
SAIMUN 2025

THE DELEGATE

15th Feb 2025

SAIMUN Press Team

SAIMUN 2025 OPENING CEREMONY



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OPENING CEREMONY

The second day of MUN starts early with the highly anticipated opening ceremony, bringing together passionate students and young delegates from all around the world at the Royal Marine Hotel to celebrate the beginning of this prestigious conference.

The ceremony began with an introduction of all the esteemed speakers, including the guest speaker, Mary Lawlor, a United Nations special rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders. Everyone was welcomed warmly, creating a comfortable environment and excitement for the following days of debate.

A traditional Irish performance by a live band captivated the audience's attention and filled them with wonder, offering a cultural and artistic touch to the event. The rich melody created a beautiful atmosphere, representing the important traditions of Ireland while also celebrating the international relevance of the conference.

The opening address reflected on the conference's long-lasting legacy, with the SAIMUN being hosted at the hotel venue for over 17 years already. Organizers took a moment to thank the staff for creating a perfect place that ensures seamless execution of this event.

Following this was an important speech delivered by Julia, the secretary general, who began with an Irish welcome. Even though this was her 19th and final conference, she was still sceptical about her speech. She decided to draw a parallel to the Olympics, offering a short background about it and its historical relevance. The purpose of the Olympics wasn't to further the international standard of sport but to help build a peaceful and better world by educating young people through sport.

She believes that the Olympics aren't all that different from MUN. It is a place to interact with other people, make friends, and discover new things about different cultures, with the most important award in the end being new friendships.

Her words resonated with the theme of the conference—youth empowerment—reminding the public of the power their words have.

The second part of the ceremony featured another moving musical performance of the song "This is the Life," with the choice of song reflecting the freedom and power of young people.

The keynote speech by Mary Lawlor followed, highlighting the struggles human rights activists face on a daily basis and emphasizing the importance of young activists in shaping the world.

She spoke about global issues that the youth try to fight by taking part in programs such as anti-war activism, LGBTQ+ rights advocacy, anti-bullying initiatives, and so on. Because of their efforts, they have faced aggression and mistreatment. Despite being looked down on, they continue to fight for their beliefs. After her moving speech, Mary Lawlor shared with the audience her hopes that they might consider a career in human rights, followed by thunderous applause.

As the ceremony was nearing its end, the 36th SAMUN of 2025 was officially declared open, marking the beginning of the opening speeches.





OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

At this year's MUN conference, attendees had the privilege of hearing from Mary Lawlor, an esteemed advocate for human rights. As an adjunct professor of business and a human rights defender at Trinity College Dublin and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Lawlor brought many insights to the discussion. During her speech, she addressed pressing global issues such as environmental leadership, anti-war activism, LGBTQ+ rights advocacy, and anti-bullying initiatives, emphasizing the need for collective action to create a more just world.

A key focus of her talk was mainly on this year's theme: "How do we equip the youth for the future?" She pointed out that young people are not just the future but also the present of the movement. Her journey began at the age of fifteen when she attended a Holocaust exhibition as part of a French exchange program, where she felt devastated after seeing and learning about human extermination. Therefore, Lawlor decided to study human rights and how to fight for them.

During her speech, Mary Lawlor not only drew attention to the importance of young people in the fight for justice but also the great difficulties and challenges they face. Young people are often not taken seriously by adults, and sometimes even their parents don't approve of their work. Some activists are thus forced to keep their work a secret, while others suffer expulsion from school or are denied a diploma because of their involvement. Unfortunately, the majority of teen activists have a specific reason for starting to fight for human rights, which is their own mistreatment, happening at school or even at home. Lawlor spoke of a 15-year-old Palestinian girl whose brother's murder influenced her to become a human rights activist and of a young Argentinian who had been terrorized, threatened, and attacked because of her work and efforts. These stories show the dangers that young activists face simply because they want to fight for justice.

However, despite the dangers they face, Mary Lawlor celebrated a Kenyan activist with a quote they shared after beginning their fight for rights: "I started activism at 15; I had a voice and wanted to show the world I had one in a community where it was not allowed." Lawlor concluded on a hopeful note, acknowledging the fact that right now there are more young activists than ever before and that if we want to, we could indeed change the world.



HISTORY OF THE ROYAL MARINE HOTEL

The Royal Marine Hotel was first built in 1863. However, the site dates to 1828, when a hotel known as Hayes Hotel used to stand. The hotel looks out over Dublin Bay, the East Pier, and the harbour. Less than a ten-minute walk away, you will find the Dún Laoghaire Library and the National Maritime Museum of Ireland.

William Dargan, builder of the first railway in Ireland between Dublin and Kingstown (Dún Laoghaire), had the new Royal Marine Hotel built with part of the old Hayes Hotel incorporated into the new design.

The newly developed Royal Marine Hotel first opened in 1865 and has been a Dublin and Dún Laoghaire institution ever since.

The Royal Marine Hotel has hosted the Mock United Nations (MUN) for 15 years, and we hope that 2025 will be just as successful. The Royal Marine Hotel has seen many famous faces over the years, including heads of state, kings and queens, and celebrities such as "Ol' Blue Eyes" Frank Sinatra, Laurel & Hardy, and Charlie Chaplin, to name a few. Queen Victoria of Britain visited Ireland via Dún Laoghaire. The Irish freedom fighter Michael Collins is believed to have hidden out in Room 210 with his partner Kitty Kiernan.

OPENING SPEECH BY ONE OF OUR SECRETARIES GENERAL

With a lovely introduction from Mr. Hehir, Co-Secretary General, Julia McCutcheon took to the podium for her speech.

Julia talks of her grandfather's work as a UN Peacekeeper, working in places such as Kenya, and how it has affected her. Following the theme of Youth, she cites her grandfather as one of her role models growing up, influencing her to enact change in today's society.

Julia compares MUN to the Olympics. An international conference with months leading up to its preparation. The Olympic motto: "Citius, Altius, Fortius", meaning "Swifter, Higher, Stronger". Julia talks of how the motto can be used in the same contextual sense for MUN. Although not being the most prolific sporting event in the world, you need to swiftly think of responses in your committee rooms and general assembly, aim for higher standards in your resolution writing and know that together, we work stronger. Julia believes that the Olympics is so much more than sport, it's about the competitors, just like MUN it's about the friends you make along the way. With that, she urges delegates to take action at this MUN conference as Mr. Hehir said previously to "Speak out".

Julia concludes with a lovely sentiment with an image of the burning torch. From one game to the next, one generation to another, one millennium to the next: "Accept the torch that has been passed onto us".



Special Conference

My name is Deniz Devrim, and I'm a student at TED Istanbul. Right now, I am one of the chairs of the Special Conference on Youth in this year's MUN. For the past year, I have been participating in these conferences, and thanks to my love for debating, I've had a great time. I enjoy arguing with people and getting my points across, but after a while, all this debating can get a little boring. However, as a chair, I get to lead these debates, and I can say for sure that it has become my favourite thing about MUN. MUN is the right place for people who want to broaden their perspective on the world, and by debating with fellow delegates, they will surely return home more informed about social issues and diplomacy. I believe that participating in MUN can help you gain valuable skills that can assist you in the future, especially in diplomatic and leadership roles. Of course, being one of the chairs at the Special Conference of Youth makes you wonder what type of chair you would like to be, and the answer has to be a bean bag!



E & E

My name is Inci Onay. I'm a 16-year-old student at Terakki in Turkey, and this is my fourth year participating in Model United Nations (MUN). I started in 8th grade because I found it fascinating to be part of such a realistic conference, and it has been really interesting learning about the real world's problems. However, what really attracts me to it is the debating. For me, when debate time starts, only then can the fun begin, as that's when you can state your opinions, ask questions, and defend your resolution. When I first started, I couldn't write a resolution, but now I can do it quickly, which has been a great improvement for me. This shows that new delegates can benefit from participating in MUN, as it is an opportunity for them to learn and find the better version of themselves. MUN helps people speak more freely and start learning how to face their own problems. Even though I'm one of the chairs of the Ecology & Environment committee, I still prefer a big, comfortable sofa to rest on.



Security Council

My name is Elif Banu Abis, and I go to TED Ankara in Turkey. I have been doing MUN for four years, and I would have to say that my favourite thing about MUN is the fact that everyone is equal, and they get the opportunity to debate topics concerning the world, and they all have a voice. My favourite type of chair? Oh, I like the spinny chairs, like the office chairs, because I get to twirl around in them, and they are so fun.



SOCHUM

Hi, my name is James Whelan, and I go to Belvedere. I have been doing MUN since TY (fourth year), so for three years now, this year being my third. I originally joined MUN because, at the time, all the other prefects were attending, and they asked me if I would like to join since I had been doing debate for a long time before then. My favourite thing about MUN is probably the random funny little moments that happen. For instance, last year, in some conference, the delegate of Lebanon said, "We can't have this raise in arms control because we need to protect Lebanon from Israel," or something like that. People doing silly stuff is entertaining, but, of course, the actual debates are fun too. I haven't really thought about what my favourite type of chair is, but I really like those wheely chairs.



DISEC

Hi, I'm Yasmin Mulligan. I am a fifth-year student from St. Francis Secondary School in Dundalk. I have been doing MUN for two and a half years now. I started in secondary school, and I love every second of it. I have been to more MUN conferences than I can count. I love everything to do with MUN. My favourite part of MUN is obviously DISEC; DISEC is the Disarmament and International Security Committee. The topics are always very interesting, and the people are very friendly. I would have to say that my favourite actual chair is a spinning chair; however, when I'm using one, I never actually get any work done as I just spin!



ECOSOC

I'm Ayah Mohamed, and I go to Wicklow ETSS in Co. Wicklow. I started MUN halfway through 3rd year, in December, and I have been doing it since, so roughly two and a half years, as I'm in 5th year now. I really love the social aspect of MUN, obviously, as I got to know loads of people. However, when I came into 1st year, I wasn't very confident in public speaking, so it helped a lot. My favourite type of chair? I think my answer will be the same as it was last year. I would probably say something very comfortable, or maybe one of those rocking chairs. Not the school chairs, though; they are not comfortable at all.



A LOOK INTO WHERE OUR VISITING SCHOOLS ARE FROM

Türkiye

From Türkiye, we have six schools joining us for SAIMUN: TED Bodrum Koleji, TED Ankara College Foundation, TED Istanbul College, Başkent University Private Ayseabla, Özel Sezin Okulu, ODTU GV High School and Terakki Foundation Schools. Türkiye bridges the continents of Europe and Asia and is surrounded by three seas: the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Aegean Sea. It's a country full of amazing food, culture, nature, and people. Some very popular foods there include kebabs made of lamb, Saksuka, Yaprak Dolma, and so much more. Interestingly, Türkiye is a resting spot for many birds during their migration between their winter and summer homes.

Italy

From Italy, we have the International School of Florence joining us. Italy is a boot-shaped peninsula located in the south of Europe. It has influenced the modern world in several ways, particularly through its art, architecture, and culture. Several famous artists, such as Leonardo Da Vinci and Michelangelo, came from Italy. Italy is famed for its delicious pizzas, pastas, and even more delectable desserts, such as Tiramisu and Gelato.

Romania

We have three delegations from Colegiul German Goethe in Romania joining us for SAIMUN. Romania is a country in southeastern Europe. Romania borders the Black Sea and five countries: Ukraine, Moldova, Hungary, Serbia, and Bulgaria. Its capital is Bucharest, which is home to the largest parliament building in the world. Some of their traditional foods include Tochitură, a pork stew, and Papanasi, a fried cheese donut served hot with sour cream and jam. The famous story of Dracula was inspired by a 15th-century governor from present-day Romania named Vlad the Impaler.

USA, Florida

St. Edward's School has joined us at SAIMUN all the way from Florida. Florida is located in the very southeast of the United States of America. The Atlantic Ocean is on one side and the Gulf of Mexico on the other. Florida is known as the boating and fishing capital of the world. It is famous for its alligators and crocodiles, but it also has panthers, sea turtles, and manatees. Seven of the ten most visited theme parks are in Florida, including Disney World, Universal, LEGOLAND, and SeaWorld. Florida is a very diverse state with Native American, Hispanic, European, and African American backgrounds.

Norway

One school has joined us from Norway: the Nesbru Videregående Skole. Norway is a country in northern Europe. On the right-hand side, it borders Sweden, with the Norwegian Sea on the other side. It is located on the Scandinavian Peninsula. Norway is famous for its mountains, which are so steep that no one would dare try to climb them. There are seventy-eight days of straight sunlight from May to July in Norway; this phenomenon is called The Midnight Sun. Norway is also the most successful nation at the Winter Olympics and has won more medals than any other nation during the games.

HOW DOES THE SECURITY COUNCIL TRY TO KEEP THE WORLD SAFE AND WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT?

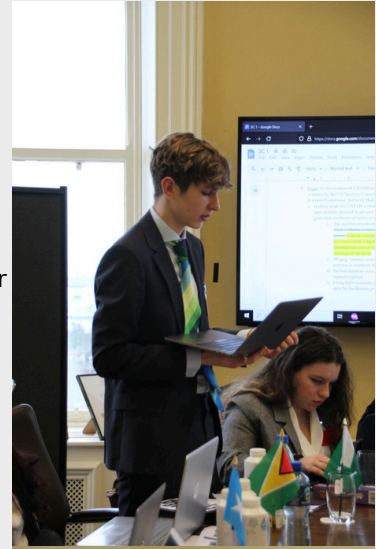
By Cole and Ben

This year, SAIMUN is hosting the profound and prestigious Security Council on the top floor of the Royal Marine, overlooking the great Dun Laoghaire pier, which might make you think to yourself, “Why do they get such a great room?” We asked fellow delegates here at SAIMUN to give their opinions on why they think they get the best room in the hotel. Some delegates, such as Alex Kearney, the delegate of Pakistan, have mixed opinions on this topic. Here is what Alex had to say: “In my personal opinion, I don't see that it's fair that the SC gets the best room. The main reason why I think they get the room is that Security Council members tend to hold themselves to a higher standard than other delegates.” The delegate of Tonga, Ethan, also had a negative opinion on the SC room, saying simply, “Life is unfair.” Despite these brave and courageous answers, there were also quite a few positive responses as well. Finn, the delegate of Russia, who is, in fact, representing the Security Council, has given some interesting answers. Finn said, “They deserve it because they are really cool. They have all the best-looking delegates for sure, like me; well, I raise the standard a lot.” Regardless of these possibly selfless and entertaining answers, they all failed to arrive at the correct answer.

The real reason why the SC gets the best room in the hotel is due to the pure adrenaline and drama-filled debate that goes on within the small group of delegates. Of course, every committee matters and deserves equality, although we try to mimic the same situations the real United Nations Security Council would undergo. This includes having a small room for countries to allow for more attention, leading to a greater intense debate discussing topics that involve high stakes and global issues that directly affect international peace and security, and much more.

The UN Security Council tries to keep the world safe by maintaining international peace and security by addressing threats like armed conflicts, terrorism, and human rights abuses. It takes action by passing binding resolutions, deploying peacekeeping forces, and imposing sanctions on countries that threaten global stability. With five powerful permanent members (P5) who hold veto power, the SC can intervene in crises to prevent escalation, mediate disputes, or authorize military action when necessary. Its role is crucial because it coordinates global efforts to manage conflicts and protect civilians, making it a key institution in keeping the world safe.

In conclusion, while some delegates may have mixed opinions about the Security Council's prestigious room at SAIMUN, the reality behind its selection lies in the high-stakes, intense nature of the debates that occur within it. The SC's role in addressing global crises, much like the real UN Security Council, requires focused, strategic discussions on issues of immense importance to international peace and security. Its small, exclusive setting encourages in-depth deliberations, where every delegate plays a key role in shaping resolutions that can impact the world. The adrenaline-filled environment truly reflects the critical responsibility the Security Council holds in maintaining global stability.







THE DELEGATE - SATURDAY

15TH FEB 2025

