



Committee guide

UNHRC

Dignity Under Detention: Exposing Interrogation Injustice, Psychological Abuse, and Systemic Medical Negligence in Armed Conflict

Navrachana International
Model United Nations XV

25th to 26th September 2025

Navrachana International
School, Vadodara



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Chairperson's Address

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Human Rights Council at NIMUN XV. It is both a privilege and a responsibility to serve as your Chair for this session as we address the critical issue of torture and coercive measures in war-torn regions.

Conflict does not only destroy infrastructure and claim lives, it erodes dignity, weakens justice, and leaves deep, lasting scars. In regions where law and order have collapsed, the line between security measures and human rights violations becomes dangerously blurred, and far too often, those already vulnerable face the harshest consequences.

As delegates, your role is to move beyond statements of condemnation. This committee must examine the realities on the ground, close the gaps in enforcement, and develop practical mechanisms to protect human rights even in the most fragile states. Accountability for perpetrators, redress for victims, and the prevention of future abuses must guide our work.

NIMUN has always stood as a platform where young leaders rise above rhetoric and confront the complexities of international diplomacy with courage and creativity. Over the years, it has fostered debate that is not only intellectually rigorous but also deeply human in its outlook. I encourage each of you to live up to that tradition—debate with conviction, collaborate with openness, and remember that every resolution you draft has the potential to shape lives far beyond this room.

Together, we have the chance to ensure that even in war, humanity prevails.

Sahaj Patel
NIMUN XV Core
Chairperson
United Nations Human Rights Council

Introduction to UNHRC

The United Nations Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for bolstering the promotion and protection of human rights around the world and for addressing circumstances of human rights violations and recommending solutions. It has the ability to discuss all human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.

History of UNHRC

The United Nations Human Rights Council was formed by the UN General Assembly on 15th March 2006, under the resolution 60/251 “Decides to establish the Human Rights Council, based in Geneva, in replacement of the Commission on Human Rights, as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly; the Assembly shall review the status of the Council within five years;”. It soon adopted a framework consisting of several procedures and mechanisms, significantly the “Universal Periodic Review” mechanism which exists to assess the human rights situations in all Member States. The Council strives to adapt to the changing world scenarios, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, while continuing to efficiently address and deal with human rights violations within Member States.

UNHRC Mandate

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote and protect the enjoyment and full realization, by all people, of all human rights. The Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and international human rights laws and treaties established those rights.

UN Human Rights is mandated:

- Promote and protect all human rights for all
- Recommend that bodies of the UN system improve the promotion and protection of all human rights
- Promote and protect the right to development
- Provide technical assistance to States for human rights activities
- Coordinate UN human rights education and public information programmes
- Work actively to remove obstacles to the realization of human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations
- Engage in dialogue with Governments in order to secure respect for all human rights
- Enhance international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights

- Coordinate human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system

Agenda

Dignity Under Detention: Exposing Interrogation Injustice, Psychological Abuse, and Systemic Medical Negligence in Armed Conflict

- ***25th September: Examining the Use of Torture and Coercive Interrogation Techniques in Conflict-Driven Detention Systems***
- ***26th September: Addressing Medical Neglect and Bioethical Violations Against Detainees in Armed Conflicts***

Background Information (global overview)

Introduction

The issue of dignity under detention, particularly in conflict-affected regions, remains one of the most pressing and complex human rights challenges. Armed conflicts often give rise to detention systems where individuals—both combatants and civilians—are subjected to inhumane treatment, coercive interrogation, and systemic medical neglect. These practices contravene international human rights and humanitarian law, severely undermining the rights and dignity of detainees.

Detainees, especially in armed conflicts, are often held without due process and subjected to psychological abuse, torture, and denial of medical care. Prolonged solitary confinement, stress positions, sleep deprivation, and threats of violence are used as coercive tools during interrogations. In many cases, medical professionals are either absent or complicit in unethical treatment, leading to untreated injuries, mental health deterioration, and even death. Reports from conflict zones reveal that detainees are often denied access to adequate healthcare, including for chronic illnesses and psychological trauma stemming from the conditions of their detention.

These violations are further exacerbated in the case of vulnerable groups such as children, women, and the elderly. For example, detainees in Syria, Myanmar, and Yemen have reported consistent patterns of torture, overcrowding, and denial of medication. These practices not only breach the UN Convention Against Torture but also fall short of standards laid out in the

Mandela Rules (UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners).

Actions by Non-Governmental Organizations

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in documenting abuses, providing humanitarian assistance, and advocating for detainee rights. Organizations like **Human Rights Watch**, **Amnesty International**, and **Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)** have actively reported on instances of torture and medical negligence within detention facilities, particularly in conflict zones such as Palestine, Sudan, and Afghanistan.

For instance, **Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)** has extensively documented cases of medical complicity in torture, highlighting how doctors and healthcare workers in some systems have falsified medical reports, failed to report abuse, or withheld treatment. **The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)** regularly visits detention centers to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law, promoting humane treatment and advocating for medical care provision.

However, the effectiveness of these organizations often depends on the cooperation of national governments and the accessibility of conflict zones. Despite efforts, many detention centers remain opaque, with limited external oversight and accountability.

Past Actions by the United Nations

The United Nations has consistently condemned the use of torture and the failure to uphold detainees' medical rights. The **UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)** lays the foundation for international anti-torture frameworks, while the **Mandela Rules** provide comprehensive guidelines on detainee treatment.

The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** has issued multiple reports condemning the conditions in detention centers across conflict zones like Libya, Iraq, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Additionally, **UN Special Rapporteurs** on torture and the right to health have undertaken missions and submitted findings regarding coercive interrogation, overcrowded facilities, and absence of medical infrastructure.

In Yemen, for example, the Group of Eminent Experts reported the widespread use of enforced disappearance and torture. In Syria, the **Independent International Commission of Inquiry** has highlighted patterns of abuse in military and intelligence detention centers. Meanwhile, the **UN Human Rights Council** has held special sessions and adopted resolutions addressing detention abuses in Myanmar and Eritrea.

Despite these efforts, enforcement mechanisms remain weak. The lack of binding consequences for non-compliance and the politicization of accountability measures have often hindered real change.

Relevant UN Treaties and Conventions

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict: This protocol, which entered into force in 2002, aims to protect children from recruitment and use in hostilities. It prohibits the recruitment of children under the age of 18 by state armed forces and non-state armed groups. It also requires states to take measures to prevent such recruitment, demobilize child soldiers, and provide them with physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration support.

United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime: Although not specifically focused on child soldiers, this convention provides a comprehensive framework for states to combat transnational organized crime, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers. States parties commit to adopting measures to prevent and suppress the recruitment of children for involvement in organized criminal groups.

The Paris Principles on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict: These principles define a "child associated with an armed force or armed group" as any person below 18 years of age who is or has been recruited or used by an armed force or armed group in any capacity. The principles emphasize the importance of protecting the rights and well-being of children affected by armed conflict and call for their reintegration into civilian life.

Timeline

1984: UN Convention Against Torture adopted.

1999: Istanbul Protocol published to guide torture documentation.

2006: UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT).

2010: Reports emerge of CIA black sites and complicity of foreign governments in torture practices during the Global War on Terror.

2015: Adoption of the Mandela Rules by the UN General Assembly.

2018: UN calls for investigation into detainee treatment in Yemen and Libya.

2023: OHCHR releases report on the state of detention and medical neglect in Myanmar and Sudan.

Connections to Humanitarian Law

Protection of Detainees:

International humanitarian law (IHL) provides robust protections for individuals deprived of their liberty during armed conflict. Common Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions mandates humane treatment of all detainees, prohibiting torture, outrages upon personal dignity, and inhumane treatment.

Medical Ethics and Humanitarian Obligations:

Healthcare professionals working in detention settings must adhere to ethical obligations, including the duty to provide care without discrimination and to refrain from participating in torture. The **World Medical Association's Declaration of Tokyo** explicitly prohibits medical participation in torture or inhumane treatment.

Legal Remedies and Access to Justice:

Under both IHL and international human rights law, detainees have the right to file complaints, access legal counsel, and receive medical evaluations. Violations such as denial of healthcare, medical neglect, or the use of torture constitute serious breaches and may amount to war crimes.

International Oversight and Monitoring:

Bodies such as the ICRC, OHCHR, and the UN Committee Against Torture play key roles in monitoring conditions, investigating abuses, and offering technical assistance to states in reforming detention systems. Their presence is essential in conflict-affected zones to ensure detainee dignity is respected.

Guiding Questions

- How can international mechanisms ensure the prevention of torture and coercive interrogation in conflict-driven detention systems?
- In what ways can the medical community uphold bioethical standards in war zones and detention environments?
- What accountability measures can be implemented to prevent and punish systemic medical neglect in conflict-related detention?

- How can governments be encouraged to allow transparent international oversight of detention centers?
- How does the denial of medical care to detainees impact post-conflict reconciliation and long-term human rights development?

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Committee Proceedings

Double Delegation

The International Press Corps operates under a double-delegation system. Each corporation is represented by two delegates who share responsibilities across the IPC and their assigned beat committee. At any given time, one delegate will participate in the IPC's own debates, while the other will observe proceedings in the beat committee. These roles will switch at the start of every session, ensuring that both delegates contribute equally to IPC deliberations and beat committee coverage. This system is designed to provide continuous presence in both settings, allowing for comprehensive reporting while maintaining active participation in IPC discussions.

Roll call

During roll call, delegates are required to respond with either "present" or "present and voting" when their corporation's name is announced by the Chair. By choosing the former, the delegate has the right to abstain from voting on proposed resolutions. By choosing the latter, the delegate must vote on proposed resolutions.

General Speakers' List (GSL)

The General Speakers' List allows delegates to present their corporation's views and stance on the agenda at hand. The GSL is usually the first discourse of the conference. The GSL is established after the Chairperson approves, under their discretion, a motion raised by a recognised delegate to establish the GSL. Like any other Speakers' List, the GSL determines the order in which delegates will speak to present their opening remarks. The Chair will create the list by asking all delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards and calling on them one at a time. During the conference, a delegate may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the GSL by sending a note to the Dais. The Chairperson may call a delegate to order if his/her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion. The GSL can be interrupted by procedural points or motions, caucuses, discussion of amendments, and introduction of draft resolutions. **GSL: Time limit** Delegates are given 1 minute to present their opening speeches. Exceeding the time limit is not permitted, and will result in an immediate call to order by the Chairperson.

GSL: Yielding

While adhering to the time limit is extremely important, effectively utilising the time to present substantive material is equally significant. Delegates are encouraged to make full use of the time allotted to them, expressing relevant claims. A short or haphazard completion of the GSL speech will result in a negative impression and low marking. Yielding (time) is only applicable if the delegate has time remaining from the allotted time after the completion of his/her speech. The speaker must respond to the Chairperson when asked “delegate, how would you like to use your remaining time?”, with “the delegate of (corporation) would like to yield the remaining time to (the Chair/ another delegate/ questions). Delegates must adhere to the remaining time.

Yield type	What is it?	Notes
Yield to the Chair	The delegate does not wish for his/her speech to be subject to comments.	Although this choice does not result in the marking-down of delegates, delegates are encouraged to choose either of the other two options to present more involvement in the conference and exude confidence in themselves and their work.
Yield to another delegate	The delegate chooses another delegate to make his/her remarks.	
Yield to points of information or questions	Delegates are selected by the Chairperson to state factual inaccuracies or ask one question on the speaker’s (delegate’s) speech.	The chairperson will call to order any delegate, whose question is irrelevant to the speaker’s speech or is curated to elicit information.

Moderated caucus

The purpose of the moderated caucus is to facilitate substantive debate at critical junctures in the discussion. A motion for a moderated caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open. The delegate raising the motion must specify the topic, followed by the time limit (total time, per speaker time). The motion will be on vote with a simple majority required for its passage. If the motion passes, delegates, wishing to speak on the motion, must raise their placards. The Chairperson will call on delegates to speak for the stipulated time. The only time yield allowed in a moderated caucus is “yield to points of information”; however, the Chair may decide to disallow it and this is not subject to appeal. Otherwise, each speech will be considered as taking up the full duration of the per speaker time. If no delegates wish to speak, the moderated caucus

will immediately conclude, even if time remains in the caucus. The Chairperson may also decide, subject to appeal, to suspend the caucus early or prolong it.

Unmoderated caucus

An unmoderated caucus temporarily suspends formal debate and allows delegates to discuss ideas informally in the committee. A motion for an unmoderated caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open. The delegate raising the motion must state the purpose of the unmoderated caucus and specify a time limit. The motion is voted upon and a simple majority allows its passage. The Chairperson may prematurely end an unmoderated caucus if they feel that the caucus has ceased to be productive. Contrarily, the Chairperson may extend the unmoderated caucus. These decisions are not subject to appeal.

Resolutions

Working Papers

A working paper is a document that contains the ideas of a group of delegates about how to resolve issues pertaining to the agenda. It is a precursor to a draft resolution. A working paper is used to communicate ideas to delegates in a less formal manner before it is converted to a formal draft resolution. It need not be written in the format of a draft resolution; however, to be presented to the committee, it requires the signature or approval of the Dais. Unlike draft resolutions, working papers do not have signatories.

Draft Resolutions

The discussion, writing and negotiation for a committee's agenda concludes with the presentation of a resolution. A resolution includes written suggestions for addressing a specific problem or issue, in relevance to the agenda. This document is drafted by one or more blocs formed over the course of the conference, and usually requires only a simple majority vote to pass (with the exception of the Security Council).

A draft resolution is one that has not yet been voted upon. Delegates draft these resolutions in a format including three main sections:

1. The heading

Includes: the sponsors, signatories, agenda and the committee.

2. The preamble

Includes: the current situation.

3. The operative section

Includes: recommended actions.

Each draft resolution is one clear and decisive sentence separated by commas and semicolons. The subject of the sentence is the body making the statement (e.g. UNSC, DISEC, Economic and Social Council). A draft resolution must always gain the support of a certain number of member corporations in the committee before the sponsors may submit it to the committee's Dais.

Many conferences require signatures from 20 percent of the members present in order to submit a draft resolution. A member of the Dais will read the draft resolution to ensure that it is relevant and in the proper format. Only when the document is formally accepted and is assigned a number can it be referred to in formal debate. A delegate must bring forward a motion to introduce the draft resolution, once accepted, sponsors will be called upon to explain the operative clauses in the resolution.

Preambulatory clauses • Preambulatory clauses provide the context of a resolution • Format: ○ Must be the first word of the statement ○ Must be italicised ○ Must not be numbered ○ Must end with a comma		
Alarmed by Approving Aware of Bearing in mind Believing Confident Contemplating Convinced Declaring Deeply concerned Deeply conscious Deeply convinced Deeply disturbed Deeply regretting Emphasising Expecting	Expressing its satisfaction Fulfilling Fully alarmed Fully aware Fully believing Further deploring Further recalling Guided by Having adopted Having considered Having considered further Having devoted attention Having examined Having heard Having received Keeping in mind	Noting with regret Noting with deep concern Noting with satisfaction Noting with approval Observing Reaffirming Realising Recalling Recognizing Reminding Seeking Taking note Taking into account Taking into consideration Viewing with appreciation Welcoming

Operative clauses

- Format:
 - Must be the first word of the statement
 - Must be italicised
 - Must be numbered
 - Must end with a semicolon
 - Only the last clause should end with period
 - Sub-clauses must be indicated with a lowercase alphabet
 - Sub-sub-clauses must be indicated with a lowercase roman numeral
 - There are no italicised words in sub-clauses or sub-sub-clauses

Accepts	Draws to attention	Proclaims
Affirms	Emphasises	Reaffirms
Approves	Encourages	Recommends
Authorises	Endorses	Regrets
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Reminds
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Requests
Condemns	Further invites	Solemnly affirms
Confirms	Further proclaims	Strongly condemns
Congratulates	Further reminds	Stresses
Considers	Further requests	Takes note of
Declares accordingly	Further resolves	Transmits
Deplores	Further recommends	Trusts
Designates	Notes	Urges

Only resolutions of the Security Council are binding. As resolutions of other committees are not binding, delegates must not use phrases such as “forces”, “compels” and “obligates”.

Sample Draft Resolution

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens,

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and non-governmental Organisations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. *Encourages* all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts;
2. *Urges* member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;
3. *Requests* that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;
4. *Calls* for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;
5. *Stresses* the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;
 - a. *Calls* upon States to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and
 - b. *Requests* the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction

Rules of Procedure

Language

English will be the working and official language of the conference (during formal and informal discussions).

Decorum

Student delegates must obey instructions given by the secretariat. Failure to obey instructions, misconduct or disrespect directed towards the secretariat or any student delegates will result in dismissal from the conference. Delegates must address the secretariat by their respective roles.

Delegates must address the secretariat members by their positions at all times; a delegate must address the Dais as the “Dais”, “Chair” or “Chairperson”.

Agenda

This is the first order of business for the committee. Since there is only one agenda for the committee, it will automatically be adopted.

Voting

Voting is initiated on resolutions, motions and caucuses’ topics. Following either the closure of debate or exhaustion of the speakers list, the committee moves immediately into voting procedure. Absolute decorum is to be maintained in the committee room at all times; it is essential that there is no disturbance during voting procedure. Please be aware that the voting procedure is typically a long process and depends on the number of draft resolutions, amendments, and roll call votes. Votes will be counted electronically and the delegates will be informed about the procedure to vote prior to the conference.

Points

Point of Order

Points of order are used when delegates believe the Chairperson has made an error in the running of the committee. Delegates rising to points of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. They should only specify the errors they believe were made in the formal committee procedure.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

When the floor is open (i.e. no other delegate is speaking), a delegate may rise to a point of inquiry in order to ask the Chairperson a question regarding the rules of procedure.

Point of Personal Privilege

Points of personal privilege are used to inform the Chairperson of a physical discomfort a delegate is experiencing, such as the inability to hear another delegate’s speech.

Point of Information

Points of information can be used to point out factual inaccuracies in a delegate's speech and ask the delegate questions pertaining to his/her speech.

Delegate Preparation

The following is the marking criteria for NIMUN:

Knowledge	10
Analysation	10
Confidence	10
Listener	10
Coherence	10

Position Paper

The Position Paper is a comprehensive document, which details your corporation's views on the topic of discussion in your committee, and also outlines your perspective. Writing a position paper helps you to organise your ideas so that you can share your corporation's stance with the rest of the committee. The conduct of extensive research and analysis makes a position paper substantial. Moreover, a well written position paper can often be used as the opening speech on a general speaker's list. Writing a position paper might appear to be a daunting task, especially for new delegates. However, the guidelines provided should scaffold your endeavour. Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half sides of an A4 paper in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your corporation's position on the topic being discussed by the committee. A sound position paper will not only provide facts but focus also on making proposals for resolutions.

Elements of a position paper

A substantive position paper will include the following:

- A brief introduction to the corporation and its history concerning the agenda
- How the corporation is affected by the agenda
- A justified account of the corporation's policies with respect to the agenda

- Statistics and/or other data to support the position adopted by the corporation
- Quotes from the corporation's high-ranking officials (like the CEO) regarding the agenda
- Actions undertaken by the corporation towards the issue
- What the corporation believes should be done to address the issue
- What the corporation would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution
- How the position of other corporations affects the corporation's position

Format of a position paper

- A position paper is written from the perspective of the corporation and not of the delegate. As such, avoid using 'I' or 'The Delegate'; instead, use the corporation's name.
- A position paper is written in the present tense.
- The length of a good position paper is between one and two pages. This roughly corresponds to about 1000 words.
- The font used is Times New Roman, Size 12, line spacing 1.5 and adequate margins.
- If possible, include the corporation's official logo as a watermark or a signature.
- Organise the position paper into clear paragraphs and make use of bullet points when possible.
- Cite any factual data, quotes, statistics, etc, according to the referencing format.
- Include at least one quote from your corporation's high-ranking officials about the agenda.

Referencing

Delegates must use the Modern Language Association (MLA 8 or 9) referencing style within their position paper's body (using footnotes) and/ or in the bibliography.

Writing the position paper

- Begin by extensively researching the corporation, the committee and the agenda.
- Contextualise your research by identifying the corporation's stance on the agenda.
- Identify important treaties, conventions, resolutions, etc. related to the agenda.
- Read interviews and speeches given by the corporation's officials in the recent past and identify the common thread in all the data – this common thread will be the position that the corporation adopts.
- Try and understand why the corporation has adopted such a position. This can be gauged by looking at the history of the corporation, the agenda, and its evolution.

- Identify possible solutions or the next steps that the corporation would like to see adopted in the committee resolution.
- Develop arguments for why these solutions are adequate and necessary for the corporation and for the issue at hand.
- Identify the counter-position – the opposite position or the opponent’s position – and develop arguments for why your position is better or why the counter-position is weak.
- Organise all the data and draft your position paper.

Organise your position paper into paragraphs, dedicating each paragraph to a new idea or topic of research. There is no hard and fast rule that governs the structure of a position paper. A good position paper is one that includes all elements, and is easy to read and understand.

- Introduction: Begin by introducing the committee, the corporation and the agenda.
- History: Trace the history of the corporation and the agenda.
- Position: Identify how the issue affects the corporation, and describe the position adopted by the corporation towards the issue.
- Substantiate: Elaborate on the position, and include the corporation’s views, actions, etc. towards the issue.
- Support: Support the claims with quotes, data and statistics.
- Action Framework: Actions taken by the corporation towards the issue, along with the justification of the corporation’s position on them.
- Way Forward: Solutions that the corporation wishes to adopt and what the corporation hopes to achieve from the committee.
- Counter Positions: Identify counter positions and explain how they affect the corporation’s stance.
- Conclusion Statement: Conclude with a statement about what the corporation hopes for, in the larger picture.

Position Paper Tips

- Do not use complex sentence structures, keep the language simple.
- Make sure the paper is well organised and contains all the key elements.
- Ensure that the paper is less than 2 pages (one side and back).
- Avoid using personal pronouns.
- Make it look official by using your corporation’s logo.
- Include recent quotes or statistics, but only where necessary.
- Maintain the flow of the paper – each paragraph should lead into the next.

- Write a draft to begin with, and keep improving upon the paper.
- Refer to the sample position paper provided and follow all the guidelines given.
- Remember to include the corporation, agenda and committee name before beginning the position paper.

Position Paper Criteria

Knowledge On Criteria	10
Topic / Background	10
Structured exposition of delegates stance	10
Considered recommendation for resolutions	10
Format	10

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper was the top scoring paper in the 13th iteration of the Navrachana Model United Nations:

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Agenda: Addressing the protection and prevention of human rights in a situation of war

Country: USA

The United States of America has inculcated fundamental human rights from the very first day of its creation about 250 years ago. 10th December of 1948 marked just one such instance when the United States portrayed its ethical measures for humanity as it signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Being a democratic nation, the US has always kept the safety, stability and wellbeing of the American citizens as a priority to achieve prosperity.

Going hand in hand with the USA's motto, securing people's rights has been at the heart of UNHRC's mission ever since it was founded on 15th March 2006. Especially during warfare, international humanitarian law(IHL) is essential in limiting the consequences of disputes, ensuring the safety of civilians, women, children, severely injured, captives, etc. The US has

worked according to the three constituents of this “law of war” - Distinction, Proportionality, and Precaution

After 1890, no war took place on American soil, protecting its population from the threat of human rights violation through armed conflicts. Nevertheless, the US has been involved in external wars over the years, but the IHL has governed the better part of it. Besides, the USA has introduced several policies to address pressing humanitarian issues such as those that follow:

- Human Trafficking
 - In the year 2000, the US government initiated the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act(VTVPA). Based on annual reports on assessments of different countries’ anti-trafficking policies, the United States is in the Tier 1 of the list, making it amongst the most proactive countries.
 - The US Department of Home Security established the Blue Campaign in 1997 to spread awareness about the issue.
- Shelter to refugees
 - The US Admission Refugee Programme (USRAP) has always been welcoming to refugees, providing aid and shelter to those who truly need it. President Biden has declared the United States’ target of having 125000 refugee admissions in FY2023, the highest in several decades.
- Treatment of victims
 - The US has signed the 4 Geneva Conventions of 1949 and Protocol III of 2005.
 - Despite not being a federal organization, the American Red Cross helps nearly 20000 people every day, improving humanitarian aid for military members and their families.

In current times of armed conflicts around the world, basic human rights are being neglected, if not heightened. Solely in 2021, nearly 20000 innocent children were recruited as soldiers, prostitutes or trafficked. The US recognizes that most of these numbers keep countries like Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen responsible. Not to mention the Russia-Ukraine war where 14 million Ukrainians as of just May 2022 were forced to flee their homes.

Whether it is the \$3.9 billion(5% of what the US’ total aid) in Ukraine or the \$1.1 billion in the Afghanistan crisis since August 2021, the USA is always in search of ways to fund humanitarian aid. In fact, about one-fourth of the peacekeeping budget comes from the United States.

As Martin Luther King once said, “A right delayed is a right denied”. Thus, the US wishes to take immediate action as a mindful committee, working towards rethinking present resolutions into stricter ones, such as having heavy sanctions, a greater budget, and rightful actions in the IJC against those violating the IHL.

In words of Jan Eliasson, former foreign affairs minister of Sweden:-

“There can be no peace without development, no development without peace, and no lasting peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and the rule of law.”

Note: The delegate had cited their sources.

Opening speech (GSL Speech)

A committee session commences with the establishment of the ‘General Speakers List’ (GSL), during which delegates provide a short, comprehensive opening speech, typically lasting no more than 60 seconds. This speech is a vital opportunity to present the corporation’s current situation, policies, and introduce a resolution initiative pertaining to the committee’s agenda.

Elements of an opening speech

An opening speech is often prepared prior to the conference, allowing delegates to form a concise and coherent statement on the subject matter, without compromising the formality and diplomacy. Although there is no particular format to this speech, a clear introduction, systematic body, and a definitive resolution is key.

A GSL speech must begin with the following:

“Thank you for the recognition Honourable Chair/ President/ Dais” Followed by:

1. A brief history on the issue outlined in the agenda from the perspective of the corporation allocated.
2. Highlight the impact of this issue in various aspects, for example: governmental/ political, economic, environment, foreign relations, etc.
3. Clearly establish, with an explanation, the stance of the corporation’s stance on the issue.

- a. This must be supported by data from a valid source, covering concerns across aspects.
4. A delegate may choose to explain the international effect of their corporation's position; discussing correlations, trade, monetary aid, etc. This often incentivises other members of a committee to form an inclusive bloc during the drafting process for working papers and draft resolutions.
5. The delegate must outline past actions done by the UN, member states and NGOs to address the global issue, and, in brief, its efficacy.
6. Lastly, a 'Call for Action' is the decisive moment in establishing the corporation's presence in the committee, for the given agenda.
 - a. Clearly mention the proposed resolution, the role of the stakeholders and the importance or need of collective global action.

Fact Checking

- All claims, facts and statements made in the speech must be supported by empirical data.
- The data should be no older than 2 years, and must be extracted from a verified source.
- The Dais have the right to ask for evidence supporting the claims made or data presented at any point in time during the conference. Subsequently inaccuracies in data, false claims and inflammatory remarks would result in consequences including dismissal from the committee.

Policies

Dress code policy

In the simulation of the United Nations, delegates are expected to conform to formal and professional procedures. Delegates must follow a dress code during the conference. While national and religious attire is permitted, the prevailing dress code will be Western Business attire:

During the conference (25th and 26th September):

- Men must wear a suit or a formal jacket and dress pants (no jeans or cargo pants), with a dress shirt and tie. Socks and dress shoes must be worn. Hats and caps are not allowed.
- Women must wear a suit, dress slacks (no jeans) or skirt of appropriate length with a blouse, blazer or sweater. Dress shoes must be worn. Hats and caps are not allowed.

24th September (Wednesday) – Statue of Unity Trip (for SOU package students)

Dress Code: Comfortable Casuals

Polo shirts / T-shirts, jeans or track pants, sneakers.

Cap/hat and sunglasses recommended (outdoor activity).

Avoid overly formal or restrictive clothing.

Only available for school-registered teams.

26th September Evening (LVP Garba Night – school-registered teams only):

Dress Code: Traditional Garba/Indian Ethnic

Girls: Chaniya choli, lehenga, or other festive Indian wear.

Boys: Kurta-pyjama, or festive ethnic wear.

Only available for school-registered teams.

Pre-writing policy

Any documents written prior to the conference will not be accepted as part of working papers, draft resolution and amendments. Our philosophy is founded on the idea that the best solutions are generated through debate, collaboration, and compromise. All papers presented before a committee should reflect collaboration that occurred within that committee. Writing is expected to take place after the start of the committee session and must comprise the work of more than one delegation. The secretariat will not accept documents that do not seem as though they could have been feasibly written during the conference, based on various criteria, including the content of the document and/or the time at which it is submitted. Any delegates suspected of submitting pre-written words will be subject to an investigation that may result in disciplinary action, including notification of Faculty Advisors, reduced consideration or ineligibility for individual awards, and/ or expulsion from the conference. Any suspicions regarding an infraction of the prewriting policy should be brought to the immediate attention of the Dais.

No-research policy

Delegates are not permitted to access the internet during the committee session. Any delegates suspected of accessing the internet during the committee session will be subject to an investigation that may result in disciplinary action, including notification of Faculty Advisors, reduced consideration or ineligibility for individual awards, and/ or expulsion from the conference.

Plagiarism and AI Policy

It is mandatory for delegates to acknowledge the resources they have relied upon or incorporated in their own work. It is expected that all documents submitted prior to and during the conference are entirely the delegate's own work. The use of generative artificial intelligence tools for the creation, drafting, or editing of submitted documents is strictly prohibited. All documents will be vetted through rigorous plagiarism detection and AI-content analysis systems, and any work found to be plagiarised or to contain AI-generated material, without proper acknowledgement, will result in reduced consideration of the delegate for awards.

Useful Resources

1. <https://www.swp-berlin.org/>
2. <https://unidir.org/>
3. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/>
4. <https://www.un.org/en/>
5. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en>
6. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do delegates raise a motion?

Delegates will be provided with placards with their corporation's name. The Chair will ask for motions on the floor. To raise a motion, delegates must raise their placards to be recognised by the Chair. It should be noted that not all delegates will be selected.

How do delegates prepare for their first MUN?

An MUN is an interactive way of participating in the vital discussion of global issues. Preparing for an MUN will most importantly require adequate knowledge of the current global issues. Along with this, the delegate handbook will be the delegate's golden ticket as it covers every aspect of the MUN. The Core Team also recommends that delegates watch the mock simulation observantly along with sample MUN videos to attain practical knowledge. The training videos provided by Navrachana International School Vadodara (NISV) will assure the delegates are well prepared.

When multiple motions have been proposed, what will be the order in which they are considered?

1. Right of Reply
2. Unmoderated Caucus
3. Moderated Caucus
4. Introduction of a Draft Resolution
5. Introduction of an Amendment
6. Postponement (Tabling) of Debate
7. Opening/Reopening Debate
8. Closure of Debate
9. Suspension of Debate
10. Adjournment of Debate
11. All points take precedence over motions.

What is the Right of Reply and when should a delegate exercise it?

Right of Reply is a rule that is invoked when a delegate feels their corporation or integrity has been compromised in another delegate's speech. There are two ways to exercise the Right of Reply: via chit to the Chair, or raising your placard and waiting to be recognised. If and when the Chair grants the Right of Reply, the delegate is allowed to speak on behalf of their corporation, and they will not be interrupted.

Is a motion to reorder resolutions allowed?

Yes, it is allowed. However, it will require 2/3 majority to pass.

MUN Terminology

Abstain: During a vote on a substantive matter, delegates may abstain rather than vote yes or no. This generally signals that a corporation does not support the resolution being voted on, but does not oppose it enough to vote no.

Adjourn: All UN or Model UN sessions end with a vote to adjourn. This means that the debate is suspended until the next meeting. This can be a short time (e.g., overnight) or a long time (until next year's conference).

Agenda: The order in which the issues before a committee will be discussed. The first duty of a committee following the roll call is usually to set the agenda.

Amendment: A change to a draft resolution on the floor. Can be of two types: a "friendly amendment" is supported by the original draft resolution's sponsors, and is passed automatically,

while an "unfriendly amendment" is not supported by the original sponsors and must be voted on by the committee as a whole.

Background guide: A guide to a topic being discussed in a Model UN committee usually written by conference organisers and distributed to delegates before the conference. The starting point for any research before a Model UN conference.

Binding: Having legal force in UN member states. Security Council resolutions are binding, as are decisions of the International Court of Justice; resolutions of the General Assembly and Economic and Social Council are not.

Bloc: A group of corporations in a similar geographical region or with a similar opinion on a particular topic. Blocs typically vote together.

Caucus: A break in formal debate in which corporations can more easily and informally discuss a topic. There are two types: moderated caucus and unmoderated caucus.

Chair: A member of the Dais that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions, and enforces the rules of procedure. Also known as a Moderator.

Dais: The group of people, usually high school or college students, in charge of a Model UN committee. It generally consists of a Chair, a Director, and a Rapporteur. The Dais is also the raised platform on which the chair traditionally sits.

Decorum: The order and respect for others that all delegates at a Model UN conference must exhibit. The Chair will call for decorum when he or she feels that the committee is not being respectful of a speaker, of the Dais, or of their roles as ambassadors.

Delegate: A student acting as a representative of a member corporation or observer in a Model UN committee.

Delegation: The entire group of people representing a member state or observer in all committees at a particular Model UN conference. They are usually all from the same school.

Director: A member of the Dais that oversees the creation of working papers and draft resolutions acts as an expert on the topic, makes sure delegates accurately reflect the policy of their corporations, and ensures that decorum is maintained during caucuses.

Division of the Question: During the voting bloc, delegates may motion to vote on certain clauses of a resolution separately, so that only the clauses that are passed become part of the final resolution. This is known as the division of the question.

Draft resolution: A document that seeks to fix the problems addressed by a Model UN committee. If passed by the committee, the draft resolution will become a resolution.

Faculty Advisor: The faculty member in charge of a Model UN team, class or club.

Flow of events: The order in which events proceed during a Model UN conference. This usually indicates the movement between formal and informal debate and the process of drafting, debating and voting on resolutions.

Formal debate: The "standard" type of debate at a Model UN conference, in which delegates speak for a certain time in an order based on a speakers' list.

Head Delegate: The student leader of a Model UN club or team.

Moderated Caucus: A type of caucus in which delegates remain seated and the Chair calls on them one at a time to speak for a short period of time, enabling a freer exchange of opinions than would be a possible informal debate.

Motion: A request made by a delegate that the committee as a whole do something. Some motions might be to go into a caucus, to adjourn, to introduce a draft resolution, or to move into a voting procedure.

Observer: A state, national organisation, regional organisation, or non-governmental organisation that is not a member of the UN but participates in its debates. Observers can vote on procedural matters, but not substantive matters. An example is the Holy See.

On the floor: At a Model UN conference, when a working paper or draft resolution is first written, it may not be discussed in the debate. After it is approved by the Director and introduced by the committee, it is put "on the floor" and may be discussed.

Operative clause: The part of a resolution which describes how the UN will address a problem. It begins with an action verb (decides, establishes, recommends, etc.).

Page: A delegate in a Model UN committee that has volunteered to pass notes from one delegate to another, or from a delegate to the Dais, for a short period of time.

Placard: A piece of cardstock with a corporation's name on it that a delegate raises in the air to signal to the Chair that he or she wishes to speak.

Point: A request raised by a delegate for information or for an action relating to that delegate. Examples include a point of order, a point of inquiry, and a point of personal privilege

Position paper: A summary of a corporation's position on a topic, written by a delegate before an MUN conference.

Preambulatory Clause: The part of a resolution that describes previous actions taken on the topic and reasons why the resolution is necessary. It begins with a participle or adjective (noting, concerned, regretting, aware of, recalling, etc.).

Procedural: Having to do with the way a committee is run, as opposed to the topic being discussed. All delegates present must vote on procedural matters and may not abstain.

Quorum: The minimum number of delegates needed to be present for a committee to meet. In the General Assembly, a quorum consists of one-third of the members to begin debate, and a majority of members to pass a resolution.

Rapporteur: A member of the dais whose duties include keeping the speakers' list and taking the roll call, as well as assisting in and keeping track of administrative duties in the committee room.

Resolution: A document that has been passed by an organ of the UN that aims to address a particular problem or issue.

Right of Reply: A right to speak in reply to a previous speaker's comment, invoked when a delegate feels personally insulted by another's speech. It generally requires a written note to the Chair to be invoked.

Roll Call: The first order of business in a Model UN committee, during which the Rapporteur reads aloud the names of each member corporation in the committee. When a delegate's corporation's name is called, he or she may respond "present" or "present and voting." A delegate responding "present and voting" may not abstain on a substantive vote.

Rules of Procedure: The rules by which a Model UN committee is run.

Second: To agree with a motion being proposed. Many motions must be seconded before they can be brought to a vote.

Secretariat: The staff of a Model UN conference.

Secretary-General: The leader of a Model UN conference.

Signatory: A corporation that wishes a draft resolution to be put on the floor and signs the draft resolution to accomplish this. A signatory need not support a resolution; it only wants it to be discussed. Usually, Model UN conferences require some minimum number of sponsors and signatories for a draft resolution to be approved.

Simple majority: 50% plus one vote of the number of delegates in a committee.

Speakers' List: A list that determines the order in which delegates will speak. Whenever a new topic is opened for discussion, the Chair will create a speakers' list by asking all delegates wishing to speak to raise their placards and calling on them one at a time. During the debate, a delegate may indicate that he or she wishes to be added to the speakers' list by sending a note to the Dais.

Sponsor: One of the writers of a draft resolution. A friendly amendment can only be created if all sponsors agree.

Substantive: Having to do with the topic being discussed. A substantive vote is a vote on a draft resolution or amendment already on the floor during a voting bloc. Only member states (not observer states or non-governmental organisations) may vote on substantive issues.

Unmoderated Caucus: A type of caucus in which delegates leave their seats to mingle and speak freely. Enables the free sharing of ideas to an extent not possible in formal debate or even a moderated caucus. Frequently used to sort corporations into blocs and to write working papers and draft resolutions.

Working Paper: A document in which the ideas of some delegates on how to resolve an issue are proposed. It is known as the precursor to a draft resolution.

Veto: The ability, held by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States to prevent any draft resolution in the Security Council from passing by voting no.

Vote: A time at which delegates indicate whether they do or do not support a proposed action for the committee. There are two types: procedural and substantive.

Voting procedure: The period at the end of a committee session during which delegates vote on proposed amendments and draft resolutions. Nobody may enter the committee room while voting on resolutions is underway.



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Email: nimun.unhrc@navrachana.ac.in