

THE



MUNist




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# Where prejudice lingers, progress has to follow.



This weekend, delegates from around the world gather for the 8th annual DST Model United Nations to confront discrimination and advocate for minority rights. This year's theme, "Progress Amid Prejudice: The Ongoing Fight for Minority Rights," reminds us that many still face exclusion and systemic barriers simply because of who they are.

The conference is an opportunity to engage in debate, draft resolutions, and explore how diplomacy can address prejudice and promote human rights. Progress is never guaranteed, but dialogue, awareness, and action can turn exclusion into opportunity.

This weekend is more than a conference it is a call to action.

Let the debates begin, and let every voice contribute to building a future where prejudice no longer dictates a person's path!



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## Secretariat



## Welcome Speech from the Secretary General



Your Excellency, honorable guests, distinguished advisors and supervisors, fellow student officers, and esteemed delegates,

I am Loukas Kargiotis and it is my profound honor to serve as the Secretary General of the 8th DSTMUN Conference. I am delighted to welcome you to this session of our Model United Nations conference. Since its inception in 2018, DSTMUN has epitomized the spirit of student initiative: a conference created by students, for students, with the purpose of uniting young individuals from around the globe at the Deutsche Schule Thessaloniki to partake in a faithful simulation of the United Nations.



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## Welcome Speech from the Secretary General

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Martin Luther King Jr. once articulated: “Injustice anywhere is a threat to JUSTICE EVERYWHERE.” His words remind us that discrimination never exists in isolation. An affront to the rights or dignity of one group undermines the very foundations of justice for ALL. They underscore the intrinsic connection between human rights, equality, and the collective responsibility we share to uphold them.

In light of the myriad global challenges we currently face, we have selected the central theme of this year’s DSTMUN session to be “Progress Amid Prejudice: The Ongoing Fight for Minority Rights.” Over recent decades, the struggle for minority rights has shaped contemporary human rights discourse, revealing both humanity’s advancements and its enduring limitations. Protecting minority rights is not merely a legal obligation—it is a moral imperative that fosters justice, equality, and social cohesion in every society. The United Nations itself underscores that human rights are “the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family.” Yet, discrimination persists in numerous

forms: racism, xenophobia, religious intolerance, gender-based inequality, and barriers faced by ethnic, linguistic, and sexual minorities. This year, we redirect our focus to those whose voices are often marginalized—acknowledging that the strength of a society is reflected in how it treats its most vulnerable members.

We must endeavor to safeguard human dignity, promote inclusion, preserve cultural identity, and ensure equal access to opportunities for all. Only by comprehending and defending the rights of minorities can we ensure a more peaceful and equitable future for generations to come. Our task is not simply to acknowledge injustice, but to confront it—through empathy, cooperation, and collective action.

At this year’s DSTMUN conference, we aspire to cultivate debates that expand your perspectives and deepen your comprehension of global issues. We encourage openmindedness, respectful dialogue, and collaboration within and beyond your committees.

Moreover, we hope this conference will foster friendships that endure beyond these three days, inspiring future cooperation on an international scale.

On behalf of the Secretariat of the 8th DSTMUN, I wish you all a meaningful, thoughtprovoking, and inspirational conference—one filled with memorable experiences and innovative ideas that propel us toward a fairer and more inclusive tomorrow.

Thank you.

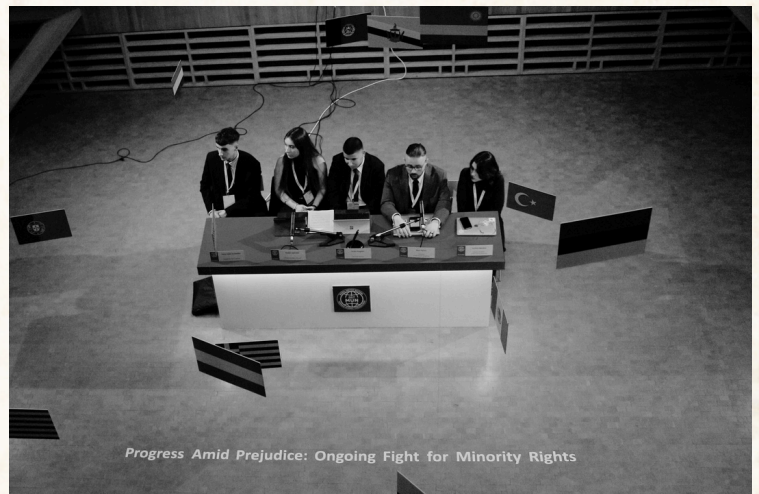


# ♦ The Opening Ceremony ♦



Dear distinguished participants,  
It is our honour to welcome you to the 8th DSTMUN Conference, dedicated to the theme “Progress amid Prejudice: The Ongoing Fight for Minority Rights.”  
The Opening Ceremony began with an inspiring performance of Chopin’s Nocturne Op. 9 No. 2 by Mr. Nikolaos Katsaros, setting a dignified tone for the conference.

The Headmaster of the German School of Thessaloniki, Mr. Thomas Holger Reusch, then expressed his gratitude to the Organising Team, the Honourable Guests, and all delegates for their commitment.



His Excellency Mark Strohmenger, Consul General of Germany in Thessaloniki, followed with a keynote address, emphasising the global challenges facing minority rights in an era where conflict often overshadows civil liberties.



# ◆ The Opening Ceremony ◆

After an interlude with Mr. Katsaros on the piano, Ms. Evdokia Fitrolaki delivered a speech informing us about the ongoing fight for minority rights and the impact this injustice has had on public health, while reminding us that minority rights are human rights, not privileges.

The quartet Ariadni Vatopoulou, Theodosia Katsarou, Jamila Chriouat, and Simos Michalopoulos—followed with a performance of the song “Dust in the Wind” by Kansas. Ms. Eva Tsoukalidou, a Supreme Court lawyer and financial consultant, was then welcomed to the stage, inspiringly highlighting the power we, as teens, hold as the future generation in these rather demanding times.



The anthropologist Nefeli Voulieri talked about the history of Lesbos and the crisis that erupted there back in 2015. She shared her insightful point of view on the topic through her personal experiences and thoughts.

Then, a video summarizing the agenda of the conference was presented to the auditorium.

The opening ceremony concluded with an astonishing speech by the Secretary General, Mr. Kargiotis.

Overall, the opening ceremony of the 8th DSTMUN was one of a kind, setting the tone for the conference we had all been awaiting!





# Updates of the GAs

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The GA1 committee worked actively on preventing the recruitment of ethnic minorities in armed conflicts and insurgent groups. After icebreakers that helped build rapport, delegates presented their policy statements and proceeded to lobbying. The chairs remained highly engaged and looked forward to productive debates.

The GA2 committee addressed barriers to banking for the unbanked and economically excluded. Delegates quickly presented their policies and moved into lobbying on both their main topic and the issue of regulating digital currencies to prevent financial crimes.

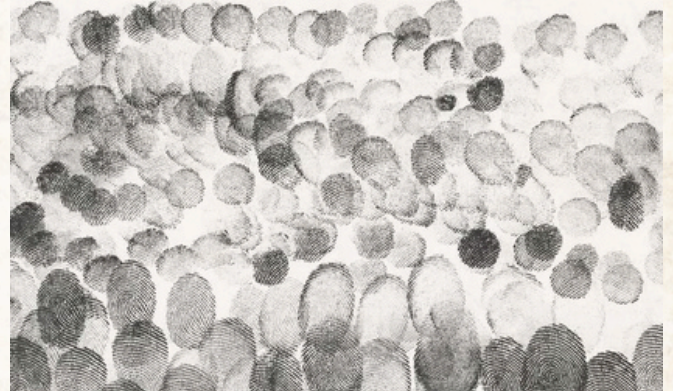
The GA3 committee addressed issues under the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural agenda. The session began with icebreaker activities to establish rapport among the delegates. Delegates then presented their policy statements, outlining their countries' positions, before moving into lobbying. During the discussions, several delegates highlighted their national challenges, while others expressed agreement or raised concerns regarding the proposed viewpoints.

The GA4 committee discussed the assessment of affirmative action policies for Indigenous representation in government and legislative bodies. Delegates presented their policy statements, outlining their nations' positions on the matter. The committee also focused on addressing statelessness and safeguarding nationality rights for displaced and vulnerable populations in the Middle East and North Africa.



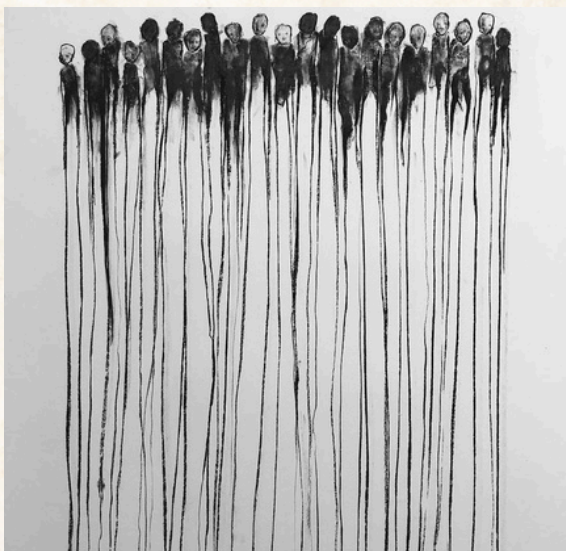
# The People the World Keeps Ignoring

In a world drowning in headlines, certain tragedies slip through the cracks. While everyone's focused elsewhere, the Yazidis grieve endless losses from ISIS attacks that never got closure. While leaders argue over penalties, partnerships, or shipping paths, whole ways of life inch toward vanishing. Still, even when ignored, they won't fade away.



One Yazidi mom keeps looking for her lost child. Meanwhile, a Rohingya teacher runs lessons in a tent at the camp. Over there, a Hazara kid sticks with studying no matter what. Elsewhere, an Uyghur dad hums songs that aren't allowed.

In the distance, the Rohingya are stranded without land or refuge, and most people ignore their demolished homes. Being Hazara by birth can put one in danger everywhere in Afghanistan, where schools and places of worship are repeatedly bombed. Inside China, Uyghurs disappear into camps where customs are subtly lost and concealed from prying eyes. These groups are united by a more difficult bond -the anguish of being ignored-rather than by geography or customs. Because their struggles don't benefit those in power, marginalized voices become less heard as political noise increases, not because they want to be silent.



Still, even when ignored, they won't fade away. One Yazidi mom keeps looking for her lost child.

Meanwhile, a Rohingya teacher runs lessons in a tent at the camp. Over there, a Hazara kid sticks with studying no matter what. Elsewhere, an Uyghur dad hums songs that aren't allowed. Their stories demonstrate that while safety only occurs when we keep a close eye on things, progress must be protected.





## *First vs Last Conference From Delegate to Secretary General*





# MUN Lookalikes

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