

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Delegates,

My name is Batul Mandviwala, and I will be your chair for the Disarmament and International Security Committee during HAMUN 52!

I am currently a senior at the University of Houston majoring in Management Information Systems, and I served as a Vice Chair for HAMUN 51 last year. Throughout all four years of high school, I was an active MUN member, and had the opportunity to attend various conferences and imitate the delegates of different countries. I am extremely grateful for those experiences because it allowed me to develop a broad-minded and well-informed outlook of the world that we live in. I still believe that it is extremely helpful to attend and participate in MUN conferences, which is why, years after I've graduated high school, I have gone full-circle and am now staffing the same conferences I attended as a delegate.

The Disarmament and International Security Committee is one that is extremely relevant to today's world. Refugee crises, malnutrition, child soldiers, rogue militias, and forced labor all can often be traced back to the core issues that this committee discusses. For example, how can we prevent rogue military and terrorist groups from obtaining illicit weaponry in the first place? How can we prevent them from capitalizing on the land's resources and using those funds to further finance their violent and oppressive regimes? These are hard questions to answer, but that is why it's so important to ponder and critically think about these topics. Not only will it hone your ability to research, question, and analyze, but it will also give you new perspectives. Ignorance stunts growth.

These conferences can seem overwhelming, especially for those attending them for the first time! Remember, the goal isn't to be perfect. HAMUN always makes for a memorable experience. You will meet new people, collaborate, and make surprising alliances. I ask that you do not shy away from speaking and contributing as much as you can. That's the best way to learn!

Please feel free to reach out with any questions! I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Batul Mandviwala

DISEC

HAMUN 52

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