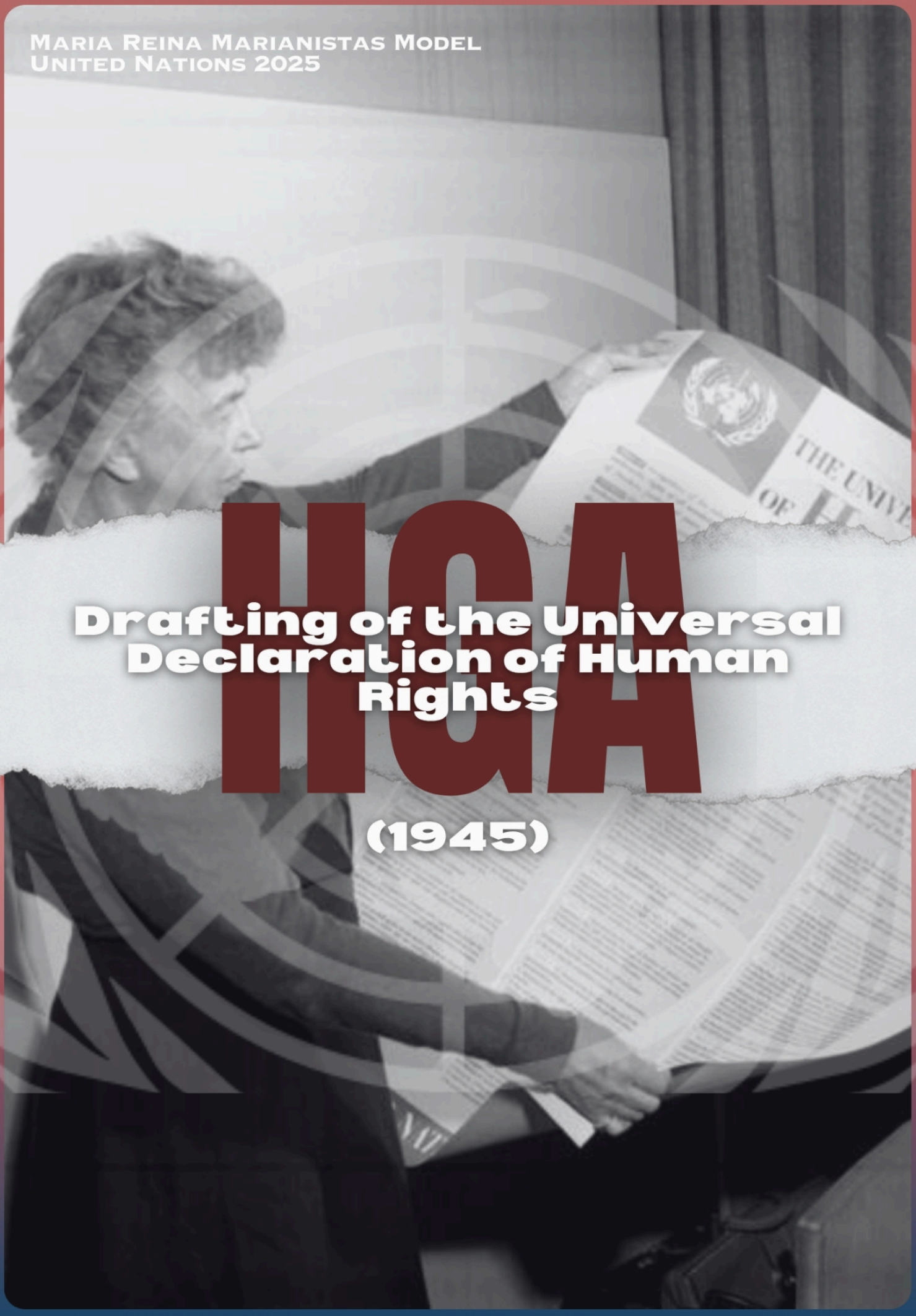
Maria Reina Marianistas Model
United Nations 2025



HCA

Drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(1945)

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Letter from the Secretary General

It is with immense excitement and great pleasure that I welcome you to the second edition of Maria Reina Model United Nations 2025. My name is Letizia Soria, and I feel deeply honored to be this year's Secretary General of Maria Reina's MUN conference.

When I first joined the world of Model UN in 2023, I never conceptualized how rapidly it would become a fundamental aspect of who I am. From my very first simulation, where I forgot to print all research or even bring a notepad, to now leading my delegation, representing my school, and becoming Secretary-General, the journey has been filled with a plethora of challenges, lessons, and unforgettable memories.

Across more conferences than I could count, I've had the pleasure of meeting amazing individuals, forging strong friendships with my teammates, and deepening both my knowledge on global conflicts, personal perspectives, and essential soft skills. Of course, there's nothing quite like the thrill of winning a Best Delegate gavel, but what I value most is the sense of companionship, support, and family that emerges within a team. In essence, my experience as a delegate has been most defined by the people who encouraged me to prevail, to try, to speak, and to stand up when obstacles made possibilities seem bleak. The mentors who pushed me to improve, and the team that works together to lift each other up. Those moments are the ones that encapsulate what MUN is truly about.

With that same spirit of teamwork and commitment, we've poured ourselves into the preparation of this year's conference: MRMUN 2025. Every detail, from the topics to the logistics, has been a product of a Secretariat that believes in the power this conference has to challenge, inspire, and empower each delegate who walks into committee. I feel deeply grateful to carry forward the legacy of last year's conference, and I'm confident that this dedication will continue to grow in the years to come.

Thank you to the Secretariat, the staff, my teammates, and coaches who made this possible, and most of all, thank you to each delegate reading this, for being the reason this conference exists. On behalf of everyone behind Maria Reina MUN 2025: Raise your placard, speak your mind, challenge ideas, and most importantly, enjoy the process. Let it shape you.

Best regards,

Letizia Soria

Letter from the Under-Secreatary General

Dear Delegates,

It is a true honor to welcome you to the second edition of Maria Reina Model United Nations. My name is Veronica Paz, and I have the privilege of serving as your Under-Secretary General for this year's conference.

Since I began my MUN journey, I've come to realize that these conferences are so much more than debates and resolutions. They're moments that challenge us, push us out of our comfort zone, and show us what we're capable of when we defend a position, even if it's not our own. Being part of MUN has taught me that sometimes you don't get what you want, and instead of punishing yourself for that, it is more important and worthwhile to learn from your mistakes. What I value most is the feeling of being part of an incredible team. A simple "How are you doing?" during breaks in conferences reflects the partnership and trust we share, making me feel like I belong to a new family.

This year's conference represents not just the continuation of a dream but the result of months of effort, teamwork, and vision from an incredible group of people. I'm beyond grateful to be part of this team and see how far we've come.

To all delegates: take this opportunity to speak, to question, to lead –but above all, to grow. You will meet inspiring people, face unexpected challenges, and walk away with experiences that will shape you far beyond this weekend. Whether this is your first conference or one of many, I hope MRMUN 2025 becomes a special part of your journey.

On behalf of the entire Secretariat, I wish you the best of luck and an unforgettable experience.

Sincerely,

Veronica Paz

Letter from the Committee Director

Hello, delegates!

It is with great pleasure and loads of enthusiasm that I welcome you to MRMUN 2025. My name is Valentina, and I am an incoming freshman in Economics and Management at Bocconi University in Milan. Currently, I am also a second-year member of the Peruvian Debate Society (PDS), and have served as Head Delegate both for my school from 2021 to 2023 and for PDS in the 2024-2025 season. My Model UN journey started back in 2018 - yes, I'm that old -, but the passion and intelligence that delegates pour into their debate performance has never ceased to amaze me, which is one of the reasons I keep coming back to this world.

Historical committees are some of my favorites: they encourage you to sharpen your adaptability and strategy-building skills, as well as to delve deeply into the intricacies of the most important events of our time. The ideal delegate is both insatiably competitive and a consistently hard worker, ready at a moment's notice to analyze the ever-evolving dynamics of their past-faced environment.

A common misconception about Model UN is that the loudest person in the room is often the one who emerges victorious; however, that isn't always the case. Delegates should bear in mind that much of their evaluation will be conducted by examining their writing, diplomacy, and how they manage to adapt to any circumstances they find themselves subjected to. I will take a calculated delegate over a charismatic one any day, although a combination of both is always appreciated.

My most honest piece of advice, for both newcomers and veterans alike, is to enjoy yourselves as much as possible. Having won a Best or two (or fifteen… but who's counting?) has taught me that awards must always be a byproduct of effort, and never the end goal. The less you keep winning in mind, the more you tend to focus on your performance, and the better you do.

Alejandra is a remarkable delegate and person, and I couldn't be happier to finally have the chance to chair alongside her. If you were to have any questions on the committee topic, parliamentary procedure, or just want to say hello, you can reach out to us any time at the committee email.

Excited to meet you soon!

Letter from the Assistant Director

Hello everyone! My name is Alejandra Salvatierra and I am delighted to be one of your chairs for MRMUN in this HGA committee.

I am a 18-year-old second year law student, at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. My journey through MUN started back in 2022 when I joined Maria Reina´s MUN team. Nowadays, I am still participating in the college circuit with Peruvian Debate Society (PDS). My last international conference was held at Boston, this one being Harvard National Model United Nations (HNMUN) and even though it was one of the most stressful conferences that I have attended I would go again every time. Remember delegates "It's better to end a conference knowing that you could have given much more" as one time my coaches said to me. So I will be expecting that every single one of you give your 120% in sessions, because remember that nothing is decided until the end.

Aside from my MUN experience. I spend my time watching series or movies, especially comedy or rom coms movies or series, and love to listen to music (all genders to be honest). Even though I am not such a sports person right now I started my journey in the gym, which I hope to continue even if I am really swamped with college. I have always liked the Harry Potter saga, Percy Jackson saga and of course The Marvel Universe. I would not consider myself as a fan of sports but I do consider myself as a fan of F1, last year my favorite team was Ferrari but with the team decisions right now I think I am more a pilot fan instead of a team fan. I also really enjoy watching soccer, for as long as I can remember I have always been a fan of Universitario de deportes and I love watching the games with all my family.

In this committee I would like to see eloquent and well-structured speeches, creative proposals and a kind of leadership in which you don't make anyone feel less. Remember to be yourself, there is not just one profile of the best delegate so don't force yourself to be someone you´re not. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or doubts about the committee or something else. I am looking forward to meeting you all!

Kind regards,

Alejandra Salvatierra

Introduction to the Committee

It is 1945. The world has just emerged from its darkest hour. The Second World War has officially ended, leaving in its wake not only the rubble of fallen cities and fractured economies but the unbearable weight of over 70 million lives lost, many of them civilian, many of them innocent. From the smoldering remains of Auschwitz to the radioactive aftermath of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the international community finds itself grappling with a single, urgent question: how can humanity ensure that such horrors are never repeated?

As delegates to this Historical General Assembly, you are gathered in San Francisco under the banner of a newly founded organization: the United Nations. Created to replace the defunct and largely ineffective League of Nations, the UN is tasked with preserving peace, preventing aggression, and rebuilding international cooperation from the ground up. But before it can fulfill those goals, one fundamental task lies before it - defining what it means to be human, and what rights that humanity must never be stripped of again.

Your mission will be to draft what history might remember as the first truly universal catalogue of human rights. However, in this committee, history is far from written.

Contrary to what delegates in 2025 may believe, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not a document carved in moral certainty. It is a battlefield of political ideologies, colonial legacies, religious doctrines, and post-war power balances. The Cold War may not yet be fully underway, but its early tensions are palpable. Western democracies demand protections for speech and political participation. The Soviet bloc will likely prioritize socio-economic guarantees. Former colonial powers will face difficult questions about self-determination and empire. Newly independent states (some only days old) will clamor to have their voices heard. And amid it all, your committee must find consensus.

The success of your resolution will depend not only on the strength of your convictions but on your ability to negotiate across differences, build unlikely alliances, and articulate a vision of dignity that transcends the national interest. What freedoms will be recognized? What obligations will governments have toward their people? And who, in the eyes of this Assembly, counts as a "human" in the first place?

Make no mistake: what you draft in this room may echo through the next century, or be discarded entirely, should you fail to find common ground.

Welcome to the Drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Let history begin.

History of the Topic

DISCLAIMER: the MRMUN HGA committee will begin on December 4th, 1945. All events that occurred or information discovered after this date have, respectively, not yet happened or not yet been found. Delegates must rely on information only prior to December 4th for their research, and this study guide will do the same.

When the cannons of the First World War fell quiet in 1918, the world emerged from the wreckage yearning for order, for cooperation, and above all, for peace. Nearly 17 million lives had been lost, empires had crumbled, and the illusion of a self-correcting international system had been shattered. What remained was a collective yearning: a hope that, through unity, the sovereign nations of the earth might prevent such carnage from ever repeating itself. It was from that hope that the League of Nations was born.

The League of Nations: A Predecessor in Principle

Formed in 1920 and headquartered in Geneva, the League was the first major attempt to institutionalize peace through multilateral diplomacy. A project of President Woodrow Wilson's vision (though the United States never joined), the League aspired to provide a forum where international disputes could be settled through dialogue rather than violence. It promised collective security, disarmament, and respect for international law.

For a time, the League showed signs of promise. It oversaw mandates in former imperial territories, mediated minor border conflicts, and facilitated humanitarian and labor efforts. But the deeper tests - the ones that history cares to remember - revealed its fatal limitations.: when Japan invaded Manchuria in 1931, for instance, the League condemned it but did nothing. When Italy invaded Ethiopia in 1935, the League issued sanctions, but they were neither universal nor effective. When Nazi Germany rearmed, annexed Austria, and dismembered Czechoslovakia, the

League watched, paralyzed by the reluctance of its member states to sacrifice national interest for international duty.

By the time war returned to Europe in 1939, the League had collapsed in all but name. Its foundations (voluntary cooperation, moral pressure, and diplomatic optimism) had proven ill-suited to the age of militarism, totalitarianism, and appeasement.

The Second Cataclysm and the Call for Renewal

The Second World War was not merely a repetition of the first; it was its cruel sequel. With more than 50 nations drawn into conflict, and civilian populations bearing the brunt of the suffering, the limits of uncoordinated diplomacy became impossible to ignore. If the first war had exposed the fragility of peace, the second revealed the fragility of civilization itself. Yet even in wartime, the idea of international cooperation did not perish. In fact, it matured. Allied leaders, particularly Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States, Winston Churchill of the United Kingdom, and later Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union, began planning a postwar world that would not merely avoid another war, but prevent it.

In 1941, the Atlantic Charter was signed by Roosevelt and Churchill, outlining common principles for the postwar order, including self-determination, economic cooperation, and disarmament. By 1942, these ideals were adopted by 26 nations in the "Declaration by United Nations", marking the first time that "United Nations" was used as a collective term for those opposing Axis aggression. As victory for the Allies grew more certain, attention shifted to the architecture of peace. The lessons of the League were studied with brutal honesty. Its moral clarity had not been enough. A new institution would require not only ideals, but structure. Not only unity, but authority.

The Birth of the United Nations and Its General Assembly

On April 25, 1945, representatives from 50 nations gathered in San Francisco at the United Nations Conference on International Organization, tasked with designing the body that would replace the League of Nations. After weeks of debate and drafting, the Charter of the United Nations was signed on June 26, 1945. Among its most ambitious innovations was the creation of

a General Assembly: a central forum where every member state, large or small, powerful or emerging, would hold equal standing. Each state would possess one vote, regardless of military strength, economic clout, or territorial size. No permanent seats, no privileged nations; only parity, procedure, and participation.

Unlike the Security Council, which would hold executive power and enforce decisions through binding measures, the General Assembly would act as a deliberative body, a moral compass for the international community. It would debate issues of global importance, pass recommendations, coordinate subsidiary organs, and oversee the budget of the United Nations. Its resolutions would not compel action by force, but persuade through consensus.

In essence, the General Assembly would become the beating heart of the new United Nations: a space where diplomacy is performed not behind closed doors, but on a global stage.

A Platform of Promise - And of Uncertainty

At its core, the General Assembly is an idea: that all nations, regardless of their past, might gather on equal footing to shape the future. It is a wager against war, a vote of confidence in the human capacity to negotiate rather than annihilate. Yet it is also an experiment still in its infancy. The Assembly inherits a world divided by ideology, wounded by conquest, and haunted by colonial legacies. Many of its future member states are still colonies, protectorates, or occupied territories. The victors of the war now dominate the Security Council. And while the Charter speaks boldly of human rights, equality, and development, no legal framework yet defines what these terms shall mean.

As the United Nations prepares for its first General Assembly session, to be held in London in early 1946, the international community watches with both hope and hesitation. Will the Assembly succeed where the League failed? Will it be a stage for progress, or a theatre for power politics? Will it evolve into a true parliament of nations, or merely a ceremonial echo chamber?

History has not yet offered an answer.

History of the Topic

The pursuit of fundamental human rights, those entitlements inherent to all individuals by virtue of their humanity, has long been a thread in both philosophical inquiry and political development. However, never before has the need to define and defend these rights on an international scale been more urgent. As delegates gather in the wake of the most devastating war in human history, they must confront both the legacy of past struggles and the necessity of collective action.

The concept of natural rights is centuries old: philosophers such as John Locke, Hugo Grotius, and Montesquieu laid the foundation for the belief that individuals possess certain rights that are not granted by governments but are inherent to the human condition. In the 18th century, such theories found political expression during the Enlightenment and the Age of Revolutions. The 1776 Declaration of Independence of the United States proclaimed that "all men are created equal" and endowed with "unalienable rights." Similarly, the 1789 French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen declared liberty, property, and resistance to oppression as fundamental rights. These documents, though groundbreaking, were national in scope and often limited in inclusivity. Their principles, however, inspired reform movements around the world.

The 19th century saw the spread of liberal and democratic ideals, accompanied by the gradual abolition of slavery, the expansion of suffrage in parts of Europe and the Americas, and early calls for labor protections and social welfare. Nonetheless, these gains were inconsistent and often reserved for privileged populations. In most of the world (including Africa, Asia, and the Middle East), colonial rule denied millions even the most basic legal protections.

International Law Before the War

Despite growing interest in humanitarian values, the international legal order of the early 20th century focused primarily on relations between states, not on the rights of individuals. The Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 established some regulations for the conduct of war, including protections for prisoners of war and civilians. However, their enforcement mechanisms were weak, and their provisions were rarely invoked on behalf of individuals.

The First World War (1914–1918) brought attention to the scale of suffering that modern warfare could inflict upon civilian populations. In its aftermath, the League of Nations was created in 1919 as part of the Treaty of Versailles. One of the League's purposes was to promote international cooperation and peace, yet its structure reflected the primacy of national sovereignty and state interests. The League supervised a system of minority rights treaties in Eastern Europe and managed mandates in former colonial territories, including parts of the Middle East and Africa. While these efforts represented modest steps toward international oversight of human well-being, they were selective, inconsistently applied, and devoid of binding enforcement. Nonetheless, the interwar period saw growing interest in rights-oriented causes. The International Labour Organization (ILO), founded in 1919, advocated for labor standards such as fair wages and safe working conditions. Women's rights gained attention through international conferences and suffrage movements. Still, no comprehensive global declaration of human rights had ever been created.

The 1930s marked a turning point in the conversation on rights, as authoritarian ideologies gained ground. In Europe, the rise of fascism and national socialism was accompanied by the dismantling of democratic institutions and the suppression of dissent. In Germany, the 1935 Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of citizenship and legal protection, laying the foundation for widespread state-sponsored persecution. Elsewhere, Italy under Benito Mussolini pursued an aggressive policy of imperial expansion, marked by the invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 and numerous documented war crimes. In the Soviet Union, the Stalinist regime carried out mass arrests, deportations, and executions during the Great Purge (1936–1938), although access to independent verification remains limited. Japan, meanwhile, expanded militarily across East Asia, with atrocities such as the 1937 massacre in Nanjing drawing international outrage. During this time, the failure of the League of Nations to enforce its own principles became increasingly evident. Its inability to intervene effectively in cases of aggression and human rights abuses cast doubt on the possibility of international accountability.

The Second World War

The outbreak of global conflict in 1939, following Germany's invasion of Poland, exposed the weaknesses of existing international structures. The Second World War has since involved more than 60 nations and resulted in tens of millions of deaths. While the full extent of the war's

atrocities is still being uncovered, reports have emerged of mass executions, deportations, forced labor camps, and other crimes against civilian populations. The deliberate targeting of civilians has become a hallmark of modern warfare. Cities such as Warsaw, Rotterdam, Coventry, and Dresden have been bombed; entire communities have been uprooted or destroyed. In Eastern Europe, testimonies from occupied territories describe unprecedented acts of brutality, including the mass internment and killing of political opponents, ethnic minorities, and religious groups. The systematic persecution of Jews across Nazi-occupied Europe, including the use of ghettos and concentration camps, has prompted calls for international condemnation. Though information is limited, evidence presented by Allied governments suggests that these actions constitute crimes on a scale previously unimaginable.

Similar concerns have been raised in Asia. Japanese conduct in China and Southeast Asia has been widely denounced, including the use of forced labor, summary executions, and the exploitation of civilians. The use of biological weapons and experimentation on human subjects has also been alleged. As the war draws to a close in 1945, the Allied powers have begun to discuss the prosecution of war crimes and the responsibilities of individuals for violations of humanitarian norms, especially state leaders.

Current Situation

In the midst of this devastation, efforts are underway to reshape the global order. The Charter of the United Nations, signed in San Francisco in June 1945, enshrines the commitment of its member states to maintain peace, promote international cooperation, and "reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights."

Although the Charter makes only general references to human rights, it marks the first time in history that such a concept has been formally included in the founding document of a universal intergovernmental organization. Article 1 of the Charter explicitly includes as one of the United Nations' purposes the promotion of *"respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion."*

However, the task of defining what those rights are remains unresolved. What specific freedoms and protections should all people enjoy, regardless of the nation they live in? What responsibilities do governments have toward their citizens, and what recourse should individuals

have when those responsibilities are violated? Can a global standard of dignity be agreed upon by nations with different cultures, ideologies, and economic systems?

These are the questions now before the General Assembly.

Potential Rights for Contention

Why a Declaration, and What It Might Include

The war is over, but the question remains: what kind of peace has been won?

For the first time in history, the community of nations is considering a bold endeavor—to articulate, in writing, the fundamental rights to which all people are entitled, regardless of citizenship, race, religion, gender, or creed. Not as a policy proposal. Not as a treaty. But as a universal moral blueprint: a declaration of human rights.

This effort, being considered by the General Assembly as of 1945, is driven not only by the horrors witnessed during the Second World War but also by the broader recognition that peace cannot survive in a world where dignity is denied. What good is ending a war, delegates ask, if oppression continues under other names?

There is no legal obligation for the General Assembly to produce such a declaration. Yet there is overwhelming political momentum to do so. The Charter of the United Nations, signed earlier this year, includes in its preamble a shared determination "to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights." Article 1 of the Charter affirms that one of the UN's core purposes is to promote respect for these rights and freedoms. But what, precisely, do those rights include? That is now for the Assembly to decide.

Below is a survey of rights most likely to be considered, those broadly supported, and those likely to provoke disagreement as states begin the process of drafting a declaration.

Widely Supported Rights: The Foundational Provisions

These are the rights most delegates, regardless of ideology or geographic origin, are expected to support. They reflect long-standing legal principles, moral traditions, and recent wartime experience.

- The Right to life and personal security: protection from arbitrary execution, imprisonment, and physical harm. Especially salient after mass civilian killings during the war.
- Freedom from torture and inhumane treatment: an urgent concern given the exposure of widespread prisoner abuse and civilian atrocities.
- Legal equality before the law: the right to be treated fairly by courts and not be subjected to discrimination based on race, religion, or national origin.
- Right to a nationality: statelessness, especially among refugees and displaced persons, is emerging as a significant postwar problem.
- Protection from slavery and forced labor: although slavery has been legally abolished in many countries, forced labor still exists under various forms, including in colonial territories.
- Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion: widely respected in theory, though subject to varying degrees of limitation in practice.

These rights may form the uncontested backbone of the declaration. They are viewed not only as expressions of moral consensus but as safeguards against future state-sponsored violence.

Contested Rights: Subject to Political and Ideological Tension

Some rights are likely to be supported in principle but may provoke serious disagreement in their wording, scope, or enforceability. These are areas where ideological divides—especially between liberal democracies, communist states, colonial powers, and emerging nationalists—will come into sharper focus.

- Freedom of expression and the press: western states may push for strong protections, while others, especially those with centralized or one-party governments, may seek to include limitations in the name of public order or national unity.
- Right to political participation: the question of who gets to vote (universal suffrage vs. property-based or male-only suffrage) is likely to divide delegates. Some member states do not yet conduct democratic elections at all.
- Right to property: highly contentious; liberal states see property as a cornerstone of liberty; socialist nations argue that economic equality requires restrictions on private ownership.
- Freedom of assembly and association: while generally accepted, authoritarian regimes may insist on language allowing limitations for "state security" or "public morality."
- Right to education: while many delegates will support this right, debates may arise over its scope (primary only vs. higher education) and content (secular vs. religious).
- Right to work and fair wages: Supported by left-leaning and post-colonial nations, but possibly seen as economic policy rather than a human right by some Western powers.
- Cultural and linguistic rights of minorities: while morally compelling, colonial powers and multiethnic empires may resist enshrining minority rights they feel could fuel separatism.

Highly Controversial or Emerging Rights

Some rights may be proposed but will likely be considered too divisive, too specific, or too radical for inclusion in the first draft of a universal declaration. Their presence in debate may signal future struggles over the boundaries of the human rights regime.

- Women's equal rights in law and society: while some states have advanced gender equality, others still legally restrict women's rights to education, property, or public office.
- Right to self-determination: advocated by anti-colonial movements and many smaller nations; likely to be resisted by European colonial powers, who may argue that "subject peoples" are not yet ready for independence.

- Economic and social security: Some delegates may propose rights to housing, health care, and a basic standard of living; others will argue that these are aspirations, not enforceable rights.
- Freedom from racial discrimination: though morally clear, some states have racial segregation laws or colonial structures built on racial hierarchies, making them wary of firm commitments.
- Bodily autonomy and reproductive rights: largely absent from current public discourse in 1945, but may arise indirectly in debates on medical experimentation or forced sterilization.

QARMAs

There are no QARMAs. It's anyone's game.

Further Research and Recommendations

Congratulations on having made it to the end of the study guide! We hope you had as much fun reading it as we did writing it. Just in case it wasn't clear from the beginning, your final draft resolution (whichever passes) will become the next Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We have made the guide as concise as possible, given that it is only a starting point from which to begin your research. Below are some final tips to get you started.

Your country's ideology and government system

Start here. Ask yourself: is your nation a liberal democracy? A monarchy? Under military rule? A colony? An emerging republic? How a government is structured will drastically influence which rights it supports and which ones it doesn't. A state-run economy might emphasize labor protections and equality. A free-market one might prioritize property rights and civil liberties. Know where you stand.

Your country's position in 1945

Remember, you're not in 2025. You're in a postwar world. What was your country doing during the war? Was it occupied? Neutral? On the winning side? Still a colony? Just gained independence? Understanding this historical context will help you craft a realistic and compelling foreign policy stance.

Which rights matter most to your delegation

There are dozens of possible rights on the table - freedom of speech, education, fair wages, religion, racial equality, political participation, and more. Not all of them will matter equally to your country. Some might go against your current laws. Others might be seen as strategic tools to advance national interests or regional influence. Try to figure out your "non-negotiables" and your "deal-breakers."

How colonies and occupied territories fit into the conversation

This is a tricky but essential topic. Many present-day colonies will eventually become independent nations - but in 1945, they're not yet at the table. Should the declaration address their rights? Should the international community take a stance on self-determination? Delegates representing colonial powers should think carefully about how they'll defend or challenge those conversations.

Alliances, rivalries, and regional blocs

The concept of a "bloc" per se has not yet been invented (explaining the lack of a "Bloc positions" section), but you won't be debating alone. Countries with similar ideologies (e.g., liberal democracies, socialist states, newly formed republics) will likely band together. Think about who your natural allies might be, and which delegates you'll need to negotiate with to pass a draft. Read up on who has tension with whom and what kind of coalitions are likely to form.

Philosophical and legal sources

If you're into big ideas, look into the thinkers and documents that might shape your country's stance. For example:

- John Locke or Rousseau for civil liberties
- Marx or Lenin for economic rights
- The U.S. Bill of Rights or the French Declaration of the Rights of Man
- Religious doctrines (Islamic, Catholic, Confucian) if your country is deeply tied to faith

You're writing a declaration, not a treaty, so your arguments can draw from law, history, philosophy, or political theory.

Above all, remember this: no one expects you to be a constitutional lawyer. But a well-prepared delegate knows what they're fighting for, why it matters to their country, and how to make others care too.

So do your reading. Take notes. Think critically. Then come into committee ready to build something the world might never forget.

Position Paper

A Position Paper is a policy statement in which delegates analyze and present their country's view on the issue being discussed, focusing on past national and international actions and the development of viable proposals for the topic.

Your position paper should always include a heading with the title ("Position Paper"), your delegation (the country you are representing), your committee (full name), the topic you are discussing (as stated in your study guide), your full name and the name of your school.

Additionally, a standard position paper is comprised of three paragraphs:

1. Your first paragraph should include a brief introduction to the topic, always connecting the issue to your country. Try to include statistics, data and phrases that may apply. Always bear in mind that you should be focusing on answering the question "Why is the

issue relevant to my country?" and explain your country's situation and policy about the issue.

2. Your second paragraph should include a summary of past actions taken by the international community related to the topic. Explain your country's involvement, comment on the effectiveness of the measures, and state how they can be improved.

3. Your third paragraph should focus on proposing solutions, always according to your country's policy. Try to be creative and propose original ideas that will help other delegates (and your dais) remember your contribution to the debate. Finally, do not forget to write a strong closing sentence.

The format for the position paper is the following:

- Font: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 12
- Spacing: 1.15
- Bibliography: APA 7th edition
- Margins: Standard

Each delegation is responsible for submitting a Position Paper by Thursday, July 3rd (11:59 pm) to the email hga@mariareinamarianistas.net . It is important to mention that delegates who do not present the position paper would NOT be eligible for awards.