

Mijal Gutierrez

CTC: Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVI

Greetings Delegates of CTC!

Welcome to YUNMUN XXXVI! My name is Mijal Gutierrez, and I am honored to be serving as your chair for this year's conference.

A little bit of background about me: I was born and raised in Costa Rica, and I am a senior in Stern. I am majoring in history and minoring in art history because I am incredibly passionate about teaching and, seemingly, a fan of small salaries. I have always loved Model UN and debate, and I even competed nationally in Costa Rica during high school (though I could never participate fully since half of the conference took place on Saturdays). Not shockingly, I have participated in YUNMUN all four years at Stern, and even served as Undersecretary General last year (yay!). Besides from YUNMUN, I have served as Editor in Chief of the Official History Journal of Yeshiva and Stern College, President and Founder of the Mechina Board, and I worked as staff writer for The Commentator. A fun fact about me is that my high school was next to a farm, so seeing a herd of cows walk through the school hallways was not an uncommon occurrence for me (feel free to ask me about it). I am so excited to meet each and every one of you and I am confident that we will have an amazing time together with productive committee sessions!

Now, on to business. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) serves as a supplementary body of the UN Security Council. The committee was established after the tragic events on the September 11th attacks, via Security Council resolution 1373 in 2001.¹ It consists of all 15 members of the Security Council and primarily functions to monitor the execution of UN resolutions on counter-terrorism. The Counter-Terrorism Committee is supported by a secondary body called the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which aids in CTC's policy decisions by providing expert assistance to Member States. CTC is

¹[https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/what-we-do#:~:text=The%20Counter%2DTerrorism%20Committee%20\(CTC\)%20has%20a%20global,**Prioritizing%20assistance%20requests**%20*%20**Recommending%20assistance%20sources**](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/what-we-do#:~:text=The%20Counter%2DTerrorism%20Committee%20(CTC)%20has%20a%20global,**Prioritizing%20assistance%20requests**%20*%20**Recommending%20assistance%20sources**)

responsible for combating and preventing terrorism worldwide, and it does so through country visits and monitoring of global developments in terrorism.

This year, we will be focusing on two very important topics. The first topic is **the terrorist exploitation of children**. Many terrorist organizations around the world force children into inadequate roles such as fighters, suicide bombers, and various other equally violent roles. Terrorists continue to employ traditional methods of recruiting children (such as kidnapping, human trafficking, and coercion) but now combine them with new and adaptive strategies to also recruit children online. This allows terrorist organizations to reach an even wider pool of victims, making their methodology even more effective.

The second topic is **countering terror threats against vulnerable targets**. Terrorists often choose vulnerable or “soft targets” to execute their attacks, through which they achieve a greater amount of damage and death. It is imperative to search for solutions that will put an end to these horrendous attacks.

Please remember to always cite outside sources, and that plagiarism and the use of AI will not be tolerated. All submitted documents will be going through AI detection devices, and any evidence of plagiarism or AI will affect the delegate’s outcome in the committee.

I truly look forward to meeting everyone, and I cannot wait to see what incredible conversations and forward-thinking solutions we will develop throughout our sessions! Please reach out to me at mgutier1@mail.yu.edu if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or fun facts about yourself! And feel free to email me even if you just want to introduce yourself. I cannot wait to see you all, I am counting down to the conference already!

Best regards,

Mijal Gutierrez

Chair, Counter-Terrorism Committee

YUNMUN XXXVI