



LSE YouthMUN 2022

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the World Health Organisation of YouthMUN 2022! We are delighted to welcome you to our committee and cannot wait to see your collaboration on the pertinent topics we have chosen. We, Navin and Priyadarshan, are your chairs for this committee and we will be guiding you throughout the course of the conference.

The World Health Organisation, formed in 1948, is the body of authority for health in the United Nations system. It advocates for universal health care through its monitoring of public health risks and coordination of responses to health emergencies. In doing this, the WHO provides technical assistance to countries and sets international health standards by collecting data on global health issues. This committee is important because of its responsibility for providing leadership on global health matters. In what is an increasingly complex and rapidly changing landscape, it is more pertinent than ever to have global holistic solutions to resolving the health matters that concern us all.

We hope that you are excited to be a part of this committee, and cannot wait to see the innovative discussions that will be held. This committee will be a Novice committee, which means that many of you might not have too much experience in the world of MUN. But do not worry, we are here to guide you through all the steps and procedures, and we will make sure that you are all involved, engaged and know what is happening. In terms of preparation, we recommend that you come with research from the stances of your assigned nations; having personal and individual knowledge will really help to back your ideas and reflect your leadership. Furthermore, we recommend that you think about, and come prepared with, some possible solutions. Be ready to discuss your ideas with your peers and negotiate on finding common solutions - after all, MUN is all about diplomacy. Some advice would be that the best solutions combine the different ideas and stances of countries to result in a holistic approach - this is why we chose these topics; to encourage such conversation because of their vast breadth and diversion of opinions.

Our first topic is 'Global Mental Health Awareness'. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as a "state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community."

Mental health is a vital component to the functionality of every single person's life; it affects us all. However, mental health is a topic that is not spoken about enough on a global scale, with many areas not even knowing it exists. More importantly, young people are at a greater risk of mental-health conditions, because of the transition from childhood to adulthood - approximately 20% of the global youth experience a mental-health condition each year. Therefore, we hope that having these discussions on mental health awareness will encourage you all to take home some key messages about the importance of mental health, and maybe even spread this message to your friends and family.

Our second topic is 'Tackling Healthcare Inaccessibility for Migrants and Refugees'. On a global scale, there is an increasing number of migrants and refugees, who strive to find better opportunities for their families. In mid-2016, Sub-Saharan Africa hosted 4.5 million refugees, with almost 90 per cent of these being situated in developing countries. With so many displaced people, the healthcare needs for these members are often put aside and not focused on. The result is an increased threat of disease and illness, such as HIV, and a limited access to health support to mitigate and resolve this threat. This threat is worsened by the impacts of global warming, as many of these people's homes are directly impacted by extreme weather events, food shortages, sea level rise and land degradation. With continued dangers to basic supplies and basic healthcare, many migrants and refugees face the risks of illnesses that should not be common in this day and age. Therefore, we hope that you can understand the disadvantages that migrants and refugees face in their situations; solutions to such an issue should recognise these members as a 'part of society' and that they should be 'structural' rather than 'external' in our health systems.

Therefore, we are anticipating some fruitful discussions, and innovative ideas, and cannot wait to see what you all bring to the table. We are immensely excited to be your chairs for YouthMUN 2022, and we wish you the best of luck with preparing for this experience.

Sincerely,

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