



# AMUN Conference Preparation Newsletter

23–26 November 2024

12 November 2024

## AMUN's Policies on Diplomatic Courtesy and Harassment

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. AMUN prides itself on producing a fun, educational conference where all attendees can enjoy the conference in safety and comfort. To this end, AMUN takes diplomatic courtesy seriously and we have a zero-tolerance harassment policy for all conference participants. We ask that you spend time reviewing our policies (described below and [available online](#)) and specifically training your students on diplomatically courteous behavior. AMUN can set the rules for the conference, but without buy-in from conference participants, especially faculty advisors and permanent representatives, it is only half the solution. We appreciate your help in this matter.

### AMUN's Zero-Tolerance Harassment Policy

AMUN seeks first and foremost to provide all representatives and faculty attending our conference with a safe and harassment-free environment within which anyone—regardless of race, color, religion (creed), gender expression or identity, age, language, national or social origin (ancestry), disability, marital or familial status, sexual orientation, occupation, political or other opinions, property, birth or other status—can safely have a fun and educational experience learning about the United Nations and the challenges of effective diplomacy. In response to specific feedback from participants, AMUN updated its Harassment Policy recently, and the full text of the current policy is copied below. This text is also found in the [Conference Handbook](#).

*Representatives are expected to conduct themselves at all times in a manner befitting international diplomats. This means that every courtesy, both in speech and behavior, should be extended to all representatives, faculty advisors, hotel staff members, guests and AMUN Secretariat members at the Conference. AMUN expects the same level of diplomatic courtesy in written communications, including notes passed during formal session, posts to social media sites and communications within Google Workspace. AMUN reserves the right to expel any representative not acting in a courteous and professional fashion. Please refer to Rule 2.2, Diplomatic Courtesy, for more information.*

To provide all participants, including representatives, faculty advisors, exhibitors, hotel staff and AMUN Secretariat the opportunity to benefit from the Conference, AMUN is committed to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone regardless of race or ethnicity, language, disability, appearance, religion, gender identity or expression, or any other group identity. AMUN seeks to provide a conference environment in which diverse participants may learn and enjoy an environment of mutual human respect. We recognize a shared responsibility to create and foster that environment for the benefit of all. Some behaviors are, therefore, specifically prohibited. Examples of such behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Harassment or intimidation based on race, color, religion (creed), gender expression or identity, age, language, national or social origin (ancestry), disability, marital or familial status, sexual orientation, occupation, political or other opinions, property, birth or other status.
- Sexual harassment or intimidation, including persistent and unwelcome sexual attention, stalking (physical or virtual) or unsolicited physical contact.
- Verbal or physical threats of any kind.
- Assault of any kind.

Speakers are asked to frame discussions as openly and inclusively as possible and to be aware of how language or images may be perceived by others. All participants are expected to observe these rules and behaviors in all conference venues, including online spaces. Participants asked to stop one of the aforementioned behaviors are expected to comply immediately. Any final rulings on violations of the Code of Conduct are subject to determination by the Executive Office with consultation as needed with the Board of Directors.

If anything happens throughout the Conference that makes you feel unwelcome, unsafe or that prohibits you from fully participating in the AMUN experience, please let us know so that we can help you understand your options and decide what steps can be taken to address the issue. You can contact us anytime by stopping by the Ohio Room, asking to speak to a member of the Executive Office at Conference Services, emailing us at [mail@amun.org](mailto:mail@amun.org), or calling us at 773.777.2686.

## **Diplomatic Courtesy - Professionalism in Action**

At the United Nations, decorum and respect are the norm among trained and professional diplomats, so it is therefore not established in a specific rule. At AMUN,

however, to emphasize the importance of diplomatic relationships, this concept is enshrined in [Rule 2.2 of AMUN's Rules of Procedure](#) and is in effect for the duration of the Conference. The full text of the rule is listed below.

*2.2 Diplomatic Courtesy. All participants in the AMUN Conference must accord Diplomatic Courtesy to all credentialed representatives, Secretariat Members, Faculty Advisors, Observers and Hotel staff at all times,*

- *Representatives who persist in obvious attempts to disrupt the session shall be subject to expulsion from the Committee by the Chair,*
- *The Secretariat reserves the right to expel any representative or delegation from the Conference, and*
- *This decision is not appealable.*

Whether in person, in writing or over the internet, we expect that all representatives and conference attendees will behave toward each other as diplomats and afford their fellow representatives, hotel staff, faculty advisors and the AMUN Secretariat with every courtesy you would expect extended to professional diplomats or heads-of-state. ***This is not something that the AMUN Secretariat can do on its own, and we ask for your help as educators and club leaders in ensuring that everyone has an enjoyable conference, free of harassment, misconduct and undiplomatic behavior.***

For more information on AMUN's Rule 2.2, please look at the [2024 Handbook](#). Or read [Diplomatic Courtesy 101](#) on the *AMUN Accords*.

## **Accessibility at AMUN**

The AMUN Secretariat wants to ensure that all Conference attendees are able to enjoy the conference and participate fully in their simulations. If you or any member of your delegation requires any accommodations or modifications to get the most out of the AMUN experience, please contact us at [mail@amun.org](mailto:mail@amun.org) as soon as possible so we can discuss appropriate arrangements. Additionally, you may speak to us at Registration, or by visiting the Executive Office in the Ohio Room on Level 2 of the Sheraton once the Conference has started.

## **Update to the AMUN Rules of Procedure Regarding the State of Palestine**

At American Model United Nations we simulate two Observer delegations: the Holy See and the State of Palestine. Prior to AMUN 2024, the rights of both delegations were largely the same, however starting this year you may observe differences.

In May 2024, the General Assembly modified the status of the State of Palestine in the United Nations General Assembly, allowing them the ability to make all procedural motions and to sit among the Member States in alphabetical order, among other

changes. These changes are specific to the State of Palestine and do not impact the Holy See. In accordance with these changes, the AMUN General Assembly Rules of Procedure have been updated to reflect these changes. Specifically, a new rule, 1.11, has been added. It states:

**1.11 State of Palestine.** In addition to the rights and privileges otherwise afforded to Observer States, the State of Palestine is accorded the right to be seated among Member States in alphabetical order. The State of Palestine may also,

- Co-sponsor resolutions and amendments
- Move for all procedural motions, including moving resolutions and amendments to the floor (7.13 and 7.14)

The State of Palestine is NOT accorded the right to vote on substantive matters. This rule only applies in the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies.

The Holy See is still subject to the traditional rules of Observer States, as outlined in *Rule 1.10* of the [General Assembly Rules and Procedures](#).

## Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about this email, please contact us directly at [mail@amun.org](mailto:mail@amun.org) and we will be happy to help. As always, if you are no longer the primary contact for your school's Model UN club or class, please contact us at [mail@amun.org](mailto:mail@amun.org) with updated contact information or fill out our [Change of Address/Contact](#) form online.

Good luck on your preparation,

Shannon L. Dunn  
AMUN Executive Director

Madeline Glass  
2024 Secretary-General

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