

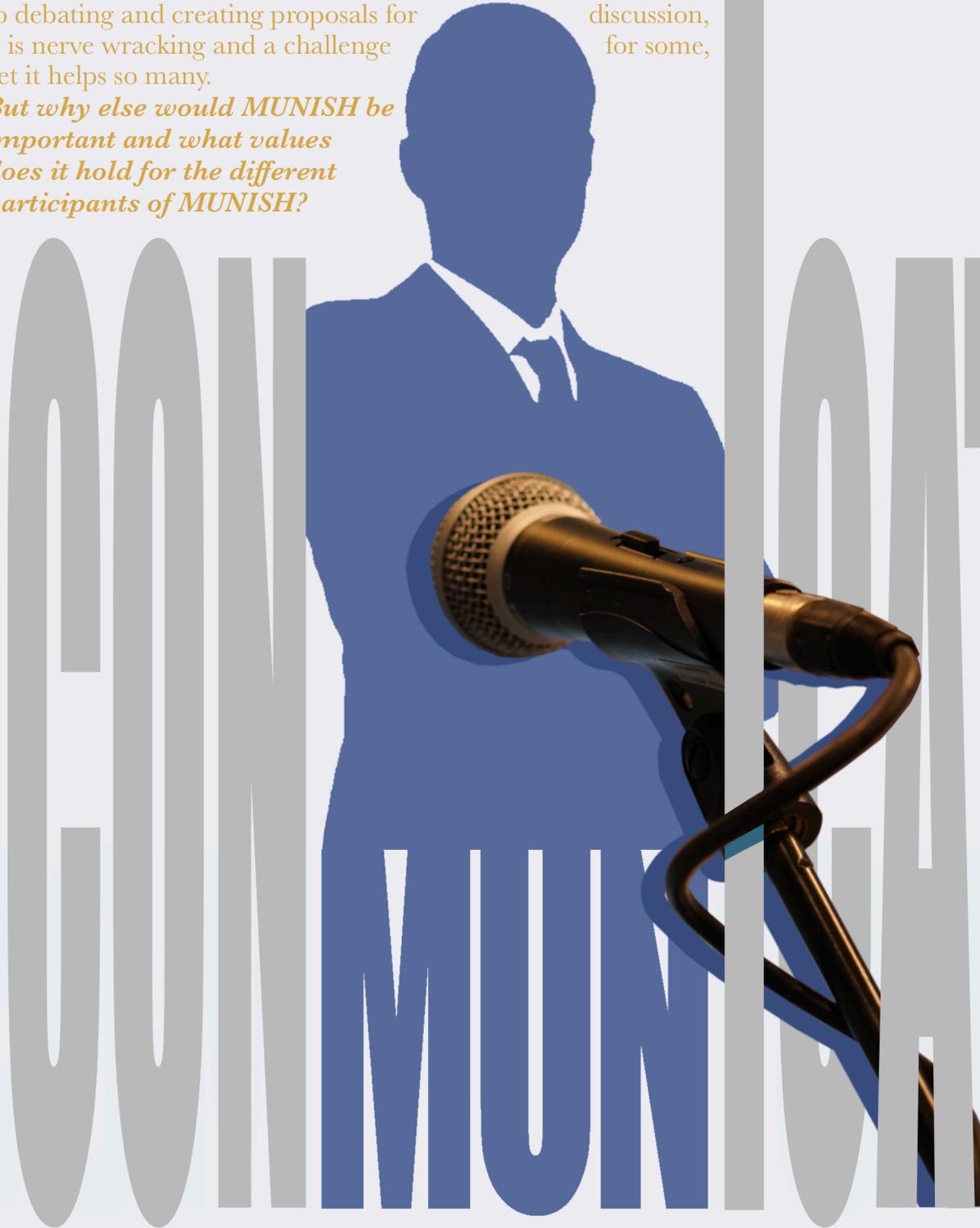
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“The work that we do, in one form or another, always contributes to peace.”
—Sjors Bos

The **MUN** conference covers many different topics, some of which discuss challenges the entire world faces and others which cover crises specific to a country. Considering this, MUNISH teaches people about worldwide issues, persuades some to change their perspective about a cause and is therefore an event of importance.

Conferences such as MUNISH help people find their voice due to debating and creating proposals for discussion, it is nerve wracking and a challenge for some, yet it helps so many.

But why else would MUNISH be important and what values does it hold for the different participants of MUNISH?



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The Importance of MUNISH

from 3 different perspectives

Evi van den Berg

The Model United Nations (MUN) conference covers many different topics, some of which discuss challenges the entire world faces and others which cover crises specific to a country. Considering this, MUNISH teaches people about worldwide issues, persuades some to change their perspective about a cause and is therefore an event of importance. Conferences such as MUNISH help people find their voice due to debating and creating proposals for discussion; it is nerve wracking and a challenge for some, yet through the challenge it helps so many. But why else would this conference be important, and what values does it hold for the different participants?

BOD Member(s)

Rakeb Jerene, member of the BOD, believes MUNISH gives students from each school to practise cooperation and negotiation skills. It teaches them how to discuss the topics amongst each other respectfully, which is a valuable lesson for the future. It also gives them a chance to meet new people and can push them to be better people themselves. The discussions have different perspectives, for each individual student participating in the conferences, therefore respectful discussions are crucial for good debates. For the BOD especially, MUNISH gives them an opportunity to work behind the scenes of a conference. It requires a lot of time, focus and discussion to run a conference smoothly. Working as a BOD member provides a valuable learning experience and sets the tone for what they can expect if they decide to work in conferences such as these later on. As MUNISH is a real life simulation of the United Nations, it builds diplomacy from a younger age and prepares students for their potential future endeavours.

Admin(s)

BOD members are not the only ones who work behind the scenes. Admin staff play an important role in order to keep the conference running. They pass notes between delegates, work the screening table, count the votes, secure each and every room and before each conference they set everything up for the next day. For them, MUNISH is important because it teaches them management skills. Adiya Sartbayeva, a member of the admin staff, believes she learns how to carry the responsibility on their shoulders and work through stress. This not only helps them with stress management, but also teaches them responsibility and communication. Aside from the discussions held and the information in the conferences, MUN events teach students the importance of behind the scenes and ensures that they are not underestimated.

Delegate(s)

For delegates, it is a different story. Attending MUNISH requires critical thinking, teaches a global perspective and presents a sneak peek into the United Nations. Many cultures and nationalities mesh well together when discussing a global issue, and it further improves their ability to connect with people they don't know. For delegates MUNISH is important because it teaches them confidence and leadership. These skills are important for future work and jobs. As delegates, they experience the model version of the United Nations and therefore learn about the importance of cooperation and international relations.

Overall, MUNISH is a valuable learning experience for every participant in their different ways. Delegates get experience and lessons that can be useful for in the future, admins learn how to efficiently deal with stressful situations and time management and the BOD members work in the background as the pillars of the conference.

Shifting Political Climate: The Dynamics of MUNISH

*Victor
Hugo
Duarte
Amorim*

The diplomatic scene is a constantly changing series of connections and relations that states use to further their interests. Global and regional hegemonies of power have formed and deformed with global events, changes in power dynamics, elections, governments and shared values that altered the relationships between states. Significant developments, such as the Seven Years' War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, completely changed the dynamics between powerful states around the world, just for further developments, such as the Napoleonic Wars and the economic rise of China, to change them back. The 21st century is likely to have many more changes in the power dynamics, which will impact what delegates support and how they act in MUNISH.

The rise of BRICS

From the end of the 20th century, the widely accepted global hegemony was led by the United States and liberal democracies. The collapse of the Soviet Union, as a major power influencing events throughout the world in the Cold War, and as a significant trading partner selling oil and minerals to many states, left a power vacuum in the global east that the US and its Western Bloc partners partially filled. However, a process spanning a few decades saw the industrialization and economic explosion of China, followed by the economic boom in India.

The post-collapse economic boom in Russia, together with strong economic growth in Brazil, led to the founding of the BRICS economic group in 2009. This economic cooperative evolved into the geopolitical group in the earlier half of the 2020s, as the 15th BRICS summit announced the expansion of the group to the UAE, Egypt, Iran and Ethiopia. With many prospective countries planning to join in the near future, the global dynamic is reverting to a bipolar status quo. Perhaps it is shifting toward a China-centred global order, as the share of BRICS nations' GDP in the world economy exceeded that of the G7 in 2020.

Democracy under pressure

From the waning years of the 2010s, the strength of democratic institutions, once considered solid and the leading governmental system around the world, seems to be diminishing. The system of illiberal democracy, such as that of Hungary, headed by Viktor Orbán since the 2010, signal a shift in popularity away from technocratic democracy towards more populism and executive control. Democratic elections have become increasingly contested, as insecurities lead to external and internal influence and instability. Ethnonationalism, such as that promoted by president-elect Donald Trump, combined with a rise of authoritarian leaders in Niger and Sudan, is creating a realignment in the world away from democracy and towards strongman leadership. Some democracies, such as France, Thailand and Estonia, continued to strengthen their democracies; yet these are exceptions to the general rule. This could lead to significant shifts in foreign policy, such as the European plan for greater independence from the US, or the polarization of Africa between American and Asian interests.



Scientific advancement

The development of science and technology is quickly becoming an indicator of national development and prowess; the exponential evolution of artificial intelligence, integration of automation in most industries, and increasing reliance on fast processors, creates an advantage for those nations developing the necessary technology, as their economies become more efficient and exports increase. Therefore, maintaining relationships between nations that develop technologically is changing the dynamics of the global economy. As countries like South Korea and the Netherlands develop technologically, they gain increasing leverage in economic diplomacy around the world, and concentrate more economic power. Therefore, it is imperative for delegates to secure their interests by cooperating with technologically advanced countries, or by incentivizing the development of technology within their own country.



Ecological collapse

As global warming increasingly impacts every country on the planet, multilateral cooperation between increasingly divided countries becomes even more necessary to combat the crisis. The cost of climate change on the global economy is estimated to be around 1.7–3.2 trillion USD annually. Global warming disproportionately impacts less economically developed countries; Yemen, Chad, Somalia and the Central African Republic, already underdeveloped economies, are threatened by global warming. This could lead to an increasing polarization of global power around those centres that already have it, shifting the dynamics of diplomacy in the future. Therefore, nations must strive to work together, through conferences like COP29, to develop solutions to the climate crisis before it is too late.



Zarah Holleyman

Technology:

Its significance and ethical use for MUNISH

As we dive into the highly anticipated MUN conference at ISH, we are welcomed in an atmosphere where diverse perspectives are encouraged that are merged to produce new, innovative resolutions to global issues. With delegates from different perspectives, each conveying unique insights, the ethical implications of building logical and cohesive arguments are paramount. In recent years, technology has transformed into a crucial resource, described by the Prime Minister of Malta, Robert Abela, as a “global good”. However, the influence of technology also demands a keen awareness of its ethical use. As powerful as technology is, its misuse can lead to inefficiency, inaccuracy, and ethical violations, which could undercut the goals we represent at MUNISH.

As delegates representing the values of the United Nations, we are reminded to follow the directive: the significance of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems that promote human rights, sustainable development, and digital transformation.

The accessibility to a wealth of information technology provides is vital in an age where research is key to producing claims. Nevertheless, it is essential to evaluate sources critically. AI tools and internet resources can simplify research, but they may also present information that lacks context and credibility.

Delegates are encouraged to use trusted sources, such as official UN publications, and fact-check information before incorporating it into their argument. This ethical approach promotes informed, accurate discussion that honour the values of diplomacy and academic honesty.

In addition, the employment of AI technology has increased, students typically utilise this tool to offer suggestions and insights, but the difference between assistance and dependency is crucial. Ethical use of technology entails using AI to support, not replace, critical thinking skills. MUNISH is the perfect opportunity to illuminate your opinions, expectations and values, not that of AI. This means when using technology, it is important to be transparent about how it is used and the accountability for its outcomes. Understanding how information is collected, processed, applied, and eventually presented is necessary when exploring such issues. Hence, avoiding the spread of misinformation and manipulation as a serious concern. The application of ethical technology utilisation actively combats the primary issues that arise, ensuring the integrity of online information.

To conclude, while technology offers an incredible array of respectable resources for research, collaboration, and problem-solving, it is imperative to use it with caution and integrity. By embracing ethical practices we can harness the benefits of technology responsibly. Let us ensure that as we innovate, we remain mindful of our impact and committed to using technology for the greater good.

Save the Children is an organisation devoted to providing for children in crisis. They have protected children in some of the world's most dangerous crises, including the war in Ukraine, the Lebanon-Israel conflict, the Afghanistan emergency, the Rohingya crisis, and many more. They provide life-saving emergency relief, healthcare, temporary schools, and psychosocial support for affected children and their families.

Since October 2023, Save the Children has helped more than 720,000 people across the war-torn Palestinian territory, as well as supplying clean water, food (they have given over 5000 food parcels), toiletries, blankets and \$8.6 million of cash assistance. They provide safe spaces for children to play and learn, and their Emergency Health Unit is aiding pregnant women, malnourished children, and the sick and injured alike, as well as providing polio vaccinations to more than 2,800 children. With the help of donations and volunteers, they have helped 688,299 people in Gaza, 27,488 people in the West Bank, 60,000 people in Lebanon, and 3,818 people in Egypt. However, they warn that “unless there is a definitive ceasefire, we anticipate further forced displacements of children and their families. When access improves, Save the Children stands ready to scale up our support and meet the needs of families.”

This falls in line with the theme for MUNISH this year; Multilateralism: Building Pathways to Peace and Security. Save the Children is a multilateral organisation, providing security and aid to children around the world, and advocates that peace is the true solution for a brighter future. They are made up of Save the Children International and 30 national members, defining themselves as a “global membership organisation”. They are dedicated to “discovering new solutions to help ensure that the world's most vulnerable children survive, learn and are protected.”

This Year's Charity: Save The Children

Amelie Hugo

Sjors Bos, a visiting representative for the charity, says the following when asked how Save the Children aligns with this year's theme;

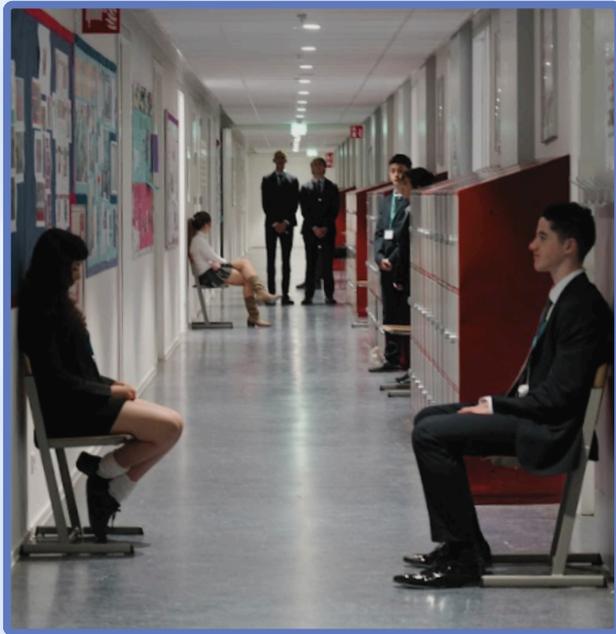
“The work that we do, in one form or another, always contributes to peace. In order to do our work in areas where we are needed the most, we have to cooperate with the government, we cannot work in a country where the government does not allow us to. So we always need to have good international connections, our work cannot be done alone.

(And how do you think you contribute to peace?)

We contribute to peace by talking to parliaments, advocating peace. For instance with current wars, besides giving aid we also talk to governments to try and find peaceful solutions, we try to make a ceasefire happen to allow further humanitarian aid.

As you can see from this interview, Save the Children does more than provide aid for children and families in need, they are constantly campaigning for peace and security around the world, which truly corresponds with our theme for this year.

MUNISH Day 1 (in Pictures)



MUNISH Wordsearch

D E L E G A T E G X J E G L X
H E A O C S T A I R L Y Q X U
Y I D Z Z Y S O E L I G M P I
G R N G F C R S N S C L S U N
L Y D Q K Y O Y H D N L R E T
Y C A M O L P I D R U J I B E
F Y W F U M I L E P O U E C R
P I P T U T C U T T C V N P N
V F I N U G J Z C W A E K I A
T O I V A S R U Q E R B F V T
N S A V S J S H T E E Q E Q I
H N M W G L I K F Y H C F D O
W O N M W I B N E R L O J Z N
Z V H N H B O V M W S W P H A
O P C Y G C C H T C P P M T L

- Delegate
- Diplomacy
- Council
- Resolution
- Munish
- Conference
- Debate
- International

MUNISH Best Dressed!

With a strict dress code it's easy to immediately reach for any basic formal outfit; a blue suit, black skirt, white blouse, but if everyone is wearing almost identical outfits, how do you express yourself?





As you can see people try to express their personalities not only with the use of colour, but also layering, accessories and patterns. If you have found yourself struggling to express yourself with a formal dress code, try taking inspiration from those we have found to be “best dressed.”



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