



Emmit DeHart

United Nations Human Rights Council: Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVI

Welcome delegates to YUNMUN XXXVI! My name is Emmit DeHart, and I am very excited to be serving as the chair of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) committee this year!

I am originally from Seattle, Washington (go Seahawks!), and I am currently in my Junior year at Yeshiva College. I am double-majoring in Political Science and History, hoping to attend law school upon graduating. This will be my second YUNMUN, last year serving as the administrative assistant for UNICEF. Outside of YUNMUN, I'm a writer for the YU undergraduate Law Review and a member of YUPAC (Yeshiva University Political Action Committee). Also, I am on the YU men's varsity fencing team (Go Macs!).

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)'s responsibility is to protect the rights, liberties, and freedoms¹, of every individual. The UNHRC is “an intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe.”² Our job is to investigate issues and report on complex issues of human rights, and then draft resolutions ensuring and promoting the safety and dignity of people around the world.

The first topic we will address at this year's conference is human rights violations in North Korea. North Korea has, for decades, been accused of extreme human rights violations, including forced labour, restriction of movement, and suppression of free speech. The UNHRC is responsible for addressing these accusations and holding leaders in North Korea accountable for

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/human-rightsfreedoms>

² <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/about-council>



their decades of abuse, while working to bring forth change and prosperity for the people of North Korea.

The Second issue we will discuss is the global use of Capital Punishment. The UNHRC strongly opposes the use of the death penalty in all circumstances³ as a punishment for crime due to the irreversible outcome and the possibility for error or abuse in administering the death penalty. However, many countries still allow for the use of capital punishment within their countries' legal systems.

When researching and writing your topic papers, please remember that you are representing your country's opinions, not your own. Your research will be critical to your ability to engage in meaningful debate and to work with fellow delegates to craft meaningful resolutions. Please remember that papers are submitted through Turn-It-In to check for authenticity, as well as for originality. Use of Generative AI is prohibited.

Please feel free to reach out any time with questions or comments (or to just say hi). I'm available via email at edehart@mail.yu.edu. Looking forward to an amazing conference!

All the best,

Emmit DeHart

Chair, United Nations Human Rights Council

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³ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/topic/death-penalty>