



NHSMUNC IV

Northwood High School Model UN



UNODC: Preventing Acts of Terrorism Through the International Criminal Justice System & Diplomatic Means

Head Chair: Benjamin Lin

Vice Chair: Sarina Bastani

WELCOME LETTER

Head Chair: Benjamin Lin

Delegates,

My name is Benjamin Lin, and I am thrilled to serve as your Head Chair for NHSMUNC IV! I am currently a Junior here at Northwood High School and this is my fourth year in MUN. I joined MUN in eighth grade with the intention of only using it to stack my college applications, but a couple months later It has quickly evolved into an obsessive passion of mine.

Aside from the competitive nature and educational value, what I value the most about MUN is the opportunity to collaborate and communicate with other students and delegates you would never have met otherwise. Conferences like NHSMUNC IV are not only where I've learned to write resolutions and speeches, but they are also places where I have made some of my closest friends.

Outside of MUN, I enjoy playing tennis, politics, and going out with friends. I understand the daunting feeling of being a first time delegate-especially in a large conference like this so If there are any questions or concerns feel free to reach out to either one of us.

I sincerely look forward to meeting each and every single of you in committee!

Phone #: 949 466 3359

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Best,

Benjamin Lin

Vice Chair: Sarina Bastani

Hi Delegates,

My name is Sarina Bastani, and I am so excited to serve as your Vice Chair for NHSMUNC IV! I am currently a Junior at Northwood High School and although this is only my first year in MUN I have plenty of experience in other related activities along with going to many conferences this year! I initially joined MUN to fulfill a class requirement, but after going to my first few conferences, I quickly realized how much I enjoyed it! MUN has really helped me develop my public speaking skills and also made me more informed on issues around the world.

Some other activities I'm involved in outside of MUN include Mock Trial, Speech and Debate, and volunteering for Irvine. But what makes MUN one of my favorite activities is its combination of learning to work well with others, being able to debate many different policies, and learning to understand the different perspectives of different countries which really sets it apart from any other activity.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out! I'm excited to meet all of you in committee and look forward to an amazing conference experience.

Phone #: 949 5571199

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NHSMUNC IV POLICIES

At NHSMUNC, policies prioritize fairness and delegate engagement through structured evaluation, with chairs utilizing scoresheets to track comments, speeches, and participation throughout the committee. They ensure an equitable distribution of speaking opportunities, balancing the number of comments and interventions made by each country. Holistic grading is employed to evaluate delegates comprehensively, considering factors such as participation, collaboration, adherence to country policy, creativity in proposing in-depth and bloc-oriented solutions, preparation through background knowledge and position papers, and overall diplomacy and professionalism. This approach emphasizes the quality of contributions and encourages delegates to present well-researched, actionable ideas that align with their country's policy while addressing the committee's goals.

POSITION PAPER FORMAT

Position papers are an essential element of committee preparation. The document should not only convey the stance of the character you are representing, but it should also discuss potential solutions to the ideas at hand. The bulk of pre-conference preparation is often done within position paper research. While not required, submission of a position paper may be considered as a demonstration of preparedness, depth of understanding, and commitment to the topic, potentially influencing overall evaluations such as delegate awards or performance recognition.

Papers are graded based on clarity, depth, and creativity in addressing the topic, with strong adherence to formatting and citation guidelines. Emphasis is placed on demonstrating a thorough understanding of the background, presenting nuanced policies, offering original and bloc-aligned solutions, and using high-quality sources effectively.

Requirements:

- Single spaced
- 1 page minimum, 2 page maximum (not including your works cited page)
- Times New Roman font, size 12
- 1-inch borders
- All external sources must be cited in MLA format in the works cited page

To receive feedback on your position paper and be considered for research awards, a PDF copy of your position paper must be submitted to this [link](#) by **April 24, 2025 at 11:59pm**.

PROCEDURE

This committee will follow standard Model United Nations dual delegate procedure.

Delegates should address one another appropriately and refer to one another as Delegate or the “delegation of country name.”

Attendance

The option for attendance is either present or present and voting. Present allows for the opportunity to abstain while Present and voting only allows for nay or yea votes.

The Speakers List

Once given the floor, speakers will behave in accordance with the following rules:

1. delegates will be limited to a speaking time decided in committee. with a double gavel tap when there are thirty seconds left and a single tap when time has expired, however you may still finish your sentence. (Should be noted that every word after will not be smiled upon.) As this is a dual delegate committee the dias would highly smile upon both speakers speaking, however it is also important to know that we do not expect every speaker to fill their time and is therefore allowed to yield the rest of their time to the chair. The chair will then continue and entertain three to four more delegations before asking for additional points or motions.

Bill Formatting

As per standard MUN procedure, no pre-written bills will be permitted. Bill formatting per Model UN regulations should begin with an operating clause, for example suggests, Recommend, and Urges. With the formats followed in standard MUN practice of Preamble, Clauses, and Sub clauses. We will decide on the amount of delegates in a bloc, and signatories/ sponsors needed in a position paper in committee.

Voting on and Passing Bills

The process of voting on resolutions follows standard Model UN protocol. After a bloc has presented the bills to be voted on, the following steps must occur to pass a bill:

1. A delegate must motion for closure, ending debate and moving into the voting process (by majority basis.)
2. Once a motion for cloture passes, the same rules as standard voting bloc regulations apply (doors locked, phones closed, no talking, passing notes, etc.)
3. delegates will vote on bills and a simple majority is needed to pass a resolution.
5. After voting has been completed, a delegate will motion to end the voting bloc.
6. The committee will move to suspend/adjourn the debate.

Types of Acceptable Votes

Delegates will do a roll call vote to count votes for bills. Here is a list of acceptable responses:

Yea: “Yes, I approve this resolution.”

Nay: “No, I do not approve of this resolution.”

Abstain: If abstaining, the delegate can only abstain if they have been marked as present during roll call.

Outroom/In room:

Since this is a dual delegate committee the chair will allow for one or both delegates to be outside the committee to be working in conjunction with other delegates from the same bloc on the resolution paper. The in-room will continue with speeches and fruitful debate. During unmoderated caucuses, outroom delegates can rejoin the room.

If there are any questions feel free to contact us at nhsmunc@gmail.com. The chairs can be reached at Linbenjamin583@gmail.com and sarinabastani@gmail.com.

Background Information

The longstanding issue of combating terrorism has continuously been a part of the foreign and domestic policy of member states and has been pursued by the UN since the 1800s. As seen with recent history, however, attempts to combat and prevent acts of terrorism have often devolved into militarism-based ideals—seen through the war on terror and the United States foreign policy in the Middle East—putting civilians in harm's way. To define the parameters for terrorism in accordance with UNODC and international law, there are three qualifications that first need to be fulfilled: first, the threatening or penetration of a crime; second, the “intent to spread fear” or attempt to topple a national authority; and third, a transnational element (aided by foreign nations) in the process of overthrowing an existing democratic body.

For far too long, innocent bystanders have borne the full force in conflicts with extremists. Over the last three decades, over 48 million lives have been caught in the crosshairs or used as political bargaining chips against what terrorists often believe to be an oppressive government, with 62 million others injured in crossfires, military action, and acts of terrorism. With the “double-edged sword” of technology, which has undoubtedly brought about state development, the ability for destruction and chaos at the hands of terrorist groups has never been greater—as we continue to see a rise in total acts of terrorism increase by 15% compared to that of the 18th century. In this committee, we plan to explore resolutions to be adopted by the UNODC in an attempt to prevent acts of terrorism and, through diplomatic means, penalize those who attempt terror-adjacent efforts.

Terrorism in the 19th century

Terrorism in the 19th century draws many parallels to extremists today; motivated by a desire to undermine a centralized state and to restore glory to their nation, it led to a rise of attempted anarchist movements—with the assassination of Tsar Alexander II in 1881. However, terrorism of the 19th century also brought about distinct differences, more often targeting high-ranking

officials and leaders instead of the general masses—attempting to create disarray not through maximizing the taking of lives but to push towards instability.

Terrorism in the 20th century

In a similar fashion to that of a century earlier, the growing presence of colonial powers in the third world created anti-imperialist sentiments that led to the formation of nationalist groups like the Irish Republican Army, which, during the early 20th century, used acts of terror as a tactic to push for the liberation of the United Kingdom. Acts of terrorism from foreign influences continued to play a vital role as the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the heir to the Austrian throne, by the Serbian nationalists escalated long-standing tensions in Europe, lighting the match for the First World War. In the mid-20th century, thirty years after the end of the First World War, Germany saw a rise of extremist ideals with the rise of the then Red Army, which used a series of mass bombings in an attempt to overthrow the current West German government in opposition of capitalist ideals, viewing it as a puppet of the west that sustained economic instability to maintain poverty among the German people.

The motivation for terrorism during the 20th century was exemplified by increasing tensions as a result of competition and colonization, which created a sense of intense nationalism or oppression—pushing its constituents to overthrow the status quo. Extremist ideals that laid the basis for acts of terrorism and inhumanity often took hold during times of crisis and inequality. Through the long tradition of European oppression, those from developing states bound by ultra-nationalist ideals saw acts of terror as a form of resistance; however, we must understand that sacrificing civilian lives to send political messages should be undoubtedly denounced, as it violates every act of international law and every drop of morality.

21st-century terrorism

In the 21st century, we see again the militarism ideal member states have taken to combat cases of terrorism. The most infamous case of terrorism was the attack on 9/11 by Al Qaeda, crashing three civilian planes into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and what could have been the White House. The attacks led to President George W. Bush declaring a war on terror, which heightened US involvement in Middle Eastern conflicts. Furthermore, the 21st century saw the rise of one of the most prominent terrorist organizations, with the rise of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), which, through a series of propaganda campaigns, took Iraq and Syria, declaring itself a state and governing territory through acts of terrorism motivated by extremist

ideals. 21st-century technology has increased the impact and scale in which terrorism takes place. However, motivations for such acts continue to follow the trend of extremist ideals regarding religion, race, and nationality with zero tolerance for civil liberties.

In the past 60 years, the UNODC, through anti-terrorist task forces, has attempted to prosecute these actions to the fullest extent in accordance with the ICJ (International Court of Justice); however, there have been difficulties in enforcing rulings as a result of the volatility of terrorist-controlled regions.

PAST UN ACTION

Since the creation of the UN in 1945, the body and its member states have constantly worked towards a prevention system in response to and protection from acts of terrorism. The actions and policies established by the UN are divided into five parts as seen through the resolutions passed by different bodies like UNSCR (United Nations Security Council Resolutions), UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime), and UNOCT (United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism).

United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council (United Nations Security Council) passed multiple resolutions in response to acts of terror. The first resolution ever passed by the Security Council is the UNSCR resolution 1267 in 1989 and 1999, which established sanctions against individuals and entities linked to terrorist organizations in an attempt to tackle the inhumanity of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Updated versions of this resolution came with UNSCR 1373 in 2001, shortly after the attacks of 9/11, where member states passed the resolution, which requires nations to prevent terrorist financing (in the form of monetary or arms supply) or to deny safe haven for terrorists attempting to enter the country. The resolution was later updated by UNSCR 1373 in response to

the attacks of 9/11; member states passed the resolution, which requires nations to prevent terrorist financing in the form of monetary or arms supply and to deny safe havens for terrorists attempting to enter the country.

The resolutions of the United Nations Security Council, however, have their limitations, wherein in response to acts of military aggression, the UN has had little power in squashing dominant terrorist regimes, like that of the Taliban. As a result of recent actions, the UNSC plans to take more aggressive diplomatic action in conjunction with the International Court of Justice to prosecute extremists to the fullest, invoking a tough-on-terrorism policy.

Counterterrorism Committees and Organizations

The United Nations, aside from the Security Council, has established a plethora of committees and initiatives to implement counterterrorism measures. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), created in 1989, for example, created an intergovernmental organization that attempted to prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorists. The task force developed policies that blacklisted countries that fail to comply with anti-money laundering (AML) and

counter-financing of terrorism (CFT) measures created by international standards to ensure total transparency. The task force additionally created the Grey List, which increased monitoring in countries that may be tied to funding to extremist groups; when proven, countries would then be blacklisted, which led countries to be sanctioned by its member states.

United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (2006)

The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), established in 2017, was created in an attempt to combat acts of terror worldwide and the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Counter Terrorism Strategy, passed in 2006, was established under 4 branches to combat the increasing rate of terrorism. First, the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy addresses the conditions at which states may be vulnerable to terrorism (including economic and political instability, religious conflicts, and racial tensions) through diplomatic means. The actions of the UN would then be preventing and combating terrorism through economic and political means, including a sanction on all goods and corporations tied to terrorist organizations. Another pillar of the plan would then strengthen a state's capacity to prevent terrorist acts—through the use of military and economic funding to provide sufficient national defense. By ensuring the sovereignty of member states, the UN will shield civilians from human rights abuses and maintain the letter of law.

BLOC POSITIONS

Different blocs approach counterterrorism through distinct frameworks, reflecting their regional security concerns, legal systems, and diplomatic strategies. These positions shape how each group of nations engages with the international criminal justice system and diplomatic measures to prevent acts of terrorism.

Western Bloc (United States, European Union, Canada, Australia, Japan)

The Western nations emphasize a legal and military-based approach to counterterrorism, they also advocate for international cooperation through Interpol, NATO, and the International Criminal Court. They support the criminalization of terrorist financing, extradition agreements, and strict border security measures. The United States has historically led counterterrorism efforts through military intervention and intelligence-sharing initiatives such as Five Eyes and Europol's Counter-Terrorism Centre. Many EU nations suggest preventive measures such as de-radicalization programs, cyber surveillance, and diplomatic negotiations. The European Court of Justice plays a big role in ensuring that counterterrorism measures comply

with human rights laws. However, many debates remain over the balance between security and privacy, especially regarding mass surveillance.

Middle Eastern & North African Bloc

This bloc has many different perspectives on counterterrorism, shaped by regional conflicts and state sovereignty concerns. Nations like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt advocate for strong counterterrorism laws, including death penalties and extrajudicial measures against terrorist groups. These nations also support regional counterterrorism initiatives like the Arab League's Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism. Other nations, like Lebanon and Iraq, emphasize diplomatic solutions to tackle terrorism's root causes like poverty, radicalization, and political instability. However, some Middle Eastern & North African states face accusations of indirectly supporting militant groups through state sponsorship or lenient policies on foreign fighters.

Asia-Pacific Bloc (China, India, Russia, Southeast Asian Nations)

China and Russia advocate for counterterrorism strategies led by the state, suggesting non-interventionist policies and stronger state surveillance. China, under its National Security

Law, has taken extreme action against groups it views as extremist, especially in Xinjiang, while Russia has taken a more aggressive approach against insurgent groups in Chechnya and beyond.

India, which has faced cross-border terrorism, prioritizes international cooperation in intelligence-sharing and extradition treaties but remains cautious of sovereignty violations by Western-led interventions. Southeast Asian nations, especially Indonesia and Malaysia, focus on community-based de-radicalization programs while enhancing digital surveillance to combat online radicalization.

African Bloc

Many African nations face the challenges of both counterterrorism and state fragility. Countries like Nigeria, Kenya, and Somalia face insurgencies from groups like Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab and require financial and military assistance to increase security forces. However, concerns

Human rights abuses by state security forces complicate international cooperation.

The African Union has promoted regional counterterrorism coordination through the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, but limited resources and political instability reduce its effectiveness. Many African nations call for economic development programs as a long-term counterterrorism strategy.

Latin American Bloc

Latin America has not previously been a major target of international terrorism, but it has faced domestic insurgent groups and narco-terrorism. Nations such as Colombia and Mexico emphasize tackling the links between organized crime and terrorist financing, while Brazil and Argentina focus on border security and financial oversight to prevent the spread of international terrorist networks. This bloc generally just supports diplomatic resolutions and judicial processes over military interventions. They advocate for human rights protections while opposing extremists.

Possible Solutions

When considering different solutions, delegates should take into account their country's government structures, legal systems, and diplomatic approaches to counterterrorism. Some nations favor stricter law enforcement, more advanced intelligence-sharing, and military interventions. While others prioritize preventative strategies such as rehabilitation programs, diplomatic negotiations, and economic support for at-risk populations.

A good strategy must address the root causes of terrorism, including political instability, extremist propaganda, financial networks that fund terrorism, and weak international coordination.

According to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, modern terrorism has become more sophisticated, using the internet for recruitment, fundraising, and inciting violence. Additionally, the rise of cryptocurrency and untraceable financial transactions has allowed extremist groups to bypass traditional banking

oversight. To strengthen global counterterrorism efforts, nations must work together to develop better financial tracking mechanisms and impose stricter regulations on illegal financial transactions.

One key way to improve global security and legal enforcement is by enhancing the role of the International Criminal Court and regional judicial bodies in prosecuting individuals involved in terrorism. Recently, the ICC has issued arrest warrants for high-profile individuals, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif, for alleged war crimes related to the Gaza conflict. Some nations push for universal extradition treaties to prevent terrorists from evading justice by seeking refuge in other countries. As of 2024, the ICC has indicted 52 people across 17 different cases, with 15 currently in custody, highlighting the need for strong international cooperation. However, concerns over state sovereignty and legal jurisdiction must be considered and managed diplomatically. As terrorist organizations increasingly exploit online platforms for radicalization, governments must work with

technological companies and cybersecurity experts to monitor and remove extremist content. While some countries advocate for government regulation of online platforms, others prefer self-regulated content moderation by social media companies. A balance must be set to prevent online extremism while upholding freedom of speech and data privacy rights. Border security also plays a large role in preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters and illegal arms trafficking. Nations place various biometric screening methods, intelligence databases, and travel restrictions to reduce these risks. However, policies should be designed to avoid discrimination and maintain international human rights standards, ensuring that security measures remain fair and effective.

Furthermore, economic and social factors must be addressed to prevent radicalization. Many people who join extremist groups do so due to poverty, a lack of education, or political exclusion. Investing in creating jobs, social integration initiatives and youth education programs can counteract extremist recruitment efforts and provide alternative pathways for vulnerable populations. Along with this, international partnerships should focus on diplomatic engagement with regions prone to instability, to help to rebuild government structures and reduce political injustices.

Questions to Consider:

1. What policies could be set to make sure terrorists face prosecution while respecting sovereignty?
2. How can different governments work with private companies to regulate extremist content online without violating people's rights?
3. What role could financial companies and international banking systems play in ending terrorist funding?
4. What strategies can different governments take to prevent and reduce acts of terror?
5. What is the main motivation for the rise of extremist ideals, how do we neutralize ideals through diplomatic means?
6. How would the UNODC work with the ICJ to prosecute acts of terror?
7. How does the economic instability in different countries increase radicalization?
8. How can de-radicalization programs be improved further implemented on a global scale?
9. How can countries ensure efforts to stop counterterrorism doesn't violate any human rights?

WORKS CITED AND SUGGESTED RESOURCES

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