

GREENWOOD HIGH MODEL UNITED NATIONS

BACKGROUND GUIDE



IPC

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Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you to the International Press Corps at GWHMUN 2025! The IPC might not be a traditional UN committee but trust us, it is just as fun. You will get to press delegates, report on current happenings, and express your opinion on international or national issues. You wield the sword here!

First and foremost, *please read this background guide. More specifically, the GUIDELINES section.* This BG outlines the procedures, article formats, and agenda related information, but remember, it's just a starting point. We strongly encourage you to further research on the IPC agenda and the agendas of the committees you're assigned to (you'll get those as we near the conference!).

At the conference, you'll work like real journalists-writing under pressure, meeting tight deadlines, and producing content that informs, critiques, and sparks thought. It might get chaotic, and you might be kept on your toes, but that's part of the thrill.

Also, while this is a competition, collaboration is important. You'll need each other. For article help, press conferences, the last minute submission panics and occasional emotional support. So be kind, work together, make the most of the experience, and hopefully walk out with a new friend or two.

We hope to give you memories to cherish and tons of things to learn. We're super excited to see your creativity shine. We'll be here to assist you so feel free to reach out to us via WhatsApp or Mail with any concerns or questions you might have.

Best of Luck!

Head Chairperson: Varshini J

Vice Chairpersons: Avika Malik and Natasha Agarwal

Rules of Procedure

Understanding the Rules of Procedure is essential for every delegate, and we strongly encourage all participants to familiarize themselves with them. The IPC will be operating under the UNA-USA procedure for its debate sessions pertaining to the agenda.

1. Research: Each delegate must research the nation's profile, agenda background, previous international action, and the policy/agency bias, along with possible solutions that relate to the agenda. These five aspects serve as the cornerstones of the research made by the delegate.
2. Roll call:- A delegate can vote either 'present' or 'present and voting'. 'Present' grants the delegate to abstain from voting upon the draft resolution whereas 'Present and voting' does not grant the delegate the same power of abstaining.
3. The General Speakers List:- The GSL refers to a speech of merely 90 seconds that talks about the agenda or summarizes one's position paper. It is to be of relevance to one's nation and the agenda.
4. Time Yields:- If a delegate has an amount of time remaining in their speech, they may yield their time in the following ways.
 - Yield to the EB
 - Yield to the floor for questions
 - Yield to comments
 - Yield to another delegate
5. Moderated Caucus: A moderated caucus refers to speech made to cover a sub-topic of the agenda. It requires a majority of committee votes to pass. It requires specific verbatim to make it valid. For example:- "The delegate of XYZ would like to motion for a moderated caucus on the topic XYZ for a total period of X, providing X to each speaker.
6. Unmoderated Caucus:- During this caucus, delegates are free to lobby, discuss future moderated caucuses, make allies, work on papers, etc. It is often referred to as informal debate.
7. Points:- Four points are used in a conference. They are as follows-
 - Point of information - POIs are questions directed to a delegate's speech under the agenda.
 - Point of order - Under a point of order a delegate may raise either a 'logical fallacy' or 'factual inaccuracy'.
 - ❖ Logical fallacy - When a delegate mentions something in their speech that is logically fallacious, we refer to it as a logical fallacy.
 - ❖ Factual inaccuracy - When a delegate has mentioned a fact that is wrong or inaccurate in any way, we refer to it as a factual inaccuracy.

- Point of parliamentary inquiry - A POE may be raised to clarify any doubts and misunderstandings concerning the proceedings of the committee.
- Point of personal privilege -A Point of Personal Privilege must refer to a matter of personal comfort, safety, and/or well-being of the members of the committee.

Types of Chits:

a) Substantive chit: If you have not been recognised for a speech, you may send the main contents of your speech in bullet points via a chit.

The format of the substantive chit must be as listed:

SUBSTANTIVE CHIT

Moderated Caucus: (topic of the mod)

To: Executive Board

From: country name

List your points here (In bullet points only. Provide a brief of your speech and just include the main content.)

b) Point of Information (POI) chit: If you are unable to verbally ask a question on a delegate's speech but still wish to do so, you may do so via a POI chit. The format for the same is:

Point of information (POI):

TO: Delegate of the portfolio you want to question

VIA: Executive Board (Don't forget to send POI chits via eb else they wont be marked)

From: name of portfolio

State your question here (Keep it short and get to the point.)

c) Chit to another delegate: You just need to mention the To and From and the contents of the message.

RIGHT OF REPLY:

The Chair may recognize the Right of Reply only in instances of a grave insult towards a particular country's sovereignty or people like their head of state. Or in our (IPC) case, a grave insult to your agency or your agency's heads. Rights of Reply must be submitted in writing to the Chair, and may only be granted after a speech is completed. The Chair shall inform the Secretary-General of the circumstances surrounding the Right of Reply. If the RoR is understood to be for a valid reason and approved by the secretariat, both sides will be given a specific time period to justify themselves after which a ruling shall be made as to who wins it.

Introduction to the IPC

The International Press Corps is a committee dedicated towards simulating the work of journalists. Members of the IPC act as representatives of various media agency's, write articles, and conduct press conferences.

The primary objective of the IPC is to provide a comprehensive coverage of the discussions, progress and proceedings of other committees at the conference. Reporters are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times while doing so towards everyone. Detailed research forms the base of good reporting. Journalists must be well researched and informed on the topic to be discussed by their allotted committee. Remember that factual accuracy is a crucial part of good reporting. Go over the background guides of your respective committees to understand the agenda and research about current affairs pertaining to the agenda and country's present at the conference.

As reporters, you are expected to have an attention to detail and keenly observe the happenings and take note of worthy instances, formulate opinions and articles that convey the essence of a discussion, all while maintaining journalistic conduct.

Types of Submissions

1. *Opinion Editorial (Op-Ed)*

An Op-Ed, like the name suggests, is an opinionated piece. This is where reporters express views on the agenda, criticize policies or statements etc. Research plays a key role in Op-Eds. Don't just state an opinion - explain it and back it up by relevant facts as it's important to strike a balance between opinion and research. Ensure to cite your sources. It is important to maintain a formal tone and ensure that the article is relevant to the agenda your allotted committee is deliberating over. In opinionated pieces delegates often put to work their persuasive writing and analytical thinking skills to present a logical, fact-backed and well reasoned argument.

If the article has to be based on your individual opinion, or in accordance with the news agency's bias (if any), will be conveyed to you during the conference.

Word Limit: 700-1000 words

2. Beat Based Article

A Beat Based Article is essentially an article where a reporter provides detailed coverage on a specific topic, situation, crisis, statement, right of reply, controversy, speech, or anything that occurred in committee. A 'Beat' is a central idea around which the contents of the article revolve around. This article aims to provide readers with insights into specific areas regarding committee proceedings and the agenda being discussed in a particular council. They require clear observations and proper facts.

It is important to note that this is an unbiased piece. It **MUST** be void of the reporter or their respective agency's opinion/bias. It's a mere presentation of facts pertaining to certain happenings.

Think of this as a piece where the reader gets an in depth knowledge about a certain issue. Once they read it, they can create their own opinion as all they have in front of them are facts pertaining to something.

Word limit: 350-500 words.

3. Committee Report

A committee report is aimed at reporting on the committee's occurrences, events and progress. It mostly highlights the progress made by the committee, direction of discussions, key information, content from speeches or questions, relevant and eye opening statements from delegates, solutions proposed by the council, conclusions if any and of course, **ACCURATE INFORMATION**. The importance, progress and relevance of the committee's talks must also be clear. It's important to be objective and unbiased while writing these reports. You merely just present the facts about what happened in committee. Hence, observation is key. Refrain from mentioning procedural terms like, "The committee moved into a moderated/unmoderated caucus", "The EB entertained a motion...", "Committee broke for lunch" etc in your reports. Just provide information!

Word Limit: 500-600 words

4. Features

This is where delegates unleash their creative and fun side. Features are creative items that are written/edited in various ways such as diary entries, letters, stories, character sketches, poems,

songs, cartoons, posters, drawings, videos, memes, edits and whatnot. Sky's the limit here. While features can include humorous content, it's important to maintain a basic level of courtesy and respect.

Word limit: Up to you, but be reasonable and submit something worth reading

5. Interviews and Interview report:

Recording interviews is crucial and can be a very important asset to a delegate. It's essential to ensure their relevance to the agenda and newsworthy issues. Always seek consent before recording and use the material responsibly in your reports and press conferences. Adhere to ethical practices and respect the privacy of interviewees. Prepare a set of pertinent questions and potential follow ups, and maintain integrity and accuracy at all times. If you choose to use interview content in a press conference, please let the EB know before-hand.

Now that you know what an interview is, an **interview report** is nothing but a transcript of the same. You merely quote what you said, and what the delegate responded. Choose your questions wisely as an interview is one such place where you can receive a lot of pertinent information from a delegate!

Before starting to transcribe the interview - include one introductory paragraph talking about the relevance of the interview and what it was about. Once the transcript is done, include a conclusion paragraph summarizing the interview's contents and outcome. These paragraphs must be around 100 words each.

Since lengths of interviews can vary, there's **no specific word limit**. But remember to keep it crisp and to the point - the interview itself shouldn't be longer than 10 minutes, respect the delegate's time!

6. Crisis Article

It is important to acknowledge that while at a MUN simulation, you are Press members sitting in UN committees reporting on proceedings. Obviously, outside that committee room several other things are happening in the world.

Here's how the Crisis Article works:

The IPC EB will drop a Crisis Update on you that's either agenda-related or about the world

outside committee. Delegates will get time to understand it and clarify doubts. Then, assume 10-20 days have passed. Your task is to write a news piece on what unfolded in that period. Were there statements, policies, wars, retaliations, legal action, alliances, or solutions? If so, what exactly happened? Get creative but stay realistic and predict the aftermath.

There's no specific structure as such. It doesn't have to be in the form of an article in paragraphs. You could get creative with making up speeches by world leaders, press releases and whatnot. However, a simple article about the issue also works!!

If this doesn't make much sense to you right now, don't worry or panic, we'll go over it again in the orientation or during the committee.

NOTE: The above are only some of the articles you may have to submit as a member of the press. In certain cases, you may not have to submit some of the other articles. Or, you may or may not have additional submissions. If this is the case, you will be briefed on them during the conference.

Press Conference:

Press conferences are one of the most awaited and exciting parts of MUN's and are known to be the reason people even choose to delegate in the IPC. The spotlight is on the reporter in their respective committees where they have the power to question delegates on their speeches, past actions, stances, policies etc. The content obtained from Press Conferences would greatly assist you in writing reports as well.

Press Conferences can be either research based, based on what delegates state in committee or during interviews, or a mix of both. NEVER make up a quote by a delegate and question them on something fake, it only wastes your time. If you're questioning them on something said in committee, get the verbatim of the statement in advance either from the EB of the committee or from the delegate themselves.

Having some research, knowing what you're talking about, maintaining composure, committee awareness, and of course, engagement and attention are all important during a press conference. Always remember to have relevant facts and research to back up your claims. However, if your source and credibility is questioned, the burden of proof rests on the reporter. (show the EB your sources before the press conference so we can verify them). It enhances the quality of the press session.

Press conferences will be conducted during any of the days and the details will be shared in committee. Due to this, we highly urge all delegates to keep their questions/line of questioning, potential follow ups, research, sources etc ready by Day 1 itself. Conduction of the press conference is mandatory for all delegates so we encourage all reporters to come prepared. Research on what you want to press about beforehand and find additional content to question delegates on in committee if you wish.

Note that we will ask you for your press questions and sources prior to your press conference in order to give them the green light and ensure it is appropriate. Have some backup questions in hand in case some of your questions do not get approved.

Guidelines:

Formatting Guidelines:

Font: Times New Roman

Line spacing - 1.5

Size and Alignment:

- Title - 15 points, Bold, Centered
- By-line - 14 points, Italics, Left aligned
- Body - 12 points, Normal, Justified
- Pictures must be centre aligned. Sources for the photos must also be center aligned
- Sources for everything other than pictures: left aligned and all to be cited at the end of the document

Note: A by-line does not mean [By - (name)]. It is a one line gist of your article or what it is about. Eg: (Agency name) representative Varshini J, reporting from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) opines on the state of human rights in Pakistan.

- You are given the freedom to design your articles however you like. However, if you do decide to design your article, download the designed piece as a PDF and send it to us. But, remember to also provide us with a word document just with the text and pictures from your article for reference.
- Name your file as: **Name of Agency_Type of Submission_Committee_Day**
- Delegates will be informed of their committee allotments (i.e., which committee you will be reporting in) a few days prior to the conference.
- Delegates must strictly adhere to the deadlines allotted to them. Deadlines for each day will be announced at the beginning of the first session.

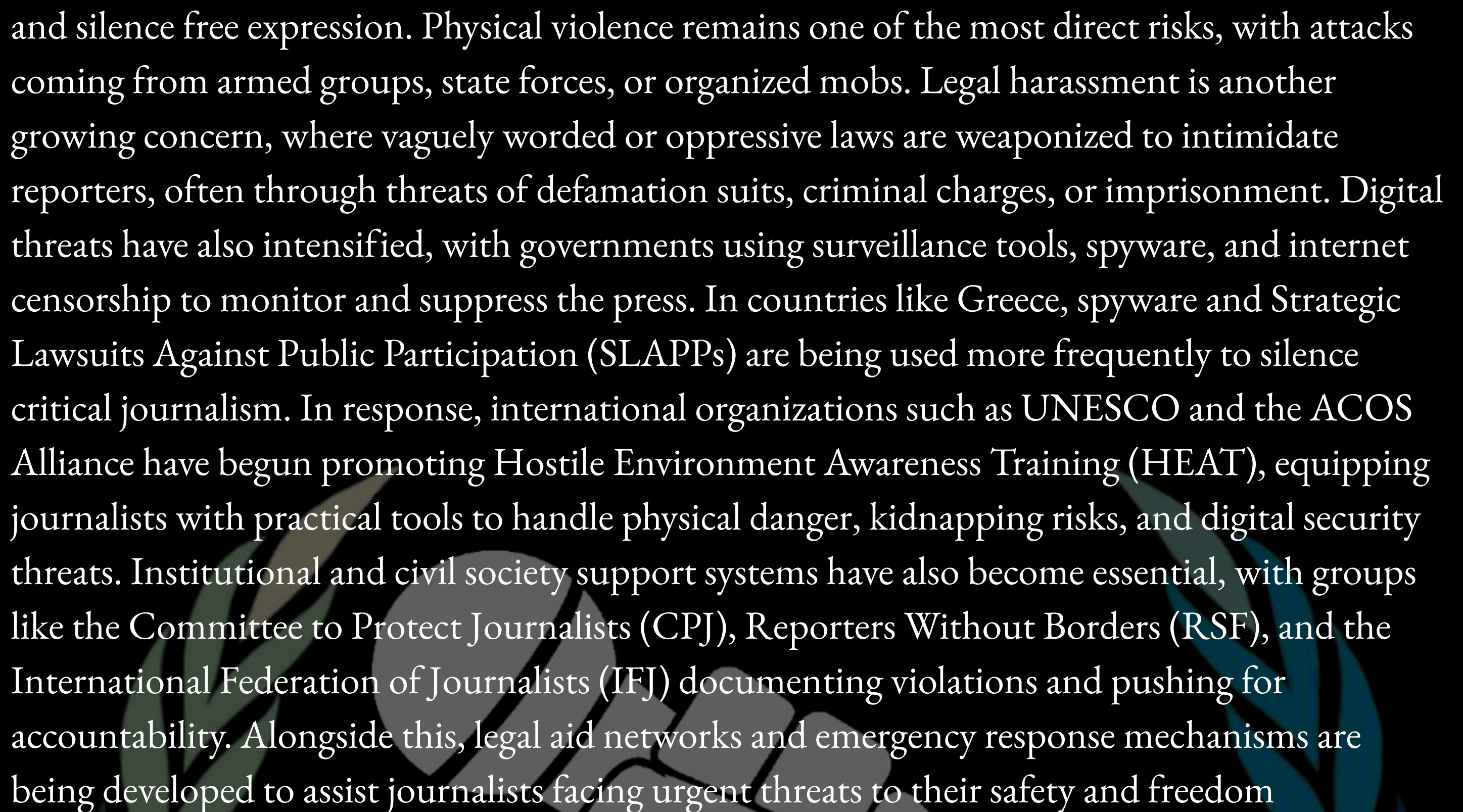
- Ensure that your articles align with the political biases and policies (if any) of your assigned agency.
- Organize your content into clear, distinct paragraphs. Well-structured articles are more engaging and easier to follow. Avoid putting all your content into a single paragraph.
- Avoid using personal pronouns. Refer to representatives by their country or portfolio (e.g., "The delegate of India stated that...").
- Do not use contractions (say "is not" instead of "isn't"; "does not" instead of "doesn't").
- Do not use procedural jargon like "Moderated Caucus," "GSL," or "Unmoderated Caucus"; use "formal debate" or "informal debate" instead.
- All assigned articles must include relevant pictures. They can be pictures from the internet, political cartoons or even photos you have clicked yourself. Credit the source of each picture appropriately. If you have clicked the photo yourself, cite yourself as the source.
- Abbreviations should be introduced in full form when first mentioned. Example: "The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) deliberated over drug trafficking in the Golden Triangle region. The UNODC further..."
- A 50-word margin above the upper word limit is allowed. However, meeting the minimum word limit is mandatory.
- All delegates are expected to adhere to the conference's code of conduct and equity policy as responsible journalists.
- Sample articles and further information on articles and press conferences will be shared closer to the conference to provide further clarity. Further information will be provided in the orientation session.
- NOTE: The marking weightage for this committee will be as follows:
 - 50% of your final marks will come from your articles.
 - 35% of your final marks will come from your press conference
 - 15% of your final marks will come from your performance in the debate aspect.

Introduction to the Agenda:

"Protecting Press Freedom in Hostile Environments"

This agenda focuses on ensuring journalists can operate safely and freely in hostile or dangerous settings. The goal is to identify threats, assess existing protections, and propose stronger frameworks - legal, institutional, and practical, to safeguard press freedom where it's most under threat. These environments include conflict zones, regions with aggressive governments, and places where legal or physical repression is common.

Journalists working in hostile environments face a range of threats that endanger their safety



and silence free expression. Physical violence remains one of the most direct risks, with attacks coming from armed groups, state forces, or organized mobs. Legal harassment is another growing concern, where vaguely worded or oppressive laws are weaponized to intimidate reporters, often through threats of defamation suits, criminal charges, or imprisonment. Digital threats have also intensified, with governments using surveillance tools, spyware, and internet censorship to monitor and suppress the press. In countries like Greece, spyware and Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs) are being used more frequently to silence critical journalism. In response, international organizations such as UNESCO and the ACOS Alliance have begun promoting Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT), equipping journalists with practical tools to handle physical danger, kidnapping risks, and digital security threats. Institutional and civil society support systems have also become essential, with groups like the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), Reporters Without Borders (RSF), and the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) documenting violations and pushing for accountability. Alongside this, legal aid networks and emergency response mechanisms are being developed to assist journalists facing urgent threats to their safety and freedom.

The Role of Non-State Actors in Endangering Press Freedom

While much of the focus on press freedom violations is on authoritarian governments, non-state actors such as extremist groups, private militias, corporate entities, and criminal cartels also pose serious threats. In war zones like Syria, Yemen, and Gaza, militant groups have abducted, tortured, and even executed journalists seen as opponents or foreign agents. In Mexico, drug cartels routinely target reporters covering organized crime, leading to one of the world's highest journalist murder rates. These actors operate with impunity, often filling power vacuums left by weak governance or corrupt institutions. Even outside conflict zones, corporations have used legal threats and surveillance to intimidate journalists investigating environmental damage, labor rights abuses, or corruption. In countries where the judiciary or police are compromised, such threats go unchecked. Additionally, online harassment campaigns often coordinated by trolls or bots - are used to dox and threaten female journalists or minority reporters.

Impunity and the Lack of Accountability for Crimes Against Journalists

One of the gravest problems undermining press freedom is the near-total impunity for attacks on journalists. According to UNESCO, nearly 9 out of 10 cases of journalist killings go unpunished. This lack of justice emboldens perpetrators and signals that attacking the press is a consequence-free act. Impunity can be institutional, when police refuse to investigate or structural, when the judiciary is politically influenced or underfunded. In countries like Somalia, Mexico, and the Philippines, dozens of journalists have been murdered over the past

decade, with almost no convictions. Even in the U.S., attacks on reporters during protests have rarely led to legal action. The 2018 murder of Jamal Khashoggi inside a Saudi consulate remains a high-profile example of international impunity; despite U.S. intelligence confirming the Saudi Crown Prince's involvement, no meaningful sanctions were imposed. Ultimately, the credibility of global press freedom commitments depends on ensuring that crimes against journalists are not just condemned but also punished.

Exile Journalism

Exile journalism is the practice of reporting from outside one's home country due to threats, censorship, or persecution. For many journalists, especially in autocratic regimes, exile becomes the only way to continue reporting freely. While exile offers physical safety, it comes with immense professional and personal challenges. Journalists in exile often lose access to sources, face funding issues, and must navigate unfamiliar legal systems or immigration controls. In countries like Iran, Russia, Myanmar, and Afghanistan, dozens of journalists have fled state persecution to continue their work abroad. Outlets like *Iran International* and *Radio Free Asia* rely on exiled reporters to cover stories from regimes that criminalize independent reporting. Despite being outside their countries, these journalists are not always safe. Several have faced digital surveillance, threats to family members, and even cross-border assassinations, as in the case of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi. Moreover, authoritarian states increasingly label exiled journalists as foreign agents or traitors to discredit their reporting.

Gender-Based Targeting of Journalists

Women journalists face a dual burden in hostile environments: general threats to press freedom and targeted abuse based on gender. Female reporters are often harassed, threatened, or attacked for merely doing their job and when they cover sensitive topics like sexual violence, religion, or politics, the backlash can be particularly vicious. Online abuse is a major issue, with coordinated campaigns involving doxxing, deepfakes, rape threats, and smear campaigns. In India, Rana Ayyub has faced relentless online harassment and state pressure for her investigative work. In Mexico and Brazil, female journalists covering corruption and organized crime have been killed or silenced. Often, the aim is to shame, intimidate, or push women out of journalism altogether. In many cultures, family members are targeted as an added form of pressure. International bodies like UNESCO and the International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF) have raised alarms about this growing trend, but protection mechanisms remain weak. Very few gender-specific threats are prosecuted, and many women are forced to self-censor or leave the profession.

Digital Surveillance

As newsrooms become more reliant on digital tools, surveillance technologies have become a growing threat to press freedom, especially in hostile environments. Governments and private actors are increasingly using spyware, metadata collection, and phone hacking to monitor journalists' communications. The Pegasus spyware scandal revealed how governments in Mexico, Hungary, India, and Saudi Arabia targeted reporters and dissidents. In many cases, these surveillance campaigns were followed by arrests, travel bans, or threats against family members. Even if not acted upon directly, surveillance creates a chilling effect: journalists begin to censor their communications, avoid sensitive investigations, or stop reporting altogether due to fear of reprisal. Furthermore, journalists working with whistleblowers or vulnerable sources risk exposing them unintentionally through digital leaks. Many lack the training or resources to defend against sophisticated cyber threats. While encryption and digital hygiene can provide some level of safety, systemic reform is needed to prevent mass surveillance, regulate spyware exports, and hold perpetrators accountable.

Legal Aspects:

Press freedom is enshrined in several international legal instruments, most notably Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Article 19 of both texts guarantees the right to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, regardless of frontiers. This establishes a clear legal foundation for journalistic activity across borders. UNSC Resolution 2222 specifically calls for the protection of journalists in conflict zones.

However, international law does not provide absolute protection. Restrictions may be imposed under Article 19(3) of the ICCPR, but only when necessary and proportionate to protect national security, public order, public health, or morals. In many hostile environments, states overreach by invoking vague or disproportionate national security laws to silence journalists, which violates the principle of legality and necessity required under international human rights law.

The UN Human Rights Committee, which monitors compliance with the ICCPR, has stressed in General Comment No. 34 that restrictions on press freedom must be specific, clear, and not overly broad. Laws criminalizing defamation, sedition, or spreading "false news" often fail to meet this standard.

Additionally, the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols protect journalists in

conflict zones as civilians, provided they are not taking a direct part in hostilities. UN Security Council Resolution 2222 (2015) also reaffirms the need to safeguard journalists in armed conflict and calls for the prosecution of those responsible for attacks on media workers. Under customary international humanitarian law, the targeting of journalists is a war crime when committed intentionally and as part of a systematic attack. Yet accountability remains weak, with impunity being the norm in most conflict zones.

Another key legal aspect is the role of regional human rights systems, such as the European Court of Human Rights, Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. These bodies have consistently ruled in favor of strong protections for media freedom and have condemned arbitrary arrests, censorship, and violence against journalists.

Misuse of Laws: Criminal defamation, anti-terrorism, national security, and financial regulations are often misused to jail journalists as seen recently in India under the UAPA and in Niger under cybercrime laws

Case Studies

1. CNN Crew Attacked in the West Bank (July 16 2025): A CNN team was assaulted by Israeli settlers while reporting on a U.S. citizen's death. The crew was documenting the aftermath of a shooting involving Israeli forces and Palestinian civilians near the town of Turmus Ayya, when they were surrounded and physically attacked by a group of armed settlers. Their equipment was damaged, and they were forced to abandon the scene despite being clearly identified as press. No arrests were made, prompting condemnation from the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the Foreign Press Association (FPA). Both organizations criticized Israeli authorities for failing to protect journalists and called for immediate accountability. The incident has sparked renewed scrutiny over the safety of foreign correspondents in conflict zones and the impunity often granted to settler violence in the occupied territories.

2. Azerbaijan Media Crackdown: Seven independent journalists, including from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), were sentenced to lengthy prison terms based on questionable financial charges which were widely seen as politically motivated. The journalists had been investigating government corruption and election manipulation when they were accused of tax evasion and illegal business operations. Human rights groups, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, condemned the trials as sham proceedings designed

to silence dissent. The verdicts mark the latest in a broader clampdown on free expression under President Ilham Aliyev's regime. International observers noted a systematic effort to dismantle independent media infrastructure in the country, with newsroom raids, license revocations, and digital censorship becoming increasingly common.

3. Arrest of Mario Guevara in the U.S.: In July 2025, Atlanta-based journalist Mario Guevara, clearly identified as press, was detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) after covering an immigration protest. Guevara, a Salvadoran-born reporter for El Nuevo Georgia, was wearing a press badge and actively filming a peaceful demonstration outside an ICE facility when he was suddenly apprehended, his camera confiscated, and held for several hours without charge. Advocates warn this could be a test case for suppressing critical journalism. Press freedom organizations, including the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), expressed alarm, calling the arrest a direct violation of the First Amendment and a chilling signal for reporters covering immigration and civil rights. The case has sparked outrage among immigrant communities and journalists nationwide, with many viewing it as an attempt to intimidate Latino and immigrant press voices.

4. Greece's Declining Media Freedom: Under Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis' government, Greece has seen a decline in press freedom. Journalists both independent and investigative have faced harassment and legal threats. Most notable in 2022 the "Predatorgate" scandal, where reporters were targeted with spyware monitored by the government. On the other hand government aligned news agencies have used defamation lawsuits like SLAPPs to silence this offence. Moreover public advertising funds have been weaponised by the government to praise media that supports the government. State control of other public broadcasters and their lack of support for media pluralism has shot down reporting freedom. Despite condemnation from Europe the Greek authorities deny this crisis and dismiss any claims of criticism. This situation is undermining the public's right to information and creating censorship.

5. Samira Sabou, Niger: Samira Dabou, a respected investigative journalist has twice faced detention for exposing government corruption and revealing military misconduct in Niger. In 2020 she was arrested and detained for almost two months following a defamation complaint under the cybercrime laws after reporting on alleged defense sector corruption. The charges were later dropped after this wrongful arrest. Then again in 2023, after a military coup she was abducted from her home and was charged with "supplying intelligence to a foreign power" and "spreading information likely to disturb public order. These charges were Based on a post on social media and alleged contact with diplomats, carried severe penalties including death. Her

detention involved a forced disappearance and phone confiscation. Press freedom groups have raised concerns about Niger's broadly defined laws to target journalists.

QADMA - Questions a Discussion Must Answer

1. To what extent should journalists risk their safety to report the truth in regions where press freedom is suppressed?
2. What are the major challenges preventing journalists from operating freely in hostile environments?
3. What steps can be taken to ensure the protection of press freedom where it is under threat?
4. Should news agencies publish articles from conflict zones if verifying facts is difficult and there is a risk of misinformation?
5. How can states balance national security concerns with the need to protect journalism?
6. What laws and rules could be enacted to protect journalists or how could existing legal frameworks be enhanced and strengthened to do the same?

