

Dear UNODC,

Welcome to Yeshiva University's National Model United Nations XXVIII! My name is Keren Neugroschl and I am very excited to be your committee chair.

A little bit about myself: I grew up in Bergenfield, NJ, attended Ma'ayanot Yeshiva High School and then spent a year studying in Israel at Nishmat. I am currently in my third and final year in Stern College where I am majoring in Political Science and minoring in English. This is also my third year participating in YUNMUN (though I wish I would have been involved in high school!). The first time I was at YUNMUN, I was an Administrative Assistant for the World Health Organization and last year I was the chair of UNESCO. Those two committees were amazing but I'm sure that UNODC is going to be even better!

The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime was established in 1997 in order to deal with problems worldwide that involve terrorism, drugs, and crime. Specifically, UNODC works in three different areas -- offering field-based support to help countries cope with issues related to terrorism, drugs, and crime; conducting research to make informed decisions regarding projects to support; and assisting countries in implementing international treaties related to these issues.¹ At the conference this year, we will be focusing on two pressing topics: the global opioid crisis, and the issue of migrant smuggling among Syrian refugees.

Some advice when conducting research: I encourage all delegates to research our committee to get a sense of what UNODC does beyond these two topics, as it will help you get a better idea of the goals and responsibilities of the committee. I also urge you to keep in mind that you are representing a country and not your own personal position. When writing your position papers, make sure that you are writing honest representations of your country's positions. Also, I have to remind you that all position papers will be submitted to turnitin.com for plagiarism review.

I look forward to reading your position papers and meeting you all in February! If you have any questions, comments, or just want to introduce yourself, please feel free to email me at Karen.neugroschl@mail.yu.edu.

Best of luck,

¹ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html>

Keren Neugroschl

Chair, United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime

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