

VANCOUVER YOUTH MODEL
UNITED NATIONS 2020



DELEGATE HANDBOOK





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WELCOME ADDRESS FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear prospective delegates, school advisors, and parents,

Welcome to the 15th iteration of the Vancouver Youth Model United Nations.

My name is Ethan Jasny, and on behalf of the entire Secretariat team and West Point Grey Academy, I would like to extend a warm invitation to this year's VYMUN, to be held from October 30th to November 1st. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are unfortunately unable to hold the conference at the Fairmont Chateau Whistler as planned, but we look forward to presenting VYMUN in a new virtual format.

Since its inception, VYMUN has striven to educate and inspire the next generation of diplomats, politicians, scholars, and difference-makers. By providing a platform where youth can investigate pressing worldwide issues, we hope to create more globally-minded individuals who are conscious of problems on the other side of the world and in their own backyards. As we enter a new decade filled with uncertainty from infectious diseases to climate change to human rights abuses, now, more than ever, youth must step up and take action. For many delegates, VYMUN will be their first foray into the world of Model United Nations, and thus the conference will allow delegates to engage in rigorous debate, compromise to create comprehensive solutions, and tackle the greatest crises facing the world.

Furthermore, for each iteration of the conference, VYMUN chooses a theme that reflects the current concerns of the international community, aiming to imitate a real session of the United Nations. This year's theme is "A World in Crisis," reflecting all of the medical, economic, political, and social consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and other growing global issues.

Over the past few months, our Staff and Secretariat teams have been dedicated to preparing this conference, and we are beyond excited to share this unforgettable experience. We sincerely hope that each of you, as teachers and parents, will support your students or children to join us at VYMUN 2020. Please do not hesitate to contact me via secretarygeneral@vymun.com if you have any questions or concerns relating to VYMUN's new online format or any other issues.

I look forward to meeting you all in October.

Sincerely,

Ethan Jasny
Secretary-General



WELCOME ADDRESS FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL



Message from the Governor General on the Occasion of the Vancouver Youth Model United Nations (VYMUN) 2020

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone participating in the 15th edition of VYMUN!

This year, our lives have been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with impacts to our society and economy. Faced with a problem of this magnitude, we quickly realized, first, that the virus knows no borders and, second, that dialogue between nations is the key to turn knowledge into action. The theme of this three-day gathering, 'A World in Crisis,' is very timely and more important than ever.

By taking part in this conference, you have accepted a responsibility not only to listen and learn, but also to speak and be heard. You will have the opportunity to experience diplomacy and global co-operation while practising the art of debate and problem solving. In the process, you will also learn more about pressing issues facing our planet, from climate change to human rights to infectious diseases, as well as how to handle these challenges.

It is now up to you to be a leader that enacts change, not just one who wishes for it. Stay involved and help make your communities and the world a better place.

Aim high and dare to dream!



Her Excellency the Right Honourable Julie Payette
Governor General of Canada





PANEL SPEAKERS



Azadeh Tamjeedi is the Acting Senior Legal Officer at UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, in Canada. She has worked with UNHCR since 2017 and is currently based in Ottawa. During her time with UNHCR she also worked at the office in Vancouver for two years. In 2018, Azadeh completed an emergency deployment to Boa Vista, Brazil to assist with the large number of Venezuelans arriving in the country. Prior to working with UNHCR, Azadeh worked as a lawyer at the Centre Francophone de Toronto where she represented asylum-seekers before the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (IRB) and the Federal Court of Canada. As

a law student, she specialized in social justice issues and gained valuable advocacy experience at the Parkdale Legal Clinic in the area of poverty law. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Honours History and Political Science from McGill University and a Juris Doctorate degree from Osgoode Hall Law School, York University. Azadeh was called to the Ontario bar in 2011.



Hannah Scott is the Social Media and Digital Content Associate at UNHCR, the United Nations Refugee Agency in Canada. At the organization, she manages UNHCR Canada's social media channels, website, and other digital fundraising platforms while telling the stories of refugees worldwide. As an alumni of the Communications and Digital Media Studies program at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, she is intrigued by the ways that communication technologies can alter the existence and consequences of humanitarian issues such as the refugee crisis. A

graduate of the Masters of Social Justice and Community Engagement program at Wilfrid Laurier University, Hannah has studied and reported on refugee issues in the past, writing her thesis on the coverage of refugees in Canada's legacy print news organization. Presenting on refugee issues such as the Rohingya crisis at conferences such as the National Communications Association Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, Hannah is inspired to stand alongside refugees to tell their stories to Canadians and individuals worldwide so they can understand their plight.



Shaza AlShamsi (she/her) is a 22-year-old Syrian student at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, who is interested in pursuing a Behavioral Neuroscience major. Shaza is from a small town in Syria, where she lived until she was 14 years old. She and her family moved to Lebanon in 2012, where she stayed for about six years before moving to Canada. Her family is still located in Lebanon. When Shaza was 16, she moved back to Syria alone, determined to pursue her studies. She received her grade 9 degree and studied for

grade 10 during the summer break at home. When school started again, she was able to enroll in eleventh grade, which she passed before working on her grade 12 degree. From living in the war to moving around the world alone, Shaza has faced many difficulties along the way, namely homesickness. However, she was willing to put all her attention on her studies, her dream, and her mission. Shaza cannot wait to join VYMUN 2020 and share the story of her journey to Canada and where she is now. She hopes everyone stays healthy and enjoys the conference!

All questions and inquiries about our keynote panel, opening ceremony, or closing ceremony can be directed to our USG of Special Events, Tina Qu, at usgspecialevnts@vymun.com.



KIVA AT VYMUN

Kiva is a non-profit aid organization that “creates opportunity and alleviates poverty.” It provides micro-loans to individuals so that they can become entrepreneurs, businessmen and women and leaders within their own communities. Every day, Kiva matches borrowers with partner institutions. All Kiva loans are made possible by Field Partners, who vet, administer, and disburse each loan. Each loan recipient presents a profile of the nature of their loan request.

For example, “A 28-year-old woman, Rahamatou is single and does not have any children under her care. She has been selling general food products in a local market since 2005. She has a keen ear for business and knows that by expanding her business of buying and selling products she can make a profit. Her loan, for example, will be paid back to donors within 14 months. Rahamatou, from Togo received her loan of \$1400 to kick-start her business and change her life. She wants to earn enough money to be independent and then have a family.”

Loans are often significantly smaller, ranging from a few hundred dollars to loans comparable to that of Rahamatou. On any given week, 5,859 borrowers will receive their loan. As a result of its impact in the field of microfinance, Kiva has been awarded Charity Navigator’s highest rating. Kiva provides a platform for those who want to make a difference in their own lives and their families and communities.

VYMUN is proud to continue the tradition of donating a portion of the delegate registration fee to KIVA.

The Kiva logo, consisting of the word "kiva" in a lowercase, bold, green sans-serif font.



STAFF LISTINGS

SECRETARIAT

Secretary General – Ethan Jasny

Director General – Betty Pan

Chief of Staff – Jeremy Fang

Chargé d’Affaires – Lily Douglas

USG of Committees – Justin Jia

USG of Committees – Emma Miao

USG of Committees – Adam Dawood

USG of Delegate Affairs – Natassia Wong

USG of Delegate Affairs – Hannah Baumgard

USG of Special Events – Tina Qu

USG of Crisis Development – Annushka Agarwal

USG of Crisis Development – Vincent Gao

USG of IT & Media – Connor Leung



STAFF LISTINGS

ECOFIN

Director – Rafeeq Kassam-Jiwani
Chair - Keira Gadalla
AD - Ben Chang
AC - Jessica Zhang

WHO

Director – Catherlin Lu
Chair – Pierre Collet
AD – Tony Zhang
AC – Talia Pimstone

UNHCR

Director – Stephanie Hai
Chair – Cole Swetlishoff
AD – Michelle Lin
AC – Bruce Wu

EU

Director – Zara Smith
Chair – Michel Collet
AD – Rachel Zheng
AC – Edward Wang

UNEP

Director – Emma-Jane Burns
Chair – Cadence Gunther
AD – Matthew Mockett
AC – Allen Hu

ASEAN

Director – Michael Yin
Chair - Tessa Dubois-Phillips
AD - Jack Milos

NATO

Director – Katrina Sun
Chair – Noah Wong
AD – Yufei Huang
AC – Michella O’Brian

UNSC

Director – Mikael Jay Borres
Chair – Renee Gao
AD – Arman Kassam

HCC

Director – Sam Bendl
Chair – Kaari Urbanek
AD – Rubi Katz
AC – Adam George

Cabinet

Director – Lydia Montagu-Wenzek
Chair – Namara Morse
AD – Mikaela Wong
AC – Kelly Wong

ACC

Director – Logan Higgins
Chair – Eric Li
AD – Sofia Cicci

Crisis, Media, & Secretariat Aides

Emrin Basra, Daniella Bawa, Marcus Chu,
Marcus Hasson, Justin Ishiguro, Akash Khurana,
Jeffrey Liu, Rose Liu, Jaza Mya, Bryce Stanger,
Jack Stoodley, Thatcher Turriff-Pike, Bill Wang,
Adam Watson, Will White, Gavin Yen, Max Zhu



SCHEDULE

October 30th

- 4:00 - 5:30 PM: Opening Ceremony
- 5:30 - 6:30 PM: Dinner Break
- 6:00 - 6:30 PM: Optional Workshop
- 6:30 - 8:30 PM: Committee Session #1

October 31st

- 9:00 - 9:15 AM: Morning Announcements
- 9:15 - 11:00 AM: Committee Session #2
- 11:00 - 11:15 AM: Break
- 11:15 - 12:30 PM: Committee Session #3
- 12:30 - 1:30 PM: Lunch Break
- 1:30 - 3:30 PM: Committee Session #4
- 3:30 - 4:00 PM: Break
- 4:00 - 6:00 PM: Committee Session #5

November 1st

- 9:00 - 9:15 AM: Morning Announcements
- 9:15 - 11:15 AM: Midnight (in Beijing) Crisis
- 11:15 - 12:30 PM: Lunch Break
- 12:30 - 3:00 PM: Committee Session #6
- 3:00 - 4:30 PM: Closing Ceremony

All listed times are in Pacific Standard Time (PST).



ACCESSING VYMUN ONLINE

VYMUN 2020 will run as a virtual conference this year.

Subsequently, our opening ceremony, closing ceremony, and committees program will be hosted on the video conferencing platform “Zoom.” We encourage delegates to explore Zoom prior to the conference weekend to better familiarize themselves with the platform. Any technical difficulties or concerns can be directed to our USG of IT & Media, Connor Leung, at usgmedia@vymun.com.

Although VYMUN will be conducted in an online format, all delegates and attendees are expected to demonstrate respect for their self, peers, staff members, and any adults. All attendees must be dressed in Western Business attire. Delegates will interact with one another and use technology responsibly and for productive means only; as such, all participants will refrain from harassment and model appropriate behaviour at all times. Unacceptable delegate behavior includes, but is not limited to: bullying, threats, harassment, discrimination, racism, sharing of hate speech, plagiarism, use of drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, vaping and vaping apparatus. Should delegates exhibit disrespectful or unacceptable behaviour, their sponsor teacher or head delegate will be contacted, and the delegate may be promptly removed from committee session.

Though Rules of Procedure and proper Zoom etiquette will be covered in the first committee session, we encourage delegates to attend our optional MUN workshop (October 30 6:00-6:30pm PST) to learn more about Model UN and the Zoom platform.

Zoom meeting links will be provided in a Google document on the day of the conference, and will be sent to you by our Secretariat team.



COMMITTEE OVERVIEWS

ECOFIN

The second of six general assemblies, the Economic and Financial Committee acts as a forum for member states to discuss global financial and economic matters. Since its inception in 1945, ECOFIN has strived to uphold its mandate and values. Whether its domestic or international policy, ECOFIN's mandate spans 11 different themes covering issues ranging from the eradication of poverty to financing for development. With the uncertain future of the global economy, ECOFIN will play a pivotal role in the economic recovery for years to come.

WHO

Since its establishment in 1948, the World Health Organization (WHO) has been working with 193 member states to bring awareness to causes of pressing health issues and to fight communicable diseases. WHO strives to fulfill its objectives through the six point agenda: (1) promoting development; (2) fostering health security; (3) strengthening health systems; (4) harnessing research, information and evidence; (5) enhancing partnerships; and (6) improving performance.

UNHCR

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is devoted to protecting refugees, internally displaced communities, and stateless people worldwide through assisting their repatriation and resettlement to new countries. With the current global conflicts, there has been an increase in the number of people forcibly displaced from their homes, and as a result, the organization has been brought to the spotlight and scrutinized for its ability to coordinate international action.



COMMITTEE OVERVIEWS

EU

The European Union was created in 1993 to both politically and economically unify a number of European countries. Currently, it is composed of 28 nations. The EU was created in response to the devastation of World War II in hopes of preventing the violence and oppression that occurred during the war from happening again. Essentially, it is a union that was created to establish and maintain peace. However, as the years pass, challenges have arisen within the EU. These difficulties include issues such as the European Immigration Crisis, and the upcoming separatism of the United Kingdom from the EU.

UNEP

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), founded in 1972, is the leading international body responsible for promoting environmental action. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, its mission is to encourage cooperation in preserving the environment and to assist developing countries in creating environmentally sound practices. Some of its focus areas are sustainable agriculture, climate change, natural disaster aversion, waste management, and environmental governance. With the ticking clock of climate change, UNEP is becoming one of the most critical and urgent forces in the world to minimize our carbon footprint and ensure a safe future.

ASEAN

Formed in 1967, ASEAN, or The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, aims to accelerate economic growth, promote regional peace and stability, and provide assistance among member states, alongside other developmental goals. The ten-member states work closely together to further the progress of the Southeast Asian region and maintain a presence in the international league. From economic crises to judicial systems, ASEAN covers a broad range of issues that arise in the Indo-Pacific Ocean.

NATO

Established in 1949 in response to a growing Soviet threat, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is a military alliance between 29 North American and European countries. In recent years, NATO has taken more of a peacekeeping role, participating in operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. The United States, NATO's largest military contributor, has grown skeptical of the organization, rendering its future and importance to international politics unclear.



COMMITTEE OVERVIEWS

UNSC

Founded in 1945, the United Nations Security Council is primary responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has ten rotating members, and five permanent members with veto power. UNSC determines the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and calls upon its members to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement

HCC

The Historical Crisis Committee (HCC) is a continuous crisis committee which distinguishes itself from the general and specialized committees. The committee makes decisions that immediately affect the historical crisis at hand. Although delegates know how the crisis ended in the past, they are encouraged to imagine themselves in the shoes of the historical figures that impacted these events and change history, for better or worse. Delegates must be able to balance their personal interests with the interests of their respective characters.

ACC

The year is 1193, the end of the 3rd Crusade. After nearly half a decade of conflict and battle, powerful leaders and Kings have gathered in the neutral territories of Constantinople to decide the fate of the Eastern Mediterranean and the many Kingdoms, Duchies, and City-States within the region. Empires and Kingdoms are divided on matters of land distribution, religious freedoms, and political control. Delegates in this committee are tasked to find a diplomatic solution to these negotiations or else descend into war and chaos.

Cabinet

The year is 1642, and the tyranny of English King Charles I is rampant. After attempts to arrest perceived Puritan sympathisers within parliament, the King's power has increasingly become threatened by the radical Oliver Cromwell and his republican tendencies. At this point in time, England is divided between Protestants and Catholics, but is more importantly divided on matters of democracy, monarchy, and ultimately, the role that the state ought to play in citizens' lives. Delegates will have to unravel the unique sociocultural tension of 17th century England while attempting to hold on to political and military power. Whether it collapses into conflict or is able to reconcile its differences to move forward into a more pluralistic society, England will never be the same.

THE FIFTEENTH ITERATION
OCTOBER 30, 2020 – NOVEMBER 1, 2020



HOSTED BY WEST POINT GREY ACADEMY