



# IPC

**INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS**

**MODEL UNITED NATIONS**  
MUSSOORIE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

**BACKGROUND GUIDE**

**AGENDA:**  
FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND  
EXPRESSION



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## **LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Dear International Press Corps,

I take this opportunity to formally welcome you all to the 2023 edition of the Mussoorie International School Model United Nations International Press Corps.

On behalf of the Secretariat and Executive Board, I'd like to welcome you as part of the International Press Committee, the Secretariat of has worked extremely hard in order to turn the dream of hosting this conference into a reality.

As a Journalist, we expect you to be aware, accurate, precise, fluent, expressive and most importantly, creative in whatever task you are asked to do. We aim at not only testing your writing skills but also bringing out your creativity and multi-tasking skills.

With this, we look forward to having you join us and hope that your time on this committee is rewarding, memorable, and, most importantly, enjoyable, and we hope to see you soon!

Warm regards,  
Operah Maibam,  
Aisha Irshad

# COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

## INTRODUCTION

In the broadest context, International Press Corps is a highly acclaimed and regarded committee in the Model United Nations, which provides a delegate, or a reporter or artist, as we call it in IPC, with an unparalleled experience, something that no traditional committee can offer you. The International Press corps is a news publishing organisation that provides an elucidative view, peer-review and engaging accounts of controversial ongoing events. And without a doubt, it offers a forum for a select group of talented young minds to share and discover their own love of news.

The independent, competent and responsible press is the foundation of any democracy. For the media to be credible it has to take responsibility for getting its facts right. The press will always remain the voice of the people. In the IPC, the reporters will represent a broad selection of news outlets that will be responsible for reporting on discussions and the operation of the entire conference. They will move through committee meeting rooms, jumping through time and space to deliver their news in the most ingenious and original manner. The reporters are also required to have an awareness of their editorial policy.

The International Press Corps is also a committee that connects all the committees. The delegates take on the role of reporters, who must remain in character throughout the course of the conference, acting as true UN reporters.

## **COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

The International Press Corps is responsible for reporting and covering the events of the conference, enacting a real-world media organisation. The IPC members take upon the role of journalists and photographers, to produce news articles, press releases, and photographs to highlight the proceedings and outcome.

Unlike any other traditional committee, IPC reporters do not represent a country or advocate for specific policies. While delegates deliver speeches and collaborate to draft resolutions, a reporter's function is to observe and report on the statements made by the delegates and the progress of resolutions in other committees. The primary function is to provide accurate and unbiased news coverage, rather than engaging in the debates and directly influencing it.

Reporters will be assigned to different committees during the conference, and hence will be responsible to conduct research on the various committees and their topics in order to understand the issues being discussed, enabling each member to craft informed and competent news articles and reports. After attending the committee sessions, IPC members will be allotted specific time and deadlines to work on their pieces. The best articles which reflect the different perspectives presented during the conference as well as keeping in mind the news agency's editorial policies will be published in the official MISMUN publication, "MIScellany".

## **FORMS OF MEDIA**

With today's evolving times and technologies advancing, you don't need to rely on print media to generate and distribute the news. It is like a walk in the park if you just have to spread the word throughout the globe, if you got something, maybe a smartphone with internet access, it will certainly spread the word to an ample amount of audience. There are several forms of "Media" in today's world but the forms of media which we will be focusing on in MISMUN 2021 are Written content, Painting, Illustration, and Photography.

## **WRITTEN CONTENT**

### **BEAT**

A Beat article specialises in the coverage of a specific incident or an issue witnessed. Unlike a news report, a beat does not report each and every occurrence in the committee session, and rather gives light to a substantial argument. The content of the beat must be in-depth and important enough to attract readers and keep them engaged. Active attention during the beat is necessary for the reporters to identify the form and shape of the discussion. Additional research from the reporter's end can be used in a beat to ensure creditability. Although new agency biases must be taken into account, inclusion of personal opinion is restricted in a beat. One beat article is mandatory one the first day of the conference, with a word limit of 250-300 words. A sample beat article is listed below for reference:

### **OPINION EDITORIALS**

Reporters may write Op-Eds for the newsletter after they have finished reporting from the council, which may include their take on the agenda. Editorials or Op-Eds do not have to contain any information on what happened in the council/committee but concerns what the author thinks of the discussion at hand. Editorials and Role of Press Corps, Op-Eds have to be very high in standards of writing and expression, and publication shall be at the subject of discretion of the Editorial Board. In clear words, Editorials and Op-Eds differ from News articles in matters of substance rather than events.

# INTERVIEW

An interview piece could be slightly open-ended. The delegates could take an interview of any delegate or of any member of the executive board of any committee with their permission and represent it as an article. The reporters are requested to respect the interviewee and ask the questions they wish to but are also requested to make sure that the interview should take place only after the consent of the interviewee. The interview must contain 8-10 questions.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

In this edition of MIS MUN, we will be introducing photography as a source of journalism alongside reporters. Photography is just another form of universal art which represents us through capturing emotions and freezing memories. In MIS MUN'23, photographers will have an objective of featuring portraits and monochrome photos while moving between committees and snapping pictures of compelling debates.

Focus on evoking emotions, depicting different perspectives and creating contrast through multiple tones, should be displayed into the images as photographers channel their artistic abilities. Submission of 10 photos per day throughout the conference with five portrait images and five monochrome images must be followed.

## **PRESS CONFERENCE**

What is a press conference?

An interview given to journalists by a prominent person in order to make an announcement or answer questions. Holding a press conference is a simple, effective way to communicate your message with the media. Holding a successful press conference can generate news about your cause and awareness about your project. This section looks at the elements of planning a successful press conference, when to hold a press conference, and how best to communicate with the media and the public at a press conference. Imagine a flock of media reporters coming to an event that you have organised. This can be exciting stuff, and an important opportunity for your organisation. If you've never done it before, holding a press conference can be intimidating.

## **FEATURES**

For all the bold content makers, in this edition of MIS MUN'23, members of the press will be getting an opportunity to create their own memes on the happenings of a committee. This is the perfect opportunity for press members to take their sense of humour and get creative with it. Memes may include visual content or in the form of tweets. Each submission should convey the message/ joke clearly without any further explanation. Reporters may include basic text in it such as dialogues etc. Please keep in mind that the meme should not be offensive or should not contain any kind of inappropriate language and must maintain the dignity of the conference.



## STYLE GUIDE

There are certain rules that every IPC member must adhere to when writing articles, which are as follows:

- **Abbreviations:** No periods should be used separating letters of an abbreviated organisation or agency. Only standard acronyms and approved abbreviations should be used. If questions arise, feel free to ask any of the editors. Before using an acronym, first the full form should be mentioned once within brackets. Example: United Nations (UN).
- **Apostrophes:** This punctuation mark will only be used to indicate possessive nouns or secondary quotations. Apostrophes are never used to indicate plurals.
- **Currency:** Dollar values are displayed with the appropriate currency symbol. Values on orders at or greater than one million are summarised, for example \$54,000, \$135,000 or \$214 million. Indian Rupees shall be written as INR and not Rs.
- **Developing nations:** Within the international community, the use of the term “third world” is actively discouraged. No nation will be referred to as “Third World.”
- **National references:** When referring to any UN Member State or Observer, standard UN country names should be used. These names match those with which each nation signed the UN Charter. For example, the People’s Republic of China can be referred to as “China.” Additionally, some national names are longer than those commonly used. For example, Libya is recognised at the UN as “Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.”
- **Numerals:** Any numeral ten or less should be spelled out in English. Numerals over ten are reported using standard Arabic numerals, such as 2001.

Numerals with five or more digits should include commas, such as 1,345,000. Fractions and decimal numbers should be reported as decimal numerals or percentages, such as 0.5 or 50% (rather than “one half” or “1/2”). Roman numerals are used only when referring to a source which was originally designated using Roman numerals, such as Chapter VII of the UN Charter (articles of the UN Charter are written as “Article 7”). Ordinal numerals are spelled out within the text of an article, such as the First Committee of the General Assembly. In article headings or titles, the author may choose to use ordinal abbreviations, such as 1st Committee.

- **Titles:** The categories of title to be used include: Standard professional titles: Periods will be used on abbreviated titles, such as Mr., Ms., Amb., Dr., Pres.
- **UN titles:** These titles will not be abbreviated. UN and MUN official titles include Secretary-General, Director-General, Deputy Secretary-General. Secretary-General shall never be abbreviated as Sec Gen.
- **Tenses:** Stick to one tense throughout your article and ideally, your article should be in past tense

## **RULES FOR SUBMISSION**

- **Platform of submission:** All team members will be shortly added to a Google Classroom through the official E-mail ID of MISMUN’23 IPC, and are required to make all submissions through the classroom with the specific deadlines which will be mentioned there.
- **Deadlines:** Following deadlines is one of the most important parts of this press. Not adhering to deadlines is unacceptable and frowned upon, and would result in deduction of marks.

- **Format:** The articles must be in the “Times New Roman” font in size 12. Bold text may be used for headings. All files for articles also must be named in the following format: “article type\_ conference day number”. For example, “Op-ed\_Day1”.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

The reporters will be judged on the following criteria

- Did the reporter produce diverse and interesting articles on the news?
- Were the articles informative, well written, creative, and grammatically correct?
- Was the delegate professional and ethical with the article writing?
- Were all the four articles written according to their types and the type could be clearly understood?
- Was the reporter up to the mark with the questioning during the crisis? • Whether the reporter was alert and active during the entire conference? • Was the reporter receptive to the advice given by the EB?
- Whether the article was original and fact-based?
- Did the reporter have a quick wit and a proper code of conduct?
- Did the reporter mention the source if she collected information from anywhere on the internet?
- The reporter should have an open mind and a clear thought.
- The reporter’s conduct in the press conference.

# SAMPLES

## **The Natives of our Homeland**

“Indigenous people should not be segregated from everyone else” ~ Delegate of Russia

Diksha Sharma

Al Jazeera

SOCHUM

23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2021

3:00 pm

The Social, Humanitarian and Culture committee commenced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September, 2021 under the agenda “Protecting rights of Indigenous people and question of ethnic cleansing” which was raised by the delegate of Italy, right after the roll call was concluded. The delegate of Commonwealth of Australia then proceeded to raise a motion to establish a General Speaker’ List, however did not mention the total time duration or the time duration for each speaker. The delegate then addressed the total time duration as 20 min with each speaker assessing 90 seconds. The next speaker, the delegate of Italy raised a motion to establish a General Speaker’s List with the total time being 15 mins and each speaker assessing 90 seconds. With the majority of 15 votes, Italy’s motion had been declared passed with the delegate of Islamic Republic of Pakistan being the first speaker. “To combat the violation of human rights that these minorities face, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan recommends that we all work together to provide aid and assistance to relocate ethnically cleansed community in refugee camps”, the delegate concluded his speech with these significant proposals. As the committee proceeded,

The Chairperson had apparently been facing some unforeseen issues due to which they had to leave, which gave an opportunity to the delegates to establish an unmoderated caucus of 20 mins to discuss moderated caucus topics. The agreement on the topic “Deliberation on ethnic and religious minorities and impact of covid-19 with case studies” had been very transparent, regardless of that, all delegates decided to have a vote to make sure the motion does not fail in the future. Other topics agreed on were “discussion on discrimination and violence against indigenous people and minorities with special emphasis on the refugee crisis due to the unfair foreign policies and sanctions”, “Deliberation on ethnic cleansing in southern Asia with special emphasis on IOK and POK”. The committee members also decided a few window topics to cover on if they permit enough time, such as “Focused discussion on the violation of human and fundamental rights in Myanmar with special emphasis on Rohingya Muslims and ethnic minorities” and “Approaches to fight against violations and methods to protect human rights of indigenous people and to prevent genocide and ethnic cleansing”. After the unmoderated caucus came to an end, The vice Chairperson asked for any motions on the floor which received a good deal of responses. The delegate of Italy along with the delegate of Russian Federation raised a corresponding motion to revert back to the General Speaker’s List which was halfway unprocessed, whereas the delegate of Federal Republic of Germany raised a motion for a moderated caucus on the topic “discussion on discrimination and violence against indigenous people and minorities with special emphasis on the refugee crisis due to the unfair foreign policies and sanctions”. Through the majority of votes for the motion raised by the delegate of Italy, the GSL had been reverted back with a new list of speakers with the delegate of Russia being first. The delegate of Morocco had then questioned the other delegate as they yielded their time to questions. “The new constitution of Russia has covered all the norms, but why are people yet suffering?” The delegate of Russia responded by quoting “there may be 1 or 2 instances but our government will make sure to ensure security all over”. The last speaker on the list was the delegate of Iran who was questioned by the delegate of Russia stating “Why is there a law in Iran which makes it mandatory for women to wear hijabs if the country wishes to maintain equality”. This very statement left the delegate in silence as the committee session was declared closed.

# CULTURAL FEST

## **Hiding the deep-rooted discrimination through “culture”**

**Al Jazeera**

**SOCHUM**

**23rd September, 2021**

**4:35pm**

The General Speaker’s List in the first session of the Social, Humanitarian and Culture Committee (SOCHUM), met with a rather contentious debate from the statement made by the delegate of the Republic of Iran which came with a significant repercussion. “Iran believes in equality despite religion, race, ethnicity”, the delegate of Russian Federation counter attacked this very statement, mentioning about a law in Iran which makes it mandatory for every woman to wear hijabs in public places. The delegate was undoubtedly against this ideology of hijabs and believed such a law, should not be maintained if the country plans on upholding equality throughout each corner of the nation. However, in response to the question, the delegate of Iran quoted, “the law pertains to the believes and culture of the country”, leaving the other nations in a complete bombshell. The opposing delegate, then mentions that the country has either decided in maintaining equality or considering a religious perspective and it’s believes which practically does not ensure equality between men and women, with the usage of right to reply, to which the delegate of Russia met with a deafening silence. The delegate of Iran then concluded to share their response through a substantive chit as the delegate of Russia was assuredly, not satisfied with the previous responses made. “How can the delegate state such a huge thing when a woman is not even given the rights to expose her face in public? It is absolutely not right to state that if the country focuses and prioritises religions.” The delegate of Russia quoted, when asked about their views on the issue by the media. “They are degrading and going against the rights of women in their nation”.

# IPC

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