

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to HAMUN 51! My name is Gabriella, and I'm a senior political science major at the University of Houston.

I began participating in UN Models all the way back in middle school and went off! I have been a delegate in more than ten MUNs back in my home country, the Dominican Republic, and in the United States at various universities. These events not only increased my professional and research skills, but they have also helped me burst my own bubble, improve my public speaking skills, and meet some of the nicest people from around the world. Plus, it is the reason I study political science and strive to become an international lawyer for the United Nations.

I decided to chair for SOCHUM because of its prime responsibilities in protecting and promoting the fundamental freedoms found in culture and social development, as these aspects are interesting to me. I'm excited to discuss the topics of child recruitment by non-state armed groups in Sub-Saharan Africa and the displacement of indigenous peoples due to climate change. Both topics are relevant and can be approached from different angles, so I look forward to seeing the ideas you all will bring forward!

A little word of advice: *Being prepared = Being confident*. For many of you, this can be your first MUN experience (or your tenth!). It doesn't make it less nerve-racking, though, especially during the first day, and you're at the podium. However, the more you familiarize yourself with your country, topics, and committee, the more you'll care about the topic and become more confident. More importantly, have fun and get out of your comfort zone!

Regards,

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