

MISSION STATEMENT

We the peoples of the United Nations...

The mission of Rutgers Model United Nations 2014 is to ensure that students develop an understanding of the role of Civil Society in the 21st Century. This theme is highly relevant to the changing nature of today's world. As globalization and technological advancements have enabled billions of people to interact and connect in a way that has never been seen before in history, ideas become even more powerful. Through various committees and topics, students will explore the relationship between grassroots actors and global politics.

Civil Society itself is very fluid, changing shape and form in various contexts around the world. As evidenced by recent events such as the Arab Spring and protests in the Ukraine, Philippines, and Venezuela, civil uprisings are a constant, and the fickle nature of global civil society forms the basis for civil unrest and upheaval. Students must remember to take into account the differences between every state and civil society organization when formulating solutions.

By the conclusion of the conference, students will see where and how civil societies develop, function, and interact with one another on a global scale. After spending time in committee and attempting resolve the issues at hand, the delegates should also realize the importance of diplomacy. Because of the historic and economic differences of each country, specific and insightful solutions are necessary to ensure the success of the resolutions. Finally, the students will learn about the overall importance of political engagement of individuals and their irreplaceable influence on institutions, policymaking, and social change.

ABOUT IDIA

The Institute for Domestic & International Affairs was founded in 1992 by a small group of Rutgers University students that recognized a need for a stronger International Relations curriculum at the University. Initially an on-campus student organization, IDIA has evolved into an independent non-profit organization, working with students around New Jersey, across the United States, and around the world. Our flagship Model United Nations and Model Congress programs attract some 3,000 students each year.

At IDIA, we recognize the importance of programs like Model United Nations in developing an educated, empowered, and engaged society. We understand that getting young people involved in their communities at a young age will offer them the opportunity to start bringing about positive change even earlier in their lives. Indeed, the role of elected officials is important, but behind any strong elected official, or even an idea, is a group of committed and informed supporters that seek a better society. They challenge their leaders to make better decisions, and are not afraid to call them out when their efforts turn misguided.

Recently, IDIA launched the new ModelUN.com website, designed as a comprehensive resource for Model United Nations and Model Congress programs. This website, dynamically updated and with conference planning, preparation and development strategies is designed to be a one-stop shop for students interested in starting new Model UN opportunities, and those looking to expand their skill sets further.

Model UN and Model Congress conferences can be transformative -- often, they introduce students to their role in the world around them. Whether these conferences help students to explore their long-held ideological positions, or to develop some new principles of their own, a successful IDIA conference is one that inspires our next generation of young leaders to actively participate in their surroundings. While we seek examples in the days and weeks after the conferences of this success, we recognize that our conferences often just plant a seed - and with time and proper cultivation, this seed will bloom into fields of positive social change.

SECRETARIAT

Tarnjit Singh, Secretary-General, is a junior at Rutgers University majoring in Political Science and Psychology. Throughout his high school years he developed a passion for Model United Nations and ultimately continued to follow this path by joining IDIA upon entering as a Freshmen. His passion for learning and understanding human behavior on both an interpersonal and international level ultimately kept him glued to the exciting realm of debates which were a constant part of being in IDIA. Tarnjit ultimately wishes to hone his writing skills and eventually be able to write his own pieces in the future, along with further pursuing his love for teaching and learning. He is so very glad that RUMUN 2014 is one of the most diverse and unique conferences in the world, and is proud of the entire staff, delegates, and various advisors and guests for their unrelenting support.

Nicole Gifford, Director of Staff, is a senior at Rutgers University studying Journalism and Media Studies and Cultural Anthropology. She joined her high school's Model UN club as a freshman and instantly fell in love with learning about global politics through debate. After four years of attending IDIA conferences, she decided she wanted to facilitate the same fulfilling educational experiences for delegates as a staff member. RUMUN 2014 marks her seventh time staffing IDIA conferences, which have become an integral part of developing her passion for international affairs and empowering youth to take action in their communities. She can't wait to see what delegates will take away from this challenging yet rewarding weekend.

Aneesha Cheedalla, Director of Administration, is a junior at Rutgers University majoring in Cell Biology and Neuroscience and minoring in Political Science. She first became interested in Model United Nations as a sophomore in high school, where she was able to learn about global affairs in an interactive and engaging setting. She attended IDIA conferences throughout high school and knew she wanted to staff Model UN conferences in college to provide the same learning experience for other high school students. She joined IDIA in her first year at Rutgers University and has staffed five conferences since. After graduation, Aneesha hopes to attend medical school to continue impacting others as a doctor.

Educate. Empower. Engage.



The Institute for Domestic & International Affairs, Inc.