



# XXI Iberian Model United Nations IMUNION

## The Team

### Editor-in-Chief

Maria Norton

### Reporters

Catarina Santos	Luxi Xu
Inaara Virgi	Inês Lacerda
Ana Rita Mateus	Joana Lacerda
Leslie Koshet	Catarina Romariz
Kylie Koshet	João Malheiro
Valerie Loutphi	<b>Photographer</b>
Sara Faria	Brunei Arce

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## A New City of Light

Welcome to Lisbon, fellow delegates, the largest and capital city of Portugal. Approximately 552,000 reside in the city considered to be one of the world’s oldest, having experienced fascinating history; being captured by the Moors in the 8<sup>th</sup> century, reconquered by the crusaders in 1147 and lots more. Portuguese is the primary language spoken in Portugal. “Hello, how are you” being said as “Olá, como estás?”.

Lisbon has a range of treasures to offer including its incredible Mediterranean climate, having the hottest summers and warmest winters in Europe. January and February are usually the coldest months, contrary to August and September, being the warmest months.

Portugal’s gastronomy is exquisite. From salted codfish to the famous *arroz de pato* , just to end with a tasty *pastel de nata*. IMUN’s reception on Friday will be held in this delicious Portuguese custard tart’s bakery “Pasteis de Belem”.

Portugal is widely recognized for its love of soccer . Bullfighting is also part of its traditional culture. Both its famous *fado*, traditional music, and folklore are embedded in the neighborhoods of Bairro Alto and Alfama. Chiado is the square surrounded by Lisbon in the neighborhood of the beautiful Bairro Alto and Baixa Pombalina. It’s a traditional shopping area

mixed with old and modern commercial establishments.



*Mosteiro dos Jerónimos* (above), the monastery close to where IMUN takes place is just outside of Lisbon, in Belem. The architecture is late gothic and has elements dating back to the Renaissance.



*Praça do Comércio* (above), on the other hand, also known as the Terreiro do Paço is a beautiful plaza lined with stores and cafes with an arch and statues.



The *25 de Abril* bridge (above) is a suspension bridge connecting the city of Lisbon to the municipality of Almada on the emblematic Tagus (Tejo) river.

These touristic attractions are just a taste of what Lisbon has to offer.

We hope you enjoy the 21st IMUN conference and enjoy Lisbon even more.

*Leslie Koshet & Sara Faria*

## Taboo no longer, Xenophobia Exposed

The General Assembly for the 21<sup>st</sup> Edition of IMUN has as its second issue “The promotion of measures against xenophobia”, exposing an intriguing problem. It is important that we first establish what xenophobia is before we proceed into further details. Xenophobia is defined by the Merriam-Webster dictionary as “fear or hatred of strangers or foreigners”, caused by narrow minded mentality. This issue has been of great concern to international humanitarian organizations, who have, over the course of the last century, taken serious measures to counter and stop xenophobia. However, this issue is, unfortunately, still alive to this day.

If we take a quick view at history, we realize xenophobia has been amongst us for centuries. Just by analyzing the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, we can see clear examples of xenophobia such as Adolf Hitler’s

Nazi Movement and the thought that the Aryan race was superior and, therefore, all other races should be destroyed, a mentality causing the Holocaust. Another example would be the Rwanda Genocide, in the Spring of 1994, where the larger population (Hutu) tried to end the smallest (Tutsi), because they had different origins from one another.

As previously, stated xenophobia has not yet been eradicated. The 9/11 attacks by Al-Qaeda show a religious-based xenophobia, and it has led to an increase in the presence of this mentality against Muslims by the Western population. The recent terrorist attacks by ISIS is also another example of religious xenophobia and it has, at the same time, reinforced the fear of the West towards Muslims. If this wasn’t enough, we have various extreme right-wing parties rising in popularity in Europe, like the Golden Dawn in Greece and the National Front in France, who defend nationalistic and racist

ideologies. We also have the Republican poll-leader for the presidential candidacy in the US, Donald Trump, promising to build a wall around the border of Mexico, to stop Mexicans from coming to America, an initiative already done by Hungary to stop the Syrian refugees from entering the country.

With all this in mind and considering that the UDHR states in its very first Article that “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights... endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood” it becomes clear that in the 21<sup>st</sup> IMUN, all nations must unite to find a solution for this problem. After all, only with the strength of union, can we tackle and eventually end such a big issue as xenophobia.

*João Malheiro*

## Warning: No Trespassing

National borders are supposed to defend national sovereignty and are a system of managing national security. All countries have their borders identified by the United Nations. Nations have the obligation to protect their own national borders but with the new increase of international terrorist organizations and number of refugees and replaced persons, international bodies like the European Union have disputed induced regulations for border controls. With the ever-growing increase of violence in Libya, Iraq, Syria and other areas of the Middle East and Africa the



number of people attempting to cross illegally to escape violence and tyrannical leaders is increasing exponentially. Hundreds of thousands of people have attempted to cross European borders illegally especially since 2011.

The Mediterranean crisis alone has led to the death of over 2,000 people as of August 6th, 2015 according to CNN. Around 188,000 migrants have been rescued from the Mediterranean so far this year according to the International Organization for Migration. In 2005, the number of migrants worldwide was predicted between 185 to 192 million (IOM 2005), revealing almost 3 percent of the world population; this figure has more than doubled since 1975. This is an outcome of conflict and globalization.

*Joana Lacerda*

## Pro-Leftist Ideology Presents Solution for LEDCs

LEDC is an abbreviation for Less Economically Developed Country or as we may know it: a developing country. Many of these are post-conflict zones. Corruption and wealth inequality present are two of many negative aspects that must be solved with democracy.

In LEDCs, the birth rate is higher than MEDCs (More Economically Developed Countries) with 20-45 people born per 1000 people. So, do the population have access to medical care? Due to poor health care and a wide spread of various diseases, the death rate is high in countries such as Botswana, Mozambique and Angola.

Countries with low labor costs and high unemployment are focused on production raw materials that are sold to MEDCs for diminished prices. Due to the existence of some basic resources only in these types of countries, MEDC companies producing products use LEDCs that will accept to make a factory to manufacture their products. Most of them would accept the request because the owner will get some income when he had none before the company of a MEDCs showed up.

However, the owners of companies are unfair and pay the workers diminished wages to increase their profits. Due to lack of wealth and minimalist standards of living, these reside in inadequate

houses with no access to clean running water or electricity. Moreover, the lack of education and obstruction to empowerment of women creates a flaw in independent thinking.

The rich increase their wealth whereas the less fortunate decrease their living standards. Strengthening democracy in LEDC is an urgent question that should be answered since those who live in these types of countries have poor living conditions; this situation is getting worse as each day goes by.

Preventing corruption is also an important issue since the countries can only improve if this problem is addressed. One of the ways to hold the ideology of democracy are elections. With elections, people can share their opinion with no fear of the consequences.

Investing in infrastructure especially houses for the poor people, will make a difference in their life style and quality. International organizations should cooperate and offer aid to LEDCs since it will save lives. It will enable the provision of medical training, medicine and equipment that can improve health. Agriculture and industry can be developed and increase the quality

and quantity of food available to create more jobs.

The counterargument would be that giving aid might increase the dependency of LEDCs on donor countries and force them into debt. Corruption is also a problem because the help may not reach the people who need it the most.



Indeed there are other problems in these countries such as healthcare and education, children that have to work to help support their large

families.

However, many LEDCs are going through a transitional period be it of growth, war, famine or change. They are easily controlled by external and internal powers serving their own agenda. The UN is an institution that believes in the concept of democracy and so, this question will be addressed by the delegates in the General Assembly.

*Catarina Romariz*

Do you want to make a difference? Do you want to help education expand to those in need?

Buy an **IMUN HOODIE** for 25€, all profits will be donated to [Sharing to Learn](#). Admin Staff will be selling them during the conference.

Whether in light blue, dark blue or grey, you will be changing lives.



## Security Council Faces Breaches of International Security

As tension around the world continues to rise, the UN is filled with questions regarding public safety. Thus, this year's IMUN will focus on debating issues of migration, refugees and overall international security. None other than the Security Council to tackle such pertinent questions.

The committee is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, hence, this year, they will be debating the question of Libya, South Sudan, and threats against international security. Both Libya and South Sudan are engaged in an ongoing civil war, the former since 2014, while the latter began in 2013. Libya's internationally recognized government is still quite fragile and faces numerous adversities, many of which are due to the Islamic State. Libya has not yet been able to take back control of the country's capital, Tripoli. The newly established government's lack of control does not only instigate political conflict but also provides the perfect setting for organized crimes such as human trafficking to thrive and prosper. Libya has become



part of one of the most common routes smugglers use to cross the Mediterranean into Europe. With over 600,000 refugees transported across Libyan borders this year alone, the smugglers have repeatedly violated the UN's

multilateral treaties concerning transnational crime. Sadly, the violation of basic human rights as civilians are denied access to food and medical aid has proven this country's political conflicts and subsequent neglect, to be among our top priorities.

South Sudan, after gaining its independence 4 years ago, is the world's youngest country and for half of its existence it has been ravaged by war, violence, and famine. The political struggle began due to a conflict between the President, who has the support of those of Dinka ethnic origins, and the former Vice-President, who was an advocate of those with Nuer origins. This has resulted in over 10,000 deaths and the country faces real threats of genocide. Many civilians have been involved in this conflict, as soldiers rampage through villages and towns with the opposing ethnic majority and pillage, torture, rape and mutilate all those that stand before the attackers' ideology. The South Sudanese now face a grim future, as the



opposing forces interfere with each other's food and medical supplies. There has been a crippling shortage of necessities similar to the situation in Libya. The circumstances have already led to the death of over 30,000 people

through starvation, and civilians no longer have the means to survive, resorting to eating grass and leaves to avoid death. It is important, for both Libya and South Sudan, that we do not just attempt to correct the short term damage and simply provide aid, for these countries to survive independently, they must be presented with long term solutions that will establish a stable government and indications of a less bloody future.

As we can see, the world is becoming increasingly volatile. Countries like Iraq, Syria, Nigeria and Afghanistan are currently under radar and need the immediate aid of the UN. However, extremist groups or ideologists who oppose the decision of the UN and create chaos among nations are not a recent occurrence. Beyond the increasingly powerful Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, there have been other memorable oppositions such as the Taliban or Al-Shabaab. As advocates for peace and stability, the Security Council aims to ease tension within a nation and stimulate friendly and stable relations among countries.

This year's IMUN seems to provide quite the array of difficult and delicate issues. We eagerly await the delegates' valuable decisions and consequent solutions.

*Luxi Xu*

## Refugee Camps: A Threat to Human Rights?

Today society faces the threatening issue of refugees. Although there is no exact definition of what makes someone a refugee, the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees define one as an individual who: *"owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable or — unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country"*.

To those in the developed world, it is tough to imagine leaving one's country, one's home and even one's family so suddenly, without a plan as to where to go and what to take. All refugees leave because they have no viable alternative. They leave because of a disease epidemic, war or persecution, among other reasons. There is no time, and, often, no resources to leave.

Over the years, the number of refugees (globally) has been increasing exponentially; by the end of 2014, the total amount of refugees worldwide was 59.5 million. In other words, one in every 122 people is either a refugee or an internally displaced person. With the current Syrian refugee crisis, the bigger the number is getting.

Currently, these millions of refugees, are not receiving the full help necessary to accommodate them. Wherever they go, these people need a place to stay. The easiest solution is to create Refugee camps. Refugee camps are usually established by NGO's such as the UNHCR, on improvised campgrounds. Often, however, these settlements cannot hold all the refugees and provide all the provisions. Due to the lack of time,

money and even interest, these camps are often poorly set up and managed. They end up not being fit for the amount of refugees that need the space. Furthermore, because refugees have no ability to go back home, or don't want to, they are required to stay in unfit camps.

There are numerous refugee camps all over the world, and they all face a series of problems that make life there almost impossible. There is not enough food, safe drinkable water, or healthy sanitation in any of these camps. The camps are incredibly overcrowded— for example, the largest Refugee Camp, the Dadaab Camp in Kenya, holds 355,709 Somali refugees.

The International Medical Corps in the Dollo Ado Camp in Ethiopia, that holds 198,995 refugees (2<sup>nd</sup> largest Refugee Camp), have reported an incredible amount of malnutrition and poor hygiene in the camp. The UNHCR also noticed an alarming rate of child mortality there. They state that "an average of 10 children under the age of five die every day" at the Dollo Ado camp.

On the other hand, at the Jabalia Camp in the Gaza Strip, there have been reports that 90% of the water is undrinkable and unfit for human consumption.

In addition, at the Yida Camp of South Sudan, the undrinkable water combined with the poor hygiene conditions found there caused a cholera outbreak back in 2014.

These conditions cannot sustain a healthy human life, and it comes as no surprise that these conditions make people desperate. Adding to the list of problems that refugee camps contain, violence becomes predominant. Refugees become so desperate that they are

capable of fighting over a ration of food. These are critical violations of human rights. Women and young girls in the Zaatari Camp in Jordan, for example, do not feel safe going to the communal toilets and kitchens, due to cases of rape and abuse. Refugees all over are denied human rights. Palestinian refugees, for instance, are denied human rights such as the right to return, or the right to an adequate standard of living with necessary social services.

There is the need to take many actions towards improving these camp conditions. Among those striving towards that goal are the UNHCR as well as Doctors without Borders, who continue to do the best possible. In turn, for this year's Special Conference agenda on Refugee Camp management, delegates will be discussing and finding ways to improve the management of camps, in order to protect the refugees and supporting their fundamental human rights. The Delegation of Palestine is in favour of improving these conditions, due to the major human rights violation Palestinians are having in their Refugee camps. The Delegation of Guinea-Bissau, also in favour of improving Refugee Camp management, states that: "(Guinea-Bissau) believes that this issue has to be taken seriously as it is very important to help the refugees since they have the right to receive all the fundamental necessities." With this, IMUN delegates will debate the best possible way to stop the alarmingly increasing issue regarding refugees.

*Catarina Santos*

## One-on-one: Officers Reveal Soft Sides



From left to right, respectively: Maria Matias, Lucas Nacif, Gustavo Sarmiento, Manuel Abecasis, Margarida Rosa, Maria Norton and Maria Maria (Missing; Bjørn Bernsten)

### **Secretary-General:** Gustavo Sarmiento

*Which historical or famous figure do you look up to and why?*

Franklin Delano Roosevelt: the architect of the concept of the United Nations. His leadership through harsh times when the world was divided into two deadly camps has given us the bedrock of democracy and freedom most of the world can enjoy today. He revolutionized, alongside the other allies, the importance of diplomacy and open covenants for international talks.

*If you could witness any event of the past, present, or future, what would it be?*

That's a hard question! There are numerous events I would like to have witnessed. The Russian Revolution, the outbreak of the first and the second world wars, the rise of Fidel Castro and of totalitarian regimes in South America, the decolonization of Africa, JFK's election and assassination, Watergate, and the fall of the Berlin Wall. To answer your question: 20th century history in general.

### **Deputy Secretary-General:** Manuel Abecasis

*Please highlight the aspects of your background that you feel have prepared you for your position.*

I think there are various events and aspects of my background that have made me feel prepared for this position. I became acquainted with MUN in 6<sup>th</sup> grade during Social Studies, as we readied for our first ever conference JMUN (a Middle School mini MUN). I must admit initially I mostly enjoyed it because I could miss classes, but soon enough I began to enjoy public speaking and debating issues that are current. When I got to High School I joined the MUN organization at CAISL, and from that moment on my involvement in these events has really grown. I gained more experience both in debating and chairing and eventually I made my way to this position. In addition, there are also other aspects from my background including strong foundations in both English and History. However, I believe that my experience through different MUNs is what really is valuable.

*What are three skills that you think are required in order to be in your position?*

Three essential skills for this position I would say are: organization, the ability to delegate, and commitment. You need to be organized because in preparation for the conference, you'll have many things to complete, but at the same time, you have to balance it with your schoolwork. The ability to delegate is also very important. You have to be able to communicate efficiently with the rest of your team or else nothing will be accomplished. Finally, I also said commitment because as an officer you must be 100% committed to the task. If you aren't you might lose focus, leave something out and you wouldn't want that to happen to anything regarding the conference.

*Would you be willing to lie to a court for a close friend that is not innocent if it meant saving your friend from going to jail for life?*

That's a hard question...I guess it depends on the circumstances. Usually if someone is guilty of a crime that is punishable by life in jail, then I guess that person should go to prison. But, when you bring a good friend into the

conversation that becomes a grey area. When it came down to it, I'd be in a very sticky situation. If my friend has done something horrendous and he isn't sorry for it then I guess I wouldn't lie. However, if I believed he should have a second chance as he deeply regrets it I might just lie.

*Are there any law/laws or social rules that completely baffle you?*

The first one is price tags without tax already added. This seems weird but in some places when you buy something, you look at the price tag and it says a certain price. However, when you pay for it the price suddenly increases. It's a shady way to get you to buy an item. The second is that when you get to the front of the line you're already meant to have chosen what you want to order. Sometimes you just don't have enough time and when you're asked you end up having a moment of very awkward silence or you simply choose the wrong item. The last one that I find perplexing is how most people tend to say "okay bye" when ending a conversation on the phone. If you think about it doesn't make much sense.

**President of Special Conference:**  
Maria Mira

*Please highlight the aspects of your background that you feel have prepared you for your position.*

I feel that my MUN experience is what has prepared me best. Having participated in over ten conferences as delegate and chair, I feel I have engaged in almost every possible scenario in MUN.

*What are three skills that you think are required in order to be in your position?*

**Leadership** is key. It is important to have the respect of every delegate in the room, and that comes with respecting every delegate.

**Patience.** Not all delegates are equally prepared, there is always a delegate that isn't looking to debate but just looking to "poke our buttons", and it is important to remain calm.

**Empathy** is very important. A chair has to be someone delegates feel comfortable approaching with questions and concerns. It is important that the chair is the first person a concerned delegate approaches, keeping things in order

*Would you be willing to lie to a court for a close friend who is not innocent if it meant saving your friend from going to jail for life?*

I would lie for them and keep them out of prison. This because I'm pretty sure none of my friends would commit major crimes. Hopefully.



*Which law/laws or social rules completely baffle you?*

Laws that encourage violence, government and police brutality, or discrimination are the ones that really bother me.

**Vice-President of Special Conference:** Margarida Rosa

*Please highlight those aspects of your background (education and experience) that you feel have prepared you for your position.*

I currently serve as the Vice-President of the SPC and to carry out its responsibilities I believe one has to be a "well-rounded" individual. One has to obviously have MUN experience and attend various conferences in order to understand their organization. I have previously attended JMUN, CICMUN, and THIMUN and have been part of the officer teams in CICMUN and JMUN. These gave me a scope into the organization of a conference. Additionally, last year I served as a chair in the SPC which has given me chairing experience specifically in IMUN.

*What are 3 skills that you think are required in order to be in your position?*

**Organization-** because a conference is very hard to organize. IMUN is completely student-run therefore organizational skills are vital.

**Problem-solving-** the officer team comes across various problems during the IMUN preparation process. We discuss these and it is important that we are flexible and innovative when trying to solve these

**Positive Attitude-** personally, I think this is the most important because if one is passionate about what he does then one will be successful. I believe this is why IMUN is such a successful conference.

*What major change do you hope to see in our society in the next ten years?*

I wish for humanity to become more understanding and compassionate. Our laws and principles have become outdated and people, governments, and religions need to accept these changes.

**President of Security Council:**  
Lucas

*Please highlight the aspects of your background that you feel have prepared you for your position.*

I've had MUN experience for quite some time now. My first MUN was in 6th grade, as CAISL organizes an annual Junior MUN for students of grades 6th-8th. I've been participating in MUN conferences since then. I feel that my years as a "MUNER" have helped me be prepared for my post as Security Council President.

*What are three skills that you think are required in order to be in your position?*

First, you need to be organized. Security Council is much smaller than General Assembly or the Special Conference but you must always be on task to ensure a successful venue. Second, teamwork must be present at all times. In the months prior to this conference, I have been closely working with the Secretary General, the Vice President of the Security Council, CAISL's MUN coordinator, and others. Finally, it is important to possess strong oratory skills. When you're chairing a venue you must speak clearly and above all - be confident.

*Would you be willing to lie to a court for a close friend that is not innocent if it meant saving your friend from going to jail for life?*

That is a huge dilemma. True friends must always look after each other and remain loyal no matter what. However, lying to a court is illegal and it can definitely worsen the circumstances. I think the biggest help that one can provide at these circumstances is to show your unconditional support by showing to your friend that regardless of the crime committed, you still like the person. I do not recommend violating laws in the process. If my friend committed a crime, let alone one that would bring him the life

sentence, then he must be held accountable for his actions.

*What is a current global issue you feel strongly concerned about and why?*

The rise of ISIS in the past years is a current global issue, which I am strongly concerned about. There are many Europeans who are fighting for ISIS, and this is concerning. I have no idea what should be done when these foreign fighters return home and a comprehensive solution should be devised.

**Vice-President of Security Council:** Bjørn Bernsten

*Please highlight the aspects of your background that you feel have prepared you for the position for your position.*

As an HL IB history student, I'm accustomed to having to absorb information and regurgitate on the spot, and as a chair, I'll be able to help delegates with esoteric information on specific topics. This is also my second IMUN (last time I was a delegate in the SC) and so I know the procedures of my forum. I've chaired once previously at my school's conference, SCANDMUN, giving me chair specific experience.

*What are three skills that you think are required for delegates to succeed in the debates?*

I think delegates need to be very well versed on the topics of debate, and have to be able to keep up with new information. It's also important to find a balance between friendliness and control during debate. Being able to admit to mistakes helps you learn, and this skill isn't lost on chairs either.

*If you could witness any event of the past, present, or future, what would it be?*

The fall of the Berlin Wall

*What is one current global issue you feel strongly concerned about and why?*

Violence in Venezuela. The government is using violence to control its people, and it concerns me greatly that international media doesn't report on it nearly enough.

**Head of Press:** Maria Norton de Matos

*Please highlight the aspects of your background that you feel have prepared you for the position for your position.*

I have always loved writing. Subjective pieces, or objective articles; it is my passion. When IMUN Press gave me the opportunity to participate I seized the moment. I also also participated as press in CICMUN. With perseverance and commitment, I took over the Editor-in-chief spot at the end of the conference last year and this year it became my high school goal.

*What is a skill that you think are required in order to be in your position?*

**Ambition:** it is essential to keep focused on an aim or goal and strive for it, be fearless and you will succeed.

*If you could witness any event of the past, present, or future, what would it be?*

World War II, everything about it just fascinates me, especially German propaganda efforts and media to control the masses and brainwash society.

**Head of Administrative Staff:**  
Maria Matias

*Please highlight the aspects of your background that you feel have prepared you for your position.*

I feel like my parents have always



taught me to be organized overall. I believe that throughout the years I have developed a good system for myself when I have to organize anything. I have also been taught that the future of our world depends on the younger generations, and so I have grown into someone who will always look for something positive or useful to do for the community. In this case, at IMUN, we are all contributing to the future of our world, as we have begun from a young age to debate important issues. Although my contribution to IMUN focuses solely on the organization and management of the conference, the Administrative Staff is a key component to the conference as a whole.

*What are three skills that you think are required in order to be in your position?*

I am a talkative person, and so questions that limit my words are difficult. However, I would say the three most important skills to be the Head of Admin Staff are: flexibility, always being prepared and well organized, and patience.

*Which historical or famous figure do you look up to and why?*

Nowadays I see myself looking up to Malcolm Gladwell a lot. I have not read all of his books (yet!), but *Blink* is what I picked up recently. It's funny, because a few weeks ago I would not have been able to answer this question. I am quite the enthusiast for TED talks, and I ran into his famous speech about tomato sauce; a random topic that ended with one of the most meaningful statements I've heard in a long time. That was what caught my attention a few weeks ago, and now I really look up to him.

*What is a current global issue you feel strongly concerned about and why?*

The refugee crisis, without a doubt. It has been such a huge issue lately, and is one of the issues that scares me the most. To have to flee your own home must be something terrifying, especially when you have nowhere to go. It shocks me that people are not willing to accept refugees into their countries, and that even though images and stories are exposed every day, people refuse to help out. It also shocks me that people my age, around me, post things on social media demeaning the refugees, calling them names and making them seem like something they are not. This is not how our generation should be reacting towards issues like these.

*Valerie Loutphi*

## Sex jobs: Progression or Degradation?

The stereotype of sex workers is that they are all powerless women, abused, dumb, and addicted to drugs. A male escort from Aphrodisiac named Antony explained that his "job is not about sex, it's about understanding the client, what they want and how they want [him] to give them that". There are 77 countries which have legalized sex work, have no laws or illegalized it. One of the main issues of the 21st IMUN conference in the general assembly is "the protection of the rights of sex workers".

Sex workers are one of the most marginalized groups in the world. They are threatened with abuse, rape, beatings, trafficking, extortion, forced eviction, and exclusion from health services. Many argue that the decriminalization of sex workers will only improve our society. Sex workers will no longer be required

to live outside the law, and their rights and safety are better guaranteed. The representative of Denmark states that "Sex work is legal in Denmark. Although it is not considered a lawful profession, the occupation of sex workers is still protected. It is important to protect the rights of sex workers because it reduces the illegal action of sex trafficking, as well as reduce sexually transmitted diseases."

The opposing argument is that sex work will threaten our society. Sex workers bring diseases, sway married individuals into cheating, and moreover may lead to them being sexually abused. The representative of DPRK states that "the issue of sex workers is an invention and an evil side effect of capitalism whose sole objective is to exploit human kind. It is an issue that could be solved in a much easier fashion if Western capitalist countries

refrained from abusing sex workers rights so blatantly."

The 23rd Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights reads that "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection... Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection". In the 21st IMUN conference, concerns about the legalization of sex work be raised and issues will be addressed. This controversial issue will stimulate strong opinions and divergences among the different country representatives.

*Kylie Koshet*



## On Spotlight: Robert A. Sherman

This year's key note speaker for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual IMUN conference, is U.S. Ambassador Robert Sherman, who will open the first day of the conference at Centro Cultural de Belém (CCB) on November 13, 2015.



Ambassador Robert A. Sherman, successor to former Portuguese Ambassador Allan Katz, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He arrived in Lisbon on April 5, 2014 to serve as United States Ambassador to the Republic of Portugal. A lifetime democrat, he is married to Kim Sawyer and has two adult children. He holds a B.A in Political Sciences from the University of Rochester and a J.D from Boston University School of Law. Prior to becoming the Portuguese Ambassador, Robert Sherman was a founding member of a large international law firm in Boston called, Greenburg Traurig. From 1991 to 1993 Sherman served as assistant attorney general of Massachusetts and chief of the state Consumer Protection Division. Before returning to private practice, he also spent 1993 as a special counsel for the state attorney general, responsible for federal and multistage initiatives of the Attorney General's office.

Shortly after his arrival to Portugal, Robert Sherman traveled the country speaking to various local leaders from the government and the business community in order to learn first-hand about their challenges and struggles, showing his dedication towards the job and this country. One of his main goals

is to promote bilateral investment in Portugal, in other words, these are international agreements establishing the terms and conditions for private investment by nationals and companies of one state in another state.

Since he has arrived to Portugal, Robert Sherman and the U.S Embassy organized a Biotech and Life Sciences Trade Mission led by Nobel Laureate Dr. Craig Mello in order to incentive cooperation and business opportunities between Portuguese and American research institutes and bring American investors to Portugal. Additionally, he and his wife have also launched an initiative in women entrepreneurship called, Connect to Success, which is composed of a corporate mentorship program, an MBA/Masters Consulting program, and free practical business workshops in order to help women and prepare them for future job opportunities.

Overall Ambassador Robert Sherman is mainly focused on strengthening engagement in areas such as maritime security in West Africa, cybersecurity, narcoterrorism and NATO and also to promote stronger partnerships and investments between the U.S and Portugal. It is a pleasure to receive Ambassador Robert Sherman at this year's IMUN conference.

*Ana Rita Mateus*

## After the Debris, Remain the IDPs

Every year natural disasters, conflicts and human rights violations force millions of people to leave their homes and to flee in order to survive. These people are called Internally Displaced Persons (IDP), also known as "Internal Refugees". They are forced to leave their homes for many of the same reasons as refugees. The only difference between them is that IDPs remain within their country's borders. They are often persecuted and under inhumane attacks by

their own government and are frequently in a more desperate situation than refugees. The number of IDPs has been increasing exponentially. However, no UN or international agency has been formally mandated to assist them. National governments have the primary responsibility for the security and well-being of all displaced people on their territory, but often they are unable or unwilling to comply with this obligation.

At the end of 2014 it was estimated that there were 38.2 million IDPs worldwide, the highest level since 1989. Hostility to refugees and asylum seekers has grown since the end of the Cold War, with many countries seeing it as too costly to admit them. Currently there are an estimated 1.4 million people displaced by conflict in Uganda, at least 1.5 million in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and 6 million in Sudan.

In several recent emergencies, states have closed their borders to refugees or adopted restrictive admission policies. Like refugees, IDPs cannot obtain security and aid from their government, hence they turn to international aid. According to the Global IDP Survey, there are over 13 million IDPs in Africa, 6 million in Asia including Middle East, 3 million in Europe and 4 million in the Americas.

The main focus of this question is to develop a strategy that will minimize IDPs in natural disaster areas. This includes both international and national involvement after a natural disaster, as well as creating a gradual plan to integrate these citizens back to society in a self-sufficient matter, building infrastructures, raising awareness and advocating with national authorities and other actors for respect for the rights of IDPs while providing training for displaced individuals. Furthermore, the primary responsibility of national authorities of a country is

to provide assistance and protection for IDPs in their own countries. However, some countries do not have the necessary means to help the IDPs or simply categorize internally displaced persons as ‘migrants’ or ‘terrorists’ to avoid being responsible for them. This results in no local authority willing to provide assistance and protection for IDPs, leaving them without any significant humanitarian assistance from their governments.

Many countries, however, use sovereignty as a justification for resisting or obstructing international aid efforts. In Algeria, for example, no one knows for sure how many internally displaced people there are or what their needs might be, because the government has denied access to them. Nonetheless, over the past 15 years a perceivable shift has occurred in international thinking about the internally displaced. It is now widely recognized that people in need of aid and protection in their

own countries have claims on the international community when their governments do not fulfil their responsibilities, or where there is disintegration of the nation-state. Sovereignty, therefore, is an important term that needs to be discussed because it can be either a barrier or a responsibility, depending on how a country uses its authority. The respect for state sovereignty can mean leaving large numbers of IDPs to suffer and die, should their governments refuse entry to the international community.

Thus, the problem of internal displacement constitutes a test case for a new balance that is needed between respect for sovereignty and acceptance of humanitarian action.

*Inês Lacerda*

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6			1	9	5			
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4			8		3			1
7				2				6
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			4	1	9			5
				8			7	9

*Come on **Russia**... You're really Putin me down.*

*Are you from **Paris**? Because you're driving me in- Seine.*

*I was going to make a joke but **Iran** out of ideas.*





