

Hello Delegates!

My name is Kira Paley and I am excited to welcome you to YUNMUN XXVIII. I am honored to be the Chair of UNESCO and I cannot wait for this year's conference.

I am currently a junior at Stern, majoring in English Literature but on the path to pursue a career in medicine. I grew up in Teaneck, attended Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School for four excellent years, and spent a year in Israel learning at Midreshet Nishmat. At YU, I am an editor for The Observer, one of the school papers, and a writer/editor for The Scope, YU's satirical publication. This is only my second year participating in YUNMUN; though Ma'ayanot does have a delegation, my first time at YUNMUN was last year, when I was the assistant chair for IMO.

UNESCO, or the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, was established in 1945, in order to unite countries in the topics of science, culture, education, and communication. Some of UNESCO's goals include ensuring every child and citizen has access to/can benefit from education, making scientific discovery, and freedom of expression. As members of UNESCO, we all work together to make sure that all citizens of the world live in environments that are rich in self-expression, culture and diversity.¹

In an age when freedom of speech is still a matter of debate, and international and domestic conflicts are barring citizens from education and culture, UNESCO's existence is as important as ever. This year, we will be discussing two important issues: the preservation of cultural sites in areas of conflict, and the gender gap in STEM fields.

Before you begin researching these topics so that you can write position papers and come to the conference prepared, read about UNESCO's history, purpose, and accomplishments; this general information will guide your topic research (en.unesco.org). Also, please keep in mind that you are representing a country; therefore, your papers should reflect the positions of your respective countries, and not your personal opinions. Finally, note that all papers will be submitted to turnitin.com to ensure that nobody plagiarizes.

If you have any questions about anything, please email me at fpaley@mail.yu.edu. I look forward to meeting all of you!

Best of luck!

Kira Paley
Chair, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
YUNMUN XXVIII

¹ <http://en.unesco.org/about-us/introducing-unesco>