

Dearest Delegates of the United Nations Human Rights Council,

Hello everyone and welcome to the United Nations Human Rights Council! My name is Jonah Loskove and I am super excited to be serving as your chair this conference!

A bit about me: I am from Woodmere, NY. After finishing high school at DRS, I spent a year in Yeshivat Hakotel and now am a junior in the Sy Syms School of Business majoring in Finance and minoring in English. On campus at YU, I am fortunate to be the Co-Chair of the Wilf Student Life Committee and President of the Syms Honors Student Committee.

As representatives of UNHRC, our mission is to protect and promote human rights around the world. How lovely! Established in 2006 to replace the UN Commission on Human Rights, the UNHRC investigates and makes recommendations on breaches of human rights, and addresses important human rights issues such as freedom of expression, freedom of religion, and LGBT rights. Despite being sort of a big deal, we still cannot require that countries take any specific action or do things such as imposing sanctions, authorizing armed intervention, providing a mandate to intervene, or passing binding resolutions. However, we can make recommendations to the Security Council and to the international community about what we think should be done regarding specific issues. To further understand the power and limitations of the UNHRC, look at resolutions and statements the Human Rights Council has made in the past.

Please note that this year the UNHRC Committee will be operating as a technology committee. While we will be using technology to enhance efficiency and learn more, other aspects of YUNMUN consistent with tradition will remain intact. For more information on technology committees, please see the FAQ sheet, Technology Committee Procedure Guide, and YUNMUN Technology Committee Explained which will all be posted on the YUNMUN website. All delegates are encouraged to properly research these topics, take into account their constantly changing factors, and be ready to discuss them at the conference.

Outside-the-box thinking will certainly be appreciated and respected in this committee, as long as it is still pertinent and feasible. Please keep in mind that details discussed in the topic papers are to be used as a starting point for our upcoming discussion and are by no means a comprehensive list of what will be relevant to the conversation. Be sure to be familiar with your own countries' views so that you can represent them accurately. Lastly, I urge you to familiarize yourself with the official YUNMUN guidelines outlined in the YUNMUN Delegate Handbook.

Please feel free to contact me at jloskov1@mail.yu.edu if you have any questions or comments. Good luck with your preparations!

Yours truly,
Jonah Loskove, UNHRC Chair