

Dear Delegates,

I am honoured and very excited (!) to welcome you to the UN Human Rights Council of YUNMUN XXX! We're going to spend a lot of time together to discuss and strategize some of the most troubling humanitarian crises around the globe.

A little bit about me: I'm from Toronto (did you catch that 'u' in the word honoured?), went to Ulpana for high school, and then to Migdal Oz for two years. I'm now a senior in YU and I'm majoring in Jewish Studies, with a minor in Biology. Last year I was an assistant chair in Security Council, and in high school I came to YUNMUN as a delegate, and was a delegate at two other Canadian Model UN conferences.

The UN Human Rights Council is tasked with addressing violations of human rights across the globe. UNHRC is only 14 years old, and was instituted to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights which was largely ineffective. Membership in UNHRC is decided with consideration to a country's "contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard" ("Membership of the Human Rights Council"). Not all countries actively support the UNHRC, and many have accused it of biased and have condemned it and do not take a seat on it. Others have criticized the council for allowing countries with severe human rights violations to serve a term.

As delegates on this committee, you should try to understand your country's record on human rights and how they relate to the issues we are discussing. A strong delegate will be prepared for our topics and should research their country's political views and allies. Delegates are expected to be consistent with their country's position, and promote new and insightful ideas that are consistent with their country's beliefs, and aligned with political considerations of their country. The topic papers represent an introduction to what will be discussing, but do not encompass the entire scope of our conversation.

This year, we will be discussing human rights violations related to a specific conflict, as well as a more global issue. We will address the human rights violations and the US-Mexico border and the treatment of migrants there. We will also discuss human rights violations of individuals with mental illness, which is a universal problem that reaches all countries. Remember that you are representing your country's view, not your personal one.

I am looking forward to meeting you in February, and I would love to hear from you sooner if you have any questions or concerns. Feel free to email me at [akelman1@mail.yu.edu](mailto:akelman1@mail.yu.edu).

Good luck in your preparations,

Atara Kelman  
Chair, UN Human Rights Council  
YUNMUN XXX

## Citations

Membership of the Human Rights Council

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Membership.aspx>