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JMUN EXPRESS

Official Newspaper of the Official Hisar JMUN
**COMBATING POLARIZATION IN TIMES OF GLOBAL
CRISIS**

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JMUN' 2021

EGE ÇAN, LAL ACAR, BEGÜM BULGURLUOĞLU

Hisar JMUN 2021 has unfortunately come to an end. This year's event was a great success for all of its participants. For the first time in its 15-year existence, the conference was held entirely online. We want to thank the Executive team, StOffs, delegates and all other participants who worked very hard to make this conference happen throughout all of the challenges we had.

As you know already, this year's theme was "Combating Polarization in Times of Global Crisis". Hisar JMUN attempted to understand the income inequality, gender inequality, racial inequality that took place during the COVID-19 outbreak. Every delegate discussed how to combat polarization during times of global crises. They did an outstanding job of proposing feasible solutions to these problems.

In the opening ceremony, Ms. Tabatabai was the keynote speaker. Her wonderful speech referred to many important topics such as women's rights and race equality. Ms. Tabatabai's efforts to make changes and expand the UN was encouraging for all of us. Ms. Tabatabai's speech served as an inspiration to all of us, reminding us that hard work is the secret to success.

The first online JMUN conference was an amazing experience to all. I'd like to express my appreciation to the conference organizers, Ms. Tabatabai, and all of the attendees for making it such a memorable event. Learning on how to tackle polarization in times of global crisis was enlightening. It was a helpful lesson alongside an enjoyable program as it is every year. We hope the next year is just as much fun and educational for all participants.

Turkey's Withdrawal From the Istanbul Convention

BEGÜM BULGURLUOĞLU

Every day, at least one femicide is registered in Turkey. Around 400 women were murdered in Turkey last year, but the figure may be much higher, with thousands more found dead in suspicious circumstances. A total of 77 women have been killed since the start of the year. According to research, 1 in 2 women has experienced sexual harassment. On the night of March 19, Turkey withdrew from the Istanbul Convention. The Istanbul Convention is a human rights treaty aimed at ending gender-based violence. In the Preamble of the Convention, it is stated that the Convention aims to create a Europe free from violence against women and domestic violence. This will be possible by realizing legal and de facto equality between women and men and eliminating violence against women. It has been ratified by 45 countries and the European Union as of March 2019. Women and girls who are victims of abuse must be protected and helped by countries that have ratified the Istanbul Convention. They also must take measures to ensure that violent criminals are punished. Withdrawing from the Istanbul Convention is a move that places the women in our country's life in jeopardy. If women face widespread abuse and governments turn a blind eye, there can be no true equality between men and women.

The Istanbul Convention was signed on 11 May 2011. The agreement aims to reduce, deter, and prosecute domestic abuse. A percentage of the Turkish population, on the other hand, contend that the country's ideals of gender equality and non-discrimination based on sexual identity contradict family values and encourage homosexuality. Yesterday, thousands of people protested around Turkey, demanding that President Recep Tayyip Erdogan reverse his decision to withdraw from the world's first binding treaty to prevent and fight violence against women. Hashtags such as #IstanbulConventionSavesLives #femicidesarepolitical #don'teventhinkaboutit are blowing up on social media.

The Council of Europe's Secretary-General, Marija Pejčinović Burić, called the decision "devastating." She stated: "This move is a huge setback to these efforts and all the more deplorable because it compromises the protection of women in Turkey, across Europe and beyond." The Mayor Of Istanbul Ekrem Imamoğlu responded with a tweet saying: "In a country where violence against women is reported every day, it is very painful to announce a withdraw from #IstanbulConvention at midnight. This is to disregard the struggle of women of all views for years. Regardless, the winner will be women, not "the masculine mind". The opposition party CHP also stated, "Opposing the Istanbul Convention is a threat to all women." CHP Deputy Chairman, Lale Karabiyik, said that the government's opening the Istanbul Convention to discussion by holding a press conference encouraged men who commit violence.

To summarise, with the murder cases and violence increasing as time goes on, the lives of women in Turkey are unprotected. The withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention creates an even bigger threat. Istanbul Convention Saves Lives.

Interview with the Secretariat Generals

LAL ACAR

Lal Acar: How long have you been participating in JMUN?

Erin Güneri: Technically, I started participating as an admin in 5th grade, but as a delegate, my “actual JMUN journey” started in 7th grade. So about 7 years ago, I think.

Lara Nahçıvan: So I think it’s been about six to seven years since I first started as an admin in 5th grade. Ever since then I’ve been doing MUN, so I guess that would be, like, 6-7 years.

LA: Would you say that JMUN/MUN/UN is a part of your plans for the future?

EG: I would say so. I would love to do MUN or at least mock trial in university if I can. Otherwise, I would love to work in a non-profit organization sometime in the future in my career, so yeah I would love that.

LN: To be honest, not really. I mean, maybe when I go to college, I’m considering possibly doing MUN as an extracurricular activity, but after graduation I don’t think I’ll pursue anything related to international relations or diplomacy or the UN. I’m more of a STEM oriented person, so I’ll probably do something more science-y, or maybe something more tech-y. But definitely, even if I don’t continue doing MUN or something related to the United Nations, I’ll be using the skills that I’ve gained in MUN for many many more years to come. So, even if I won’t be doing it necessarily, I guess I’ll still be using the skills I have gained through it.

LA: What were your expectations of this year’s JMUN? Did it live up to it?

EG: I would say, we had zero expectations going in, because up until, like, December we didn’t really know what was going to happen since none of us attended any conferences until February anyways. But after seeing other conferences and attending them, we had pretty high expectations for our conference especially since we have a lot of delegates from outside of Turkey as well. I would say it did live up to it. We had a few crises, but other than that, especially today, with the plenary sessions and our high school committees I would say it definitely lived up to the expectation, for me at least.

LN: So, my expectations were that this year would be fun for the delegates, but also, you know, allow fruitful debates and good resolutions to come as well. And I do think that my expectations were met, because we had some pretty good resolutions when I look at the plenary session, resolutions and also the chairs had fun sessions with the delegates. So I guess my expectations were met in that aspect, but since our conference was online for the very first time, I was a little worried that we wouldn’t really be able to live up to the standard that we had set in the previous years. But I think, with the hard work of the Executive team and board, and also the other people like the delegates and the student officers, the secretariat and the other members of the Executive Board, I think that we created a very seamless experience. And I guess we lived up to the precedent that we had set in the previous years.

LA: Would you want for it to be online in the coming years or do you prefer when it was face-to-face?

EG: I would say face-to-face because, last year at least, we had a lot of chances to connect with the other chairs when we were face-to-face, and it was much easier to coordinate everything when the entire executive board and the staff members are in one place. Also, just the vibe is so nice when you’re in, like, the high school and

you're managing a conference in actual face-to-face conferences. So yeah, I would definitely say face-to-face if I could next year. Online is good but not the same, it was definitely very different.

LN: I prefer it when it was face-to-face. I mean, if the conference were to happen online in the upcoming years, I still think that we would do a good job, I'm sure the next generation will be able to handle it and I think we set a pretty good example for an online conference as well. But if it was face-to-face, it would be so much better.

LA: What is your favorite part? Is it different from the previous years?

EG: It was kind of the same, definitely getting to know the chairs and spending time in their committees and seeing how they chair is my favorite. Because of how, first of all we have a lot of friends that come to our conference so it's very nice to see them in action as chairs. We also get to talk with them a lot, in the previous years we used to do stoff dinners for chairs, so those used to be really fun. We had one yesterday as well with a very small group of people. So yeah I would say the stoff dinners and benign with the chairs are my favorite part.

LN: So, my favorite part was actually, in this conference, I visited committees as the Delegation of Botswana, and gave speeches and answered questions and submitted amendments. And going back to my delegate days was really fun, being able to visit any committee and giving speeches as the Delegation of Botswana, I really enjoyed that. Yeah, kind of fun, like a go-back to my days as a delegate. But also, you know, checking up on committees as well and seeing how they were doing, if the student officers needed any help, or I occasionally chatted with the delegates as well and helped some of them with their resolutions. That was also very good. So I guess; visiting the committees and keeping in touch with the student officers and the delegates and ensuring that they had a good experience were my favorite parts of the conference.

LA: What is some of your advice for people who are new to the program?

EG: I would say definitely attend as many conferences as you can, without, obviously, jeopardizing your grades. But, attend as many conferences as you can, in as many positions as you can, like, different committees, different chairs, individual delegates. And I would also say, whenever you go to a conference, just make speeches and participate, because after the conference is over, and you haven't participated, I realized that I would come to regret some of the conferences I attended just because I didn't participate as much as I should've. So yeah, just participate a lot, and also, attend as many conferences as you can so that you have a lot of memories to cherish.

LN: I have some advice. So, I used to be very shy when I first started doing MUN, like when I was an admin, I was very shy as a delegate. I would have so much anxiety, like, my hand would shake, my voice would tremble, it was really bad, but I kind of forced myself to give speeches. By forcing myself I was trying to get out of that shy mindset. That first speech that you make is very difficult and you do a really bad job at it and you feel really bad afterwards, but just raising your placard and giving that speech and getting it over and done with is really important. And it kind of gives you more confidence in the upcoming sessions as well. So I guess, one of my recommendations would be for delegates to, in a way, force themselves to speak more, take that leap of faith and raise their placards and just give a speech. Like, what's the worst thing that could happen? That would be my main piece of advice, because the more speeches you give, the easier it will become. I remember when I started doing MUN, I would force myself to make speeches and write them from start to finish, and I would read every single word. But, after you give so many speeches, it becomes natural and you don't even have to write speeches anymore. After writing full speeches, I started just writing bullet points of the things that I want to say, and now I

don't even feel the need to do that. I just go take the floor and improvise a random speech and at least I have the confidence to do that now. And the speeches I write aren't so bad, at least, they're much better than the ones I used to make when I was younger. So yeah, I guess taking that leap of faith is my main piece of advice. Other than that, if, as a delegate, somebody feels, like, really shy, and really hesitant, I would recommend them to write a speech from start to finish and then read that speech, because even that will be necessary to improve your confidence. And after you gain enough confidence, reading your speeches, I would recommend them to shorten the notes that they make and just write bullet points and kind of elaborate on those bullet points, improvise a little bit. And after they have enough confidence with the bullet points, I would recommend them to just not even write anything, just take the floor and improvise a speech directly and, like I said before, take that leap of faith. Just take the floor, deliver a speech and force yourself, because if you don't force yourself, then you're probably not going to be able to improve.

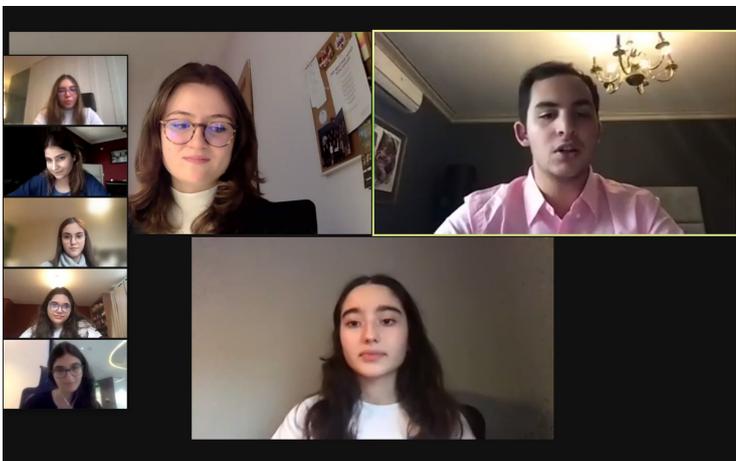
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Amazing
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Photos From the Closing Ceremony



Link to our Closing Video:

<https://youtu.be/E8WPj4rcsf0>