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INITIATIVE

# IPC



## Agenda:

Discussing the Advent of Social Media as a  
Source of Information

# Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Reporters,

It is our privilege to welcome you into (possibly) the best committee of this year's edition of DWMUN. That is the committee that takes upon itself the responsibility of both holding delegates to account and connecting the rest of the conference with the happenings of each committee. This year's International Press Corps (IPC) promises to be an unforgettable experience complete with unflinching confrontations, unyielding reports and uncompromising journalism. Before we begin, ensure that you read this background guide thoroughly (especially the guidelines), and come prepared to the conference.

The press is as much a pillar of civil society as the judiciary, the political government or the law and order system. Be it in MUNs or in the very world we live in, the tireless work of journalists and reporters to uncover truth, voice valid opinions and highlight the realities of the world are what drive debate and discussion forward.

Without the base set by the reporters of the world, we would live in a system bound by ignorance and darkness without a clue of the happenings of the world or without understanding what truly happens in the corridors of powers that determine the functioning of our lives directly or indirectly. To conclude, to inform, to enlighten, to enquire and to remove the veil of obscurity that lies hanging over the workings of the parallel world that rules us and bring those who sit in their ivory towers, down to earth, even if it means dragging them out, to make the masses see for themselves and make those who are in power realize, that there is nothing more powerful than the truth apart from perhaps the pen that conveys it. In other words, the sole objective of the press was, is and has always been to speak truth to power. And that, I hope, will be achieved at DWMUN'25.

The Floor Is Yours.

# Rules Of Procedure

## (ROP)

Understanding the Rules of Procedure is essential for every delegate, and we strongly encourage all participants to familiarize themselves with them.

The IPC will be operating under the UNA-USA procedure for its debate sessions pertaining to the agenda.

To effectively comprehend and take part in committee sessions, it's important that IPC delegates have a basic understanding of how debates unfold, its types, motions, points, special procedures etc.

You can access the detailed Rules of Procedure here or from the conference's delegate resources section –

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VkJhwowjUyNG\\_NrP  
NGFjC1gzpSDc2MA9/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1VkJhwowjUyNG_NrPNGFjC1gzpSDc2MA9/view?usp=sharing)

# Introduction to the

## IPC

The International Press Corps is a committee dedicated towards simulating the work of journalists. Members of the IPC act as representatives of various media agencies, write articles, and conduct press conferences.

The primary objective of the IPC is to provide comprehensive coverage of the discussions, progress, and proceedings of other committees at the conference. Reporters are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times while doing so towards everyone. Detailed research forms the base of good reporting. Journalists must be well-researched and informed on the topic to be discussed by their allotted committee. Remember that factual accuracy is a crucial part of good reporting. Go over the background guides of your respective committees to understand the agenda and research about current affairs pertaining to the agenda and countries present at the conference.

As reporters, you are expected to have an attention to detail and keenly observe the happenings, take note of worthy instances, and formulate opinions and articles that convey the essence of a discussion, all while maintaining journalistic conduct.

# Types of Submissions

## Opinion Editorial (Op-Ed)

An Op-Ed, like the name suggests, is an opinionated piece. This is where reporters express views on the agenda, criticize policies or statements, etc. Research plays a key role in Op-Eds. Do not just state an opinion – explain it and back it up with relevant facts, as it is important to strike a balance between opinion and research.

Ensure to cite your sources. Maintain a formal tone and ensure that the article is relevant to the agenda your allotted committee is deliberating over. In opinionated pieces, delegates often put to work their persuasive writing and analytical thinking skills to present a logical, fact-backed and well-reasoned argument.

If the article has to be based on your individual opinion, or in accordance with the news agency's bias (if any), it will be conveyed to you during the conference.

Word Limit: 700 – 1000 words

## Beat Based Article

A Beat Based Article is essentially an article where a reporter provides detailed coverage on a specific topic, situation, crisis, statement, right of reply, controversy, speech, or anything that occurred in committee. A 'Beat' is a central idea around which the contents of the article revolve. This article aims to provide readers with insights into specific areas regarding committee proceedings and the agenda being discussed in a particular council. They require clear observations and proper facts. It is important to note that this is an unbiased piece. It must be void of the reporter or their respective agency's opinion or bias. It is a mere presentation of facts pertaining to certain happenings.

Word Limit: 400 – 500 words

## Committee Report

A committee report is aimed at reporting on the committee's occurrences, events, and progress.

It highlights the progress made by the committee, direction of discussions, key information, content from speeches or questions, relevant and eye-opening statements from delegates, solutions proposed by the council, conclusions if any,

and most importantly, accurate information. The importance, progress, and relevance of the committee's talks must also be clear. It is important to be objective and unbiased while writing these reports. You merely present the facts about what happened in committee.

Observation is key. Refrain from mentioning procedural terms like "The committee moved into a moderated caucus" or "Committee broke for lunch." Just provide information.

Word Limit: 500-600 words

### Features

This is where delegates unleash their creative and fun side. Features are creative items that are written or edited in various ways such as diary entries, letters, stories, character sketches, poems, songs, cartoons, posters, drawings, videos, memes, edits, and more. Sky's the limit here. While features can include humorous content, it is important to maintain a basic level of courtesy and respect.

Word Limit: Up to you, but submit something worth reading that can be absorbed in under 15 minutes.

## Interviews and Interview Report

Recording interviews is crucial and can be a very important asset to a delegate. It is essential to ensure their relevance to the agenda and newsworthy issues. Always seek consent before recording and use the material responsibly in your reports and press conferences. Adhere to ethical practices and respect the privacy of interviewees. Prepare a set of pertinent questions and potential follow-ups, and maintain integrity and accuracy at all times. If you choose to use interview content in a press conference, please let the EB know beforehand.

An interview report is nothing but a transcript of the same. You merely quote what you said, and what the delegate responded. Choose your questions wisely as an interview is one such place where you can receive a lot of pertinent information from a delegate. Before starting to transcribe the interview, include one introductory paragraph talking about the relevance of the interview and what it was about.

Once the transcript is done, include a conclusion paragraph summarizing the interview's contents and outcome. These paragraphs must be around 100 words each.

Since lengths of interviews can vary, there is no specific word limit. But remember to keep it crisp and to the point. The interview itself should not be longer than 10 minutes. Respect the delegate's time.

### Crisis Article

While at a MUN simulation, you are Press members sitting in UN committees reporting on proceedings. However, outside that committee room, several other things are happening in the world.

Here's how the Crisis Article works: The IPC EB will drop a Crisis Update on you that is either agenda-related or about the world outside committee. Delegates will get time to understand it and clarify doubts. Then, assume 10-20 days have passed. Your task is to write a news piece on what unfolded in that period.

Were there statements, policies, wars, retaliations, legal action, alliances, or solutions?

If so, what exactly happened?

Think of this as your counter-crisis update and predict the aftermath and how the world responded. Be creative with this, but also stay realistic.

The twist? You will have a shorter window than normal to write this once the update has been dropped. This tests your ability as a reporter to report and write under a time crunch.

Word Count: Minimum 400 words.

# Press Conference

Press conferences are one of the most awaited and exciting parts of MUNs and are often why people choose to delegate in the IPC. The spotlight is on the reporter in their respective committees where they have the power to question delegates on their speeches, past actions, stances, policies, etc. The content obtained from Press Conferences greatly assists in writing reports.

Press Conferences can be either research-based, based on what delegates state in committee or during interviews, or a mix of both. Never make up a quote by a delegate and question them on something fake – it wastes your time. If you are questioning them on something said in committee, get the verbatim of the statement in advance either from the EB or from the delegate.

Having some research, knowing what you are talking about, maintaining composure, committee awareness, and engagement are all important during a press conference. Always remember to have relevant facts and research to back up your claims. However, if your source and credibility is questioned, the burden of proof rests on the reporter. Show the EB your sources before the press conference so we can verify them.

Press conferences will be conducted on any of the days, and the details will be shared in committee. Due to this, we highly urge all delegates to keep their questions, potential follow-ups, research, sources, etc. ready by Day 1 itself. Conduction of the press conference is mandatory for all delegates, so we encourage all reporters to come prepared. Research beforehand and find additional content to question delegates on during the committee if you wish.

We will ask you for your press questions and sources prior to your press conference in order to give them the green light. Have backup questions in case some of your questions do not get approved.

# Guidelines

## Formatting Guidelines

- Font: Times New Roman
- Line spacing: 1.5
- Size and Alignment:
  - a. Title: 15 pt, Bold, Centered
  - b. By-line: 14 pt, Italic, Left aligned
  - c. Body: 12 pt, Normal, Justified
- Pictures must be centre aligned.
- Sources for the photos must also be centre aligned. Sources for everything other than pictures: Left aligned and cited at the end of the document.

Note: A by-line does not mean "By - (name)." It is a one-line gist of your article. Example: (Agency name) representative name, reporting from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), opines on the state of human rights in Pakistan.

You are free to design your articles. If you do, submit the designed version as a PDF. But also provide a Word document with just the text and pictures for reference.

Name your file as: Name of Agency\_Type of Submission\_Committee\_Day

### Additional Guidelines:

- a) Delegates will be informed of their committee allotments a few days prior to the conference.
- b) Delegates must strictly adhere to the deadlines announced at the beginning of the first session.
- c) Ensure that your articles align with the political biases and policies (if any) of your assigned agency.
- d) Organize your content into clear, distinct paragraphs.
- e) Avoid using personal pronouns. Refer to representatives by their country or portfolio.
- f) Do not use contractions.
- g) Do not use procedural jargon like "Moderated Caucus" or "GSL." Use "formal debate" or "informal debate" instead.
- h) All assigned articles must include relevant pictures. Credit all sources.

- i) Abbreviations must be introduced in full form the first time they are used.
- j) A 50-word margin above the word limit is allowed. Meeting the minimum is mandatory.
- k) All delegates are expected to adhere to the conference's code of conduct and equity policy.
- l) Sample articles and further clarity will be shared closer to the conference and in orientation.

# Introduction to the Agenda

**"Discussing the Advent of Social Media as a Source of Information"**

Social media began as a tool for communication and entertainment. However, over the last fifteen years, it has transformed into a dominant vehicle for real-time news dissemination. Platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), YouTube, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Reddit now serve as primary information sources for hundreds of millions across age groups and regions. This shift has changed not only how news is consumed, but also who produces it, who controls its spread, and what gets framed as credible.

Traditional media once operated through a linear pipeline: reporting, verification, editorial review, and structured publication. In contrast, social media relies on algorithmic amplification and user participation, often giving viral visibility to content before it is verified. While this shift has enabled diverse voices and accelerated the speed of information sharing,

it has also created an environment where misinformation, political propaganda, deepfakes, and manufactured outrage are difficult to distinguish from legitimate journalism.

This has caused profound disruptions within newsrooms and among journalists. In many parts of the world, legacy outlets struggle to maintain relevance as audiences turn to influencers, citizen reporters, or echo chambers that validate pre-existing beliefs. Social media's global accessibility has also made it a target of state influence operations, coordinated inauthentic behavior, and disinformation campaigns. During elections, protests, pandemics, and armed conflicts, the accuracy and integrity of real-time reporting often collapse under the pressure of speed, virality, and visibility.

Yet, despite these risks, social media remains indispensable. It has exposed human rights abuses, bypassed censorship in authoritarian regimes, mobilised citizen action, and democratized access to news for communities historically excluded from mainstream narratives. The question for journalists today is not whether social media is a news source, but how it should be understood, engaged with, and ethically navigated.

# Historical & Contemporary Context

The rise of social media as an information source has occurred in tandem with growing distrust in traditional media. In the early 2000s, blogs and forums began challenging newspapers by offering faster commentary. With the advent of smartphones and mobile data, social platforms became more immediate, visual, and interactive. Twitter emerged as a breaking news tool during events like the Arab Spring (2010–2012), where citizen journalism brought attention to protest movements suppressed by state-controlled broadcasters.

Hashtag campaigns such as #BlackLivesMatter, #MeToo, and #FarmersProtest India have turned decentralized online reporting into vehicles for global solidarity and scrutiny.

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed this further.

Official health agencies and journalists attempted to dispel conspiracy theories, but unverified claims often spread faster than corrections. Livestreams, viral videos, and infographics by non-experts frequently outperformed professional reports in reach and emotional impact. This has forced even reputable outlets to adapt their formats, with many launching Instagram-based explainers, TikTok-style videos, or micro-story formats designed for mobile users.

However, the growing reliance on algorithmic visibility has introduced new vulnerabilities. In countries like Myanmar and Ethiopia, social media has been implicated in the spread of hate speech and incitement to violence. In the United

States, platforms have been accused of distorting public discourse through selective amplification and untransparent moderation policies. In India, both state and opposition actors have weaponised digital media to push partisan narratives and discredit independent journalism. These developments illustrate that social media is not merely a neutral medium, it is a space of information warfare, editorial experimentation, and contested authority.

# Journalistic Challenges & Ethical Tensions

For journalists, social media presents both a tool and a threat. On one hand, it enables direct engagement with audiences, faster reporting cycles, and global reach. On the other hand, it pressures reporters to prioritise speed over accuracy, brevity over nuance, and engagement over editorial depth. Journalists must also protect themselves from coordinated harassment, surveillance, and doxxing, particularly when covering polarising topics.

The credibility of the press is further complicated by the blurring of professional and personal digital identities. Many reporters now cultivate public personas on platforms like X and Instagram, where they post both official reporting and personal commentary. This visibility builds connection but also raises questions about bias, accountability, and the boundaries of professional neutrality.

Verification, once handled by in-house editorial teams, now often occurs in public. Audiences demand transparency about sources, timestamps, and intent. Outlets must now issue corrections not just through official retractions, but across every platform where misinformation circulated. This is especially difficult when false claims are amplified by influencers or bots before the truth is even published.

Another concern is content monetisation. Influencers, vloggers, and page admins who operate in news-adjacent spaces often depend on views, likes, and algorithmic placement. The incentive structure rewards provocation, sensationalism, and volume. In contrast, investigative journalism is slow, expensive, and rarely viral. This tension has led to a crisis of funding for traditional outlets and an overrepresentation of loud, fast, and emotionally charged content online.

# Agency Perspectives & Platform Dynamics

Different media outlets have responded to this shift in varied ways. Global broadcasters such as BBC, Al Jazeera, and CNN have embraced multi-platform strategies, building dedicated social teams and tailoring content for younger, mobile audiences. Others like The Guardian and Vox have invested in explainers, podcasts, and visual storytelling to remain relevant in digital spaces. Meanwhile, smaller independent outlets may rely on social media almost entirely for distribution, making them vulnerable to platform bans or algorithm changes.

State-backed media such as RT, CGTN, and Xinhua use social platforms to project national narratives globally, often with funding and coordination that allows them to dominate online visibility. These accounts have been accused of spreading disinformation or amplifying divisive content.

Conversely, public broadcasters and nonprofit investigative groups must navigate tighter restrictions while upholding transparency and public trust.

Platforms themselves have introduced partial solutions. Twitter introduced labels for government-affiliated accounts. Facebook and Instagram added fact-checking partnerships. YouTube has attempted to boost authoritative sources in search results. However, these efforts have been inconsistent and opaque. Many algorithms still amplify content based on engagement rather than accuracy, creating what some scholars describe as a system that rewards the loudest voices rather than the most reliable ones.

# Case Studies

## Capitol Hill Riots (USA, January 2021)

The storming of the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021, was preceded by weeks of viral misinformation on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Parler. False claims about the 2020 election being rigged gained traction through hashtags, viral videos, and influencer commentary.

Journalists covering the event had to report in real time while combating false narratives. In the aftermath, social platforms faced intense criticism for allowing misinformation to fester, and several accounts, including that of former President Donald Trump, were suspended. The incident exposed how digital mobilisation can quickly escalate into real-world violence.

## The Farmers' Protest (India, 2020 – 2021)

During the year-long protests by Indian farmers against new agricultural laws, social media became the principal battleground for narrative control.

Independent journalists, protestors, and diaspora activists used Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube to document events, counter misinformation, and raise international awareness. In response, the Indian government ordered Twitter to suspend certain accounts, invoking national security concerns. Hashtags were restricted, and some journalists were detained. This highlighted how states may invoke legal and regulatory powers to control digital dissent.

#### Ukraine Conflict (2022 – Present)

From the early hours of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, social media platforms were flooded with real-time footage, satellite images, and user-generated content from both sides. While many posts helped document war crimes and humanitarian crises, others spread doctored images, propaganda, and unverified claims.

Journalists had to distinguish between authentic material and manipulated narratives in a context saturated with psychological operations, bot activity, and deepfakes. Verification labs and open-source intelligence (OSINT) units became essential. This case illustrates both the power and the peril of social media during conflict.

## Rohingya Crisis and Facebook's Role (Myanmar, 2016 to 2018)

During the Rohingya crisis, Facebook became a central tool for the spread of hate speech and disinformation. Coordinated campaigns targeting the Rohingya minority went largely unmoderated due to language and cultural oversight. In 2018, a UN fact-finding mission concluded Facebook played a determining role in inciting violence.

## Iran Protests and Internet Shutdowns (2022 to 2023)

Following the death of Mahsa Amini, social media platforms were the primary outlet for protest documentation. As the Iranian government imposed internet blackouts, journalists and activists outside the country relied on digital networks, VPNs, and satellite imagery to verify and amplify content.

## COVID-19 Infodemic (Global, 2020 to 2022)

Misinformation around treatments, vaccines, and the virus itself spread rapidly through social media. This created challenges for journalists, who had to compete with viral pseudoscience while maintaining scientific accuracy and public trust.

## TikTok and Gaza Conflict (2021 to 2023)

Short-form video content reshaped the global understanding of the Gaza conflict. TikTok narratives, while powerful and personal, were often emotionally charged, selectively edited, or unverified. Journalists faced the challenge of verifying viral content that influenced public opinion before any contextual reporting could catch up.

# Questions A

## Discussion Must

### Answer [QADMA]

- What qualifies as credible journalism in a digital ecosystem where anyone can "report" news in real time?
- How should journalists verify and report on viral content without amplifying misinformation?
- Can platforms be trusted to regulate information fairly, or do they compromise press freedom?
- Should news agencies adapt to the social media economy, or push back against it to preserve editorial standards?
- What responsibility do journalists have to maintain neutrality when reporting through personal social accounts?