everyone to know about you?

Caryl Louise Anne

Billones: I worked for the Philippine Navy (Hukbong Dagat ng Pilipinas).

Maria Beatrix C. Bakabak:

I am very interested with international humanitarian affairs and i wish to work in that field in the future.

Michelle Therese Y Duran:

I work for the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

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# MUNFW 2019



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## *A Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter*

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### **Making Change, One Step at a Time.**

**By: Taylor Dowler, Haiti  
& Abigail Reed, World Press Co-Editor**

As Chris Mburu began his keynote speech, he started with a poignant message. This message, in essence, was that young minds must come together in the pursuit of forming a common perspective. Many events took place throughout Mburu's life to lead him to the ideals that he shared with us. Growing up in rural Kenya, Mburu's access to education was extremely limited. His life was completely changed when a Swiss holocaust survivor asked herself what she could do to contribute to the world. With that, she picked a child's name from a list and forever changed Mburu's life by becoming his sponsor. He was then launched on a path that would eventually lead him to becoming the Senior Human Rights Advisor to the United Nations. In his position he advocates for the ideal of education as a human right, and promotes this as a fundamental issue.

Mburu has many ideas on how younger generations can get more involved in issues affecting the world today and all of them have a common theme: community. All of Mburu's work aims to answer the question, "I have passion in this, but how is that

going to help a community?" It is stressed that while our generations are different in terms of technological advancements, that does not mean the impact of our achievements will be different. All we need is a "mental shift," from the idea of solely making something better to improving something to help fix a community.

Mburu emphasized his excitement of speaking to Model UN students during his travels. He stated that all of this is simply "a matter of conceptualization and they [Model UN students] have decided, without me prompting them that they want to focus on these issues."

The current generation is coming into a world that has a lot. Do not let this change the way problems are approached and resolutions resolved. Continue to keep communities at the forefront of all decision making and innovations.



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*A Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter*

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## **Language and Cultural Differences: Julie Garfieldt Kofoed**

**By: Raffaella Mueller, World Press Co-Editor**

Julie Garfield Kofoed serves as the senior human rights policy advisor to the permanent mission of Denmark. Specifically, she focuses on work against torture and in women and girls issues. At UNITAR she stated that she has previously worked for a corporate law firm, but then realized that it was not what she wanted to do because to her “if you’re not passionate, then it doesn’t matter if you make [lots of money].”

On the issues of women and girls, she acknowledges that cultural issues do come into play when negotiating agreements. She says that cultural issues are “an issue on a lot of topic we discuss related to the rights of women.” These include, “female genital



mutilation [and] child forced marriage].” She said “A lot of that sometimes is put in a cultural context, it’s traditions, culture, religion, that you then have to try to maneuver around and be sensitive about.”

“it’s traditions, culture, religion, that you then have to try to maneuver around and be sensitive about.”

On the other hand, she stated “it is very clear from a Danish point of view that cultural considerations cannot outweigh human rights principles.”

“cultural considerations cannot outweigh human rights principles”

She also added that these situations do occur at the UN and that this is something that must never happened. “We do have instances at the UN where paragraphs are attempted to be phrased in a way that religious or cultural traditional circumstances would be placed above human rights. And of course that can never happen.”

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## *A Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter*

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### **The Issue of Refugees**

**By: Jarod Griffith,**  
**Ethiopia**

Yesterday the countries of Africa as well as the Countries of South America, during United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Executive Council (UNHCR), stood together in a united front to solve the pressing matter of the refugee crisis. Both the African Nations as well as the South American nations are seeking assistance on two main pillars, as the delegate from Ethiopia on the UNHCREC stated “We are seeking aid in both raising awareness of the struggles that the African and South American block have faced in the past years, as well as finding funding and structure for host countries that hold the refugees.” The two blocks hold that the donations that are given to them by other countries are not enough to resolve the issues, as the delegate from Tanzania put it, “the Colonial block is not giving the proper support necessary to host all of the refugees, the donations are nice, but extra structure would be helpful in getting these

refugees the proper care.” Both Blocks are working together to ensure the refugees within their respective nations receive the proper care and support that is necessary for their trying and terrifying situation.

The European nations are also seeking to give aid to all of these countries that are struggling with refugee issues, the delegate from Norway stated that “Norway provides forty million dollars in aid annually to the African block, and is willing to provide any necessary aid to the block.” They also are seeking to accept refugees into their country to relieve the burden that is placed on the countries, Norway as well as the United Kingdom are in the process of providing structural support, in the form of acceptance of refugees and educational programs for refugees, as well monetary aid to Africa and South America to beacon support for the waves of problems that the refugee crisis has brought. They hope to assist the African and South American nations to resolve their most pressing matters with the

utmost care and support. Hopefully these three sectors of the world will be able to come together to create a resolution that is both a swift and effective solution to the refugee crisis. It seems that their goals are in alignment and it is just a matter of discussing the individual contentions each nation might have with resolutions.

“We are seeking aid in both raising awareness of the struggles that the African and South American block have faced in the past years, as well as finding funding and structure for host countries that hold the refugees.”  
-Ethiopia

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# MUNFW 2019



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## *A Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter*

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### **Venezuela's Bolivarian Identity**

**By: Corey Hurley, France**

Venezuela's speech in open primaries declared how the Republic of Venezuela is proud to be known as a Bolivarian sovereignty which had been introduced through Hugo Chavez. The Bolivarian identity has been dedicated to the work of education, to which for both girls and boys from the ages of 15-24 have a near 99% literacy rate, according to UNICEF. Although there is no education strictly encompassing older generations of peoples, they base their success on the young generations. According to the Migration Policy Institute, there has been an increasing migrant movement that is centered around a progressed education in other nations, such as the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and more. The General Assembly member of Venezuela commented on the rise of immigration to focus more directly on sex trafficking and kidnapping, regarding those who are being taken out of the

country as well as being brought in against their will, and relation to the economy as a whole. Those migrating for educational purposes has not been addressed in connection of economic impact. Venezuela has been critical of protecting those who are vulnerable to these crimes and in particular the minority portion of society. The Republic of Venezuela is in support of president Nicolas Maduro who has continued to act on behalf of Chavez's Bolivarian sovereignty. To which condemns the media intended device that has disrupted the state of the Bolivarian sovereignty and those linked to the disruption could further jeopardize the state of the nation such as the United States. Strong ties hegemonic states, such as Russia and China, have understood the importance of not interfering on Venezuelan internal affairs. A change in the regime to represent Juan Guido could disrupt sovereignty and have

further conflict that could have international impact to the economy of Venezuela when relationships are at odds.

Inflation has reached 18,000%, for a move to improvement Maduro needs to address the use and price of oil within Venezuela. Fears within Security Council are with the Maduro administration having levels of corruption that wouldn't put the appropriate funds in the areas of attention such as programs for adult education to curb unemployment of older generations. Elections have also come into question for legitimacy but Maduro denies any wrongdoing although there is a presentable amount of evidence that the Maduro administration has not used necessary funding for the nation.

**Go to page 3 for an exclusive with Rwanda's HRC Delegate on genocide prevention.**

# *The State of Myanmar*

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## *Security Council Update*

Yesterday in the United Nations Security Council the topic of Myanmar was discussed further. With a delegate from both Myanmar's General Assembly as well as a delegate from Bangladesh present, tensions were incredibly high. There were several potential solutions that were proposed by several delegates of each country. One such potential solution that came up was the opening of a Second International Fact Finding Mission. The first of which was proposed in hopes of obtaining more information inside the borders of Myanmar. On this the delegate from Côte d'Ivoire stated that a second fact finding mission will "give us a better picture of what is going on" within the borders of Myanmar, whereas the first Fact Finding Mission was purely external, relying on random interviews of refugees and drone surveillance of the country. With the delegate of Myanmar present an interesting dialogue between Myanmar, China, and major contributors of the Western nations began. China's main point of contention was on the issue of state sovereignty and the fear that involving the EU in the issue will lead to a strings attached type of involvement. This position was then backed by Bolivia, who stated that "humanitarian aid has strings attached always." This then led to the discussion of the Trilateral Agreement between China, Bangladesh, and Myanmar that was brought up during discussion the day before, which was said to be a discussion and resolution between the 3 countries to resolve the conflict long term. With a speech made by the delegate of Kazakhstan stating that the

"United Nations has deemed the internal issues of Myanmar to be ethnic cleansing," and a speech by the delegate of the Netherlands urging concerns for safe conditions of returning refugees, it was clear that the certain members of the committee were concerned with the humanitarian issues. This was quickly followed by the Delegate from China stating that "there is no ethnic cleansing in Myanmar." This brought a concern to the table, the delegate of Côte D'Ivoire said that this statement "fills them with uncertainty." When asked about their feelings towards this agreement they stated that they "are not opposed to Chinese involvement, just them being the sole overseer of the discussion." The delegate of Myanmar elaborated further on this claim, going as far as to say that "Myanmar will not accept western oversight of talks between Myanmar and Bangladesh." Delegates of the United Kingdom, France, the United States, Côte D'Ivoire, Ethiopia and several others argued that this issue was getting to the point where it would require an international relief effort, being that this violence was deemed to be ethnic cleansing, and further that China's unwillingness to comply with a Second Fact Finding Mission was of concern. This debate was concluded with a passionate closing from the delegate from Myanmar who stated that "it is our choice to go to China, not the EU's." With this only one thing is known, that mending this divide will be a great feat.

**By Jared Griffith, Ethiopia**

# The Rwandan Day of Remembrance

## Human Rights Council

The United Nation recognized April 7th as the International Day of Remembrance for the victims and survivors of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. It is a day to remember the victims killed during the genocide and also to educate people about it in order to prevent future genocides from occurring. The United Nation diplomats talk to different communities about the genocide and the plans they are working on to promote peace among the Rwandan communities. Earlier today I had the chance to interview Jamie Lobato, a delegate from Rwanda, who is working on the Human Rights Council Committee. The following is our conversation about the Rwandan Remembrance Day:

### **What different approaches would you want the United Nation to take in educating people about the Rwandan genocide?**

**Jamie:** Rwanda is very pleased to have the day of remembrance recognized by the United Nations, it reminds everyone of what happened within our country. It takes great substance to make sure not only we educate ourselves but also the future generation, future citizens of Rwanda and also the International communities about the genocide. Rwanda understands the power of a voice and we will talk about the genocide to prevent it from happening again.

### **Do you believe that the international day of remembrance has made a meaningful impact on the people of Rwanda and the survivors?**

**Jamie:** Yes I do, even within our own borders we have over 270 tribunal memorials, so with this memorials and the day of remembrance the people of Rwanda are very appreciative and acknowledges that this is highlighted, so we can talk about it for so many lives were lost in a short period of time. It is good to remember that incident so we can move forward, and since moving forward our country has grown to be much better.

### **Should the United Nation organize different programs to help the survivors of the genocide cope and to promote peace among the communities?**

**Jamie:** That's an interesting idea, having different programs about genocide, Rwanda is fully proud to see any changes talking about genocide inside the United Nation. If a committee was wanting to talk about genocide Rwanda would at least want to be part of that so we can educate people about what happened.

### **What improvements would you like to see made to the Rwandan Genocide programme by United Nation?**

**Jamie:** Right now Rwanda is ironically enough a country of change, and we believe that moving forward is the best possible solution in recognizing the past. Currently Rwanda does not have an improper opinion about this, but when it does Rwanda will address it.

By Diana Adi, Ethiopia



Rwandan Delegate Jamie Lobato

# *An Almost Consensus*

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## *General Assembly*

Delegates in the General Assembly have broken into two main blocs in the pursuit of defining and limiting the role of media in our current political climate. A bloc of European Member States including France, are focusing their efforts on the protection of journalists in foreign countries. The information sovereignty bloc has recently shifted focus from the request for aid from developed nations in the instatement of local media within developing nations, to the ensuring of sovereignty in the control of flow of information.

While the two main blocs have these blatant differences, the working papers of the blocs appear to be very similar. Both blocs have similar views on the control of misinformation, the encouragement of transparency, and the creation of reliable news sources in developing countries. In a speech given by the delegate of Mexico, he echoed the Dias in the encouragement of Member States to come to a greater consensus and merge these working papers. Later, the delegate of Mexico went on to elaborate in a P23 that developing states should be heard in regard to their concerns over sovereignty. While Member States are working diligently in an attempt to merge working papers, it appears that information sovereignty and state control of media could end up being a deal breaker.

**By: Taylor Dowler, Haiti**

Do you have a great story idea???

Reach out to either Abby Reed or  
Raffaella Mueller, World Press  
co-editors at areed4@heidelberg.edu or  
rmueller@heidelberg.edu !

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# MUNFW 2019



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## *A Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter*

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### **Refugee Crisis in SC**

**By: Corey Hurley, French Republic**

The security council of the Model United Nations of the Far West has been focused on the massive amount of immigration coming from Myanmar, which is seen as a refugee crisis. The Rohingya Muslims are viewed as a minority group in Myanmar that is being targeted for abuse and extortion. The Security Council called Myanmar to discuss issues and potential solutions that would resolve the substandard conditions that the Rohingya people are facing.

Myanmar entered the Security Council with a hard line to exclude direct aid from international relations. The demand to handle conflicts internally created a disadvantage in terms of direct solutions. However, Myanmar was not opposed to identifying and alleviating the issues in connection with increasing human rights violations and ensure that the Rohingya Muslim population has security and peace. For the Security Council, options that would assist the refugees in present time focused on Bangladesh. Many of the Rohingya refugees

have migrated to Bangladesh and are now being collected into refugee camps with substandard conditions. Disease and famine are issues that Bangladesh is not equipped to handle.

The Security Council hosted the Bangladesh delegate to discuss what the United Nations can provide that would assist the refugees. Bangladesh, was open to negotiations on matters of providing aid in forms of food and medical assistance that are necessary for a more stable environment. Discussions were also centered around the possibility of having the Rohingya return home; this requires internal conflicts to be resolved. This includes conflict between the Buddhists and Muslims residing in Myanmar.

The conflict driving the Rohingya of Myanmar involves human rights violations of ethnic cleansing of those who follow the Koran. However, China stated that there is no ethnic cleansing taking place in Myanmar. The mass movement of refugees makes a conclusion to the conflict difficult to address.

The Republic of Kuwait and the Republic of the Netherlands have drafted a

resolution that addresses the demand to resolve conflicts internally and to provide aid to Bangladesh. This includes a possible 28 million in aid to provide medical assistance and sanitation to refugee camps. Bangladesh has also requested 900 million that would provide programs and incentives to have the refugees return to their home country. To ensure there is no further crisis and violation of human rights, countries including France, Ethiopia and other security council members, insisted on investigative missions which would reveal issues causing the refugee crisis.

As working papers are being decided on, the Trilateral Agreement between China, Bangladesh, and Myanmar is a potential avenue for conflict resolution. Issues addressed are internal conflicts as well as the demand for a second fact finding mission. This also includes the possibility of United Nations aid to countries affected and work towards rehabilitation of the people and nation.

**Differing Views of Importance on NGOs**

**By: Diana Adi, Ethiopia**

Yesterday in the Human Rights Council Ethiopia addressed the importance of non-governmental organizations in the international communities. Ethiopia was against Australia's motion against non-governmental organizations. Ethiopia fully supports Non-governmental organizations and the important role they play among the international communities. A lot of delegates present during the committee seemed to support Ethiopia's view on non-governmental organizations. The delegate for Nepal thanked Ethiopia for recognizing how important non-governmental organizations are among the international communities.

Australia seemed to disagree with other delegates in the committee about non-governmental organizations playing an important role among the international communities. Australia stressed on the issue of the meaning of non-governmental organizations, Australia believes that non-governmental organizations does not represent what the country wants them to represent. Ethiopia believes that Australia wants to control the position on human rights council in order to gain power as a western country,

against African and Asian countries.

The delegate from Ethiopia on the Human Rights Council stated that, "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be modified to reflect more members of the Human Rights Council perspectives. One of the big difference in perspective with African nations is the promotion of non-governmental organizations are crucial in ensuring human rights are protected within our countries, meanwhile larger nations like France, England, and Austria wants to be the ones in charge of human rights." Ethiopia believes that the United Nation should allocate more resources to non-governmental organization to ensure human rights are protected.

**Opinion**

**Finland to Rise Above the Rest?**

**By: Autumn Dixon**

The third committee – which deals with human rights, humanitarian affairs and social matters – has been moving through their first agenda topic regarding religious freedom. Finland, a predominantly Christian country, does not have as high a stake in this issues as it does to others on the agenda. "We're still on Topic 1, which is the least important of the three to us," said the Finland representative. The other two topics include activism

women and girl empowerment, and elder rights.

While Finland did not start off by addressing topics that cover more of their beliefs and ideals, they're not backing away from collaboration. "We're supporting a lot that's happening and co signed a resolution, but [have taken] more of a back seat to nations that care more about it." Finland has been working with the European block, mainly with Scandinavia, France, Germany, and the Netherlands.

The third committee has since moved into the second agenda topic. "We have submitted resolutions and moved onto topic 2 speeches," said the representative. "We got resolutions for [Topic 1] back and went back to debating those when we broke for lunch." Finland will now shine in the committee as their key issues are being addressed. "When it roles around to women's and elder rights, we're going to become a lot more vocal because it matters a lot more to us," said the representative. Finland has aimed to keep professional relationships with other delegates, which will help in sponsorship and collaboration on resolutions. "We have good relationships with everyone else so far, so we aren't expecting a whole lot of pushback on those other issues."

**Opinion**

**Regarding Power Displacement**

**By: Jared Griffith, Ethiopia**

This morning in the United Nations Security Council, debate continued on the topic of Myanmar and Bangladesh. There was a pretty clear divide amongst the states. One side had mostly P5 nations, such as the United States, France, China, alongside the nations of Sweden and the Netherlands. This group sought to give support in the form of aid. Other nations such as Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea were pressing for a second fact finding mission, which had been discussed yesterday. Much strife was had over these topics and the room began to get increasingly loud as these divides grew further and further apart. As the delegate of Ethiopia put it “[we] find it strange that the body was in good will, but is not anymore.” It seemed at that time that no agreement would be made. Many non-P5 nations felt that their ideas and desires to pursue a second fact finding mission were being grossly misrepresented by the P5 nations. The delegate from Equatorial Guinea stated regarding that “each time we move forward, another delegate moves the finish line back.”

In the midst of frustration, delegates from many countries felt that other nations were abusing their status, and using it to hold power over them. Delegates such as those from Bolivia stated that the restrictive stance that the P5 nations took at the time was a “gross abuse of P5 power and stance” and that it was “greatly derailing the topics at hand.” This sentiment has been echoed over the past few days, with frustration building towards the P5 nations in the many African nations. This frustration is with regards to their ability to hold their aid based influences in each committee over the head of delegates who are attempting to support the

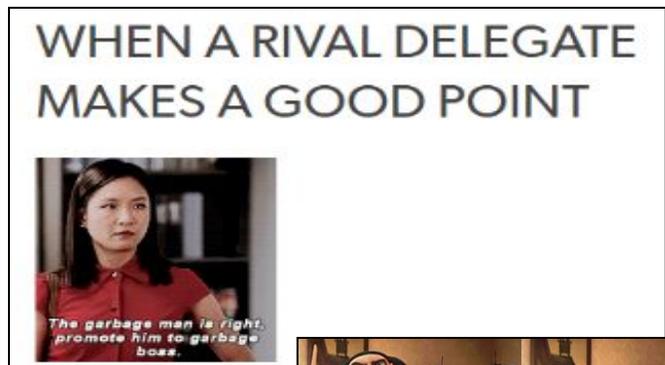
international community. According to the Delegate of Ethiopia in the Security Council “it seems some delegations feel that their specific interests are more important than those who are dying, who are riddled with disease, and who are in the hands of these committees.”

With any hope there will be a more calm approach by nations that hold massive influence in the international community, instead of the alleged manipulative standpoint that many of these nations have been accused of taking over the past few days. However, if there is not a calming we must fear the worst for these committees and their ability to resolve these desperate matters in a timely and helpful manner.

**Memes? Memes.**



Enjoy these funny Model UN memes in honor of a full day in



committees!



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# MUNFW 2019



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*Volume 69, Issue 6*

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## *A Common Humanity: Back to the Principles of the UN Charter*

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### **UNDP Update**

**Corey Hurley, French Republic**

The United Nations Development Programme was highly successful this weekend. They were able to get through all issues. Tensions did flare as they were wrapping up the final issue discussing Enhancing National Capacities for Disaster Risk Reduction. Some decided to drag out the voting until this morning in an attempt to avoid receiving another issue. There were speeches, comments, and points of inquiry which carried no weight in terms of addressing the issues. During this time, the interaction between delegates centered around decorum and not about the issue at hand. This led the chairs to reduce the amounts of motions for unmoderated caucuses and at one point completely ignored the delegate from Denmark. The delegate from the Islamic Republic of Iran had been one of the only delegates not in favor of extending

the vote, seeing as they would still receive another issue. The chairs had also agreed that postponing the vote was not a wise decision on the final topic for this reason. At this time, the delegate from Denmark inquired about the two-thirds majority on a veto of the chairs' position. At multiple points, dialogue became somewhat convoluted and required the chairs to make continued attempts on clarification. The Islamic Republic of Iran was towards the end of the speakers list, an incentive to move forward with the order of business towards voting. Other delegates stretched out points of inquiry and short comment were not very short. The Islamic Republic of Iran asked for a motion to reduce the points of inquiry and short comments to continue on with the speakers list. That motion was denied by the chairs. During this time, the United States was not present. The delegate had been present on the first day and gave a

speech but sources said he had not returned for any voting blocs. The delegates did maintain character and decorum. Eventually, they were unsuccessful at delaying voting until this morning and came to a unanimous vote to pass the resolution the committee worked on collectively. They were then assigned another issue last night. This issue is regarding the world bank and debt that has increased poverty-related issues instead of enhancing internal stability.



# MUNFW - Committee Updates

## 3rd Committee Update

### Autumn Dixon, Finland

In 3rd Committee yesterday, Finland was working with Scandinavia, France, Germany, and the Netherlands to co-sponsor a resolution on the topic of Freedom of Religion and Belief. “The resolution for [religious freedom] we co-sponsored overwhelmingly passed, but the chairs only wanted full sponsor names on the paper, so we were taken off,” said the delegate from Finland.

Third Committee has since moved on to agenda topic two: The Empowerment of Women and Girls. As expected, Finland has become more vocal and invested in the resolution process. “Finland became a lot more involved in inserting language about women’s empowerment in family settings, and then moved to a negotiation role between the other groups, and was bouncing around between everyone and trading info.” In addition to working with the previous delegates from Europe, Finland has been discussing this topic with Cuba and Morocco.

### Bring the Best You Got

#### Taylor Dowler

As the General Assembly moved from their first topic to the topic of Elaborating on Sexual Rights in the 21st Century, the delegate from Israel was quickly added as the first speaker on the speakers' list. In his speech, he asserted that Israel is a firm supporter of women and LGBTQ rights. Under a P23 Short Speech, the delegate of Russia called out Israel on the countries’ treatment of Palestinian woman, and began with detailing the deep insult taken by the Russian Federation in regard to the blatant dismissal of these facts. She went on to say, “Palestinian women who have been detained have reported being subjected to beatings, insults, threats, and sexual harassment. How can Israel the voice of feminism and women’s power when this is goes on?” Russia’s words echoed throughout the poolside pavilion, insighting mixed

reactions from the delegates in the room. Israel immediately denied Russia’s allegations in a P24 Right of Reply, dismissing her insinuations as “far fetched”. As the first unmoderated caucus began Israel confronted the delegate of Russia. To this, Russia replied, “Bring the best you got.”

Statements were collected from both delegates at the center of this developing feud. In their statement, Israel mentioned Russia’s passage of a “fascist draft resolution aimed toward the complete government control of the press”. When asked directly about the comments about Palestine, the delegate reiterated that, “Palestine’s issues are their own.” When given the opportunity to respond, Russia outlined that Israel is blatantly lying in they negation of their colonization of Palestine. Going on to say, “They (Israel) control every aspect of the lives of Palestinian women including their access to health care and most other basic necessities.” While this topic maybe newly introduced to the delegates, the tensions are already running high here in the General Assembly.



Discussion between Israel (left) and Russia (right)

# *MUNFW - Meeting with the Consulate Generals*

## **Japanese Delegation**

By: Jarod Griffith, Ethiopia

Today I interviewed the wonderful delegates of Japan from the General Assembly at the 69th Annual Model United Nations of the Far West, and their meetings earlier with the Delegation from Japan for the real United Nations. According to these delegates the experience was a boost to “help [them] understand the Japanese perspective.” they met and discussed the international issues of Japan and the potential stances that the real delegation of Japan would take regarding certain issues. The delegates for the Model United Nations conference stated that “it’s reassuring for first time delegates to get perspective on what it is really like to be a delegate.” as well as it helping “you become more prepared for the conference.” For anyone coming here the first time it can be a bit of a nerve-racking experience, with all of the niche ideas that each delegation brings to the table, and all of the procedures that are involved in committee. However, being able to meet with the real life delegates seemed to really help this group be able to get a good grip on how to proceed with their discussions and interpretations of foreign issues.

In addition to this these delegates said that this meeting helped them “understand Japanese international issues on a more personal basis.” For someone knew to an issue it helps to speak to someone who really knows their stuff, and that is just what this opportunity gave this group of delegates, it allowed them to see Japanese issues from someone who deals with them on a daily basis, as one of the delegates put it “you get a lot more of a perspective when it is a person that is telling you things versus computer based research.” When asked if they would recommend these kinds of programs to future delegates, there was a unanimous and whole-hearted “yes.” In all This program seemed most beneficial to all parties involved, and provided a unique opportunity to people who are genuinely interested in solving the issues of the real world.

## **French Republic Delegation**

By: Corey Hurley, French Republic

Cosumnes River College has participated in many Model United Nations of the Far West and in the past few years have been quite successful with awards to Canada and Ghana. We took pride in our accomplishments had continued to strive for more. Our representing professor, Martin Morales, has taken great pride in his returning students who have show dedication to how the system works in regards to politics around the world. There are a few returning students that understand the focus of the United Nations, but there are a few that are new and have never participated in political matters. They are all interested and willing to put their effort forward to experience and be successful in realms that, in the grander scheme, have a more profound impact on our society. As for my first impression of the general he resembled a character that could be a villain in a James Bond movie

This year he was able to get in contact with the French Consulate General for our group to meet and ask questions. French Consulate General Emmanuel Lebrun-Damiens gave us insight to our country and how our country views issues that are occurring around the world and that were being focused on in each committee. He was able to share his personal experience within the councils he represented, such as the Human Rights Committee. We were able to ask him questions of helpful tips on alliances to create and countrys or issues to avoid that would make negotiating and policy creating more fluid and civil. The goal has been to get our countries name on working papers and participating in the process of creating peace.

Although were were all very nervous the experience of the General helped greatly prepare our team to succeed in their committees. He noted how impressed he was with our questions and are passion for education and the position they are taking in their committees. All of our members walked away from the meeting feeling informed and more prepared to take on the task at hand. We are were extremely grateful about the encounter and take it to heart when we enter each committee and take on the issues at hand.

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## Freedom of Press? More like Scrutiny of Subpar Memes.

Earlier this afternoon the co-editors of the MUNFW World Press, Abigail Reed and Raffaella Mueller were called in to the Security Council due to a grave concern among delegates involving breach of security. Concerns began to accumulate after one delegate noticed a live tweet thread on their remarks during a high level crisis. During the opening statement from the World Press, it was made clear that they [World Press] believe this is a freedom of the press issue as opposed to one of security; it was blatantly identifiable they were members of the press during this time.

Almost instantaneously after the Press yielded the rest of their time to the chair, placards were raised. Among the first comments made was one from the United States on how the social media page has been issuing "Fake News," and recommended that the World Press follow their President's account for "tips." The World Press would like it to be known that they only report the facts. All quotes on the social media page, as well as in daily issues, are accurate and not written out of context. At one point, a delegate of the Security Council stated this breach of security could cause un-do harm, to which the World Press was unamused. In their response, the

co-editors stated that the content on their page is put there purposely to keep the public informed. The World Press stresses they have done no wrong in this situation. As noted in the posts, the thread in question was created because the press felt the reaction from SC lacked the urgency it required, and the public needed to be informed.

The delegate from Sweden decided this was the perfect moment to compare this organization to that of other media outlets that include, "Fake news, tweeters, and sub-par memes." While not stated initially, the World Press would like it to be known that they are *deeply* offended by this accusation. The images used were given great time and consideration before being added to their page. Following this rather strong accusation, other delegates followed suite and nitpicked various posts made by the organization. It seemed that at this point, the delegates were getting off topic, drawing in irrelevant facts to divert from the actual issue at hand.

This raises the question, why was the World Press *really* called into the Security Council. Did the delegates truly believe this was a breach in security? Or were they simply upset with the memes used in relation to their comments.

# MUNFW 69th Session - Meet the World Press Reporters

**ATTENTION: WE INTERRUPT YOUR REGULARLY PLANNED PROGRAM WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE FANTASTIC REPORTERS FROM WORLD PRESS.**

You may have noticed over the past few days that there were reporters lurking in the shadows, finding the big stories, and reporting on them by the hour. We want to give you all a chance to get to know a little bit more about these amazing people before the conference is over!



(Pictured left to right: Diana Adi, Taylor Dowler, Jared Griffith, Corey Hurley, Autumn Dixon)

**Q: Where are you from and why did you decide to attend this conference?**

Dixon: I'm from Hemet, California and am a third-year at Whittier College. We are hosting next year, and I will be Editor of World Press, so I came this year to see how it runs!

Griffith: I am from Texas Tech University and I came to this conference because I had always wanted to attend a Model UN conference in high school, but never got the chance, so I decided to come check things out at this conference.

Dowler: I'm from Western Oregon University, and wanted to attend this conference because I believed that it would be more challenging than conferences I had attended previously.

Adi: I'm from Texas Tech University. I chose this conference because it was a different conference from what I have attended in the past.

Hurley: I am from Sacramento California, studying political science and international relations at Cosumnes River College. I was accepted to sf state for transfer in the fall. Immigration and policies around immigration are very important to the economy and I would like

to see things progress for the rights of everyone not just citizens.

**Q: What has been your favorite topic and/or committee to cover so far at this conference?**

Dixon: My favorite committee to attend so far has been the General Assembly during their high level event. It was really impressive to see all the delegates adapt so quickly to a topic they had not prepared for, in addition to reaching a group consensus.

Griffith: My favorite issue so far has to be the issue of Myanmar that the Security Council had discussed earlier in the conference, I am a Sociology student and I have always found the issues of migration based on war and social conflict to be a fascinating and important part of our interactions and discussions with each other as human beings.

Dowler: While every committee is interesting in their own ways, the drama and theatrics centered around GAs sexual rights topic is awe inspiring.

Adi: HRC and the topic of addressing lesser known issues.

Hurley: My favorite part has been the issues themselves and how diplomatic majority of the delegate behaved with

**Q: What is a fun fact about you?**

Dixon: A fun fact about me is that I am the Managing Editor of my college's newspaper.

Griffith: I tell way too many dad jokes, here's my favorite one so far: When is the best to to go to the dentist? Tooth-hurty!

Dowler: I enjoy my very little spare time binge watching TV with my pug, Mr. Muggles.

Adi: I was born in Kenya.

Hurley: I am currently known as a political artist. I have done the covers to my community college political magazine, Globus Mundi, as well as writing an article on illegal immigration on page 69. ([http://www.crc.losrios.edu/files/pols/Globus\\_Mundi\\_2018.pdf](http://www.crc.losrios.edu/files/pols/Globus_Mundi_2018.pdf))

## *MUNFW 69th Session - The MUNFW Experience*

Experiences at the Model United Nations of the Far West are unique for everyone who participates. Although a group collectively represents one nation state, each delegate has personalized experiences, and the most important of these is which issue they find most important. Each delegate present, whether this is their first or fifth conference, has their own unique take on how to solve these issues. Returning delegates are very fond of the Model United Nations of the Far West. Most delegates are passionate about their topics and typically have one or more issues which resonate with them on a personal level.

The Human Rights Council faces some of the most controversial and contemporary issues in our world today. The Republic of Australia, represented by American River College, worked aggressively to resolve South African human rights violations within their region. The focus on countries in crisis was prominent, as these human rights violations are continued to be covered up. For the delegation of Australia, the debate centered around investigative missions and to encourage South Africa to answer for violations; this included providing more resources and support.

Within the same committee, the French Republic, represented by Cosumnes River College, focused on another under-addressed issue: the famine in Yemen. There are other issues of concern within Yemen that are stressed to be recognized, such as the case of recruiting child soldiers into the Yemeni military. But, the topic that was of greatest interest was the famine crisis that has not been resolved. The French Republic has considered aiding Yemen's governing body with cash aid through the means of NGOs. Concerns of corruption plagued aid and funding that is processed through third party organizations. On the final day of conference, the French Republic stressed upon addressing the lesser known issue of LGBT rights, and was successful with Yemen signing onto the resolution.

Issues segway into one another through recognition in multiple committees. One example was through the High Commissioner for Refugees and how religion affects the rights of citizens' livelihoods. The Central African Republic, leaned heavily on combating xenophobia, racism, and the perspective

on isolating those labeled as "other". There is a major concern of religion having a role in Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the acts of ethnic cleansing. Central African Republic proposed to create more educational programs and lesson the euro-centrist perspective of western education. This would also bring more weight to the use of social media and global connections.

The Republic of Poland of the High Commission for Refugees also saw xenophobia as an issue but primarily at borders. Another issue was the increase in immigrants of different religious backgrounds, which has disrupted Poland's nationalized religion of Christianity. To address the issue of racism and discrimination of the "other", Poland would like to propose integration camps that enhance immigrant education and maintaining the sovereignty of the nation. The Republic of Poland understands the necessity of immigrants as a workforce and enhancing the economy, but will keep in mind what is necessary for peace and structure for the nation.

Third Committee they had topics including Women's Empowerment. The delegate of the Republic of Australia there did surmountable work to move forward on women's empowerment. Australia is particularly focused on raising levels of education in rural areas.

The Development committee had the most success in reaching resolutions for all their issues that were given. Interviewing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who are from Humboldt State University, have been in momentum of achieving SDG one of Abolishing Poverty, the resolution that was drafted by the DPRK was ultimately denied due to strong wording.

The Democratic People's Republic of China, participating in the Development Committee, had interests around western states control over developing countries as to give them more capabilities to have more support through neighboring countries. This will include welfare and construction and trading routes to give more accessibility. This is in prospect of having better trade within Africa and build better connections with Laos and Cambodia.

The United Nations Environment Assembly focused on the issues of ocean resources and the reduction of product

# MUNFW 69th Session - The MUNFW Experience

due to higher acidification. This is topic had been a leading issue on Chile, since food shortage, especially oceanic resources, affects coastal poverty. Chile has dialogue with the delegate of the French Republic to address Air Pollution Sustainability.

The General Assembly had subject matters pertaining to social stability in communities. The Republic of Indonesia, participating from the University of Nevada, discussed media rights in connection with more representation. The country of Indonesia nationalized the Islamic idealism and is very traditionalist in their structure. The Republic of Indonesia has a long standing tradition that involves Female Genital Mutilation. They have intentions of legalizing the act under the contingency of safety and professional practice. The Republic of Indonesia stressed the connection between abortion in the West, where focus is often on improving the practice to insure hygiene and safety.

Finally, in the Security Council, the delegate from the French Republic has been a strong member of the committee and has been recognized many times for maintaining position and working towards peace. The subject of Cyber Security unanimously passed today. It focused on Cyber Terrorism as well as Cyber Warfare. It was agreed that financial aid and improvement of transportation will help lessen the consequence of cyber attacks as nations will have more substantial connections to maintain sustainability within their communities. Terrorist organizations are unable to form securely if their communities are not being supported.

In conclusion to all the individual experiences and passions that the delegates had, many committees stayed in character, worked with allies, communicated their issues, and came to substantial resolutions. Hard work has left many drained, but fulfilled. At the end of the day, countries and individuals coming together to create a more structured world for growth and peace. Model United Nations of the Far West has given opportunities to students who are passionate about the effects of the world and believe in change leading to a better future. All delegates should be proud of the work that they have done here.

**By: Corey Hurley, French Republic**

Delegates in order mentioned (left to right and top to bottom)



# *MUNFW 69th Session - General Assembly Updates*

## **General Assembly Crisis**

**By: Autumn Dixon, Finland**

The General Assembly (GA) was informed by the Under-Secretary-General of an attack on multiple European water treatment facilities by a Russian cyber terrorist group named Fancy Bear. After learning of the increased hospital admittances and overall threat to cyber security, delegates of the GA got to work on creating a consensus resolution.

The GA broke into blocs based on regions and began their work. After many meetings and a little bit of tension from the Republic of Korea, a resolution was passed. Some of the points made in the resolution include:

- *Cognizant* of the deep suffering and misfortune of the cure set and nations affected by this attack, understanding clean water is a human right, one that is frequently inaccessible to developing countries.
- *Deeply disturbed* by the potential reach and scope of cyber warfare into all aspect of life and security, with specific empathy on nations whose security infrastructure is still in development and this exceptionally susceptible, while mindful that the proliferation of competent infrastructure systems are not equal throughout the world stage, and nothing the vast inequality between various member states and their individual access to water treatment capabilities.
- *Requests* that developed nations offer support to underdeveloped nations in regards to cyber security to better strengthen technological infrastructure through Information and Communication Technology and advises that member states invest in private sector technological expansions.

With the passing of this resolution, the GA has since moved back into their agreed upon agenda topics, giving speeches on Elaborating on Sexual Rights in the 21st Century.

## **The Issue of Sovereignty**

**Autumn Dixon, Finland**

Tensions broke out in the General Assembly (GA) this afternoon while delegates discussed their second agenda topic, Elaborating on Sexual Rights in the 21st Century. A delegate from Indonesia stated that the country does not believe in outlawing Female Genital Mutilations (FGM), just the unsafe practices of in a speech to the body. The delegate from China rose to argue this point, while Indonesia rebutted by saying that the state stands in its sovereignty, and does not wish to have another country tell them how to govern their people. In response to this comment from Indonesia, the delegate from Israel stood to state that women's human rights are more important that the state's sovereignty.

"Although the language used by my fellow delegate may have been perceived as coarse, Indonesia firmly believes in not compromising our people's wishes and cultures by criminalizing a ritual that is important to our people's religion and culture," stated one of the delegates from Indonesia. "From an empirical perspective, FGM is highly dangerous," commented the delegate from Israel. "I spoke about the health hazards of FGM, and how it leads to severe pain, viral infections, urination infection, PTSD, etc."

For more on tensions within the GA, see "Tensions in the General Assembly."

## **Tensions in the General Assembly**

**By: Taylor Dowler, Haiti**

Tensions remain high in the General Assembly as the delegates dive deeper into their topic of Sexual Rights in the 21st Century. The delegate of Russia was one of the very first speakers on Monday morning, and used her time to vocalize Russia's

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adamant opposition to FGM, child marriage, and also noted the decriminalization of homosexuality by Russia in 1993. After being questioned further by delegates about honor killings of members of the LGBTQ community, Mexico rose under a P23 in an effort to remind the body that there is nary a Member State who hasn't been guilty of undermining women's rights, LGBTQ rights, or both. During an unmoderated caucus, the delegate elaborated further to say that it may feel good to call out fellow Member States on past issues, but that doing so is ultimately unproductive. Mexico's sentiments were largely ignored.

As the unmoderated caucus continued, three main blocs emerged. The European bloc, which included delegates from Israel, Denmark, and France, has narrowed the focus of their working paper down to three main points. The delegates are vehemently opposed to FGM and child marriage, and drafting strong clauses in the pursuit of ending these practices. Also included in their working paper are statements of vigorous support of the LGBTQ community. The EU block was also adamant that there be no mention of sovereignty within their working paper. The Asian/African bloc, including Kuwait, Japan, and Russia, is working on a document condemning FGM as its main focus. The delegates make no mention of LGBTQ issues in the creation of this document. Japan and other Member States have also offered to fund education programs in nations where FGM is practiced, hoping these programs will lead to a drop in these procedures. Finally, the Latin American bloc has decided to funnel their energy into ending the practices of child marriage, FGM, while also lending support to the LGBTQ community.

## **General Assembly Resolutions on Sexual Rights in 21st Century**

**By: Diana Adi, Ethiopia**

General Assembly is currently focusing on addressing sexual rights in the 21st

century and working on resolutions. Ethiopia is working on a resolution with African, Latin, and some Asian countries such as, China and Japan. The resolution focuses on human trafficking, female genital mutilation and sexual minority groups. The African, Latin, and Asian blocs are focused on protecting women's right and victims who have suffered from human rights violation across the globe. They also want to educate countries across the globe about women's rights and they are urging other countries to work together in taking different actions against sexual rights violations and human trafficking.

The African, Latin, and Asian blocs acknowledged the dangers of female genital mutilation in their resolution. They are also affirming their commitment to the political declaration on the implementation of the United Nation Global Plan of Action that addresses the issue of human trafficking and the actions that have been implemented to reduce human trafficking across the globe. They are also supporting women advancement across the globe and also working on strengthening the different women international organizations. They also urge the international communities to focus on the increasing human trafficking of women and children, and the human rights violation against women.



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## **A Day In The HCR: Consensus Is The Word**

By: Taylor Dowler, Haiti

Member States in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Executive Council have been working diligently these last few days on drafting work papers and also on their ability to form consensus amongst themselves on a gambit of subjects. Upon first introduction to topic number one, on implementing the global compact on refugees, there were three main blocs that formed immediately on Friday evening. By Saturday at noon, they already had working papers merged into one, and moved out of general debate on the subject well before lunch time. As they moved into general debate on the topic of countering xenophobia, five blocs immediately formed before lunch. By two o'clock all the working papers had merged, and the entirety of the HCR was having a round table discussion to ensure they had complete consensus on the working paper they were preparing.

Several delegates asserted that the momentum from topic one followed into topic two. The delegate from the Central African Republic was thrilled by the level of international cooperation happening within the committee. She went on to say that the push back received by developing countries has helped immensely in the shaping of the working papers. While some delegates were reported to have been thrown by the allowances made, the general consensus among most HCR delegates appears to be exuberance over the high level of collaboration. Upon entering substantive debate on their first topic, only eight edits were proposed and all were deemed friendly by the main sponsors of the working paper.

## **Opinion**

### **Addressing Human Rights, Security and Sustainable Development in Human Rights Council**

By: Diana Adi, Ethiopia

Earlier today the Human Rights Council focused on their third topic: the intersection of human rights, security and sustainable development. Ethiopia was focusing on education, security, and 15/17 sustainable goals. Ethiopia sponsored, with Iraq, a resolution that emphasized on the three topics of human rights, security, and sustainable development being looked at independently and emphasizing the details of the three topics. The resolution emphasizes the United Nation Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which outlines the conditions which spread terrorism and also prevent terrorism. The resolution also supports the four pillars that are mentioned in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: addressing the conditions that lead to terrorism, preventing terrorism, strengthening the United Nation's role, and ensuring human rights are protected.

The resolution reaffirms the obligations that member states should settle disputes peacefully through having civil and peaceful conversations among communities in order to prevent violence. The resolution also urges the international communities, and international organizations to work together in advancing human rights, security and sustainable development by addressing the three pillars. The resolution also thanks member states for acknowledging the intersection between human rights, security, and sustainable development by taking them into consideration when allocating aid. They also thank member states for promoting the advancement of human rights, security and sustainable development.