

Yael Tangir

YUNMUN XXXVI

UNICEF: Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the UNICEF Committee at YUNMUN XXXVI! My name is Yael Tangir, and I am honored to serve as your chair this year. This is my third year at YUNMUN; I began as Assistant Chair for MES, I chaired UNEP last year, and now I am delighted to lead UNICEF. As a senior, this will be my last YUNMUN, and I am excited for the experience we will share.

I was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, where I attended a Jewish school. My Model UN journey began at 13, and I have since participated in national and international conferences, chaired committees, and served on my school's MUN board. After high school, I spent a year in Israel at Midreshet Lindenbaum. At Yeshiva University, I serve on the Student Council, as President of the International Club, and as VP of the Sephardic Club. Back home, I co-founded an organization helping children in need through tutoring, fundraising, and activities. Academically, I am double-majoring in Finance and Strategy.

UNICEF works in over 190 countries to protect children's rights, meet their basic needs, and create opportunities for their future. This year, our first topic is **Unaccompanied Children in Migration Crises**, which is classified as the struggles faced by minors who cross borders without their parents or guardians. Around the world, more than 48.8 million children have been displaced as of 2024¹, including refugees and those forced to flee within their own countries.

¹ UNICEF, *Displaced Children and Migration Statistics 2024*.

Delegates should look at how to better protect children, strengthen support systems, and encourage wealthier nations to take responsibility.

Our second topic is **Child Recruitment by Armed Groups**, addressing the ongoing use of child soldiers despite international prohibitions. In 2024, the UN verified 7,402 cases of child recruitment across 25 conflict-affected areas, alongside 22,495 verified grave violations, including killings, maiming, sexual violence, abduction, and recruitment.² Delegates will actively work on strategies for accountability, prevention, and post-conflict support for children.

Both topics focus on the challenge of protecting children while respecting national sovereignty. Delegates should think about the humanitarian urgency behind these issues as well as the political and legal limits that affect global cooperation. I urge you to begin your research early, write thoughtful position papers, and come prepared with not only facts but ideas. I also expect you to represent your country's stance accurately, debate thoughtfully, and work toward realistic, cooperative solutions.

Please remember that plagiarism, including the use of AI, will not be tolerated, and all papers will be reviewed through Turnitin. Any plagiarism could affect a delegate's chance of receiving an award. Most importantly, this conference is your opportunity to challenge yourself, collaborate with others, and deepen your understanding of global issues.

If you have any questions regarding the committee, the topics, or the procedure, please do not hesitate to contact me at ytangir@mail.yu.edu. I am here to support you throughout this process, and I cannot wait to see the creativity you bring to the debate.

² UN Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, *2024 Annual Report*.



Best regards,

Yael Tangir

Chair, UNICEF Committee

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