

DPSH MUN 2024

IP

INTERNATIONAL PRESS



Letter from the Executive Board

A heartfelt welcome to all the members of the International Press,

We are delighted and deeply honored to welcome you aboard the International Press of this edition of the DPSH Model United Nations. When you hear International Press, you may think of interviews, press conferences, newspapers, and more. However, journalism is a vast ocean, and in this Model United Nations simulation, you will take on the roles of journalists to experience it yourself.

As the executive board of the International Press, we would like to remind you that we expect and accept all your little flaws in hopes that you learn something new from them and make your work close to perfection. Overcoming obstacles can only be achieved when one is willing to push oneself and not just think but work outside the box. At the same time, we would like you to remember that diplomacy and transparency are the highest forms of respect, and all members of the International Press are expected to adhere to them.

To effectively tackle the challenges of this role, we highly recommend that members start their preliminary research well in advance to produce flawless work. Despite the competition, unlike other committees of the MUN, the International Press is a team. Our ultimate goal is to acquire resourceful articles and good-quality photos for an informative newsletter.

'Hesitation causes hindrance to perfection and shows the path to defeat', please do not hesitate to voice your queries, and feel free to reach out anytime. A pen is a writer's greatest weapon, and your integrity is yours. We look immensely forward to seeing what you all wish to bring to the table, and seeing you uphold the responsibility of every journalist that has come before.

Sincerely,

Venkata Kashvi Mandalapu
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Vatsala Sudeep
Co-Editor-in-Chief

About International Press

The International Press (IP) is neither a traditional committee of the United Nations nor an authentic part of any of the other UN committees. Here, the IP refers to the collection of international press agencies that gather from the corners of the world to report on the activities of the proceedings of various United Nations committees. As the delegates/diplomats, representing countries from all over the world gathered under a roof to engage in deliberation, the International Press records all the crucial moments in words and illustrations. The International Press has always been an indispensable part of any Model UN and serves the most pertinent function of documentation of the deliberation.

While at the conference, you are required to keenly observe the goings-on, and take note of worthy instances, prepare reports, conduct research, formulate opinions, conduct interviews and polls, and preside a press conference for the Delegates. A good news article ought to be articulate and brief, and be able to convey the very essence of any discussion.

There are three things which come as a part and parcel of any International Press Team at a Model UN Conference simulation.

1. Research: Comprehensive research forms the basic framework of the art of reporting. A journalist in a committee needs to be well informed, rather better equipped with their research since it is not going to be country specific. Half-baked knowledge on the agendas reflects factual inconsistency in the articles. Kindly go through the background guides of your respective committees to have a better understanding of the agenda. Knowledge of current debates pertaining to the agenda is also encouraged.

2. Unity: The International Press team will consist of a number of reporters, who need to be working in synchronization with each other. The spirit of competitiveness should never come in the way of team-work, and all the efforts should be to publish a prosperous newsletter.

3. Code of Conduct: Reporters are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times towards fellow members of the team, delegates, executive board and the Secretariat. Even while critically looking at council proceedings; it is imperative that respect be extended to the delegates. Frivolous reporting, like reporting on a delegate's attire or manner of speaking, is highly discouraged.

Types of Articles

Opinionated Editorial:

An Opinionated Editorial (Op-Ed) is an article that usually appears on the editorial page of a newspaper, where an expert gives their views on a particular subject. Op-Eds are an opportunity for the writer to display their opinion on the agenda as long as the opinion is backed up by the relevant factual information and is presented in a diplomatic manner. They are an important type of submission, and must be well-researched and well-presented. The arguments presented should not be generic, but must instead show an examination of the various perspectives of a situation.

Word Limit: 300-500 words

Beat-based article:

A Beat is an article that provides in-depth coverage of a specific issue or event over a long period of time. Beats cannot contain the writer's opinion or arguments on the issue, but rather an informed reporting of the situation at hand. The beat should be the central idea around which the entire article is based upon, with preferably the entire article focusing upon the one subject.

Word Limit: 200-300 words

Feature piece:

A Feature is a piece where the writer can choose in which way they would like to present the article- be it via a poem, story, etc. The required assets to a feature piece are creativity, where the piece must be original and reflect something related to the agenda; and originality, where the piece is the writer's own.

Word Limit: 500-700 words

Interview:

An interview is a transcript of an interview taken with any delegate or EB member, used to highlight things that may not have been discussed in committee. Questions should be factually accurate, precise, and should be verified by the Executive Board of the International Press prior to the interview being taken. This should not be treated as an opportunity to grill any delegates, but rather to gain insight and information that had not been previously gained.

Word Limit: 400-600 words

Consolidated Report:

Written exclusively in reported speech, a consolidated report gives a concise breakdown of the happenings of the committee over the days of conference. It is devoid of the writer's opinion and instead serves to show the reader what happened during the conference.

Word Limit: 250-350 words

Opinion Poll:

An opinion poll is an opportunity to get the opinions of the committee on a specific topic that must have relevance to the agenda. It must be accompanied by a visual representation of the such, such as a pie chart or a bar graph.

Word Limit: 150-250 words

Filler:

Filler articles are filled with humor, are comical, informal, and satirical in nature, and are also generally shorter. It should incorporate the agenda. They help the executive board to understand the writing style and/or personality of the journalist.

Word Limit: 150 to 300 words

Rules and Regulations

An important aspect of writing an article is adhering to proper formatting procedure.

The format expected from articles is as follows

Font : Times New Roman

Pt. Size : 12

Pt. Size for Title : 14

Pt. Size For By line: 13

Title to be in bold and by line to be italicized

Alignment:

Title: Centre

Byline and body: Justified

Language expected to be used is British English.

1. The information used in your articles must be from reliable sources. Sources from tabloids, Wikipedia, etc. will not be permitted. Always cite your sources at the end of your article, or using the citation feature.
2. Plagiarism is strictly not allowed. The use of AI, GPT platforms, or plagiarizing other articles is not permitted. Any articles that are shown to be using AI will not be marked.
3. Avoid inappropriate language in your articles. Do not make personal comments on the delegates. For example, “ The Delegate of Palestine’s blue dress was a point of hilarity”. Keep your language professional.
4. Use neutral terms. For instance, instead of saying mankind use the word humankind instead.
5. Numbers from one to ten should be written in words, while numbers above so can be written numerically. Eg: (three, 50, 75 million)
6. Be careful not to confuse statements made by the delegate with the portfolio as a whole. If you are referring to a statement made by the delegate, say “ The Delegate of India said...” rather than “India said...”
7. Keep your language formal and respectful. Do not use contractions- instead of ‘don’t’, say ‘do not’.
8. Introduce any abbreviations before using them further. Eg: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)
9. Strictly adhere to submission deadlines for your Articles. Lack of punctuality will affect marking accordingly.
10. When submitting articles, ensure they are saved in the following format
“Name_Committee_Type of Article_Day” Eg: V.Kashvi.M_UNHRC_Feature_DayOne
11. The format of your by line should be as follows - “ Name reporting from committee reports/opines/depicts upon/etc./ on topic”. You are free to use your creativity here.
12. Refrain from using words that are used during committee procedure, such as ‘moderated caucus’, ‘general speaker’s list’, etc. instead use ‘formal debate’ and ‘informal debate’.
13. International Press members will be allowed to submit via paper, but must discuss with the executive board prior to the conference.

Submission Deadlines

All submissions will have deadlines that will be communicated during briefings. No extra points will be given for early submissions, but marks for punctuality will be deducted if articles are submitted late with/without any explanation or prior permission.

Code of Conduct

1. Reporters are expected to be professional and diplomatic at all times. Any frivolous reporting or snide remarks towards any delegates will not be tolerated.
2. Unless told otherwise, reporters should remain in the committee at all times the session is on.
3. All electronic devices must be kept on silent during committee sessions so as to not disturb committee proceedings.
4. All language used towards delegates, OCs, EB members, and Secretariat members should be appropriate and free of any profanity.
5. No bias against any particular person, delegate, or social group will be shown in the articles or in any way whatsoever. Reporting will be, for the most part, objective.
6. No plagiarism whatsoever will be tolerated, including the usage of generative AI tools. If any evidence of such is found, the candidate will not have their article marked and it will be recorded against them.