

LIMUN 2023

Freedom of Speech Statement



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The London International Model United Nations (LIMUN) Foundation (Charity Number: 1159324) holds freedom of speech not only as an inherent human right, but as quintessential for political professionalism. As a Foundation dedicated to promoting cultural empathy and understanding of the United Nations among young people, freedom of speech enables and drives our conversations of international affairs and discussions on various cultural traditions, beliefs, topics and theories. As such, the LIMUN Foundation is committed to protecting our participants' freedom of speech and expression, as well as actively taking steps in cultivating a safe and positive environment in which this right can be freely exercised without fear of discrimination, oppression, retribution and/or any other form of prejudice. Moreover, neither speakers nor listeners should have any reasonable grounds to feel intimidated or censored. This code of conduct applies to all LIMUN activities, events, platforms and/or venues, both physical and digital. Through this pursuit, we encourage passionate but civil and professional debates within the laws of the United Kingdom, and to cultivate young minds on the importance of transnational collaboration and mutual understanding.

While the LIMUN Foundation is committed to upholding freedom of expression and cultivating an environment through which free speech is truly free, we recognize the role that implicit biases, whether political, social or cultural, may have on this commitment. As such, the Foundation will take necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that our platforms and/or staff are cognizant of implicit political biases - including their own - and strive to reduce, if not eliminate, such biases. In doing so, the LIMUN Foundation hopes to foster an environment where freedom of expression is exercised and that all relevant opinions, perspectives and viewpoints are given an opportunity to be heard, engaged with, and if warranted, subject to constructive challenge, enquiry and justification. The LIMUN Foundation and its staff reserve the right to take all reasonable and appropriate measures to ensure such commitment to freedom of expression is upheld; these measures remain the prerogative of individual Secretariats.

Under these fundamentals of free speech, the Foundation strives to provide a safe space for all participants and members of LIMUN by giving proper consideration of diverse perspectives whilst maintaining respect between one another.

However, while the LIMUN Foundation facilitates constructive debate, challenging held views, and considering alternative perspectives, in order to fully engage within the diplomatic roleplay simulation of conference committee sessions, it must be highlighted that the freedom to speech is

not absolute, and must be constrained within the limits of the law on this matter. **There will be no support, or platform provided, for any verbal or physical conduct designed to threaten, intimidate or coerce. LIMUN does not condone views or opinions that promote violence or hatred on the basis of race, religion, sexual orientation or any characteristic that breaches equality laws, nor any act that encourages people towards criminal acts, violence or organisations that engage in terrorism. Furthermore, we extend this scope of restriction to those falling below criminal sanctions, such as views expressed that defame or segregate on the basis of race, religion, or sexual orientation or any characteristic that breaches equality laws.** Expressions of such views are not a part of the diplomatic simulation and social activities at LIMUN nor in public benefit, and therefore are prohibited by the LIMUN Foundation. The Foundation reserves the right to investigate and take necessary action for any infringement of these restrictions.

Revised on **9 January 2023**.

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Navigating Uncharted Territory: Diplomacy for a Changing World

