



# **BACKGROUND GUIDE**



## **INTERNATIONAL PRESS**

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**SMIS MUN '25**

**IMAGINE · INSPIRE · INNOVATE**



# LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE BOARD



Greetings journalists!

It is with immense pleasure that we welcome you all to SMISMUN 2025. It is an unbelievable honour to be your Editorial Team, and over the course of these three days we eagerly anticipate elaborative articles, rigorous press conferences and zealous connection and bonding among the press corps.

It is commitment that we believe to be of the utmost importance, therefore we hope that you journalists work diligently and meticulously on your tasks over the course of this conference.

This will ensure your fruitful experience as a reporter and hone skills that extend past academic simulations.

Teamwork goes hand-in-hand with commitment; Everyone in this committee is expected to work together, rather than in competition with each other. Be affable, make connections and build a network that could be your ticket to many splendid opportunities.

That said, the two of us will be available at all times should you require any assistance, advice, or even a little pep talk. Please feel free to approach us with any concerns, and remember to have as much confidence in your journalistic prowess as we do!

Bear in mind that despite personal competition, we all share a common goal; To get answers from delegates and research with great passion. Stay calm, be prepared for the tumultuous proceedings of committee sessions and press-cons, and remember to take everything in your stride. Don't crumble in the face of adversity.

In the apt words of Arthur Ashe, "One important key to success is self-confidence. An important key to self-confidence is preparation."

We aspire to be the fuel to your fire and facilitate your love for writing and of course, heated interrogation!

All the best!

Regards,

Arianna Majumder and Ishita Venigalla.

Executive board of the International Press.



# ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS:



While the International Press isn't a conventional committee of the UN, the work we do is not in any way less significant. Our job is to find the truth, and retrieve answers from delegates (in ethical ways, of course).

Observation is key as an IP member, one must be present (both physically and mentally) during committee sessions and be judicial in deciding what is necessary and what is not.

Make comprehensive but concise notes to use as reference material for yourself.

Learn to always trust your instincts no matter what, you are a journalist after all.

The press has been deemed the fourth pillar of democracy, and to this we must stay true.

Do not leave without answers and do not enter unprepared.

The three things that you will definitely need to keep in mind throughout the conference and your tenure as a journalist, include:

## **1. Diplomacy:**

An MUN is an academic simulation, free of the more controversial interpersonal dynamics of the real world. As a reporter, you are expected to maintain a degree of courtesy and respect at all times, write responsibly and refrain from any frivolous reporting.

Make the international press proud and upkeep their image by being the most diplomatic version of yourself. More importantly, always be kind, it's underrated.

## **2. Research:**

It is the foundation of any kind of reporting. As a press member you are expected to be well-researched on your committee's agenda, and about anything a delegate of a country may be trying to cover up. It is this kind of information that could fuel your press conferences and your articles. To get started, go through the background guides of your assigned committees and make any relevant notes. You are encouraged to do additional research as well.

## **3. Connecting:**

We cannot stress this enough, but teamwork is so crucial for any journalist to have a great experience. Always remember to get to know your fellow delegates really well and just have a wholesome experience that involves work and socialising. Whenever you need help from a fellow reporter or they ask for your help, do so without any hesitation. Prioritise unity over competition.



# **TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS:**



## **Opinionated Editorial (Op-Ed):**

An opinionated editorial is an in-depth article related to any sub-topic of your respective agenda. It is the chance for a reporter to convey their thoughts and opinions about their respective agendas via their writing. However, don't forget that your opinions cannot be baseless. Facts are just as important as opinions in an Op-Ed and whichever opinion you express must be backed up by evidence.

**Word Limit:** 500–600 words.

## **Beat Submission:**

A beat-based article is completely different from an Op-Ed, i.e. it's more of a report. It is simply an objective narration of any event taken place in committee, related to the agenda.

There are strictly no opinions in a beat, and it must be extremely concise. There should be no beating around the bush, and you must get straight to the point every time. It consists mostly of facts but should contain some degree of analysis as well.

**Word Limit:** 250–350 words.



# **TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS:**



## **Consolidated Report:**

A general report is written in reported speech only, and like a beat is very formal and devoid of opinion. Unlike a beat, however, it is a recollection of the proceedings of the committee up until the time at which the article is written. It must also be concise and apt.

**Word Limit:** 350–500 words.

## **Creative Piece/ Feature Article:**

This is an opportunity for the reporter to explore their creative side. Feel free to take full liberty with the format and structure of your piece.

Poem? Yes. Story? Yes. Caricature? Yes! As long as it's related to the agenda or anything related to the committee, you are welcome to do whatever you wish to!

**Word Limit:** 150–800 words.



# **TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS:**



## **Press Conference:**

Often the most anticipated aspect of the international press committee, here is a reporter's chance to do some deep research and produce some hard-hitting questions. An opportunity to leave delegates stunned. Remember to always be respectful of the delegate themselves, as it is the country we are questioning, not the person. But above all, interrogate as much as you need and don't be afraid to ask follow-ups.

While a heated press con may be the highlight of your conference, remember that your goal is never to intimidate, but rather to gain insight into the delegate's stance on the agenda.



# RULES AND REGULATIONS:



- Strictly adhere to your submission deadlines. You will be marked upon it.

- The formatting guidelines include:

**Font:** Times New Roman.

**Alignment:** Justified.

**Title of Article:** Bold, Font size 14.

**By-line of article:** Italics, Font size 13.

**Body of Article:** Font size 12.

- Always submit your articles in the form of a word document, with the name of the file being:

**Name\_Type of Submission\_Committee Name\_Day of Submission**

For example:

**Arianna\_Op-Ed\_UNHRC\_Day1**

- Always include a by-line in your articles.

**Eg:** *“Elina Medhi, reporting from the Commission on the Status of women (CSW) opines on the overturn of Roe v Wade”*

- Ensure that you always stick to the word limit for your articles.

- Never refer to a delegate by their name, always as their portfolio.

For example:

Instead of writing “Arianna spoke first...” write **“The delegate of India spoke first.”**



# RULES AND REGULATIONS:



- Do not use abbreviations without introducing them first.

**For example:**

**“The current president of the United States of America (USA) is Joe Biden.”**

After introducing it, you can refer to it as USA.

- Any numbers from one to ten must be written in words; beyond that, it can be expressed in numerals.

**For example:**

**Two, 20.**

- Always maintain diplomatic courtesy in your articles. Negative comments are discouraged and should never be directed at a delegate personally. Any criticisms should be made subtly so as not to offend any sentiments.
- Make sure to use gender neutral pronouns (they/them).
- Instead of using terms like “moderated caucus” or “unmoderated caucus”, use “formal debate” or “informal debate.”
- Do not include irrelevant information in your articles. For example:  
**“The committee then decided to break for lunch.”**
- Plagiarism is very strictly frowned upon. Always cite your sources and give credit where it’s due.  
**“When you have wit of your own, it is a pleasure to credit others for theirs.”**
- If you use any pictures in your articles, credit the sources of the pictures.
- Stick to the timeline of your committee. If your committee is set in a certain era, ensure your references match that timeline. Pay attention to your freeze dates!

Note: Crisis updates can be used as reliable sources as they are your only reference for the committee canon.

- Avoid contractions. Use “do not” instead of “don’t” and “cannot” instead of “can’t.” Always punctuate properly.



# RULES AND REGULATIONS:



- Use catchy titles for your articles!
- Follow the ABC's of journalism: **Accuracy, Brevity, and Clarity.**
- Refrain from using personal pronouns in your articles.
- Always, always approach us with any queries. We're here to help you, no matter what!



# **RULES AND REGULATIONS:**



The reporters will be marked upon the following criteria. It is likely that there will be additional criteria throughout the conference, and this can be revealed at the end of the conference if you choose to approach me for individual feedback. Aside from that, individual feedback will be given if requested and after every article/ submission. Never hesitate to approach!

- a. Conduct/ Behaviour during the conference.  
**(Adherence to the MUN's code of conduct, presence in committee as much as possible, etc.)**
- b. Grammar and Vocabulary.
- c. Orderliness. **(Punctuality and sticking to word limits.)**
- d. Structuring and formatting. **(Adherence to the rules and regulations.)**
- e. Content. **(Substance and creativity.)**
- f. Depth of research and understanding of agenda.
- g. Relevance of content.
- h. Press Conference. **(Questions and demeanour during the conference.)**
- i. Brownie Points.

Submission deadlines for the day will be given at the beginning of each day.

**Research, debate, and above all, enjoy  
your time at the MUN!**