

**Houston Area
Model United Nations
Standard Committee**



GA Plenary

**Chair | Jordan Stanley
Standard Committee Background Guide
Houston Area Model United Nations 48
February 2 & 3, 2023**

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Note to Delegates

Delegates,

My name is Jordan Stanley, and I am a freshman at Texas A&M University. I am majoring in Agricultural Economics with a concentration in finance and real estate with a minor in Agricultural Business Entrepreneurship. I participated in HAMUN my last three years of high school. I was on the WHO committee for my first year and GA Plenary my last two years. I was blessed to receive Best Position Paper for the last two consecutive years, and it makes me super excited to read all of y'all's! There are a few goals that I hope for all of you to accomplish this year. Firstly, I hope that you can all go into this year's conference with an open mind. I want you to challenge yourself to be able to reason with opinions that differ from your own. In addition, I also want to challenge you to really step into the role of the country you are representing. Do your research, and make sure you are well informed on your country's beliefs, values, and ideologies. Finally, I hope that you can all work together to create some powerful resolutions and that you can take something away from this experience that will help you in your future endeavors. I expect that you will treat each other with respect and listen to what everyone has to say. Really take time to consider your peers' opinions. Moreover, I just really want you all to have fun and make this the best HAMUN conference yet. Please remember that you only get out what you put in. I wish you all the best of luck and cannot wait to see all of you at HAMUN 48!

Best regards,

Jordan Stanley

GA Plenary, Chair

Houston Area Model United Nations

jordanstanley945@gmail.com





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Tips for Success in GA Plen

Position Papers

1. REMEMBER THE HEADING (committee, country, topic)
2. Give some background to introduce your topic. This may be anything from the history of your country's view on your chosen topic to how it is presently affecting your country.
3. Include past international action (UN and NGOs)
4. Discuss country policy. This may be past or current policies and/or future policies your country should adopt pertaining to your chosen topic.
5. Create possible resolutions for your topic.
6. Remember your citation page and try to use sources from the UN and/or NGOs
7. Keep it to 1-1 ½ pages or less
8. Make an impact by using strong action words
9. Write it as if you were writing in first person from the perspective of your country
10. EXAMPLE (this is my position paper from HAMUN 47 that won best position paper): see end of document(:

Conference

1. Learn the very basics of parliamentary procedure, but do not be afraid to speak up just because you do not know all the proper phrases. We are here to help you learn!
2. Refrain from using personal pronouns

Conference (cont'd)

1. Start writing resolutions early! GA Plenary is a very fast paced committee that will evolve immensely throughout the two days of conference.
2. Do thorough research on your country, so you can truly embody that country
3. Be outgoing! I know it can be scary, but it is so worth it!
4. Be respectful of other delegate's opinions
5. Practice active listening to fully engage in the conversations going on
6. Do not be afraid to ask us for help, that is what we are here for!

FOR THE SENIORS

1. Apply for the Andrea Flynn scholarship! You have nothing to lose by just applying for it! I was blessed to be the scholarship recipient last year, so please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.
2. Make the best of this conference since it is your last one
3. Push yourself more than you have in previous years since it is the last time you will be eligible to compete at HAMUN
4. Ask us questions about staff applications if you are even a little interested in becoming a staff member!

Committee: General Assembly Plenary

Country: Sweden

Topic: Gender Equality

Gender equality, by definition, is when people of all genders have equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities. While many countries have made great strides in gender equality over the last decade, Sweden believes that there is still much more work to be done. Many countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen still struggle immensely with gender equality issues. Women in these countries experience many setbacks such as unequal pay, unpaid work, and harsh discrimination. As a country of exceptional gender equality, Sweden believes we can aid in the current issues of gender equality within other countries.

Currently, Sweden has seen the largest strides in gender equality since passing the Swedish Discrimination Act in 2009. This act ensures that employers are actively promoting gender equality in addition to proposing repercussions for acts of harassment. Furthermore, this act prevents against the unfair treatment of those who must take parental leave following the birth of a child. Lastly, it ensures that women and men have equal opportunities to level up in their occupation and receive raises. Since Covid-19, United Nations Women have formed a plan called "Beyond Covid-19: A Feminist Plan for Sustainability and Social Justice." The inequalities that still exist are thoroughly addressed as well as plans for a more gender equal future.

Sweden feels that we are in a place to help other countries considering that, overall, we experience great amounts of gender equality in comparison to most countries. Sweden would like to work hand-in-hand with those countries still struggling with gender inequality. Furthermore, the country of Sweden wishes to work closely with fellow United Nations representatives in order to achieve the highest level of global gender equality. Firstly, we will need specific plans for each country, considering that every country has a different set of viewpoints and beliefs. Sweden believes that acts similar to our Swedish Discrimination Act would be the most beneficial. Through these acts, we could outlaw workplace harassment and require employers to promote gender equality and opportunities. The country of Sweden's goal is to have at a minimum, solid plans set in place for these acts to take effect by the end of 2022. It would be monumental to overcome something like gender inequality during these trying times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

