

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to YUNMUN XXXI! My name is Avigail Winokur, and I'm very excited to be chairing the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) this conference.

I'm originally from Queens, New York (though am currently living in Jerusalem at the time of writing this) and went to Central for high school. I attended Midreshet Harova for a year, and am now in my second year at Stern majoring in neuroscience and minoring in creative writing. I'm not exactly sure what I plan on doing after college and am open to any and all suggestions you may have!

I've been a part of YUNMUN since I was a delegate in 10th grade and served as an Administrative Assistant for DISEC last year. I was actually a delegate on UNICEF during my senior year of high school!

While YUNMUN this year will certainly look very different from YUNMUN in the past, I am confident that together, we can have an awesome time and great conversation. To those of you attending your first YUNMUN, I'm sure this isn't what you imagined when you signed up. To those of you attending your last YUNMUN (as delegates ;)), I can imagine how disappointed you may feel. I promise you all that I will try my hardest to ensure that you all get the experience you deserve, even though we'll be virtual. I understand how tiring and hard it can be to be on Zoom for hours at a time, and will certainly take that into account, but I'm confident that we can still make this an engaging and rewarding experience for everyone.

Now more than ever, children are at increased risk throughout the world. The pandemic has understandably become the forefront of society, whereas marginalized groups can be more easily forgotten. UNICEF was established on December 11th, 1946 to provide food, clothing, and health care to the children of post-World War II war-torn Europe¹. Since 1946, UNICEF has expanded its mission way beyond that. Their full mission statement can be found [here](#).

The purpose of UNICEF is as follows:

“UNICEF promotes the rights of every child, emphasizing the most disadvantaged, excluded and vulnerable children. UNICEF and its partners work to provide all children with opportunities to survive, develop and reach their full potential to the benefit of the sustained growth and stability of countries and a global standard of human rights for all.”²

¹ <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/thisday/dec11/unicef-founded/>

² [https://www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/files/UNICEF_Mission\(1\).pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publicpartnerships/files/UNICEF_Mission(1).pdf)

In our sessions, we will be focusing on child trafficking on the dark web. As the internet continues to dominate the majority of our lives, especially after COVID-19 upended normal life, it's important now more than ever to remain vigilant and aware of the dangers that lie beneath the internet's surface. I'm very excited to hear all of your ideas, and I know that you will all bring a lot to the table.

If you have any questions, concerns, or even just want to say hi, please feel free to reach out to me at awinokur@mail.yu.edu. I'm really looking forward to hearing from all of you and reading your position papers.

As you prepare for this year's conference, please keep in mind that you are representing your country's views and not your own. Please remember to include citations, and keep in mind that all papers will be submitted through Turnitin, so be wary of plagiarism.

All the best,

Avigail Winokur

Chair, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

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