

Dear Delegates,

I want to officially welcome you to Yeshiva University National Model United Nations XXXI! It is going to be an amazing conference, and I am looking forward to meeting all of you!

My name is Nina Siegel and I'm super excited and honored to be chairing the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) this year. I'm originally from Long Beach, NY and went to Central for high school, followed by a year and half at Sha'alvim for Women. Currently in my senior year at Stern College, I'm majoring in Political Science and minoring in Philosophy. Beyond the classroom, I keep busy by serving as the Torah Activities Student Council President, where I help to foster fun and meaningful religious life on campus. I was a delegate at YUNMUN for three years in high school (DISEC, IMO [gone, but not forgotten], and UNODC). I have since served as the Assistant Chair of COPUOS last year and I'm excited to be back as the chair of CSW (not to be confused with SCW [Stern College for Women]). While this year will definitely be a novel Model UN conference, I am confident that the level of discourse, creativity, and passion will be just as strong, and we will all work together to still foster a fun, engaging, and productive experience.

CSW is only in its fourth year at YUNMUN, but was established in 1946 to promote, report on, and monitor issues relating to women's rights around the world. According to its website, "The CSW is instrumental in promoting women's rights, documenting the reality of women's lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women."¹ When UNCSW was originally established, the issues being discussed were much more rudimentary, yet immensely important for the time. It was because of the seemingly small but impactful steps taken years ago that we are able to discuss and solve larger scaled issues concerning women today. We should be proud of the work already accomplished; however, our work is nowhere near completed. I anticipate that the efforts that are put forth in committee together will help further the goals of CSW.

This year our committee will be discussing gender-equality programming in humanitarian action. Crises do not affect everyone equally and we will determine how to better respond to the humanitarian needs of women at times of crisis. Please keep in mind that as a delegate you are expected to research and familiarize yourself with the unique perspective of your country on women and women's rights, which is especially relevant in CSW, as countries' views differ widely due to religious, cultural, social, and economic factors. Make sure you are representing your country's perspective on the issue at hand. Lastly, all position papers will be submitted through Turnitin, so make sure you include citations and refrain from plagiarizing.

¹ <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw>

If you have any questions, concerns, jokes, or just want to introduce yourself, please feel free to reach out at nesiegel@mail.yu.edu. I'm looking forward to hearing from all of you and having an incredible conference together!

Best,

Nina Siegel

Chair, Commission on the Status of Women

YUNMUN XXXI