Lizzie Kohl

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW): Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVII

Hi everyone! Welcome to YUNMUN XXXVII!

My name is Lizzie Kohl and I am so excited to be your chair! This year's conference is going to be incredible, and I can't wait to meet you all and get started!

A little bit about me: I'm from Englewood, NJ. I went to Frisch for high school, then spent a year at Midreshet Lindenbaum, and am now in my second year at Stern. (I absolutely love talking about seminary and college decisions so feel free to ask me about mine or to share your thoughts!). I'm majoring in philosophy and Judaic studies and minoring in physics. (As you can tell, I'm not entirely sure what I want to do with my life 😜.) Outside the classroom, I'm a Leadership Scholar in the Sacks-Herenstein Center, the Senior Features Editor of The Commentator (one of two YU newspapers), and one of the editors-in-chief of the YU Undergraduate Law Review, among a few other things

This is only my second YUNMUN so I'm ready to take advantage of every second! Last year, I served as Administrative Assistant for WFP, and this year I am excited to make CSW the best committee at YUNMUN.

Now onto the important stuff! CSW was established in 1946 to protect the rights of women and girls and promote gender equality. In 1996, CSW's mandate was expanded to oversee the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which established that "women's rights are human rights" and developed a roadmap to follow to ensure that women are equally included in public and private roles. This plan, which CSW oversees, addresses a range of issues, including poverty, education, violence, and media. In 2011, four UN bodies were combined to form UN Women, which serves as the official Secretariat for CSW.[1]

[1] https://www.unwomen.org/en/how-we-work/commission-on-the-status-of-women

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Finally, now that we have both the personal information and historical background out of the way, on to the best part: the topics!

Our first topic is unrecognized care work. Mothers, daughters, and sisters often care for their family members and loved ones. However, this work is not always recognized or protected. This raises questions about, among other things, labor laws, economic contributions during divorces, and exclusion from economic metrics.

Our second topic discusses declining birth rates, and the barriers, like healthcare costs, workplace penalties, and financial insecurity, that may keep women from having the families they want.

These two topics touch on issues important to all of us and I am confident that our discussions will result in productive resolutions. When doing your research, please be mindful that you are representing your country's position and not your own, so please remain consistent.

Additionally, PLEASE do not plagiarize. Every paper is run through a plagiarism detector and papers that are found to be plagiarized will not be eligible to win any awards.

The same is true regarding AI. YUNMUN follows the YU Level 1 AI policy: "Polish, with disclosure. You may use AI to check and correct the grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics of text you have already written. AI may not generate, rewrite, or restructure your content." Please find the full AI policy guidelines in the Delegate Handbook.

If you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns (or just want to say hi), feel free to reach me at ekohl2@mail.yu.edu. Looking forward to an incredible conference!

Sincerely,

Lizzie Kohl

Chair, Commission on the Status of Women

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