

PRESS





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Letter from the Secretary-General

Dearest Delegates, Faculty Advisors, and others,

It is my pleasure and honour to be able to welcome you all into the 21st edition of San Silvestre MUN. To think that after months of work, after observing other conferences over the better part of two years, I can finally say that our own is coming to fruition. For over seven months the Secretariat and I have poured our hearts and efforts into this conference, and hopefully, you may all enjoy the months of work we have put into the two days that are to come, and live SSMUN 2024 to its absolute fullest.

My own ‘first impression’ of MUN was, quite honestly, less than graceful to say the least. Having attended training sessions in 2022 (but having paid attention to nearly none of them), I haphazardly found myself attending SSMUN 2022, this very month two years ago. I did not speak more than once. I was terrified, watching those around me debate with a fervent skill unlike anything I had ever seen before. I had sat in the very back of the room during every session, terrified to raise my placard. After that conference, I honestly did not see the appeal of MUN. My fear of failure and embarrassment overruled my ability to try something new at that moment, and didn’t allow me to enjoy the activity that now, two years later, I have come to cherish so deeply.

Over the next year, I finally got it. I understood why people did MUN. The adrenaline, the energy, the shared passion over what would have elsewhere been a mundane topic. During that year, I found my two ‘specialisations’. Crisis taught me how to love MUN, how to put passion and energy into a speech, how to not fear speaking out. Press taught me what victory felt like, yet it also demonstrated to me firsthand how failure was simply a part of growth. In January HMUN taught me that an award is never the most rewarding part of a conference. I left Boston with a Best Delegate award, yet it was by far not the best part of the experience. The people of that moment are worth more than anything else I could possibly imagine; and the best victories in MUN are those you can cherish with friends, those which you can celebrate with all those who you were in committee with, those which are backed by hours of unforgettable memories and irreplaceable experiences.

For this conference, I hope each and every one of you may find those memories. SSMUN, in my mind, is about the people. It is about diplomacy, argumentation, negotiation and teamwork, yes, but through it all none of this would be able to be accomplished without the willpower and collaboration of people. So I hope you all put in your best effort, both into productive debate and into enjoying every moment you have.

I cannot wait to see you all in September! To get to see how every one of you develops as a delegate through every session, and see the passion and care we’ve placed into the conference pay off in the experience of all those who will get to see our work.

Take advantage of the moment, and most of all, have fun :)

Liyi Xu
lxu86@sansilvestre.edu.pe



Letter from the Committee Director

Dear Delegates,

It is with utmost pleasure and excitement that I welcome you to SSMUN's 2024 TPA committee. My name is Maria Gracia Jimenez and for the duration of this conference, I will have the pleasure to be your director. SSMUN holds a very special place in my heart. It is a conference that has always felt like a second home to me and where I won my first prize in MUN back in 2018. When you read this I will be cruising through the end of my second year of IB at Newton College. In the future, I plan to pursue a career related to law and political sciences. In my free time, I enjoy baking, listening to music, and writing. I adore watching romcoms and spending all my money on overpriced coffee.

My MUN career started in 2018 when I was 11 years old at FDR MUN. I will never forget how terrifying of an experience that was for me. Yet now, with such a career having had a satisfactory closure with HMUN 2024, I look back at that first experience and all those years with extreme fondness and laughter. For most of my MUN career, I was my school's resident Press Delegate. And although I am now officially retired, the Press Corps will always hold a special place in my heart. This is why being a part of this committee is such an honour for me. The TPA committee taught me to appreciate creativity, bravery, and diplomacy above all. But what truly has set my heart in TPA is being able to watch delegates grow and flourish as the conference progresses and sessions pass by. TPA is a committee where you can experiment and be as creative as you'd like- pushing the boundaries of communication and expected content production. I invite all delegates to take advantage of this and encourage you to think outside the box.

Nonetheless, if you are to take anything from this experience, I hope that you understand that at the end of a conference, it is not the award that matters or that determines your worth but rather how much you have learned and grown. If by the end of this conference, you feel as though this experience has taught you something, that it has made you grow as a delegate or person, then that is more than enough. One should not attend conferences to win an award but to win an experience. I encourage you to try your best, more often than not, that is more than enough.

I look forward to meeting you and can't wait for the conference to begin. Be creative, be bold, and have fun!

Regards,

Maria Gracia Jimenez
2010130@newton.pe



History of the Press Corps

Journalism has always been part of our world. The earliest form of journalism as we now know and recognize it is registered to have been in ancient Rome (59 BCE); the “Acta Diurna” worked as a circular, recording important events during the day and then being hung up somewhere in the city for citizens to be able to read. Since ancient times, however, journalism has evolved. With the help of technology, the mass circulation of newspapers and such became much more feasible. From the telegraph to the printer, they all aided in constructing the world of modern journalism, where news is varied and can come in multiple forms and from multiple outlets.

The Press Corps in San Silvestre MUN 2024 will be based on the United Nations Correspondents Association. The UNCA was founded in 1948, three years after the formation of the United Nations in 1945. The UNCA works as the organisation representing the United Nations Press Corps. In the beginning, the UNCA consisted of only fifty members, who were mostly American and Canadian media representatives. Currently, UNCA is a professional organisation that holds more than 200 correspondences and producers around the world. Covering United Nations news and giving citizens access to news and facts.



From its beginning, the UNCA worked to bring members of diplomatic delegations together through press conferences, social functions, luncheons, and more. To improve the performance of the UNCA, the organisation established the Global Media Awards of Excellence for UN Coverage. These awards are given to journalists globally and are held annually in December in New York up to this day. Recognizing journalists’ outstanding work and activities on news such as equality, environmental issues, and much more.

Apart from the entertainment and fascinating information we can receive from the news, its purpose is to inform citizens about the occurring facts all over the world to give them the knowledge needed to make crucial decisions in their lives. Especially decisions that can impact the futures of their countries. Journalism plays an extremely important part in politics, as political journalism provides individuals with the correct facts to develop their ideas to participate in decisions that will most likely affect them or their community. Furthermore, it works towards keeping citizens connected and informed about government officials, holding powerful people accountable.



Introduction to the Committee

The Collins English dictionary defines the Press Corps as “a group of journalists and reporters who are all working in a particular place, for different news organisations.” However, Press Corps is much more than that. So what is the Press Corps?



To put it simply, your job as a press delegate is to make an impact on a committee by altering the course of debate progressively and creatively. It’s about understanding the dynamics around you and using that to influence the outcome of your desire. Journalism is key to a progressive and truly democratic world. It’s the most basic form of freedom of speech. It is about informing people about the unknown and the unheard. It’s about truly shedding light into that which lies in darkness. It is essential for a truly functional society.

A press delegate is a light in the dark. It’s your job to creatively and uniquely affect the people around you and the committees by using tools and content forms.



Committee Dynamics

As a press delegate, committee dynamics are different from your usual MUN committee, so in order to aid your understanding of the committee, we have broken it down into two parts: how you will interact within the committee and how you will interact with other committees.

Interaction within the Committee

As a press delegate, you will spend most of your time outside the committee performing interviews, writing articles, presenting updates, and doing much more. However, there will still be instances where you are required to be in the committee. Here are a few guidelines that you must follow regarding your interaction with the committee.

- You must be present in the committee during the start and 5 minutes before the end of each session
- All work (pieces of content) must be uploaded to a Drive that will be shared with you at the beginning of the conference.
 - You must not open or edit any Drive file outside of your own.
 - If your work is not in the Drive, it will not be counted or revised.
- Unless otherwise instructed, all work must be done and submitted within conference hours.
 - If you upload work outside of conference hours it will not be considered

Interaction with Other Committees

When visiting other committees, you must first introduce yourself to the chair or director (under the name of your news agency, of course), sending them a note to let them know that you are present on that committee. It is a possibility that the director will ask you to present yourself in front of the committee. If so, we expect you to be prepared to be able to give a brief introductory statement. When preparing updates, always confer with the chair of the committee beforehand and be respectful when interacting with them at all times. Diplomacy is a compulsory part of MUN and as such of Press Corps too. You must interact with other delegates respectfully and diplomatically at all times; during all interactions with other delegates (especially during interviews) please keep these values and ideals in mind.



Forms of Content

Please keep in mind that all forms of content and media you release will be checked by the Chair and must follow committee and conference guidelines, as well as your organisation's bias and policies.

➤ Article

Articles are the most common form of content. When creating an article, your focus is to report on a specific issue or situation inside your chosen committee. An article must include certain aspects that depend on your organisation (some things to be included in an article may be: headers, social links, images, logos, and fonts). Articles may include your personal opinions, but they must be aligned with your organisation's bias and beliefs.

➤ Update

Updates (otherwise known as news flashes) are a common way in which a Press Delegate can interact with the committee and thus alter the course of debate. Updates generally include facts, news, opinions, and new information that aim to challenge and/or spark debate in the committee. When doing updates, the dais may allow Press Delegates to receive questions. This is extremely important and useful to you since the way you address the questions may alter the force of impact of your update on the committee. Just like with articles, when including your opinion in an update, make sure it is aligned with your organisation's bias and beliefs.

➤ Video

Videos are a great and creative way to present updates and articles. It is very attractive and engaging to delegates and updates can be presented in the form of videos as well as articles or other media. It is also a great way to showcase your ability as a Press Delegate to present information in a variety of ways. However, just like other forms of content, videos are subject to certain guidelines and must follow your organisation's bias and views.

➤ Infographics

Infographics are a great visual way to highlight and present information regarding a specific situation related to a committee you are working on. They may include statistics, quotes, facts, photos, and other forms of information (as long as bias and policies are respected.)

➤ Others

Although not mandatory, other different forms of content can be produced. These include social media, websites, and photography. If any delegate wishes to produce content in any form other than the ones listed here, they are more than welcome to as long as they consult the dais first.

○ *Social Media*

Press Delegates are allowed to create social media accounts to connect better with



delegates and increase the impact of their content. The content that you put into your social media depends on you and can be as creative as you wish (while following the conference and committee guidelines).

- *Websites*

Delegates may use websites as a way to share their articles, show information about their press agency, upload photography, etc. The content of the website however may change or vary depending on what purpose each delegate gives to their websites. Websites may be as creative and imaginative as delegates wish to make them (again while following the conference and committee guidelines).



Delegate Evaluation

Throughout the conference, you will be evaluated on four different criteria: participation, knowledge, language/format, and attitude.

- **Participation:** As Press delegates, it is expected that you participate and involve yourself in the committees of your interest. The main sources of participation that we will look for are your interviews with other delegates, the updates that you produce, and your presence on the committee itself.
- **Knowledge:** We expect delegates to have in-depth knowledge of their news agencies and the committees that they are attending. Delegates should be able to provide more than just superficial information regarding the topics of their committees of interest when producing pieces of media. They should also be knowledgeable of the policy of their press agencies and always act accordingly.
- **Creativity:** During this conference, delegates will have a lot of creative freedom and the opportunity to explore different media and forms of content. We expect you to take advantage of this and go as far as your creativity (and policy) will allow you to go. We expect to see innovation and imagination within your pieces of content.
- **Language and Format:** Delegates should employ language appropriate for their news agencies and showcase the essence of such. The formatting of videos, articles, and generally all pieces of content should also demonstrate the news agency's essence and go along with the news agency's formatting for content pieces.
- **Attitude:** Delegates should have an overall positive and respectful attitude throughout the conference. We will not only be evaluating content pieces but also you as a delegate. Intolerance, hatred, or any sort of negative attitude will not be tolerated.



Guidelines for Positions Papers

A position paper is a one-page document that will need to be presented before the conference, the requirements of it are as follows.

Font: Times New Romans (size 11)

Margins (centimetres): 2.54 from all sides

Line Spacing: 1.15

Heading: Committee's name, topic, delegate's name, delegation, and allocation.

First paragraph: Elaborate on your assigned agencies' viewpoints. Details such as focus areas, biases, political inclinations, and writing styles should be considered. Understand these aspects to allow yourself to grasp the journalistic identity of your news agency.

Second paragraph: Describe your organization's history, its position and political alliance. Use this as a means to explain how it will adapt to the future of journalism.

Third Paragraph: Delineate the committees you wish to report on during this conference and how you plan to report on the conference overall.

Bibliography: The sources used to produce this position paper should be presented in MLA9 citation format. If a delegate fails to present sources for their position paper, it will be assumed to be plagiarised work and they will become ineligible for awards.

Deadline: All position papers must be sent in pdf form to press@sansilvestre.edu.pe before 11:59 pm the 30th of August, 2024.

Eligibility for awards: Position papers will be used as a way for the chair to ensure your participation previous to the conference. For such, position papers must be submitted before the deadline for the delegate to be eligible for an award. However, they will not be a factor which contributes when choosing awards for your participation during the conference.

A note on artificial intelligence usage: We know in recent times many tools have been devised to automate tasks such as the development of literary texts. It would be ignorant to completely prohibit the use of such devices as they are tools created for the enhancement of human intelligence. For such, we believe that many times these devices can be used to improve your work, and we encourage the **healthy, moderated, and smart** usage of these aids. Let it be known, that although AI can be of big help for redaction purposes, **it should not be the sole source of your research** due to the obvious constraints that it possesses, which included but are not limited to; bias, lack of data from recent years, and false information. Furthermore, it is important to note that we **completely prohibit** the use of, for example, Chat GPT **during the conference** for any form of content creation (including AI translation tools). Our chairs will make sure to value your true written work rather than an article or video made by an AI tool. With this in mind, make sure to research thoroughly, find different perspectives and sources to devise a proper position paper.

If you have any doubts about the policies in more detail please email your chair or the Secretary-General at lxu86@sansilvestre.edu.pe



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