

Dearest Delegates of the United Nations Human Rights Council,

Hello everyone and welcome to the United Nations Human Rights Council! My name is Maya Golan and I am super excited to be serving as your chair this conference!

A bit about me: I was born in Los Angeles, California where I basically spent the majority of my time hanging by the beach. I went to Shalhevet High School and then went on to study in the Old City of Jerusalem at Midreshet Harova. I am currently a senior at Stern College for Women and pursuing a degree in Journalism. Pre COVID era I enjoyed 305 dance classes, concerts, and delicious restaurants. Now, I enjoy Netflix and my best friend— my desk.

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 issues 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 regarding specific issues. To further understand the power and limitations of the UNHRC, look at resolutions and statements the Human Rights Council has made in the past.

Please note that this year the UNHRC Committee will be operating as a technology committee. As a technology committee, the allowance of laptops in-session will permit built-in research time, allowing us to foster nuanced and complex discussions covering essential world issues. While we will be using technology to enhance efficiency and learn more, other aspects of YUNMUN consistent with tradition will remain intact. Notes will be written and passed by hand, and much will take place as usual, without the use of technology. For more information on technology committees, please see the FAQ sheet, Technology Committee Procedure Guide, and YUNMUN Technology Committee Explained which will all be posted on the YUNMUN website.

All delegates are encouraged to properly research these topics, take into account their constantly changing factors, and be ready to discuss them at the conference. Outside-the-box thinking will certainly be appreciated and respected in this committee, as long as it is still pertinent and feasible. Please keep in mind that details discussed in the topic papers are to be used as a starting point for our upcoming discussion and are by no means a comprehensive list of what will be relevant to the conversation. Be sure to be familiar with your

own countries' views so that you can represent them accurately. Lastly, I urge you to familiarize yourself with the official YUNMUN guidelines outlined in the YUNMUN Delegate Handbook.

Please feel free to contact me at migolan@mail.yu.edu if you have any questions or comments. Good luck with your preparations!

Yours truly,
Maya Golan, UNHRC Chair