

XXII IBERIAN MODEL UNITED NATIONS IMUNION

IMUNION and Lisbon

IMUNION Press Team

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The press team from IMUNION is proud to present our first out of two editions of the 2016 Iberian Model United Nations release. The articles in this release all relate to the conference, be it behind the scenes, people involved in the conference or issues being discussed in the conference this year.

We hope you enjoy the 22nd IMUN conference!

Lisbon - a bustling and vibrant city - the largest in Portugal and the westernmost capital of continental Europe. There are so many things to do and see in Lisbon, but because the IMUN is located at the CCB this year, here are a few things that you can do that are close:

Jeronimos - This grand religious building was historically associated with the explorers. It was here that Vasco da Gama spent his last night before his voyage to the Far East. Located in the Lisbon Municipality, Portugal, the Monastery of Jeronimos is one of the most decorative churches in Portugal.



Padrão dos Descobrimentos



Jeronimos Monastery

Padrão dos Descobrimentos - The Padrao dos Descobrimentos is an imposing and iconic monument located on the banks of the River Tagus in Lisbon. The structure is dedicated to the adventurers and explores who helped establish Portugal as a 14th century superpower. The original Padrao dos Descobrimentos was constructed from wood and was the central piece for the 1940 World Fair.

All of these places are rich with culture and bound to create new experiences. Lisbon has many unique opportunities for cultural enrichment for people of all ages. Wherever you may go in Lisbon, adventure is sure to follow.

Andrea Blattler

<http://www.mosteirojeronimos.pt/en/index.php?s=white&pid=168&identificador=1>

<http://lisbon-portugal-guide.com/belem-lisbon/Padrao-Descobrimentos-Monument-Discoveries.html>

Secretary General



Manuel Abecasis

The IMUN committee consists of hard working officers collaborating together to achieve the goal of organizing a successful conference each year. This determined team is managed by the Secretary General; the highest authority among all officers and a leadership figure. This year, IMUN has the privilege to be led by Manuel Abecasis.

The Secretary General holds the greatest responsibilities from hosting the conference to organizing it and is a vital contributor to IMUN. During the preparation for IMUN, Manuel is accountable for all administrative tasks, planning and budgeting, as well as organizing the delegation and inviting the participating schools. IMUN has grown even more this year with numerous new

representative schools, and a number of new people. Manuel is certain that all the added participants will add quality to the conference and uphold IMUN's reputation. The topics chosen for this year's session were also carefully selected by the Secretary General. His main objective is to ensure a fruitful, smoothly-run conference for all delegates, press, officers and staff members.

"Last year's conference was very successful; therefore, the officer team will have to be spot on once again," states the Secretary General after being questioned about his expectations for this year's upcoming IMUN conference. Although IMUN tends to be very time consuming and a great deal of work for all participants, Manuel stated that he was proud to work with all the member participating behind the scenes with him, and is certain that the final outcome, as it is each year, will be very rewarding.

Gea Greco



2015 IMUN Conference

<http://www.caislisbon.org/page.cfm?p=847>

Behind the Scenes at IMUN

For the past 21 years, many students, teachers, and honored guests have dedicated themselves to creating the perfect Iberian Model United Nations (IMUN) conference. There are many events leading up to the actual conference and considerable preparation is needed for this event to go as smoothly as possible. Often, this “behind the scenes” work isn’t taken into consideration by people on the outside, but it is this effort that leads to the success of an event.

For many CAISL students, IMUN groundwork starts in early September; delegates are in charge of drafting position papers, to provide information on the position of their assigned delegation. This part of IMUN is very important, since the information you get from these position papers serves as the foundation for practice debates and the future conference. With the position papers done, the debating starts. Practice debates are vital for delegates since not only are you able to experience what the conference will be like while in an informal setting, but you also discuss important world events that were previously discussed by the UN. The delegate representing Algeria, Gregory Ayvazov, said that the “[practice debates] help you get a feeling of what it’s going to be like in the real conference. But, since debates are only 20 to 30 people, it’s different... but they definitely help you practice public speaking which is the hardest part [of IMUN] - the pressure.” Despite the pressure, all the hard work, effort, and dedication needed for IMUN prepare you, not just academically, but for situations in your daily life. This year’s Deputy Secretary General, Nuno Belmar da Costa, had some suggestions to the delegates who were new to IMUN. “You should really focus on trying, and

learning, not to be afraid of failure. IMUN is a wonderful experience, and it’s really a place to persist, persist, persist. You can raise your placard 10 different times before getting picked by the chair, and when you do get picked, your amendment might fail with 2 votes “for” and 2 votes “against”. But it doesn’t matter, because that experience will teach you a lesson: Perhaps this idea won’t please a lot of countries...

Maybe I should adapt it a bit. I understand that it’s easy to tell people to try, but ultimately we all have it in us to raise our placards and really participate. And if you do, the path will always lead you higher; you might end up going from Yemen in 9th grade to Deputy Secretary General in 12th grade, as I did!”

Much availability, hard work, and commitment from students, teachers, and parents is needed to make IMUN as seamless as possible. It’s hard to balance extra-curricular activities and school work with practice debates and writing position papers, but the IMUN conference helps you prepare for your future, and improves public speaking. Pressure can be high, but the only thing one can do to ensure that they have made their best contribution to the conference is to “persist, persist, persist!”

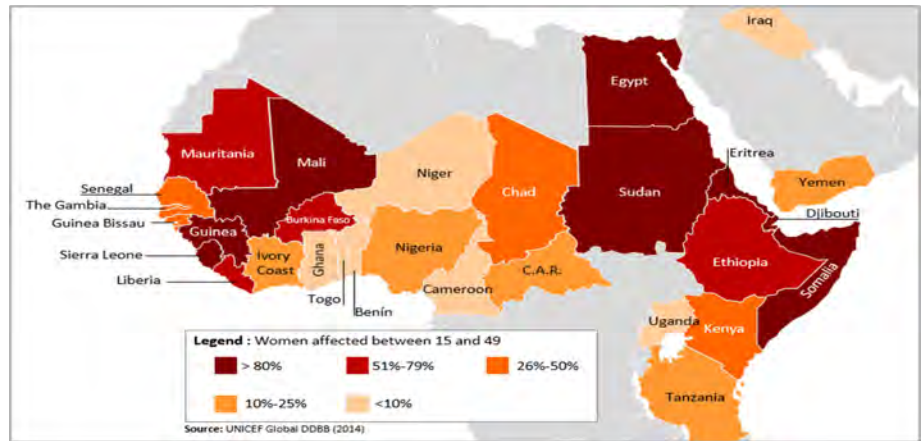
Leonor Fernandes



Behind the Scenes at CAISL

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is a broad term for the partial or total removal of the female genitals for non-medical reasons. According to the UNFPA, around 200 million women in recent years have been subjected to FGM, with rates increasing, due to the global population increase. The first thought one might have on this practice: why? There is no medical reasoning behind this abuse of human rights and yet it is still performed globally. Mainly practiced in African and Middle Eastern cultures, it is considered a way to control a woman's sexuality; preventing them from deriving pleasure from sexual acts. Husbands usually do it to control the wife and reduce the risk of their wife cheating on them. Generally, girls under 15 are put through this as a rite of passage into womanhood. If the procedure does not end up taking the woman's life, it is then celebrated; women who do not go through the procedure are seen as 'impure' and 'unclean' and therefore marginalized from society, unable to find a husband and viewed as a disgrace to their family. There are countless medical risks that come with this surgical procedure. It is often done with unsterilized razors or knives and if the same tool is used on multiple girls, the chance of HIV transmission rises. In addition, due to the damage done to the female reproductive system, sexual intercourse could rupture the

Female Genital Mutilation



<http://www.dailystormer.com/america-fema>

tissue. In the worst possible scenarios, FGM could cause death. Female genital mutilation can cause psychological damage to these women who have higher rates of anxiety and depression due to a lack of confidence and trust in their society.

Steps have been taken, and most of the world now prohibits this act. In 2014, the Human Rights Council made a resolution called, "Intensifying global efforts and sharing good practices to effectively eliminate female genital mutilation". A year later, "Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation" became Target 5.3 in the Sustainable Development Goals. Although these are great steps towards diminishing the issue's practice, there must also be a change in the culture and mindset that comes along with FGM for the problem to really be solved. This discrimination towards women prevents them from embracing their sexuality and prevents the World from reaching a point of equality.

Becoming aware of important issues means being willing to put in the effort into making a change. As students, we often feel restricted, as if there wasn't much we could do. However, our contribution to global change is just one click away!

www.equalitynow.org/issues/end-female-genital-mutilation allows you to add your voice to the cause, simply by entering your name and email address. Changing a society's viewpoint is difficult but not impossible: we can all make a change.

Selma Espinosa

Child Refugees



<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/06/20> 1

In recent years the number of refugees has increased exponentially and this growing number has become a big concern. A great majority of people think that refugees should be allowed to find a new beginning because they deserve a better life. Others believe that refugees are coming to their countries and stealing all the jobs and money from rightful citizens.

Most refugees are fleeing from war or are forced out of their country because of natural disasters, environmental crises and poverty.

The main countries that most refugees are currently fleeing from are Syria, Iraq, Palestine, and Afghanistan. Normally, these refugees migrate to live in safer places where they can work to support their families and start a new life. Some of the countries people tend to immigrate to include Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Hungary, Germany, Italy, Greece, and Canada. Germany is currently willing to take around 40,000 refugees, which is the largest refugee immigration allowance in Europe. Spain is willing to house just under 20,000 refugees. All other countries in Europe are only offering fewer than 10,000 spaces in their own country.

In many refugee families a male family figure, such as a father or brother, stays behind in their home country to work and send money to the rest of the family. Others stay behind to take care of their house, trying not to lose more than they already have. Living in war zones or places struck by natural disasters can be very risky and sometimes deadly. Most refugees move illegally into a new country therefore they can't legally get a job.

Most child refugees do not get sufficient education, which affects their future. Refugees tend to live in the same communities, which means a lot of schools can be overcrowded. Another reason many children aren't receiving education is that they simply can't afford it. There are many refugee children not even trying to receive education in fear of getting caught for living illegally. This leaves only about 50% of refugee children receiving primary school education, 25% receiving secondary school education, and only 1% pursuing further studies such as college or university. With this information taken into account, all countries need to work together to find a solution to problem.

How do you think this situation should be dealt with?

Lucy Sheehy



<http://www.thecsf.org/2016/09/08/50-mill> 1

Renewable Energy Source

Wave/Tidal

Tidal Energy is obtained from the movement in water caused by tides.

Pro: Abundant, safe, clean, tides are reliable and predictable

Con: Not commercially viable, shipping could be disrupted



<http://cmheavyindustries.com/wave->

Wind

Wind Power is usually generated via wind turbines converts wind energy into electricity.

Pro: No air or water pollution, farmers can receive and income for having them on their land, relatively cheap to build

Con: Constant wind is needed, significant visual impact, need a lot of land. Unknown impact on wildlife



<http://bygreenenergy.com/wind-power/>

Hydropower

Hydroelectric Power is sourced from water driving a water turbine and generator.

Pro:

Clean, safe, abundant, easily stored, offers recreational benefits such as boating and fishing

Con: Can have environmental impact, loss of homes, can only take place where water is present



<http://www.greenoptimistic.com/norway>

Solar Energy

Solar Power is usable energy you can get from the sun or light.

Pro: Unlimited supply, no water or air pollution

Con: Not very reliable, not really cost effective at the moment, storage and back-ups are necessary



<http://www.zmescience.com/science/facts-about-solar-energy/>

Geothermal

Geothermal Power comes from the heat found under the earth in volcanic regions.

Pro: Unlimited supply of energy, produces no air or water pollution

Con: Best suppliers are limited, start-up costs a lot, corrosion of pipes can be a problem



Biomass

Biomass includes wood and wood waste, municipal solid waste, landfill gas and bio gas, ethanol, bio diesel.

Pro: Abundant and renewable. Can be used to burn waste

Con: Can result in air pollution. May not be cost effective



<http://www.eclipse-engineering.com/portfolio->

It is vital that the future generations are informed about the Earth's dwindling resources and what they can do to help to prevent further deterioration. We don't use that much renewable energy because in general, renewable energy is more expensive to produce and to use than fossil fuel energy. In addition, renewable sources are not always available and are not always reliable. This year IMUN delegates will be debating "Intensifying measures in the development and implementation of renewable energy sources within Member States" while discussing how to overcome the limitations of their own countries and how to make the world a more sustainable place.

Cristina Xia

Biological Warfare

Biological weapons are anything that includes microorganisms that are found in nature and are used against people to kill them or injure them. The use of Biological weapons has been in practice since around 400 BC. Since then more than 500 million deaths have occurred due to radiation. Numerous of these deaths have been caused by deliberate release of pathogens or toxins. The largest example of this was in the Second World War when Japan attacked China. Two international treaties have made biological weapons illegal, in 1925 and 1972. Even though biological weapons have been made illegal, there is still clandestine development and production of biological weapons worldwide. The side effects of biological warfare are highly dangerous for people's health; therefore, it has introduced a big problem to the world as a whole.

In 400 BC Scythian archers infected their weapons, arrows, by dipping them in decomposed bodies and blood mixed with manure. Another example of the use of biological warfare was back in 300 BC when Persians, Greeks and Romans used dead animals to contaminate any sources of water such as wells, that people drank from. The same technique was used in the 12th century AD, in the battle of Tortona when opposing soldiers took advantage of the dead bodies and decomposing soldiers to poison wells. The attacking Tatar forces also used biological weapons to cause damage and death when they hurled plague-infected corpses into the city during the siege of Kaffa. Years later, in 1710, the Russians launched bodies of plague victims at the Swedish forces in Estonia. About 40 years ago, the death of 66 people was due to the release of anthrax in Sverdlovsk. Even though the Sverdlovsk President refused to take any of the blame for the incident at first and claimed it was caused by infected meat, later in 1992, he finally admitted to it and accepted the blame.

Even though it was seen as a minor problem when it first began, due to not involving any highly dangerous combat weapons, viruses, bacteria and toxins, biological weapons are still being developed and used. They have killed more people in the world combined that any other weapon of mass destruction. On top of that, the threat of terrorist organizations stealing or manufacturing biological weapons is a rising international concern. For example, one of the biggest concerns is that ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) would attempt to spread a disease like Ebola and use humans as carriers. To support this theory, a Syrian rebel found an ISIS laptop that contained a nineteen-page document about how to develop biological weapons.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4iP9IHh 9Q>

Maya Koshet

People need to recognize that with all the progress made in technology in recent years, biological warfare is becoming more of a problem because it is easier to manufacture these weapons. The problem of bioterrorism is rising and precautions need to be taken.

