

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Distinguished Delegates,

First and foremost, welcome to HAMUN 49. It is a privilege and an honor to be able to serve as your chair for the UNHCR committee. I hope you are excited and remain open minded to new ideas and experiences throughout the conference. To briefly introduce myself, my name is America Salas. I am a current Junior majoring in Psychology and Statistics at Rice University. Outside of my studies I enjoy engaging in activist organizations and foundations for women and minority rights, exploring new music and the city of Houston.

My first experience with Model UN was my freshman year of high school. It was an overwhelming experience being placed in a class I did not have prior knowledge of. However, over time I began to fall in love with the process and experiences. In the past I have helped organize a MUN conference at my school that some delegates might be familiar with. As for HAMUN, this will be my second year serving as a chair. With prior experience in crisis rooms, WHO, DISEC, UNHCR, Security Council and more, I am confident you will find something of interest to you within MUN.

UNHCR has been recognized to serve and protect refugees and displaced persons since its creation. The committee has expanded over the years and continues to diligently work towards realistic solutions to conflicts at hand. I am excited to be a part of this committee because there are many factors at play here. Delegates, you must be aware of social and political implications of your actions and diligently work towards the best course of action.

This might be a new experience for some, or even just an anxiety inducing one for others. However, I urge you to come into this committee with an open mind, ready to embrace anything that comes your way. I encourage you to come up with new ideas and implement plans that might seem challenging. The best way to grow is through trial and error. I am confident each one of you will do an outstanding job.

Best,

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