
LUMUN XVII

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Hello Again!

Welcome to the November edition of LUMUN's Newsletter for the 2020-21 academic year! We hope all of you reading are doing well and staying safe this spooky season. We're all in this together so remember to follow SOPs and we'll be out of this mess very soon.

The Publications Department has a very fun and informative Newsletter for you this month but before we dive into that we would just like to congratulate and welcome the new Assistant Directors and Assistant Committee Directors for LUMUN 17 on making it to the family. We're very excited to work with them this year and organize a great Conference for the delegates and the Host Team alike. The LUMUN 17 Executive Council also welcomes its Host Team, and invites delegates to attend Pakistan's most prestigious Model UN!

Recap

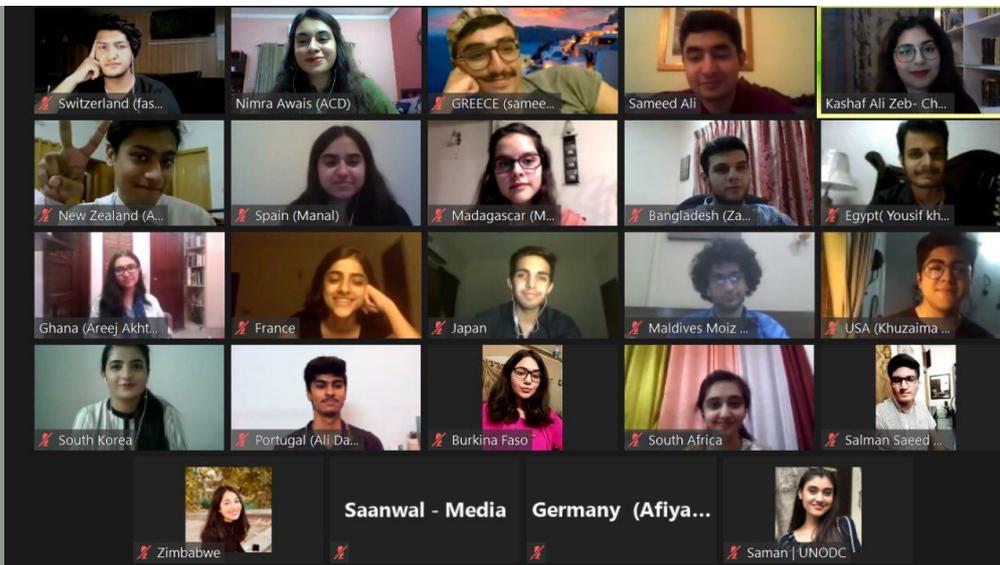
So many things have happened since we last checked in with you all in September's Newsletter (P.S. make sure you are following us on all our social media platforms to stay updated with the happenings of the society). From the induction of our new members, to our annual FallMUN Conference and the year's first panel talk, we feel that it's important to highlight the hard work and dedication of the Society's members, so here's a recap of a few important things that have happened so far!



Orientation: The first few weeks at LUMS are packed with society Orientations and LUMUNs is one of the most sought out among them. Despite the challenges associated with an online event, our team held an engaging and informative orientation to introduce themselves, their work, and the true spirit of LUMUN to interested, prospective new members. Full of heart-felt testimonials and anecdotes, humorous one liners and fun games, the team did a wonderful job of showcasing the LUMUN spirit and family. Important personalities such as Ambassador Iqbal Ahmad Khan welcomed and encouraged prospective new members to join and special emphasis was placed on the fact that everyone, no matter their experience, is welcome to join the family!

YouTube Channel: The Under-Secretary Generals for this year surprised everyone by unveiling LUMUN's very own YouTube channel, dedicated to giving tips and training to all types of speakers, new and seasoned. From tackling unmoderated caucuses, to helping with research and opening speeches, the LUMUN YouTube Training Platform has something for everyone who is willing and interested to learn. So subscribe and get to know and learn from our experienced team and guests speakers!

General Body and Host Team Interviews: The recruitment process for LUMUN is intense and lengthy as we aim to ensure we welcome the finest and most deserving candidates into the society. After two rounds of thorough and engaging interviews, you can be sure that the people we have selected to Host the Conference this year are some of the best that LUMS has to offer.



FallMUN: FallMUN is a LUMUN staple – a one day Conference organized by the Affiliations Department at LUMUN for people aiming to join the society. It's a great way for new members to introduce themselves to the team and the workings of the society and freshen up their debate knowledge and diplomatic skills. This year's FallMUN was online with its two committees, the WHO and UNEP, being held over zoom.

Did you ever imagine having fun, learning, and bonding with people during an online MUN Conference? No? Truth be told, neither did we which is why the success of FallMUN was all the more inspiring for our team to continue its efforts for LUMUN's 17th Conference in January.

Ambassador Program: In an unprecedented move, the LUMUN Society introduced it's very first Ambassador program, wherein students from all over Pakistan will be tasked with advertising LUMUN, explaining not only how LUMUN works as a conference, but also the LUMUN mission and spirit! Seminars to train ambassadors about every aspect of LUMUN will be held by society members themselves and as an added bonus they will receive certificates and a "Best Ambassador" award.



First Panel Talk of the Year: “Reconsidering the Legitimacy of Capital Punishment”: With the current period theme for LUMUN being “Civil Rights and Discrimination”, the External Relations Department organized a fascinating, informative talk with panelists Salima Hashmi, an activist and educationalist, Sadaf Aziz and Marva Khan, both professors at LUMS and distinguished authors in the field of Law, and Sana Farrukh, a lawyer and activist. Discussions centred around the impact and consequences of restrictive or biased laws that may cause more trouble than what they intend to fix. Discourse included analysing General Zia's reign, the unjust consequences of the Hudood Ordinance, imposition of Sharia Law, and how all this affects normal citizen's lives to this day. Head over to Facebook to view the panel talk which will surely add to your knowledge and change your perspective on the Pakistani justice system.

Continuing the Legacy!

Every year, LUMUN unveils a new theme that it follows and furthers through the annual Conference and its Committee sessions, affiliations and other ventures undertaken by the society throughout the year. LUMUN revealed the theme for its 17th Conference this October as *“Foster Resilience for a World Uncharted”* – and in our opinion, it has never been more pertinent.

We are facing unprecedented times, with the world in upheaval and our social lives, careers, and education taking a turn to the virtual realm, millions of people across the world are facing difficulties that were never before perceivable. Navigating these difficult times has become a challenge for many

of us; the LUMUN team has been working tirelessly to bring you an invigorating conference despite facing setbacks because of the pandemic. Our adaption to those setbacks has proven to us that strength and resilience go a long way when facing such extraordinary situations and we hope to inspire you to do the same.



The logo for this year mirrors the theme: the globe in the back represents how the circumstances we are facing are global (we're all in this together!) and the compass represents how we navigate the challenges that come with a worldwide pandemic and other uncharted territories.

Fostering Resilience for a World Uncharted

Keeping up with the theme for this year, we decided to share some stories of resilience and strength displayed by the LUMUN XVII team. Our host team is full of wonderful, wonderful people with some really inspiring stories to tell. It required a lot of courage for them to speak up about these events, but we are so proud they did. It is an honour for us to work with people like them in our team who continue to push us to be resilient in the face of this uncharted world, every single day!

Amar Ramnani, our director for the Marketing Department, shares his story of growing up as a Hindu in Pakistan:

"I think religious persecution doesn't come in big waves; in some cases these are big incidents but you get over them. For me, it's always been the small incidents that leave a huge impact. The fact that you will sit in Careem and be scared of telling your full name, the fact that when you are

Sometimes it's harder, other times... I would say it's still harder. I will be honest, I have been lucky to always have people that make me feel at home as well. After a derogatory remark from my teacher, I would get a look from my best friend which would assure me that it's not too

stopped at a point and are scared to show your CNIC. Things get a little trickier when people around you also see you differently. I can still recall my childhood when my tuition teacher told me till 6th grade that I was “na-paak” by the virtue of being Hindu. At that point, not a lot of things made sense and neither did this. I know I had always planned to convert to Islam when I grew up because it seemed like the only option. But I think when you grow up, you tend to accept these things as reality. You accept that you will be denied to eat at a restaurant, share food or share a ride.

bad. I think that’s how I have dealt with it. It is the people who remind me that for the looming of a shadow where darkness prevails, there are suns engulfing millions of hearts at a time to remind them and to remind me that good exists and it lies within. It’s difficult to say what I learned from it. I know that I learned resistance, I learned patience but above all I think I started learning to see good in people regardless of anything. Kehte hain ke agar kisi cheez ko dil se chaaho to puri kayenaat ussay tumsay milaanay ki koshish mein lag jaati hai. Never let the fear of the uncharted world take over your power to be resilient.”

Here is an anonymous member of our team sharing their experience with bullying:

“I have always been a really extroverted kid, never afraid of being social. I decided to do my first MUN in the eighth grade. Gradually it went from my second MUN to my third MUN and so on. I was in tenth grade now, and we started going to parliamentary debate competitions. All of my friends would be with me and I would be really happy! However, these “friends”, my debate team members, always said that I wasn’t as smart or as intelligent as them and that they were better debaters than me. They used to say that there was something wrong with my brain, that my brain was small, that I was stupid and dumb because I had bussiness subjects and they had a science background. During debate preparations, they would put me on the spot and if I sometimes

When I have an idea about something, I have to think twice about whether I sound stupid. I constantly feel like I have to prove to everyone that I’m smart enough. I think I have sort of grown out of it and I think I am doing pretty well with where I am right now. I started telling myself that it’s gonna be okay, that I’m gonna do well and I’m gonna make friends who won’t make me feel insecure or make fun of me. I even had the courage to text one of my bullies and confront them too. These people now have nothing to do with me or the MUN circuit. There is no shying away from the fact that debate and MUN circuits are extremely toxic and the only way to make it not toxic is you changing it. If we tell just one person that it’s okay if you didn’t do well enough and that

came up with basic ideas, they would say it was because I was stupid. And then other members would say the same basic idea in a different way, you know how men do it with women, and they would respond to it nicely. This perpetuated a very toxic idea of debating in my life and it impacts me even now.

I'm here to help you, that can make all the difference. If you see someone struggling, just talk to them. Bullying isn't gonna take us anywhere new and we need to stand up against it instead of staying silent!"

We have an incredibly strong woman in our team! Read on to know how our Committee Director for UNDP, Nayab Wali, defied all odds:

"For many people, the idea of getting into LUMS is a casual idea because of their privilege of being allowed to study anywhere. For me, there were a lot of problems. I was in an International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. It was my final year, and I was facing severe mental health issues. And by severe I mean it was extremely hard for me to function. I was depressed. I would cry every day for six months straight, and it came to the point where I was considering suicide. So while people were applying to their dream universities, I was just surviving. I was taking one step at a time. My friends would go to the counsellor and scan their results and send it to universities. Meanwhile, I would just sit and count my breath. It was a difficult time for me. However, I was kind enough to myself to not count my steps and compare them to other people. And so, I decided to go on a gap year. In my gap year, I started doing things that are close to me: community work. My gap year gave me this amazing opportunity to develop. I took community training for the first 6 months along with my

So I did all of this so I can have a strong application to get into LUMS. Later, in March I initiated a menstruation awareness camp in my village. I started raising funds for it and by June of that year, I was able to pull it off. That one year was very transforming for me. I got a chance to just stop and breathe and work on things that I wanted to do. And finally, I got into LUMS too. However, the day I told my parents about LUMS, they straightaway told me that I wasn't allowed to go. I belong to a traditional conservative Baloch family. Women in our family are not allowed to go to university and that too in another city. In fact, we are the first generation of women in my family who have received education. I convinced my father for a week. I started raising funds for myself since he was not ready to pay for LUMS. My father has been a supportive parent all my life. But, at that point, he just didn't approve. I was hopeless. On my birthday, I cried because I was so close to the university for which I had worked so hard for and I just could not get in. After a lot of convincing and arguing,

SATs and entrance exams. I did my first ever community project which was a clothing drive in the slums. Because I have ADHD, that I discovered a year ago, I'm not really able to be always on top of my studies regardless of me being a hard-working student. I'm just not able to do that.

the day after my birthday, my dad agreed and I came to LUMS. I think this was a great victory on my behalf as a Baloch woman and how, despite all of these hurdles, I fought for myself and now I'm here at LUMS, happy with my life!"

The Publications Department thanks all three of our incredibly brave members to have come forward and volunteered for speaking up about their experiences. You guys are truly awesome! Lots of virtual hugs!

International Reach of LUMUN

The Department of International Affairs at LUMUN has envisioned to take this year's conference to new heights; with greater diversity and global representation. Under the *LUMUN Global* vision, The IA Department will incorporate new features and programmes to bring new perspectives of global diplomacy and cooperation. The first initiative was LUMUN's first International Committee Director. The Department now plans to use the LUMUN platform and invite global youth leaders to forge discourse on national and international issues. The coming months hold a-lot for LUMUN, as we use the new virtual world to our advantage!

This month, the Publications Department interviewed Noor Tofailli, the first ever international chair at LUMUN who joined us over zoom all the way from Lebanon. Noor is an extremely experienced MUNer with numerous accolades to her name including an Outstanding Diplomacy Award from Harvard World MUN. She's functioned as both a trainer and an organizer for the MUN Conference, has hosted an International Conference in New York with her University and has chaired about 8 Conferences. Her experience as a MUN delegate, trainer, organizer, and Committee Director is invaluable and is sure to add new colors to the Conference this year! Keep on reading to get to know Noor's passion for public speaking, politics, and much more.



What pushed you towards MUNs? How did you know that this was for you?

I've always liked to present. Back in school I got the opportunity to attend a local conference with my delegation and I just fit in. In the training sessions I would speak and give my opinion on the issue/topic at hand. When the conference came, even though it was my first conference and I did not do as well as my expectations now, I did a good job. I liked standing up in front of the committee and talking and I knew this was something that I really wanted to do. I remember in one of my training sessions we had a negotiation exercise and we were split into groups. Every person was supposed to negotiate taking one spot on a plane. I did so well that the trainer specifically spoke about me in class. That felt amazing. That's the role I want to play as a trainer too. Had he not shown me something that I did not see about myself I wouldn't have probably gone on attending conferences. I even choose my major (political science) because of my public speaking career. MUNs have truly changed my life.

What have MUNs taught you? How have they changed you?

I would say they got me really interested in politics. I got to learn a lot of new things, not only how to publicly speak and be diplomatic, but also of history through research. This did not only fuel my love for politics but also increased my knowledge about topics that I never knew about and now use in my university courses. Knowledge is really important to me.

More so, I love to engage with politics. I recently stood up for the Student Council for my university. It was really different from what happens at home. The elections are really political and corrupt. Standing up as an independent I had to engage in dirty politics and I loved that. Part of me loving that is because of MUN conferences.

What has been your favorite MUN moment, in or outside the conference?

So in 2019 I participated in the Harvard WorldMUN. It was really stressful and a lot of hard work. At some points, through the week of the conference I would break down because of the stress. The moment when me and my co-delegate won was the moment that I thought okay this is something that is worth my time. Other times I've loved what I was doing was when my delegates, the ones that I train, end up winning their conferences and tell me that it was my training sessions that really helped them win. Just seeing that you're actually doing something for a student is quite an amazing feeling.

What are some global or local issues that you are really passionate about? Issues that you feel are very central to your identity.

The Arab-Palestinian Conflict is something that is really close to my heart. This really hits home. I'm half-Palestinian myself so it's hard to see what's going on. Even though, Noor the person who engages in negotiations and conflict resolution and knows of International Affairs knows that negotiations are the way this conflict should end, Noor the half-Palestinian and the Arab Independent fighter will not accept this. This is one International Conflict that is both external and internal. Broadly, Proxy Wars between power states is also something I'm passionate about. These Wars really affect us, the Middle East. Locally, my country's issues are also important to me. Lebanon is in a lot of trouble: socially, politically, and economically.

How do you think the Middle East is perceived internationally?

The bigger countries like the United States and Russia etc. really perceive people from the Middle East to be dumb. That's not the case, it's just that we're being ruled by not only dumb governors but by governors that don't care about their people. Ordinary people like me know what needs to be happening, if we were in positions of power we would be getting things done. We care about our country. The majority of the political leaders in most Middle Eastern countries don't care about their countries. They care about their alliances with the bigger countries. Only once you realize that you care about your people will you understand that it really isn't that important to be working with other countries in terms of politics. We should just be investing in your own people.

What had you heard LUMUN before deciding to chair here? What were some of your preconceived notions of the conference and of Pakistan in general?

When I met Sameed (Director for International Affairs) and his co-delegate in

Harvard he told me briefly about the concept of LUMUN as I was telling him about my university's LAEU MUN. I don't recall that we delved too much into it up until he invited me to chair a while ago. He told me a little bit about it and I saw the website. About Pakistan, I really don't have enough information to openly speak about it. I do know that there's a lot of struggle in Pakistan in terms of the economy, social issues and religious ideas. I would like to hear more about it from you guys and hopefully my delegates.

What is your vision for your committee? Why did you choose this specific committee?

I felt like it was perfect. I'm here for a reason and I would love to include parts of me into the conference to really give it my all. More so, I really want my delegates to know more about the Arab World. Even the dais rarely know a lot about the Arab World or even the Arab Spring. They don't know about all of the factors that played a part in the Arab Spring like the role of social media and the power of external agents like the US and Russia. I just want to add to their knowledge something that is very important. When you're learning about the UN and Politics in general you really cannot leave out the Middle East. With so much going on in the Middle East you should at least know what's happening where and what has already happened. That's what pushed me towards this committee.

What I envision is that my delegates really revisit what has happened and be able to take their own decisions as the UN to truly figure out what needs to be done in the Middle East. We've seen how the UN or certain countries have mistreated the Middle East and have not given the Middle Eastern Countries what they truly deserve. Maybe with the delegates coming up with their own Draft Resolutions they could possibly give the Middle East something more than what is already being given. Delegates, based on their research and on what they believe is just and unjust, could possibly present something new. The Middle East really deserves more.

What are your expectations individually from the delegates? Is there a specific way that you want the committee to flow?

I don't have that many expectations. I know how delegates could have so many different levels. Since it's online it's going to be much harder. I literally don't know what to expect. I feel like I'll end up staring at the camera and talking and no one will be speaking *laughs*. I want to see individuals that look and speak and talk like they're genuinely interested in the topic. I don't want them to speak about it in a way that is factual and redundant. I want passionate delegates. I want them motivated combined with the fact that they truly are interested in the

Arab Spring and the Arab World. Yes, I want facts and solutions too. I'm a pretty chill chair though.

How important do you think are MUNs in generating actual solutions?
How important are they in fostering the spirit of solution-making?

I think MUNs are a really important process that everyone should go through. You realize a pattern when a student goes through the process of MUNs whether as a delegate or as a secretariat member; they often end up doing something in the future that is related to it. It pushes you to do things. The solutions in the program really fuel a ripple effect if you want. For example, take the UN and Youth Participation in worldwide decision making; it's still very low. The youth's place on the table of decision making is almost non-existent, even though we have programs by the UN like the Youth Peace and Security Program, there is still low participation.

I believe that this continuous cycle of MUNs will eventually take us somewhere where the UN will look and see all of these solutions laid out for them that show that we have actually worked for decision making. You realize how important MUNs are when you're applying for a job later on in the UN and they ask about such things and MUNs are always an advantage for the applicant. Someone with no experience in negotiations, public speaking and MUNs will not be able to deliver to the actual UN; a person with experience will be able to. I believe MUNs will eventually take us someplace else entirely.

What's Next?

Registrations for our very first virtual LUMUN are now open! So register for the 17th edition of the Conference as soon as possible - it's going to be the highlight of your Winter Vacations

Dates for LUMUN: 7-10th January 2021

If you are a national delegate:

<http://lumun.lums.edu.pk>

If you are an international delegate:

<https://forms.gle/YiqGRUzd64x5X5kJA>

For further details, kindly contact:

lumun.outreach@gmail.com

Ameena Naweed: 0303 8849012

Kashaf Zeb: 0336 4148678

Lastly, we realize that these are strange and difficult times; our physical and mental healths are suffering. The online, virtual semester has been tough for a lot of us here at LUMS and we're sure it has been the same for other students across the country and the world. This is just a reminder that you are doing well, that you are allowed to take a break sometimes, that it is okay to not be okay. We believe in you, we see you, we understand what you are going through.

[Mental Health resources you can contact:](#) [all are free of cost]

student.counselling@lums.edu.pk (if you are currently enrolled in LUMS)

Rozan Counselling Helpline: Contact #: 0304-111-1741, E-mail id:
yhl@rozan.org / helpline@rozan.org

Umang: Contact No: 0334-6973040, Website: <http://www.umang.com.pk/>

Happy Life Psychological Services: Contact #: 0300 0945066, E-mail id:
happylifeclinics@gmail.com

Cyber Harassment Helpline: Contact #: 0800-39393, E-mail id:
helpdesk@digitalrightsfoundation.pk

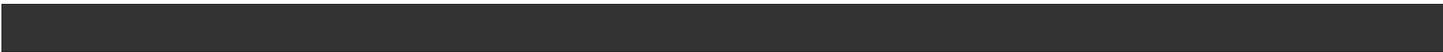
Signing off,

Haanya and Farheen - Directors, Publications Department

Amna, Ayishm, Abdullah, and Mahnoor - Assistant Directors, Publications Department

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