

LONDON INTERNATIONAL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

LIMUN



2024 Sensitive
Topics Policy



LIMUN Sensitive Topics Policy

As stated in our Freedom of Speech Statement, the LIMUN Foundation (Charity Number: 1159324) is committed to upholding freedom of expression and cultivating an environment through which speech is truly free. However, we recognise that our conferences bring together participants from all corners of the world, and all walks of life, that may have a stake in some of the issues discussed within a given committee of a conference. The following document, therefore, outlines our policy towards sensitive, or contentious topics and how they should be approached throughout the conference period.

Note that this does not supersede our Freedom of Speech Statement, Safeguarding and Harassment Policy, or the law, and is meant to serve as an indicative guide.

Participant Responsibility

These topics can take many forms, including but not limited to ongoing armed conflicts, contemporary border disputes, religious/governance issues, or the occupation of a geographical region by a given actor. Ultimately, we cannot avoid discussion of these issues. This is the reason why we come together: to engage constructively to discuss remedies to them. However, all participants of any LIMUN conference are expected to approach sensitive topics with caution and an appropriate demeanour, recognising that some of those in the room may have been directly or indirectly impacted by it.

Your Responsibility as a Delegate

As a Delegate, you must ensure that your own personal belief, or stake, in a sensitive topic does not trump the position of the country, or person, you have been assigned to simulate. You must convey this position constructively, realistically, and respectfully. During lobbying periods, those not bound by strict speaking rules, be careful how you talk about sensitive issues and do not encourage arguments that detract from the assigned topic of discussion.

As a general rule, speeches concerning such 'sensitive topics' should only be made under the following conditions:

- That the 'sensitive topic' has been introduced and discussed, e.g. by the Dais as indicated in the Committee's study guide,



- That the contents of the speech are not speculative, and refer to objective events which have happened, and/or objective, empirical analysis of such events which come from reputable sources.

If you, as a delegate, feel uncomfortable as a result of a speech made by another delegate, you are reminded that you have the right to escalate this under the **Safeguarding and Harassment Policy**, following the complaints procedure as outlined in the Policy.

Your Responsibility as a Chair

As a Chair, you will have been briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Academics as to what is acceptable as a topic of debate, and what is not. In researching prior to the conference, you must ensure that this is balanced and impartial, approaching any issue carefully and upon consultation with the Under-Secretary-General for Academics. During committee, you act as an objective arbiter of information and must closely monitor your committee for any debate, or conversation, that may be disrespectful or impede on the Freedom of Speech Statement.

As a Chair, you also have a responsibility to moderate debate during Committee sessions, and to provide relevant guidance to delegates as to the relevant sensitive topics that are relevant to your chosen Committee Agenda. These topics should have previously been agreed upon by the Under-Secretary-General of Academics. You also have the responsibility to escalate relevant issues under the **Safeguarding and Harassment Policy**.

Your Responsibility as an Advisor

As an Advisor, you must ensure that your delegates are familiar with the above policy and remind them of it during the conference period.

Adopted, and effective, on **22 January 2024**.

