

LONDON INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Position Papers

A 'Position Paper' quite literally communicates the position of a country on a particular topic. It is a short paper specifying your country's policies on the topics being discussed in your committee. You will be asked to write a position paper on each topic. They should be both written in clear and concise way on half a page each.

Why is it important?

A well written position paper provides a basis for future Working Papers and Draft Resolutions. Good position papers also make for a great introductory speech.

Writing a position paper will help you organize your ideas so that you can share your country's position with the rest of the committee, they will help you to stay focused on your country's stance when discussing particular agenda topics on the conference

How do you write a Position Paper?

The best position papers are backed by facts and figures. However, the position paper is quite short and too many facts and figures might make statistical summary out of it. Please remember that the main purpose of this paper is to briefly explain your policy. You will have plenty of time on the conference to support your policy by statistics and analysis.

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The Position Paper should seek to:

- Include an introduction to the country in context of the topic and committee, incorporating historical references (please keep this as short as possible);
- Show how and why the country is affected by the issue;
- Include country's position and policies and their justification;
- Discuss any measures taken by the country and reasons for these;
- Mention previous international participation by the country, citing previous resolutions, treaties and UN action on the issue;
- Include your country's proposals on the issue and solution to the problem.

Tips for writing a Position Paper:

- Formal: MUNs are formal events, and it is important that all communication be carried out in a formal manner, which obviously requires formal language.
- Simple: In order to communicate effectively, it is important that uncomplicated language is used and woolly sentence structure be avoided.
- Well argued: It is not enough to name actions taken by our country. Most importantly, you need to justify them.
- Structured: Try to deal each issue in a new paragraph. Check if the organisation makes sense and that the content follows through. Practicing the position papers as a speech helps a lot.
- Concise: As most of you will be using the position papers for opening speeches, it is important that the document be concise, effective and interesting.
- Suggesting solutions: The best position papers provide a basis for Working Papers and Draft Resolutions.
- Statistics: Well-cited statistics are important and most effective for backing up a country's stance.

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Format

The position paper should begin with the three headings below.

Committee:

Country:

Delegate:

2012 LIMUN Position Papers

Each delegate should submit a position paper of one page in length, with both of the two topics covering around a page each. Although the sample below is a good example of what a model position paper looks like, we do not expect position papers longer than a page.

Delegates are hereby required to submit their position papers to their committee's e-mail address (provided in the website). Should the Directors not approve the position paper, an email indicating this will be sent to the delegate.

Should delegates have any queries about this, they can contact the Secretariat via enquiries@limun.org.uk or their respective committees' e-mail addresses.

P.S. Please find a sample of a Position Paper below

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Sample Position Paper

Committee: Commission on Human Rights

Country: The Kingdom of Denmark

Delegate: William Hayward Wilson, Shea University

Topic A: Violence against Women

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Although this doctrine was adopted in 1948, the world has fallen quite short of this goal. Violence against women pervades all states and it is the duty of the international community to ensure that all persons are afforded equality and respect. Despite cooperative efforts at combating gross human rights abuses, such as the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the United Nations has not been able to alleviate the injustice women worldwide experience daily.

The Kingdom of Denmark believes that in order to end violence against women, nations must look to empower women in all aspects of society. This includes promoting equal gender roles in government, civil society, education and business. However, Denmark also recognizes the need to combat human rights abuses against women as they occur, and no nation is immune to gender violence.

In 2002, the Danish Government launched an extensive action plan to combat domestic violence against women. The plan includes measures to help treat abused women, identify and prosecute the perpetrators, and incorporate professional medical and psychological staff into the rehabilitation process. The

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action plan currently reaches out to both governmental and nongovernmental groups on the local level throughout the nation.

The Danish Centre for Human Rights in Copenhagen, Denmark's foremost national human rights institution, also promotes and protects human rights. Based on the Centre's research, Denmark's parliament can promote human rights-based legislation and education/awareness programs throughout the nation. The Centre also addresses the UN Commission on Human Rights annually regarding human rights developments in Denmark and internationally. Denmark has no record of committing major human rights violations, most importantly any targeted at women. In its 2003 Annual Report, Amnesty International also found no human rights violations against Danish women.

Women are invaluable to Denmark's society and have achieved significant economic and social gains in the 20th century. Currently, 75 percent of medical students in Denmark are women.

Denmark is confident that this Commission can bring about an end to violence against women without compromising the sovereignty of member states. Education remains perhaps the most useful tool in protecting victims of gender-based violence. Governments, UN agencies, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) can plan a coordinated campaign that educates national populations on the various ways women are violently targeted. Similarly, harmful traditions, such as honour killings and female genital mutilation, must be stopped by reforming traditional views of women in society. Children of both sexes need to be taught at an early age to value the rights of women in order to prevent such violence in their generation.

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Another way to stop gender violence would be to reproach member states that consistently violate treaties such as the Convention on Political Rights of Women (1952), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979), and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993). Although this Committee cannot impose sanctions, it can pass resolutions verbally condemning states that commit human rights violations. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights can also meet with representatives of governments that violate the above treaties to discuss possible solutions.

In order to prevent gender violence, nations must work together to build a culture of support, equality and community. As such, the Kingdom of Denmark looks forward to offering its support, in whatever forms possible, to nations firmly committed to ending violence against women in all its forms.