

# The Delegate

Tuesday 27th of March 2018

Issue 2

## 30 Years of SAIMUN

A lot can happen in 30 years - since 1988 the world has changed in ways unimaginable; we've revolutionized, innovated, underwent some of the most important historical events in the postwar era. Needless to say, SAIMUN has been adapting with it and is prouder than ever to celebrate 30 years of existence!

In 1988 the first St. Andrew's International Model United Nations (SAIMUN) was held on campus at St. Andrew's College, Blackrock in Dublin, initially founded by Mr. Arthur Godsil it aimed to challenge the abilities of respective delegates - these values are still standing today. A time in history where much was happening, debate must of been intriguing especially when internet was emerging as a widespread availability and therefore commodity.

In 1990 the conference moved to the Royal Dublin Society (RDS), a prestigious conference hall to accommodate the growing number of delegates who wished to attend. This conference asked controversial yet essential questions with the falling of the Berlin Wall the year before, it marked the growth of the conference and signified success to come.



At the turn of the century the conference transferred to the Jury's hotel. In 2002 Mr. William Hehir was asked to take control of the MUN Admin team the Friday before the conference began, while he may have started with no previous experience, he continued on to be the Director today. In 2002, John Hume, a Nobel peace prize winner and a founder of the Irish Social Democratic and Labour party, was approached by MUN delegates who saw him in a pub. The students asked if he was interested in speaking at the conference - he accepted and spoke about the influence of youth on global peace. This was a monumental event and most certainly an unforgettable experience for all those who attended.

In 2008, the conference transitioned to its current location - The Royal Marine Hotel. In 2018 the tradition has been carried forward and the conference continues to thrive as a globally and critically acclaimed one with over 52 schools attending from 20 countries.

30 years is a long time but SAIMUN has passed the test of time, its utilization and usefulness is still as prevalent as ever and we can't wait to celebrate the coming years. Happy 30th anniversary SAIMUN!

By MacKenna Westerfield



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Be sure to visit us in the **Dunleary room!**

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# PEOPLE OF SAIMUN



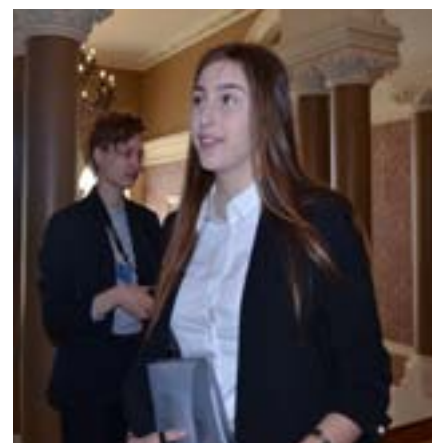
The first person that we interviewed was Nikitas. He is from Greece and is the Ambassador representing Peru. When asked this question, he said that he would change today's economy by replacing modern cash with cryptocurrency.



Then we interviewed Majida from Morocco. In her opinion we should change the way we communicate. She states that leaders don't communicate effectively, they do not understand each other. Therefore communication might resolve world problems.



Afterwards, we asked Yara a Lebanese girl living in Dubai who is the Ambassador of Australia. She would end poverty by granting every child access to education. She believes that this could change their entire world, and give them more opportunities, which can lead to a better future and a successful life.



We then asked Maria, a delegate representing Lebanon who is from Greece. She thinks that there are many things that should be solved, but if she could change anything in the world she'd solve the refugee problem. She believes that we should all stand together in solidarity to stop wars and create world peace. She then adds that the world would be better if everyone had faith, was happy and at peace.



Later we went up to Mark Williams, from Washington DC, a delegate representing Turkey in the Social and Humanitarian committee. He thinks we should find some way to stop the fighting going on in the world, and create world peace.



Finally, we asked Frida from Morocco who is the Ambassador of Kazakhstan. She believes that currently there are so many things to change in this world, the number one being putting an end to global corruption.

## Solving the Problem of Stereotypical Food and Food Menus

**FORUM:** World Health Organization

**QUESTION OF:** Stereotypical Food and Food Menus

**SUBMITTED BY:** Lebanon

The WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION,

Observing that food menus around the world are very stereotypically made from tedious ingredients, Draws attention to the fact that the banal food menus are causing severe problems all over the globe,

Alarmed by the fact that food menus are demotivating people to eat,

Noting that a high percentage of the world's population observes menus on a daily basis,

Emphasizing the need to change the food menus for a stronger mental, physical, and psychological well-being of the entire population,

Confident that changing conventional food menus to non-stereotypical can greatly benefit the globe on several levels,

1. Requests all restaurants to establish themed food menus to attract customers based on their interests

- a) Unicorn themed menus such as:
  - i)The supercilious unicorn rainbow waffle ice-cream burger,
  - ii)Unicorn horn sparkly rainbow salt fries,
  - iii)Color changing unicorn magic soup,

2. Glow in the dark menus, for example:

- a)The sparkling star beer,
- b)The Blue moon sky shake,
- c)The Sunset cloud candies,

3. Model United Nations menu for the delegates, such as:

- a) The globe burger,
- b)The Country map shaped steak,

4. Calls for the establishment of technological advances in food menus that work in parallel with the human senses:

- a) Screens in menus in order to:
  - b)Insert interactive and three-dimensional images of food,
  - c)Search the right food based on each's personal input of health,

5. Odor buttons to:

- a) Smell the meal beforehand,
- b) Fulfill hunger without consuming any additional calories,

6. The food sample machine to:

- a) Taste a sample of the meal before ordering,

7. Proposes to start a food talent competition where international chefs, artists, graphic designers, scientists, and psychologists all work together in order to:

- a) Create food that satisfies people on both physical and psychological levels,

8. Calls upon the creation of new food ingredients from nature in order to save the environment such as:

- a) Natural seasoning from filtered rain water and sea salt in addition to plant essence,

9. Authorizes a huge straw in the sky connecting food factories to restaurants to freshly transfer confidential created ingredients in order to:

- a) Maintain the food quality,
- b) Regulate food temperature,

10. Encourages restaurants to add a download option of food from menus in order to:

- a) Save time,
- b) Preserve energy.



# 6 Minutes and 20 Seconds

On the 24th of March 2018, hundreds of rallies were staged in the US and beyond as thousands of marchers filled the streets calling for stricter gun controls following the mass shooting at a Florida school in February which left seventeen students dead and more fighting for their lives in hospital. This incident not only ignited the mass 'Never Again' movement on social media, but also inspired Saturday's mass demonstrations which took place under the banner "March for Our Lives" – including a rally in Washington DC that was attended by an estimated 800,000 demonstrators.

Teens who survived the Valentine's Day shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida are the main organizers of the March for Our Lives rally. These students have started a powerful push to bring about changes to US gun laws and have delivered a resounding message that Washington's inaction in regard to gun violence is no longer acceptable. Building on the momentum of last week's National School Walkout, an event which saw students across the United States from Maine to California walk out of class to demand stricter gun laws, these members of a generation that have been raised with gun violence have mobilized millions of Americans with impassioned pleas for an end to the damaging gun culture in America: "To the leaders, skeptics, and cynics who told us to sit down, stay silent and wait your turn, welcome to the revolution," Marjory Stoneman Douglas student Cameron Kasky

told the throngs in Washington, "Either represent the people or get out. Stand for us or beware".

In Washington DC, student leader and Parkland survivor, Emma Gonzalez, gave a poignant speech where she remembered her fallen classmates, and spoke about the everyday things they would never be able to do again. Gonzalez's silence spoke as loudly as her words when she took a powerful prolonged pause. This was a visceral moment and one that an analyst later called "The loudest silence in the history of US social protest". This was Gonzalez's way of showing the world how it felt to crouch in a school room while a murderer carried out his shooting spree. Gonzalez's speech ended with the words " Fight for your life, before it's someone else's job".

17 year old Ms Gonzalez has been one of the most outspoken figures of the Never Again and March for Our Lives movements and has gained more than

a million twitter followers in a matter of weeks, more than the NRA has. The first major media coverage of Gonzalez that brought her into the spotlight came just four days after the shooting when she delivered a fiery speech at a gun control rally in Florida. Gonzalez called "B.S." to Trump and the NRA, and to anyone else who claimed that "Kids are too young to understand how the government works".

While this issue of gun control and gun violence may not be specifically discussed this week, we know that the atmosphere of youth activism and of young people engaging more in politics is at the very heart of what SAIMUN stands for. Today at SAIMUN 2018 students from twenty countries, forty eight schools, representing 101 delegations join with those on the March for Our Lives marches to say "We're the future. We're the change".

By Lily Bohan



Artwork by Maja Kos

# The Problem of Plastic on our Planet

Our world is experiencing changes constantly- the tech industry is more innovative than ever, billboards make our streets bright and colourful and many social issues have lost their "taboo" label. It would seem the Earth is going through a very positive phase, but it is not necessarily so when it comes to the environment. Plastic is ever-present, polluting our seas, trashing our streets and making the general picture of our world a lot less vibrant.

It's no wonder plastic is practically everywhere- flexible, durable, cheap, it can pretty much be made into everything. In 2014, 311 million metric tons of it were produced. 8% of the world's oil goes directly to the production of this material. In 2010 only, over 270 million metric tons of plastic trash had been produced, 32 of which were improperly disposed and almost 9 million were simply dumped into the ocean- that calls for trouble.

Naturally (not really), such huge amounts of debris make our beaches look rather unattractive and littered alleyways do not make for representative parts of cities. The problem, however goes a lot deeper than just aesthetics. A 2006 study stated that at least 267 different animal species are being affected by plastic every year and end up becoming victims of our imprudence. Moreover, the floating waste tends to accumulate in areas called "garbage patches", the number of which has become alarming over the years. The Mediterranean Sea Garbage Patch, for example, is said to contain over 250 billion pieces of plastic.

Though recycling is seemingly popular nowadays, it really is not popular enough. What we, mere mortals, can do in order to help the environment is not purchase products made from plastic when we can avoid doing so. And in addition to reducing, we ought to reuse and recycle, as the classic saying goes. Our merry land and sea creatures will undoubtedly be grateful.

By Zuzanna Lebek

## Press Profiles



Nikolas Efraim Pappadopoulos

Kaya Tueni

Selina Moussa

"Sometimes I shock myself with the smart stuff I say and do, other times I try to get out of the car with my seatbelt on"

"I walk around like everything is fine, but deep down, inside my shoe my sock is sliding off"

"When you meet me, you think I can am quiet. Then you get to know me and just wish I was quiet"







## The Question of the Impact of Brexit on the island of Ireland

On the 23rd of June 2016, the population of the United Kingdom made history when 51.9% of the participating UK electorate, based on a 72.2% turnout, voted to leave the European Union. Across from the United Kingdom, over the Irish Sea, lies Ireland, an island made up of 32 counties. Of these 32 the majority form the Republic of Ireland, but crucially six constitute Northern Ireland, part of the UK. At this year's SAIMUN conference the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) will be discussing the question of the impact of Brexit on the island of Ireland.

Currently, as both countries are still members of the European Union, there is freedom of movement for all EU nationals between Ireland and Northern Ireland. There are no border patrols in place and the border between the two nations is for the most part invisible. However, once Brexit comes into effect the border between the Republic and Northern Ireland will become a land border between an EU and a non-EU state.

One of the biggest threats facing the island of Ireland will be the disruption in trade to Britain. If no agreement is made on future free trade between Ireland and Britain and if the UK leaves the European Union, it is likely that import taxes and tariffs will be implemented between them and EU countries. Britain is one of Ireland's largest trading partners and as a result of Brexit, Irish companies exporting to the UK will face harsh tariffs. The prices in stores will also be rise, as these tar-

iffs would also apply on British imports into Ireland. Tariffs tend to be higher on heavier products such as food as countries have historically wanted to protect and secure their agricultural and farming sectors. Therefore, tariffs on certain meat products could be up to 50%, should tariff levels based on the World Trade Organisation guidelines apply. This issue could force many Irish producers out of business, as they would be pushed out of the UK market.

The United Kingdom is not scheduled to leave the European Union until March 2019 and as a result, many people are still unsure as to what will happen. The President of the European Council, Donald Tusk has stated that issues relating to Ireland must be discussed first in the Brexit negotiations following a meeting with the Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar. He believes that the UK must propose a specific and realistic solution to avoid a hard border between Northern Ireland and the Republic after hearing critical comments made earlier by British Prime Minister, Theresa May. The border has created hate and violence between the two sides in the past but since the Good Friday was signed twenty years ago the violence has remained relatively dormant. However, if a hard border is created it could potentially reignite sectarian tensions and spark a new wave of violence between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

By Hannah Moran

## The Question of Domestic Violence Against Women

In a world full of differences, not everything seems fair and just. However, one problem that we all can see that has persisted for years and even centuries is the issue of violence against women.

From the time human beings learnt how to write, which is the moment we moved from prehistory into history, women were not treated the same as men. They had to stay home, cook meals, take care of children and rear them. At the same time men fought for food, territory and power. That was what life looked like – for centuries.

However, eventually, after years of being humiliated, women decided to fight for their rights. Since 1869, when women first got an opportunity to vote in Wyoming, in the United States, much has changed. In most countries women have equal rights as men, they can study whatever and wherever they want... Unfortunately, some people haven't got the message and haven't been able to rid themselves of certain base instincts, like hurting women.

Of course the physiology of a woman's body is different to a man's. Women are generally physically weaker, but that obvi-

ously is not a reason to hurt them. There are three aspects of this violence: physical, mental and sexual; and each one is equally dangerous. The first one involves beating and generally hurting women and other people can see wounds, bruises and scars. It is easier for people to see that kind of violence, because of the injuries. The second one destroys the way the victim thinks and can lead to self-harm or even suicide. The final one relates to sexual activities that the sufferer is forced to do; we can call it harassment and rape. The worst thing is that this type of abuse takes place in ordinary homes. This problem is all around us but we rarely see women being hurt like that. Usually it's because these women are afraid and feel lonely, but they are not alone. There are many organizations that help women who have been hurt by domestic violence such as the Centre of Women Rights in my own country, Poland. Society should not tolerate that kind of male behaviour, those men should become outcasts, as this behaviour is behaviour that can't be forgiven or forgotten.

The issue of domestic violence against women is extremely important. Many women are hurt every day, so if there is anything we can do for them, we must do it. They need our help and support in this situation. It is not easy for them so the responsibility to help is in our hands. Will you help?

By Julia Sarnowska

## The Question of the Privatisation of Space

Space, being the final frontier, is intriguing and mysterious. Ever since the Apollo 11 mission, the world has been eager to learn more about what the sky holds. In recent years a new space race has begun - private companies such as SpaceX, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic have set their goals very high and want to make space travel more accessible as well as giving the world alternatives in case our current plans for the future of Earth go astray. The legalisation of privatised space travel in 2004 has opened many doors to entrepreneurs who wish to unveil the secrets of space using their own wallets. Indeed, the space industry is now experiencing the rebirth of incredible curiosity about the undiscovered, mostly as a result of non-government endeavours.

People like Elon Musk suggest that space exploration is our best bet in case of war or overpopulation. The truth is however, that not every member of the tax-paying public would happily see their money being spent on sending rovers to Mars or, let alone, a Tesla into space. That is where private companies have the upper hand - they can make decisions based solely on their own opinions and the number of zeros on their bank accounts. They do not need external approval but help society nonetheless by "boldly going where no man has gone before" and returning with news that satisfies not only futurists, scientists and space-enthusiasts but thanks to our capitalistic reality, also their own pockets.

Although a system where the government does what is

## The Question of Gender Equality in Access to Education

Quality education for all is a fundamental human right and is essential for personal and social development. We can talk about equality between men and women when both sexes are able to share equally in the distribution of power and influence, and when both men and women have equal opportunities for financial independence through work and enjoy equal access to education. This concept of equality between genders was set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as far back as 1948.

However, gender inequality in terms of access to education persists in all countries. There are thirty-one million girls worldwide who have dropped out of primary school, thirty-four million adolescent girls left in middle school and seventeen million are expected to never even enter at all. In Pakistan, Ethiopia, and Nigeria, there are more than a million girls who don't attend school, and are forced into domestic work and marriage.

The problem with the gender gap in education is it cuts off women from all those advantages that a literate woman can have. Education helps reduce poverty, promotes economic growth and creates more career opportunities for women. This entire debate starts with addressing cultural

beneficial to society and science, and private investors do what they believe is right and profitable seems ideal, some experts see flaws in it. The main concern being that space could become just another billboard private companies can use to boast about their achievements. Ultimately, commercialising space travel would inevitably make space less unreachable and unsullied, which is how authorities and astronauts such as Neil Armstrong prefer it. Government-controlled actions are widely considered to be safer and the purity of exploring space merely 'pro publico bono' is looked at more fondly by the public eye than doing so for individual desires. There are undeniably more 'down to earth' problems such as the unequal distribution of wealth that private investors could help solve with the money they instead decide to spend on rockets and rovers.

The question remains - although complete privatisation of space is now imminent due to the rate at which new discoveries are made and the ambitious plans space-hungry entrepreneurs have, should it be encouraged? Spending a toasty vacation on Mars may become an option sooner than we expect considering the current state of the environment as well as the advancement of technology and another, more important question may arise. What ought to be the priority - saving Earth or finding a replacement for it? Will it really be of any significance who installs the exit doors once our self-manufactured doom comes upon us? The void awaits.

By Zuzanna Lebek

gender norms, which will help women gain access to better jobs. Then, teachers can teach lessons that allow students to reflect on these issues and can break the stereotypes of gender equality. Another problem that we also face these days is that economic activity that remains highly gendered. Men and women working on the same job still receive unequal pay and different work conditions.

Let's start helping women from all around the world to find work, to prevent them from getting assaulted and from having kids at a young age, and most importantly let's help them gain control of their lives. Women everywhere should stand up for their rights and what they believe in. Women and men should be treated equally when it comes to economic, political and social issues. As Nelson Mandela once said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

By Karine Ballout



## Harry Deacon - Secretary General

### How did you feel when you were chosen to be Secretary General?

Really, really delighted. I remember starting off at SAIMUN four years ago, it was my first conference ever and I remember looking at the SECGENs and being deeply impressed by these students who were walking around with so much purpose and so much knowledge. I really wanted to be like that one day too, I am now. So I was absolutely thrilled when I found out.

### What expectations do you have for this year's conference?

Of course I expect it to be the best SAIMUN yet. We've got some fantastic delegations, the topics are really interesting, really current. In general, I'm just looking forward to see delegates taking part, get out of their comfort zone and perhaps push themselves a little bit. SAIMUN exists as a challenge for students. It's not going to be easy, you do have to work for it.

### What do you enjoy most about your job as SECGEN?

I like walking around, seeing different debates, talking to delegates and trying to solve any problems if they arise, just getting to see the conference as a whole, getting to see behind the scenes and getting to

appreciate the whole work that goes into it.

### What's the funniest memory you had at a MUN conference?

Three years ago at SAIMUN I was in ECOSOC and for the last resolution I couldn't speak unless I had an Australian accent, so I was there googling in the back of the committee how to do an Australian accent and in the end it was absolutely terrible, but I tried my best. I just remember that as quite a strong SAIMUN memory.

### What's the best thing about MUN conferences? What makes them special in your view?

One of the things that makes them slightly different is just the chance to meet people from all around the world. We have people coming from four continents for SAIMUN. It's just this unique chance to meet people with different view-points. With MUN we're trying to create solutions, it's not just talking about things.

### What are the benefits of participating at a MUN conference?

I think the benefit of MUN is that it teaches you things that aren't in the school curriculum. Where else do you have to negotiate to solve a problem, where do you use that sort



Photo by Elsa Murray

of interpersonal skills that MUN tests, that perhaps aren't seen in other areas? That's what's very unique about MUN. With MUN, you develop a broad skill set and become well-rounded individuals.

### Tell me something about Ireland. What makes it worth visiting?

It's quite cliché, but Irish people are genuinely quite friendly with tourists and people who are coming to visit. You feel welcome here, Ireland has that kind of personal touch.

By Nickolas Papadopoulos

## Monica Daneasa - MUN Advisor



Photo by Julia Sarnowska

### When finding out about SAIMUN, what convinced you to participate at the conference?

Since I participated years ago in other MUN conferences, I had an idea about how great an opportunity

it is for my students, so I encouraged them to get acquainted with this new chance of being part of something special and educative.

### What is the most important committee issue in your view?

I consider all issues very important in their own way. While some have a more urgent character and require urgent measures, others demand permanent solutions that can be found in a common effort.

### Describe your students' delegation in three words.

Interested, intrigued and eager to

know.

### What impression has SAIMUN given you so far?

SAIMUN is a very well organized international school event which imposes very high standards for our participants.

### What do you hope your students will learn out of this experience?

I hope that my students will have the opportunity to gather experiences that will make them aware of what political commitment and responsibility means and maybe even shape their ideas of future career more satisfactory are the results.

By Teodora Puii





