Dear UNHRC Delegates,

Hello everyone and welcome to YUNMUN XXIX United Nations Human Rights Council! My name is Shoshana Marder, and I am super excited be serving as your chair this conference.

A bit about me: I live in the beautiful quaint town of White Plains, New York where I enjoy spending my afternoons going to our only kosher restaurant in an abandoned mall. You might recognize me from my guest appearance on the White Plains local news station shoveling snow in a purple snowsuit in 2003 or from my starring role as Potiphar in the Maayanot production of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat. After spending my high school years roaming the halls of Maayanot, I attended Migdal Oz for a year where I championed the art of meditation and applying salt on cucumbers. I am now a Senior in Stern College majoring in History and minoring Psychology. As the President of Stern College for Women Student Council, I dedicate most of my time to representing and overseeing the different clubs on campus. I am also the founder and president of the Dean Bacon fan club, the queen of our lovely university. In my spare time, I like to make mashups of Yeshiva Boys Choir with Cardi B while single handedly fighting for the equal rights for humans across the world. YUNMUN XXIX will mark my 7th year on YUNMUN. In 2017, I was the assistant chair of UNEP, and last year I had the privilege of serving as one of the conference’s undersecretaries. This will be my 4th year in the Human Rights Committee.

But enough about me! As representatives of UNHRC, our mission is to protect and promote human rights around the world. How lovely! Established in 2006 to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights, the UNHRC investigates and makes recommendations on breaches of human rights, and addresses important human rights issue such as freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and LGBT rights. Despite being sort of a big deal, we still cannot require that countries take any specific action or do things such as imposing sanctions, authorizing armed intervention, providing a mandate to intervene, or passing binding resolutions. However, we can make recommendations to the Security Council and to the international community about what we think should be done in regard to specific issues. To further understand the power and limitations of the UNHRC, look at resolutions and statements the Human Rights Committee has made in the past.

This conference, the UNHRC will be discussing the important topic of the situation in Myanmar. These topics should serve as a starting point for our upcoming discussion, and are not a comprehensive list of what can be covered in the committee. In addition to researching the topic and your countries in depth, I encourage you to be well versed in the rules and structure of the committee and the guidelines listed in the YUNMUN Student Handbook. When writing your topic behaviors, remember to be presenting the views of your country rather than your own personal beliefs. As a heads up, all Topic Papers will be submitted through turnitin.com.

The topic discussed in the Human Rights Committee are personal and directly relevant to the lives of every individual in the world. I look forward to hearing everyone’s unique voice and opinion on the conference this coming February.

If you have any further questions or just want to say hello or talk about your feelings, you can email me at smarder3@mail.yu.edu.

Can’t wait for the best UNHRC Model UN has ever seen!
Best of luck,
Shoshana Marder
Chair, UNHRC
YUNMUN XXIX