



PacificMUN 2017

Position Paper Policy



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Introduction

In the moments leading up to any conference, it is the responsibility of the delegate to write up and complete a position paper. This position paper will be the result of all your research and should underline the key components of your debate that weekend. Position papers are an integral part of almost all Model United Nations conferences, and are mandatory in some committees at Pacific Model United Nations 2017, as well as required for delegates in all committees (except Ad Hoc) in order to be eligible for an award.

What is a Position Paper and What Is Its Significance?

Any and all handed in position papers will be reviewed by staff members to ensure that a delegate has sufficiently researched their respective topics, and is therefore eligible for an award. Position papers are typically a page to a page and a half and consist of a brief history of the topic, its relevance to your nation and the world, as well as how your country hopes to react to the topic at hand. For most delegates, this will be their main source of research for the first few committee sessions, and displays to your Dais how much you have prepared, providing insight on how the debate could possibly move forward. As such, all delegates are encouraged not to only complete their position papers, but compile their research further in a research binder.

Research

In Model United Nations, research will be the number one preparation step that will help a delegate in their committee. Position papers will be a culmination of that research before the conference, and will showcase how you, as a delegate, are prepared for the sessions of debate, discussion, and problem solving that lay ahead of you. Along with the background guide that will be provided with all topics at PacificMUN, external research will be vital for a delegate's knowledge of the topic, and ultimately their experience. Research can come in many forms, however in the age of the internet, it is most often found online at this point.

After time spent researching a topic, the position paper will give you an opportunity to compile it all into a summary of your country's stance on the topic. There are many topics that can be included in a position paper; however, we recommend that delegates try to stay on topic regarding the central issue of their topic. The discussion questions included in each topic's backgrounder can be a great place to start when considering what can be written about. More examples of content are provided below.

Content Suggestions

While all topics and nations will have different policy, there are a few areas of discussion that may be beneficial for delegates to write about.



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History of Nation's Actions on the Topic

What your country has done in the past can provide context for a nation's actions today, and will allow both the Dias and yourself to know what actions in the past are motivating your actions today.

Nation's Current Stance

The current stance of a nation will be one of the most important pieces of information that you will research. How your nation currently reacts to an issue will shape most of your time in committee.

Possible Solutions

There are many ways to try and solve every issue, and it is most often the case that a nation favours one or the other. Solutions here should keep within policy, so even if a delegate wishes to innovate a solution, it must be kept inside a nation's policy.

Things Your Leader has Said

Quoting a leader or important figure in your nation's government can often be an excellent way to show the policy of a nation, or how strongly they feel towards an issue

Statistics

While it is not recommended that a Position Paper be solely consisting of facts and figures, supplementing your writing with facts and statistics is a sure-fire way to add legitimacy to your paper, and justify why your nation believes what it does.

Citing Prior UN Action

The UN and other bodies have been involved in almost all international issues to date, so bringing up past legislation that a nation may agree or disagree with can show a nation's foreign policy in reference to the precedent set by the UN.

Formatting Requirements

- Delegate Name, Country, and Topic before the content
- Self References in Third Person
- Times New Roman
- Size 12 Font
- 1 Inch Margins on all sides
- A Works Cited Section (MLA Citation)



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Example Position Paper

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

United Nations Human Rights Council

Alice Li of the Delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Topic A: The Empowerment of Women in Developing Countries

Empowerment of women has been a fundamental topic for human rights. According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), “Women's empowerment is vital to sustainable development and the realization of human rights for all.” According to Sara Longwe, women's empowerment is defined as “the process by which women collectively come to recognize and address the gender issues that stand in the way of their advancement. In a patriarchal society, these gender issues are the practices of gender discrimination which are entrenched in custom, law and ideological belief”.

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, also known as the UN Women, states that there are seven primary principles of empowering women. Summarized, they are primarily to establish high-level leadership for gender equality, treat both genders fairly through work, education, safety and well-being, and promoting equality and empowerment through enterprise development and community initiatives. As a sovereign member of the United Nations, the United Kingdom strongly favors the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women. As the third Millennium Development Goal, promoting gender equality and empowering women and the fifth, improving maternal health. The United Kingdom notes with approval the strong necessity and importance of the empowerment of women.

Historically, the United Kingdom has strived to empower women using multiple methods. Issues related to so are well established, with main concerns focusing on the pay, employment and services. In 1970, the Equal Pay Act passed, giving individuals within the UK the right of same pay and benefits as the opposite gender. The Sex Discrimination Act in 1975 banned gender discrimination in the same areas of education, employment, etc. A regulation of the same year, Maternity Leave and Pay Regulations allowed women statutory leave with pay up to a year. The EOC, Equal Opportunities Commission is a strong factor involved with promoting women's rights as well. We see that past solutions that have worked before may be viable options for the empowerment of women in developing nations as well.

The United Kingdom, on a national level, is an advocator of the empowerment of women's rights. The United Kingdom National Committee for UN Women is a postulation for UN Women in the United Kingdom. The UKNC for Women focuses its work on influencing and raising awareness on a national and international level to promote change for the treatment of women. As a self-funding organization, approximately 90% of income is returned directly toward the UN Women programs. The United Kingdom also has many more informal associations aiming for the empowerment of women, including “Women Empowered”.

The United Kingdom acknowledges the differentiating situations within all nations, primarily developing nations. We see that support from the government, and various other organizations including NGO's can be a viable option for women empowerment, as proven



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within our nation. Within developing nations, especially those with a developing governmental system, third party support from nations such as ourselves is fundamental towards the empowerment of women. As a sovereign member state of the United Nations, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is greatly looking forward towards discussing possible solutions and plans of action.



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