



**Dartmouth College
Model United
Nations**

April 4-6, 2025

Dartmouth Model United Nations 2025

April 4 - 6, 2025

Dartmouth College · Rockefeller Center · Hanover, NH 03755

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Madeleine Shaw
Secretary-General

April 4, 2025

Lucy Vitali
Director-General

Dear Delegates,

Reva Gandhi
Chief of Staff

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the seventeenth installment of the Dartmouth Model United Nations conference! Since last year's conference, we have been tirelessly preparing to host you once more in Hanover, New Hampshire. Offering a smaller, more dynamic setting, DartMUN stands out as a special conference that will excite both new and veteran participants. Our committees are designed to foster a comfortable yet challenging atmosphere, promoting active engagement and learning through hands-on collaboration. Through attending our conference, we aspire to help you develop both skills and friendships centered around a passion for international cooperation.

Noah Amidon
Chargé d'Affaires

Rohan Goyal
Deputy Secretary-General

Aubrey King
Chief of Communications

Daniel Chen
Chief of Internal Relations

This year's committee topics cover a diverse range of subjects, from conflicts in Cyprus and Syria to space militarization and genetic modification. Newcomers are encouraged to boldly express their ideas, engage in discourse, and build connections with others. Seasoned delegates are invited to lend support to their peers, hone their skills, and further explore the possibilities revealed by collaboration.

Anika Mukker
Under-Secretary-General
General Assemblies

Tula Nicholson
Under-Secretary-General
Specialized Agencies

Should you have any questions or concerns during the conference, we urge you to approach any member of our staff or secretariat. We eagerly anticipate the opportunity to welcome each of you!

Daniel Pruder
Under-Secretary-General
Historical Crises

Sincerely,

Madison Davis
Under-Secretary-General
Current Crises & Ad-Hoc

Madeleine Shaw
Secretary-General | DartMUN XVII

Lucy Vitali
Director-General | DartMUN XVII

Emily Leung
Under-Secretary-General
Future Crises

Position Paper Guidelines

The background guide provides you with a framework and structure to continue doing research on your topic and investigating your country's stance. We encourage delegates to further explore the intricacies of the topics and develop creative solutions beyond the background guide.

Position papers are an opportunity for delegates to summarize their research in preparation for the conference. Delegates are strongly encouraged to write position papers for each topic. Below is the general structure for papers that can be adapted depending on your country and committee:

- I. Topic Background: Include a brief summary of the topic and outline your country's past involvement and experience with the issue.
- II. Country Stance: Explain your country's policies and position on the issue, including relevant statistics and research.
- III. Proposed Solutions: Propose and provide further details on possible solutions and identify and analyze potential benefits and drawbacks. Remember that your solutions should reflect your country's policies.

Delegates should write one position paper per topic, with each paper a maximum of one page long (excluding the works cited page). No cover pages. All papers should be single-spaced with standard margins in Times New Roman 12 pt. font. Place the following in the top left-hand corner of both your position papers: committee, country, delegate's name, school, and topic. All sources should be appropriately cited.

Position papers should be submitted using this [Google Form](#) either as a Word document or PDF by March 30th, 11:59 PM EDT. Delegates who do not submit position papers will be ineligible for awards. If you wish for an extension, please email your chair(s). Questions regarding position papers should be directed to the DartMUN email (dartmun@dartmouth.edu).

Google Form Submission: <https://forms.gle/DsktBNTONtHGaor19>

Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee)

Committee Directors: Atticus Belcher and Maia Bazo Vergara

Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the entire Dartmouth Model United Nations staff, we are thrilled to welcome you to this year's conference! We look forward to seeing all of you in Hanover this spring. DartMUN offers a unique opportunity to interact, learn, and grow alongside students from around the world, and we encourage you to make the most of this experience. The United Nations (UN) is built on the principle of collaboration. In that spirit, we hope each of you will not only fully embrace your assigned country but also engage meaningfully with others to achieve collective goals. This conference is at its best when we break down barriers and work together to craft impactful policy.

To introduce ourselves, my name is Atticus and I'm so excited to get to serve as one of your SOCHUM committee chairs for this year's conference. I hail from Mount Juliet Tennessee where I participated in MUN all 4 years of high school. During my senior year I was elected to serve as Tennessee's statewide secretary general which was an experience I will always cherish. At Dartmun I strive to continue to bring positive energy and a strong passion for International politics in all that I do. If there are any questions at all please do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you this Spring!

My name is Maia, I will be your other SOCHUM committee chair for DartMUN 2025. I am a first-year student coming from Lima, Peru planning to double major in Government and Economics. I am also a member of the DartMUN travel team. During my time in high school, I competed for over 3 years in national MUN conferences and supported the team by becoming a student mentor. As a committee chair, I want to provide the same energy; feel free to ask any questions or inquiries regarding the conference.

Together, as your committee chairs, we are dedicated to ensuring the conference runs smoothly while fostering a collaborative environment. We are here to answer your questions and provide advice or guidance whenever needed. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us before the conference. With that said, we wish you the best of luck in the months ahead. Remember to research thoroughly and come prepared to represent your country with accuracy and insight. Until then, best wishes!

Sincerely,

Atticus Belcher '28 | atticus.w.belcher.28@dartmouth.edu

Maia Bazo Vergara '28 | maia.bazo.vergara.28@dartmouth.edu

Committee Overview

SOCHUM, also known as the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, is the third committee of the UN General Assembly. When World War II ended in 1945, the United Nations General Assembly was established as a central organ of the United Nations to discuss, debate, and make recommendations on international peace and security.¹

After its creation, the assembly allocated six committees focused on specific agendas. In 1948, SOCHUM was created to discuss questions about humanitarian rights; since then, 79 sessions have been held, involving 193 countries.²

The Third Committee of the General Assembly (GA), or SOCHUM, was formed on January 10, 1946, during the first-ever GA session. During the session, the GA began drafting what would eventually become The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. At the 178th meeting in 1948, this declaration was finally passed with overwhelming support.³

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights serves as SOCHUM's guiding document. Through it, SOCHUM carries forth its mission to maintain, defend, and advance the essential needs of every human being on Earth. SOCHUM has all the powers of a General Assembly committee. While the committee cannot enforce standards on any one nation or people, SOCHUM does have the capacity to set international standards and make strong recommendations for other countries.⁴

According to the UN's official website, SOCHUM specifically discusses questions pertaining to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination.

¹ United Nations, "UN General Assembly - Third Committee," Social, Humanitarian & Cultural, 2024, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>.

² National High School Model United Nations, "SOCHUM: Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee," IMUNA | NHSMUN | Model UN, 2020, <https://imuna.org/nhsmun/nyc/committees/sochum-social-humanitarian-cultural-committee/>.

³ Eleanor Openshaw and Madeleine Sinclair, *Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly: A Practical Guide for NGOs* (2021; repr., International Service for Human Rights, 2021), https://ishr.ch/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ishr_3rd_com_handbook_eng_web.pdf.

⁴ S Zhu, "What Is SOCHUM?," All-American Model United Nations, January 13, 2022, <https://www.allamericanmun.com/what-is-sochum/>.

The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, aging, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.⁵

General Assembly delegates meet annually in New York City to discuss these questions. Before each meeting, an agenda for SOCHUM will be put forth by the GA. When the meeting starts, participating countries will have the ability to discuss, draft, and ultimately create resolutions to solve the most pressing issues pertaining to this overarching agenda. These solutions are presented to the General Assembly once the committee is adjourned.

In addition to member states, the committee takes insight from various voices and agencies within the United Nations. These include agencies like The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). These agencies provide key perspectives for the committee to draft clear, and most importantly, practical solutions that fall in line with UN jurisdiction as well as the economic, political, or social capabilities of a given region or country.

⁵ "Functions and Powers of the General Assembly," United Nations, 2024, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>.

Topic 1: Improving Access to Healthcare Among Refugees in Latin America

This issue involves migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees in the Latin American region, specifically between international migrants (including settled migrants from Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador; emerging migrants from Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Columbia, Haiti, and Chile; and migrants from other countries).

Recently, migration has been classified as a health determinant, as the social conditions of immigrants make them more prone to diseases and less access to healthcare. Indeed, migrants and refugees have been placed in less-paid jobs in their new country of residence. The migrant refugee population regularly faces challenges of adaptation due to limited knowledge of the social system, as well as issues related to food, sanitation, and access to healthcare.⁶

During the last few years, over 5.5 million refugees have left Venezuela, 4.6 million living within the Latin American region. While many countries in Latin America have laws that aim to provide healthcare for the international migrant population, services like primary and mental healthcare were the hardest to access. Technical, cultural, and structural barriers throughout the process make it difficult for migrants to access healthcare.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, migrants in Latin American countries suffered from a lack of access to healthcare and migration laws that prevented them from leaving the country, specifically, policies devised without consideration of migration and human mobility. Countries where migrants reside are not complying with the international standards devised to promote the health of refugees and migrants.

Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, Latin American refugees have faced a plethora of hardships and, as a result, a wide range of varying health risks. During the 1950s and 1960s, Cold War regimes such as communist Cuba and Authoritarian Guatemala led to the mass exodus of Latin American citizens.

⁶ Marcela Oyarte et al., “Unequal Access and Use of Health Care Services among Settled Immigrants, Recent Immigrants, and Locals: A Comparative Analysis of a Nationally Representative Survey in Chile,” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 20, no. 1 (December 31, 2022): 741, <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20010741>.

In Cuba, thousands of refugees fled to the United States, particularly Southern Florida. Many of these refugees were women and children who fled out of fears of persecution. In total, the U.S. let in nearly 248,100 Cuban refugees between 1959 and 1962. Many of these refugees were left without food, water, or basic health accommodations during the process of migration.

United States-backed authoritarian governments in Guatemala also led to the exodus of hundreds of thousands of Guatemalan refugees from the 1954 U.S. CIA-backed coup up until the 1980s. Similar health concerns also arose.

On September 11, 1973 Chile experienced a violent military coup led by revolutionary Augusto Pinochet. Subsequently, this led to 17 years of authoritarian rule and the widespread migration of Chilean citizens who feared persecution.

Between 1976-1983 the Argentinian government conducted a campaign dubbed “The Dirty War” where 10,000-30,000 Argentinians were killed. These murders were directed amongst both opponents of the government and innocent people. This also led to the mass exodus of thousands of Argentinians who sought to flee the tyrannical actions of the government.

Since the 1980s, the Latin American drug cartel has been predominantly centered in Mexico and, as a result, has led to various drug wars. These wars have become increasingly intense and have forced millions of Mexican refugees to flee. The U.S. has been the most common sanctuary for these refugees however, recent immigration policy in the U.S. has resulted in growing pressures from other central American countries to accommodate the needs of these individuals. The safe and humane accommodation for these refugees is crucial

Natural disasters such as the 2010 Haitian earthquake and strings of violent hurricanes in the Caribbean have also led to an influx of refugees in Central and Southern America. Many of these refugees are forced out of their countries and are left without any basic necessities. As climate conditions worsen and weather patterns amplify, the need for health accommodation also increases.

We must learn from past waves of refugees and ensure that political instability, natural disasters, or any other event that forces migration is supplemented by proper aid and access to sustainable healthcare opportunities.

Implications

As major refugee locations like the United States, and Canada enforce harsher immigration laws, it necessitates that other Latin American countries are able to have proper infrastructure, technology, and resources to ensure the safe transfer of refugees and a realistic path towards a higher standard of living.

If this is not achieved then it is certain that lives will be lost and refugees will have nowhere to turn. This is a humanitarian crisis and therefore it requires the collaboration of the United Nations and all International agencies who focus their efforts on humanitarian assistance.

Bloc Positions

- Countries in Latin America with an influx of migration from Venezuela: Colombia, Peru, Brazil, and Chile. Over 6.5 million Venezuelans who emigrated from Venezuela reside in Latin America; currently, there are 2.85 million Venezuelans in Colombia, 1.5 million in Peru, 568,000 in Brazil, and more than 500,000 in Chile.
- Countries with longstanding histories of immigration: United States, Germany, Canada, and United Kingdom. Throughout the second half of the twentieth century, the United States, Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom experienced high waves of foreign emigration from countries across the world. These countries must collaborate to share their policies and form a consensus on the best way to administer safe immigration in Latin America.
- World powers that have developed healthcare systems: United States, United Kingdom, France. The world powers, some of which are the U.S., U.K., and France have developed healthcare systems that may be useful in building a framework as to how we can improve access to healthcare amongst refugees in Latin America.

Questions to Consider:

1. What healthcare systems are currently available for migrants in Latin America?
2. How does the lack of healthcare for immigrants affect their quality of life?
3. What are the biggest challenges to making healthcare accessible in Latin American countries?
4. How are Latin American countries addressing an increasing number of immigrants?
5. What policies have been successful at supporting immigrants who require access to healthcare?

Topic 2: Reducing Gender-Based Violence for Women in Central and West Africa

Who is affected by gender-based violence in Central and West Africa?

In Central and West Africa, women and girls are disproportionately affected by gender-based violence, specifically in conflict-affected regions, with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees experiencing the highest rates of sexual and gender-based violence. There is particularly a large number of women and girls from rural communities who are affected by this problem because of limited access to support services and harmful social norms.

Where is the problem relevant?

The problem is relevant in West and Central Africa (countries include: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo).

In these areas, there is conflict and violence, extreme poverty, weak governance, chronically high food insecurity and malnutrition, and the impact of climate change has drawn millions of people in these regions to need humanitarian assistance. In areas with a large amount of conflict, civilians are facing a dramatic protection crisis in an increasingly volatile context where women and girls are at a large risk of sexual and gender-based violence.

What's the nature of the problem?

The Gender-Based Violence AOR (2024)⁷ states that Central and West Africa are conflict-affected regions where women are more prone to suffer from sexual and gender-based violence. This situation is worsened by socio-cultural norms that affect young girls and women.

⁷ Tiéba Traoré, "IM Global GBV Regional," Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility, October 29, 2024, <https://gbvaor.net/global-gbv/regional/183>.

According to UN Women Africa in 2023⁸, four out of ten women in West Africa and six out of nine women in Central Africa struggle with violence. Close family members or intimate partners usually perpetuate these aggressions. The final report of UN Women in 2022⁹ showed that Africa was the region with the most homicides committed by close family or partners with 20,000 homicides.

Many reasons today are studied as the possible proponents for gender-based violence. In Central and West Africa, a woman's role in the labor market is positively related to gender-based violence. Backed by the male backlash theory, when women are economically interdependent from their partner they could perceive it as a threat, which will ultimately lead to physical violence to establish a sense of dominance in the household.¹⁰

Similarly, the death of children under 5 or 6 can make women more likely to experience gender-based violence, as they are blamed for the passing in the family (Weitzman & Smith-Greenaway, 2020.)¹¹

When did the problem start, and how has it changed over time?

Gender-based violence in Africa has deep roots within various countries. Since ancient times, gender roles have been the foundation to social dynamics and hierarchies.

The colonial period reinforced many of these traditional gender roles. Colonial legal systems largely ignored instances of rape, domestic violence, and mutilation. Within many of these societies, women were deemed possessions, dehumanized, and subjected to life-threatening

⁸ Kadiatou Boiro, "UN Women and Its Partners Call for Long-Term, Sustainable Investments to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls.," UN Women – Africa, 2023, <https://africa.unwomen.org/en/stories/communique-de-presse/2023/11/campagne-des-16-jours-dactivisme-2023-en-a-frique-investir-pour-prevenir-la-violence-a-legard-des-femmes-et-des-filles-en-afrique>.

⁹ UNODC, "Gender-Related Killings of Women and Girls (Femicide/Feminicide): Global Estimates of Female Intimate Partner/Family-Related Homicides in 2022" (UN Women Headquarters Office, 2023), <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/gender-related-killings-of-women-and-girls-femicide-feminici-de-global-estimates-2022-en.pdf>.

¹⁰ Alberto Alesina, Benedetta Brioschi, and Eliana La Ferrara, "Violence Against Women: A Cross-cultural Analysis for Africa," *Economica* 88, no. 349 (May 2020): 70–104, <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecca.12343>.

¹¹ Abigail Weitzman and Emily Smith-Greenaway, "The Marital Implications of Bereavement: Child Death and Intimate Partner Violence in West and Central Africa," *Demography* 57, no. 1 (January 27, 2020): 347–71, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-019-00846-7>.

abuse. As decolonization took form during the 19th and 20th centuries, many post-colonial African governments have struggled to find a place for women's rights within their jurisdiction. This is also a product of continued poverty, war, and rebellion.

This long history of abuse has left women especially vulnerable during times of conflict. At the same time, governments within many Central and West African countries still have yet to provide very little protection.

This lack of involvement requires SOCHUM to get involved. Combatting this long-standing issue requires a transnational effort to identify and wipe out any indication of gender-based violence.

What are the implications if the issue is not solved?

If gender-based violence is not immediately addressed in Africa, then the future safety of Women across the inner regions is threatened. It is naive to believe that every governing body within the continent has the governing structures in place to eradicate such a deep-rooted crisis.

Furthermore, if gender-based violence in Africa is not addressed immediately, the UN will send a devastating precedent of inaction to the rest of the international community. The UN relies on its credibility and power to enforce mandates that promote the well-being of every man, woman, and child on earth. Inaction regarding gender-based violence in Africa also means inaction in Southeast Asia, Central America, and every other pocket of the world devastated by this humanitarian crisis.

Bloc Positions

- African countries with high rates of gender-based violence: Cameroon, Rwanda, and Zimbabwe. These countries have historically neglected to address gender-based violence for a variety of domestic reasons unique to each state. This bloc may feel affronted by any resolutions directly condemning issues of gender-based violence, seeing it as an attack on the state.

- Countries with high gender power inequality: Afghanistan, Chad, and Yemen. These states are unlikely to pass domestic legislation to address issues of gender-based violence due to the acceptability of gender power inequity within their countries.
- Developed countries that have developed protections against gender-based violence: Finland, Norway, and Spain. These states are likely to support any resolution barring gender-based violence as they wish for other countries to hold the same progressive values that they hold.

Questions to Consider:

1. What are the current protections or support networks established for women living in Central and West Africa?
2. How are governments within the African region establishing policies that can prevent gender-based violence?
3. How can countries identify victims of gender-based violence and which areas require immediate assistance?
4. What are the propellers of gender-based violence in Central and West Africa?
5. What are the long-term measures needed to protect women that live in conflict-affected regions?

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