



American Model United Nations Conference Preparation Newsletter 19–22 November 2022

27 October 2022

Harassment Policy & Accessibility at AMUN

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. AMUN prides itself on producing a fun, educational conference where all attendees can enjoy the conference in safety and comfort. To this end, AMUN has a zero-tolerance harassment policy for all conference participants. We ask that you spend time reviewing our policy (described below) and specifically training your students on the policy and diplomatically courteous behavior. AMUN can set the rules for the conference, but without buy-in from conference participants it is only half the solution. We appreciate your help in this matter.

Accessibility & Accommodation at AMUN

The AMUN Secretariat wants to ensure that all Conference attendees are able to enjoy the Conference and participate fully in their simulations. If you or any member of your delegation requires any accommodations or modifications to get the most out of the AMUN experience, please contact Shannon L. Dunn, the Executive Director, at mail@amun.org as soon as possible so we can discuss appropriate arrangements. Additionally, you may speak to us once the Conference has started by visiting the Executive Office in the Ohio Room on Level 2 of the Sheraton.

AMUN's Zero-Tolerance Harassment Policy

AMUN seeks first and foremost to provide all representatives and faculty attending our conference with a safe and harassment-free environment within which anyone—regardless of country of origin, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability or religion—can safely have a fun and educational experience learning about the United Nations and the challenges of effective diplomacy. In response to specific feedback from participants, AMUN updated its Harassment Policy in 2018, and the full text of the current policy is copied below. This text is also found in the *Conference 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 race or ethnicity, language, disability, appearance, religion, gender identity or expression, or any 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).*
- *Assault of any kind.*

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 unwelcome, 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 can 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 or calling.

Diplomatic Courtesy - Professionalism in Action

At the United Nations, decorum and respect are the norm among trained and professional diplomats, so it is therefore not established in a specific rule. At AMUN, however, to emphasize the importance of diplomatic relationships, this concept is enshrined in Rule 2.2 of AMUN's Rules of Procedure and is in effect for the duration of the Conference. The full text of the rule is listed below.

2.2 Diplomatic Courtesy. All participants in the AMUN Conference must accord Diplomatic Courtesy to all credentialed representatives, Secretariat Members, Faculty Advisors, Observers and Hotel staff at all times,

- *Representatives who persist in obvious attempts to disrupt the session shall be subject to expulsion from the Committee by the Chair,*
- *The Secretariat reserves the right to expel any representative or delegation from the Conference, and*

- *This decision is not appealable.*

Whether in person, in writing or over the internet, we expect that all representatives and conference attendees will behave toward each other as the best of diplomats and afford their fellow representatives, hotel staff, faculty advisors and the AMUN Secretariat with every courtesy you would expect extended to professional diplomats or heads-of-state. ***This is not something that the AMUN Secretariat can do on its own, and we ask for your help as educators and club leaders in ensuring that everyone has an enjoyable conference, free of harassment, misconduct and undiplomatic behavior.***

For more information on AMUN's Rule 2.2, please look at the [2022 Handbook](#). Or read [Diplomatic Courtesy 101](#) on the *AMUN Accords*.

Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about this email, 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,

Christina R. Johnson
2022 Secretary-General

Shannon L. Dunn
AMUN Executive Director

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