



United Nations Security Council

Welcome Letter To the Delegates of the Security Council

To My Esteemed Delegates,

Hello, my name is Zahava Fertig and it is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to this year's Yeshiva University National Model United Nations XXXI.

For starters, here's a bit about me:

It was a cold and wintry Sunday in February, when a slightly younger version of your Chair, Zahava Fertig, an unassuming sophomore at Midreshet Shalhevet High School for Girls, made her way from a remote hamlet¹ in New York to her first Yeshiva University National Model United Nations Conference. It was on that day that her life was changed forever.

Representing the country of Australia in UNEP, I learned what it meant to be a part of something bigger than myself. I learned to develop my thoughts into coherent and concise statements. Using my persuasive skills, I collaborated with new allies and friends, some of which are current members of the YUNMUN staff today. Following that conference, I continued to participate in YUNMUN as a junior in UNRA and as a senior in UNDP. After a brief hiatus in Israel (MMY), I returned to YUNMUN, first as the Administrative Assistant for CTC and last year it was an honor to serve as the Co-Chair of the Security Council. Once again, I am pleased to return to the Security Council, now as Chair.

¹ Referred to by the common folk as 'Woodmere'

Additionally, here is some information about me that you can easily find with a quick google search. I am majoring in Political Science, (though I have dabbled in many majors at Stern, so feel free to ask me about any of them.) I have my own column in YU's independent student newspaper, [*The Commentator*](#),² and I occasionally do things that don't involve sitting in front of a computer screen.

Perhaps now you have a better understanding of why I take Model UN so seriously and why I expect each and every one of you to do the same.

The Security Council is a body of the United Nations that discusses the peace and security of the world.

I am most certainly not the first person nor the last person to tell you that YUNMUN XXXI will be unlike the others. As many of you may be returning delegates, you may automatically start to compare, though I urge you not to. This year's YUNMUN conference, despite its inherent differences, has the potential to redefine what it means to be an adaptable problem solver and advocate in our changing world.

This year the Security Council will be discussing failed nation-states and the future of democracy³. As we look around the world, there are dozens of countries that are struggling to manage their own democratic governments, eradicate terrorism and protect their citizens from the dangers found in their everyday lives. As delegates of the Security Council, you will research what your country's role is in aiding failed nations previously and develop ways in order to defend all of the democratic principles that the UN believes in. You must also determine the most effective way to defend and protect the civilians, caught in the middle of an armed conflict, who fear for their lives and dream of a safer and free country.

In a year with tremendous uncertainty, novelty, and polarization, we are faced with new and old threats to our peace and security. As delegates of the Security Council, though the world around

² Shameless plug

³ See the topic paper for a more detailed overview of the topic.

us may have changed, your task has not. The maintenance of international peace and security⁴ is in your hands. This task is one you must not take lightly.

But that depends on you. How prepared will you be? How well do you understand the nuances of your country and its citizens? I strongly advise you to come prepared as the more effort you put into the preparation, the more effective our committee sessions will be in its arrival of sustainable and realistic solutions.

Additional note: There is a zero tolerance for plagiarism. Every position paper will be uploaded through Turnitin.com.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or just to say hello: sfertig@mail.yu.edu

And I am looking forward to an engaging and productive conference with all of you.

Warmly,

Zahava Fertig

⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html>