

HARVARD NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2019 REPORT



Location: Boston Park Plaza Hotel, Boston, MA
Date: February 14-17, 2019

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS OF HNMUN 2019

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

TERRIANN BAKER:

The opportunity to grace the HNMUN platform as a chosen delegate for the UWI team was an honour that one could not take lightly. The benefits that were derived from this experience were endless. I would encourage any student who has the access and resources to take full advantage of the opportunity to build fellowships, engage in salient debate and critically analyse policy positions. There is no doubt that this experience has built resilience, determination and encouraged a greater appreciation for International Relations and the work of the United Nations.

My partner, Tonicia and I were gifted with the opportunity to represent the Republic of Kenya on the World Health Organisation. From the onset, our speech chemistry sparked a buzz within our respective Committee room. Our vibrant exchanges mirrored our passion to discuss the pertinent topic of Special Needs and Disabilities. As our confidence increased so did the tasks and responsibilities associated with HNMUN. Strategic relations became the order of the day. We surveyed the room for potential partnerships in order to produce a well written resolution. A prevailing challenge within this Committee was the uncompromising stance of delegates. This significantly stymied the resolution writing process and resulted in internal conflict within the group. In spite of this, we continued to be significant contributors, having been afforded with the opportunity to speak on the final resolution.

The HNMUN experience brought with it new connections and a new appreciation for warm weather. In spite of the surrounding cold, my partner served as a dynamic, confident and warm delegate who provided much needed strength and determination during this event. I am grateful that I was able to work with her and share in our achievement as 'Outstanding Delegates' on this Committee.



TONICIA WILLIAMS:

HNMMUN 2019 was an incredible opportunity to learn through doing about the conduct of diplomacy in a variety of fields. My partner, Terriann and I, were assigned to the World Health Organization as the delegation from the Republic of Kenya. We debated about special needs and disabilities around the world and the best way to create a multilateral framework to guarantee rights, resources and opportunities for people with special needs and disabilities.

While I found that it was important to create tangible solutions that all members states could agree on, one of the most substantial issues I saw was the need for negotiation and compromise throughout the process. Many delegates were bent of ensuring that their exact, unaltered ideas were included in the final draft resolutions or that they were able to defend their positions in more depth than time allowed. However, I found that many of our ideas were similar and as such I focused on promoting compromise, understanding and dialogue between members especially when tension was running high and time was short.

The HNMMUN experience is challenging from the lack of sleep, pressure to come to a resolution and newness of the experience overall. However, my partner was invaluable in maintaining positivity throughout the conference and the UWI team from other campuses allowed me to relax and get to know the rest of the delegation better. Overall, I am blessed and grateful for the experience to represent UWi St. Augustine and the Institute of International Relations and proud that my partner and I were able to bring home an "Outstanding Delegate" award.



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

ASABI RAWLINS:

I represented the Republic of Kenya, together with Mr Nestor Garcia, in the International Organization for Migration Committee.

I would recommend participation in HNMUN to any university student. It is a truly dynamic and memorable experience that while brief offers incredible opportunity for self discovery, self-reflection and personal development. HNMUN boosts your confidence, your ability to work productively with others and sharpen your creativity. As part of a Double Delegation team in particular, HNMUN really showed me the value of teamwork with my partner, Nestor. You have to be acutely aware of your own strengths but also remember that you are jointly one delegation. One particularly memorable experience that stands out to me in this regard, is being literally able to complete one of Nestor's sentence in our opening speech. It was unplanned. No one in our committee knew this, and my dramatic interjection when Nestor paused as to find the right word really struck a chord with the entire Committee. Everyone approached us after that first speech talking about the impact we had made.

Indeed, I am appreciative of the insights this experience offered into the grave problems of human trafficking, migrant smuggling and the socio-economic impacts of these problems. I came away from the HNMUN experience so much knowledgeable on these issues, and truly resolved to enlighten others about these dire challenges that face millions of people globally. But apart from this, HNMUN truly, truly sharpens your research skills, your speaking flair, your dynamism as a presenter - because you cannot be so wedded to the bare facts that you neglect the importance of making an impact in your Committee.

In sum, this is what I would tell any student about HNMUN : Do it! If you love being challenged...If you love engaging critical, real world issues...If you love interacting with passionate individuals and aspiring changemakers...HNMUN is an experience you cannot and will not forget.



NESTOR GARCIA:

HNMUN 2019 for me was both intense and rewarding! Answering the call to again enter into contention for a spot in this regionally and academically diverse team was hard to pass up. It was certainly worth it as Asabi and I won the Diplomatic Commendation Award in the International Organization for Migration Committee (IOM) along with other reasons. From the first committee session onwards, I was exhilarated by the dynamism, pace and competitiveness of the IOM and the substantive discourse on Human Trafficking, a topic that I am passionate about. In this competition, I was allowed to utilize and further cultivate my debating, negotiating and impromptu speech making skills.

Having a firm grasp of the procedural rules served us in good stead as we were able to effectively raise motions, amendments and acquire numerous opportunities to speak. With Human Trafficking being chosen as opposed to Migrant Smuggling, as predicted by my partner Asabi and I, the flow and nature of the debate was less obstructionist and contentious. In spite of this, within our bloc and subsequent bloc mergers there was significant debate and negotiations over the exact solutions and programs to be implemented in the draft working paper and resolution due to two reasons. Firstly, the major players in the bloc all had innovative and actionable programs for each sub issue which were similar in approach, secondly, in keeping with national agendas and the competition format, every country wanted a significant part to play in resolution. In this context, I relished my role of debating, negotiating, advancing our country's position on several sub issues in this bloc and in collaborating with other countries in the development of several new programs that made it on the resolution.

The HNMUN 2019 experience was engaging and challenging with the long hours, demanding debates and timelines for the development of the resolution. However, my partner Asabi and I were able to overcome this through effective communication, teamwork (Asabi took the lead in moderated caucusing whilst I took the lead in unmoderated caucusing and after hour's committee sessions) and emotional support during this grueling competition. I am truly grateful for the University of the West Indies and the Institute of International Relations support in this initiative and I am ecstatic that my partner and I was able to come home with the Diplomatic Commendation Award in the IOM and I am so proud of the unprecedented performance of the combined University of the West Indies Delegation in this prestigious competition.



STA DELEGATION CHALLENGES

- ✚ Lack of a formal MUN club that provided year-round training. There are several specific procedural and general aspects of HNMUN that we had to learn from experience as first time delegates, for example impromptu speaking and caucusing. While Mr. Brandon Rampersad and Ms. Akeela Marin assisted us through training, we had a short time to learn the specifics of HNMUN and what exactly would be expected from us once we arrived.
- ✚ Travel/layover time was poorly planned. We had a 7 hour layover between Miami and Boston on the way to the conference, which was not an efficient use of time. However, on our way back, our layover from Boston to Miami was only 1 hour which did not consider delays on our first flight. As a result of technical issues and delays on our first flight, we missed our flight back to Trinidad and had to wait for the next available one. In this instance the delegates were separated and were only reconnected upon the realisation that all persons missed the flight.

SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✚ The IIR should liaise with the UWI Model United Nations club to provide an environment where regular trainings can take place throughout the year.
- ✚ Arrival into Boston at least 24 hours prior to the start of the competition, in order to facilitate acclimatization, optimal strategization and performance.
- ✚ The prior installation of useful apps such as Lyft, Uber and American Airlines are useful for flight updates and commuting around Boston with ease.
- ✚ Read the room : It is important to determine early on what type of Committee you are in so that you can be strategic about making an impact. Some DAIS are most impressed by content while others are impressed by dramatic, innovative presentations. You have to understand the type of Committee you are in and how best

THANK YOU!

We the STA Delegation for HNMUN 2019, would like to extend the warmest and heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all those who aided us throughout this successful and unforgettable journey. In particular to:

Professor Jessica Byron-Reid, Dr. Georgina Chami and to the Secretariat of The Institute of International Relations for their unwavering support towards this initiative. The success of this venture served as a means to foster regional cooperation, academic excellence and personal development and a host of others, which was hugely dependent on your perseverance, diligence and passion.

Our Teacher and Faculty Advisor Dr. Chami, your guidance, care and support throughout this endeavour served us in good stead and will always be appreciated. Your faculty advisor experience in HNMUN 2018 and your initiative ensured that we were afforded the requisite training and advice to excel in this competition, in spite of our inexperience. Furthermore, your energy, words of encouragement, logistical assistance and daily practical support and presence truly had a calming and reassuring effect on all of us. You always found the right time to nourish us during our high paced committee activities and for that we appreciate it.

Ms. Akeela Marin and Mr. Brandon Rampersad, two exemplar HNMUN alumni, who took the time from their busy schedules to provide critical training, advice and direction on substantive and procedural aspects of HNMUN. They served us in good stead and we are grateful.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor's for its continuous support in providing the necessary accommodation for the UWI delegation.

The School of Graduate Studies and Research, as well as, The Institute of International Relations for their financial contribution towards the costs incurred by the STA delegates.

PHOTO GALLERY



STA delegates with their respective awards



The Delegation of Kenya: Mona, Cave Hill and St. Augustine Representatives



Nestor and Asabi with other delegates to the IOM



Trinidadian delegates from all UWI campuses



Nestor and Asabi with other delegates from the IOM