



American Model United Nations Conference Preparation Newsletter

03 October 2018

AMUN Policies and Practices Update II

Important updates regarding AMUN's Harassment and Plagiarism policies.

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. By this point your preparations for the 2018 Conference should be well under way. A previous policy update highlighted policies that pertained to the role of Faculty Advisors, and to your lesson plans. This email will focus specifically on policy updates that directly affect your students or club members. It is strongly encouraged that you share the contents of this email, or the email itself, with every member of the delegations you're planning to bring to AMUN's 2018 Conference. Thank you for doing your part to ensure that the AMUN Conference is one where any student can have a fun and safe experience.

AMUN's Harassment Policy

Before any of our other goals, AMUN seeks to first and foremost provide all of the representatives and faculty attending our conference a safe and harassment free environment within which anyone, regardless of country of origin, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or religion can have a fun and educational experience learning about the United Nations and the challenges of effective diplomacy. In response to specific feedback, AMUN has updated its Harassment Policy, the full text of which is copied below. This text is also found in Chapter One of the AMUN Rules and Procedures Handbook, found online at www.amun.org/handbooks.

To provide all participants, including representatives, Faculty Advisors, exhibitors, hotel staff, and AMUN Secretariat, the opportunity to benefit from Conference, AMUN is committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, language, physical appearance, race or ethnicity, religion or other group identity. AMUN seeks to provide a conference environment in which diverse participants may learn and enjoy an environment of mutual human respect. We recognize a shared responsibility to create and foster that environment for the benefit of all. Some behaviors are, therefore, specifically prohibited. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to

- *Harassment or intimidation based on gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, language, physical appearance, race or ethnicity, religion or other group identity.*
- *Sexual harassment or intimidation, including persistent and unwelcome sexual attention, stalking (physical or virtual), or unsolicited physical contact.*
- *Yelling at or threatening others (verbally or physically).*

Speakers are asked to frame discussions as openly and inclusively as possible and to be aware of how language or images may be perceived by others. All participants are expected to observe these rules and behaviors in all conference venues, including online. Participants asked to stop one of the aforementioned behaviors are expected to comply immediately. Any final rulings on violations of the Code of Conduct are subject to determination by the Executive Office with consultation as needed with the Board of Directors.

If anything happens throughout the conference that makes you feel unsafe, or that prohibits you from fully participating in the AMUN experience, please let us know so that we can help you understand your options and decide what steps need to be taken to address the issue. You can contact us anytime by stopping by the Ohio Room, asking to speak to a member of the Executive Office at Conference Services, emailing, calling, or sending a message through the Guidebook app.

AMUN's Plagiarism Policy

In response to direct feedback about our plagiarism policy we have update that policy for 2018. The text of this policy can be found online at www.amun.org/handbooks in Chapter One of the *AMUN Rules and Procedures* handbook. The full text is also listed below.

AMUN strives to create a simulation of the United Nations which is as realistic as possible while still allowing for the fulfillment of our participants' and the organization's educational goals. As such, the AMUN policy regarding plagiarism focuses on an educational rather than a punitive goal. At AMUN, plagiarism involves the substantial, verbatim or near-verbatim copying of language, without attribution, in published or unpublished texts, speeches or documents. Representatives should adhere to their country's policies at all times, but this does not give license to plagiarize existing materials. Thus, parts of speeches or position papers may be derived or paraphrased from previous speeches or papers, but should not be copied verbatim. Additionally, representatives should not copy and represent as their own the work of another representative or group of representatives. Collaboration and consensus-building is encouraged and appropriate, but representatives should take

care that the authors of resolutions, reports and other documents are fully represented in the discussion of the body's work. Collaborative work remains the work of the collaboration even when not all representatives are able to sign on to the final product.

Similarly, AMUN expects that all representatives are familiar with past resolutions at the United Nations, but the work of the United Nations should be expanded on in representatives' work, not copied verbatim. There are some exceptions: for example, representatives are not necessarily expected to expand upon a phrase that is often or always used when a country gives a formal speech or a clause that is repeated verbatim through several years of resolutions on a topic. Generally, it is not necessary to explicitly credit such sources, although if substantial language is quoted, it should be acknowledged and cited. Final determinations on plagiarism and its consequences are at the discretion of the AMUN Secretariat.

The goal of any Model UN conference is to work toward the resolution of a problem facing the world. The documents created to this end are inevitably the work of a collaborative process; without that collaboration, consensus would never be achievable. The goal of a Model UN conference is not and should never be to be the Member State that submitted or sponsored a draft document. The collaborative process that results in the drafting and submission of draft documents is always expected to be conducted with the utmost level of respect and diplomatic courtesy.

Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about the changes to AMUN policies or practices, please contact us directly at mail@amun.org and we will be happy to help. As always, if you are no longer the primary contact for your school's Model UN club or class, please contact us at mail@amun.org with updated contact information or fill out our [Change of Address/Contact](#) form online.

Good Luck on Your Preparations,

Nia Indelicato
2018 Secretary-General

Shannon L. Dunn
AMUN Executive Director

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