



Harvard Model United Nations India

Dear Delegates,

Jenna Wong
SECRETARY-
GENERAL

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Harvard Model United Nations India 2019! I am very excited for the opportunity to be your director for the UN Human Rights Council, a vital intergovernmental body at the center of many of the world's most pressing and important issues.

Kathryn Kuhar
DIRECTOR-
GENERAL

To give you a little bit of context, my name is Sofía Corzo, and I am currently a second-year student at Harvard. I was born and raised in Guatemala City, Guatemala, where I also developed my passion for politics and social justice in Latin America. I study Social Studies, an interdisciplinary program that allows me to take classes for credit in the Anthropology, Government, History, Economics, and Sociology departments. My specific focus field within my program of study is on transitional justice and political violence, and I am very interested in how and under what conditions societies cope and respond to threats imposed by authoritarianism, which is why I am looking forward to hear about all of your proposals surrounding the age-old problem of censorship in a new landscape of digital accessibility.

Gabrielle Schultz
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
ADMINISTRATION

Alec Fischthal
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF OPERATIONS

I started to participate in MUN six years ago, and I have found there a variety of opportunities to grow not only in professional but in personal aspects as well. At Harvard, I am part of Inter-Collegiate Model United Nations, our competitive travel team, where I have had the opportunity to travel all around the US, something very valuable to me (as an international student). I have staffed and ran committees as varied as discussing the creation of the first modern state in Africa, to the Central American Peace Processes in the 1980s, to the international community's response to growing terrorist drug cartels. Model UN has taken me around the world both figuratively and literally, and I have run committees in Boston, Perú, and the Dominican Republic as well, immersing myself in new topics, new people, and new sights. I have never been to India before, and am beyond excited to not only see your passion and dedication for this committee, but to have the opportunity to learn from all of you as well.

Anirudh Suresh
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL
COMMITTEES

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This year's theme for the UNHRC, the protection of freedom of expression and media independence, is not an abstract theme for me. My mother was a journalist during Guatemala's civil war, and I have grown up with a strong commitment to the integrity, independence, and protection of the media. In a world with faltering democracies, crucial electoral periods, and conflicts and voiceless victims, it is more important now than ever to assure the integrity of the media as well as to have an informed and conscious public. However, limitations to freedom of expression, as well as the rise of misinformation as an unintended consequence, reveal complex and relevant debates. I hope the experience to have this debate will be enriching for all of you, and that you take the opportunity to enjoy the conference and to learn from all the different people you will meet in Hyderabad. Until then, do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

Sofía Corzo
Director, UN Human Rights Council