

LONDON INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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What is an MUN conference?

The United Nations is an inter-governmental organization that has the goal of representing and protecting the rights of member states' populations. The UN has four basic goals:

- 1) To save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, and
- 2) To reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, and
- 3) To establish justice and respect for law and treaties, and
- 4) To promote social progress and better standards of life in larger Freedom.

The above is the Preamble to the UN charter, which is signed by all member countries of the UN upon entry. The UN ensures through peaceful diplomatic means and promotion of international security that these basic aims of the UN are met.

MUN Conferences are designed to imitate the goals and working of the United Nations. It is basically a simulation of the United Nations. The concept of Model United Nations was developed by students in the United States after World War II in order to simulate the challenges of diplomacy and international negotiation. These model conferences particularly focus on areas of peace and

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conflict resolution that are a part of the day-to-day work of the United Nations.

During a MUN conference participants are assigned to delegations representing a specific country. These delegations represent the positions of their countries in the General Assembly, Security Council and numerous other committees.

Within the committees the participants assume the role of representatives from their assigned states to debate the chosen topic agenda. Delegates represent the foreign policy of a country and do their best to portray their views to the other members. The debates are held in formal English, and student diplomats have to observe formal and diplomatic procedure.

Before playing out their ambassadorial roles, students research global problems to be addressed, drawn from today's headlines. Members learn how the international community acts on its concerns about topics concerning peace and security, human rights, the environment, food and hunger, economic development, and globalization. Model U.N. delegates also look closely at the needs, aspirations, and foreign policy of the countries they will represent during the event.