

# **AWARDS POLICY**

Awards will be presented to delegates who demonstrate diplomacy and skill in committee sessions with a sound knowledge of the topic and are able to apply it in debate and negotiations with other delegates.

The Order of Awards which are awarded at LSEMUN 2026 is as follows:

## **General Assembly Committee / European Committees**

- Diplomacy Award
- Honourable Mention
- Most Improved Delegate

## **Crisis Committees**

- Master of Crisis Award
- Master of Directives Award
- Honourable Mention(s)

## **International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

- Legal Excellence Award
- Best Advocate Award
- Best Judge Award

## **House of Commons**

- The Westminster\* Award (*yes it's spelt like that intentionally*)
- Honourable Mention
- Most Improved Delegate

## **International Press Corps**

- The Beaver\* Press Award (*the LSE newspaper*)
- Honourable Mention

Other Awards which are awarded at LSEMUN is as follows:

LSEMUN 2026 Staffing Excellence Award(s)

LSEMUN 2026 Secretary-General's Best Small Delegation (<8 delegates)

LSEMUN 2026 Secretary-General's Best Large Delegation (>8 delegates)

## SENSITIVE TOPICS POLICY

In accordance with the duties imposed upon the LSE and by extension the LSESU United Nations Society - by Section 43 of the Education (No 2) Act 1986, the Council of the School approved the following *Code of Practice on Free Speech* to help ensure as far as reasonably practicable that freedom of speech within the law is secured for students, staff of the School and for visiting speakers. A full version can be found at:

<https://info.lse.ac.uk/staff/services/Policies-and-procedures/Assets/Documents/Code-of-Practice-on-Free-Speech.pdf>.

LSE has adopted a Code of Practice ('the Code') to help ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured for students, employees and other members of the School (including honorary and visiting staff) and for all persons authorised to be on School premises, including visiting speakers.

The 1986 Act does not directly bind the LSE Students' Union (LSESU). However, the School's Memorandum of Understanding with the LSESU commits the Union to adhering to the provisions of this Code. The LSESU United Nations Society is committed to adhering to the provisions of this Code.

The LSEMUN Secretariat is committed to upholding freedom of expression and cultivating an environment through which speech is truly free in accordance with the Free Speech Statement. However, we recognise that our conferences bring together participants from all corners of the world, and all walks of life, that may have a stake in some of the issues discussed within a given committee of a conference. Therefore, the policy outlines expectations towards sensitive, or contentious topics and how they should be approached throughout the conference period.

'Sensitive topics' refers to a variety of contentious topics, including but not limited to past or current armed conflicts, border disputes, religious issues, economic issues, or the occupation of a geographical region by a given actor.

Recognising that some participants may be directly or indirectly impacted by these issues, all participants are expected to approach sensitive topics with caution and an appropriate demeanour at all times, both inside and outside the committee room.

As a Delegate, you must ensure that your own personal belief or stake in a sensitive topic does not trump the position of the country or person you have been assigned to simulate. You must convey this position constructively, realistically, and respectfully. During lobbying periods, those not bound by strict speaking rules, be careful how you talk about sensitive issues and do not encourage arguments that detract from the assigned topic of discussion.

As a general rule, speeches concerning such 'sensitive topics' should only be made under the following conditions:

- That the 'sensitive topic' has been introduced and discussed, e.g. by the Chairs as indicated in the Committee's study guide;
- That the contents of the speech are not speculative, and refer to objective events which have happened, and/or objective, empirical analysis of such events which come from reputable sources.

As a Chair, you have a responsibility to moderate debate during Committee sessions, and to provide relevant guidance to delegates as to the sensitive topics that are relevant to your chosen Committee Agenda. These topics should have previously been agreed upon by the Secretary-General.

As a Faculty Advisor, you have the responsibility of ensuring that your students are familiar with the above policy and remind them of it during the conference period.

If you, as a Conference Participant, feel uncomfortable as a result of a speech made by another Participant, you are reminded that you have the right to escalate this to the Secretary-General or any designated safeguarding member of the Secretariat.

# **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

The London School of Economics Model United Nations (LSEMUN) Secretariat is dedicated to establishing a secure and safe environment for all, including event delegates, volunteers, and staff. We are committed to ensuring delegates are free from discrimination and harassment based on any ground, encompassing factors such as sexual orientation, religious beliefs, race, culture, gender, or political identity. Acts of harassment, including but not limited to sexual harassment, verbal abuse, cyberbullying, and actions causing discomfort, are strictly prohibited at all activities and functions organised by the LSEMUN Secretariat. We take all incidents seriously and will investigate any allegations of harassment. Individuals found to have engaged in harassment or discrimination will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to expulsion from LSEMUN's conferences and events and submission to the relevant authorities for further action.

It is essential to note that this policy does not override existing laws but is intended to serve as a guiding framework within the conference's activities.

## **General Harassment**

Harassment, within the context of events organised by or in collaboration with the LSEMUN conference, is any verbal or physical behaviour deliberately intended to threaten, intimidate, or coerce individuals affiliated with or participating in the conference.

### ***Verbal and non-verbal harassment***

- Verbal harassment consists of remarks that are offensive or unsolicited regarding a person's protected characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, pregnancy and maternity, and gender identity.
- Nonverbal harassment includes the exhibition, distribution, or discussion of any written or graphic material that denigrates, insults, ridicules, or shows hostility, hate or disrespect toward an individual or group for their origin, race, ethnicity, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, appearance, disability, gender identity, political identity, or expression.

Given LSEMUN's dedication to fostering cultural empathy, enhancing understanding of international affairs, and promoting knowledge of the United Nations, we acknowledge that discussions within LSEMUN's activities often revolve around topics, events, and concepts that may be contentious. While LSEMUN endeavours to simulate the workings of the UN and encourages participants to represent the viewpoints of their assigned nations, we recognise that participants may hold strong affiliations with specific political identities reflective of their beliefs.

The LSEMUN Secretariat is unwavering in its commitment to respecting the political identities of participants, taking requisite measures to ensure a safe and comfortable environment where diverse political identities, views, and interpretations can be presented appropriately and respectfully. For additional information, please refer to our statement on freedom of speech.

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*The LSEMUN Secretariat reserves the right to the final interpretation of the situation, context, and background to ensure the role play derived from a realistic situation is within the framework of providing a safe and comfortable environment for all participants at LSEMUN.*

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## **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment constitutes unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature which makes a person feel offended, humiliated or intimidated, often without active consent and may be a result of external undue pressure, both explicit or implicit. It includes situations where a person is asked to engage in sexual activity as a condition of that person's success in any activity, as well as situations which create an environment that is hostile, intimidating or humiliating for the recipient.

Sexual harassment can involve one or more incidents, and actions constituting sexual harassment may be physical, verbal and non-verbal. Examples of conduct or behaviour which constitute sexual harassment include, but are not limited to:

- Unwelcome physical contact or sexual advances
- Offensive or unwanted comments based on the gender or sex of the individual
- Display and sending of sexually explicit or suggestive material

Sexual harassment can impact anyone, irrespective of their gender or the gender identity of the perpetrator. The critical determinant is the unwelcome nature of the sexual conduct directed towards the person experiencing it, and such conduct may encompass single or multiple incidents.

**Abuse of power:** LSEMUN acknowledges that sexual harassment can arise or be exacerbated by an abuse of established power structures. When responding to a complaint, the LSEMUN Secretariat will carefully consider power dynamics and abuses of positions. All LSEMUN participants must be aware of the potential risks associated with unintentional misuse of power.

The secretariat will take disciplinary action against any participant engaging in sexual harassment during LSEMUN events. This policy applies to any actions occurring throughout the conference.

## **Complaints Procedure**

### **1. Report the incident**

Individuals who experience harassment or witness such behaviour are encouraged to, when feasible, communicate to the alleged harasser that the conduct is unwarranted and unwelcome. If a complainant cannot approach the alleged harasser directly, they may contact their Head Delegate, provided they feel comfortable doing so.

In the case where the complainant or the Head Delegate is unable to proceed with this complaint with the urgency and importance it requires, or the complainant does not feel comfortable going via them, they can approach, either directly, via email or another form of communication:

- The Under Secretary-Generals for Delegate Affairs or another member of the LSEMUN Secretariat
- Other LSEMUN staff members, with the explicit understanding that such staff members will be obligated to inform the Secretariat members per this Policy

### **2. Record the incident**

When the designated officer receives the complaint of harassment, they will:

- Record the dates, times and facts of the incident(s)
- Ascertain the views of the complainant as to what outcome they seek
- Ensure that the complainant understands LSEMUN's procedures for dealing with the complaint
- Discuss and agree on the following steps: either informal or formal complaint, on the understanding that choosing to resolve the matter informally does not preclude the complainant from pursuing a formal complaint if they are unsatisfied with the outcome.
- Alert the LSEMUN Secretariat that a complaint has been made
- Keep a confidential record of all discussions
- Respect the choice of the complainant
- Ensure the complainant knows they can complain outside the foundation through the relevant legal framework.

During the complaint procedure, a complainant has the right to be assisted by a representative within LSEMUN. Initially, this role will be undertaken by a member of the LSEMUN Secretariat. In instances where the accounts of both parties regarding the alleged offence create ambiguity, LSEMUN is committed to thoroughly examining both testimonies impartially and equitably before reaching a judgement.

**3. Decide on an informal or formal mechanism (complainant should be given the options and opportunity to decide)**

*Informal Complaints Mechanism*

If the complainant wishes to deal with the matter informally, the approached designated LSEMUN representative will:

- Allow the alleged harasser to respond to the representative regarding the complaint
- Ensure the alleged harasser understands the complaints mechanism
- Facilitate discussion between both parties to achieve an acceptable informal resolution to the complainant or refer to a designated mediator to resolve the matter.
- Ensure that a confidential record is kept of what happens
- Follow up after the outcome of the complaints mechanism to ensure that the behaviour has stopped
- Ensure that the above is done promptly and before the conclusion of the event or two weeks after the complaint was filed Formal Complaints Mechanism

If the complainant wants to make a formal complaint, the formal complaint mechanism should be used to resolve the matter. The designated person who initially received the complaint will refer the matter to the LSEMUN Secretariat to instigate a formal investigation, who will be responsible for dealing with issues of this matter to reflect its importance. The Secretariat may deal with matters themselves or, in serious cases, request an external investigator to address the situation.

The person carrying out the investigation will:

- Interview the complainant and alleged harasser separately
- Aim to provide anonymity for the complainant at first contact with the harasser and seek confirmation from the complainant to proceed if subsequent communication and investigation with the harasser are impossible without their identity being divulged.
- Interview any relevant third parties separately.
- Review the evidence and see if it matches the examples specified in this document.
- Produce a report detailing the investigations, findings and other recommendations.
  - If the harassment occurred, decide the appropriate remedy for the complainant in consultation with the complainant. This may range from committee reassignment to expulsion and barring from all programs of LSEMUN.

- Follow up to ensure the recommendations are implemented, the behaviour has stopped, and the complainant is satisfied with the outcome.
- If it cannot be determined that the harassment occurred, they may still make recommendations to ensure proper regulation of such activities at the event.
- Keep a record of all actions taken
- Ensure that the records concerning the matter are kept confidential
- Ensure that the process is done as quickly as possible and in any event within the event timeframe or two weeks after the complaint was filed

### *External Escalation*

A person subject to harassment can also complain to external regulatory teams. They can do so by filing a police report, as LSEMUN activities are legally bound by the laws of the United Kingdom. LSEMUN will provide a copy of the report for any investigations conducted

## **Sanctions and Disciplinary Measures**

Individuals found to have engaged in harassment, as outlined in this policy, may be subject to various disciplinary actions, including but not limited to:

- Suspension from their role, accompanied by restricted access to ongoing LSEMUN events.
- Expulsion from the current event and all future Foundation activities.
- Referral of the individual to relevant local authorities when deemed appropriate.

When determining the appropriate sanctions, LSEMUN account for, among other factors:

- **Nature of the incident:** including the number of complainants and established patterns.
- **Trauma inflicted:** assessed based on statement reports and the severity of the actions.
- **Power dynamics and potential abuse of position:** evaluated with consideration to the individual's level of engagement with LSEMUN.

## **Implementation of this Policy**

LSEMUN is committed to ensuring the widespread dissemination of this policy. It will be incorporated into the Foundation Constitution as an Appendix, distributed to our volunteer staff, and posted on the official website. Comprehensive training on the policy's content and execution is mandatory for all Secretariat members, Chairs, and involved Foundation Staff during their induction or briefing before assuming

official duties. The Secretariat will conduct these training sessions involving reputable external organisations or individuals.

LSEMUN acknowledges the importance of monitoring this policy's effectiveness and will systematically collect anonymous feedback and data to assess its usage. The organisation welcomes any feedback or complaints about its procedures. For queries, comments, or suggestions regarding this policy, individuals are encouraged to contact the Secretary-General at [lsemun@llesu.org](mailto:lsemun@llesu.org) or a member of the LSEMUN secretariat, whose contact information is available on the LSEMUN website ([www.lsemun.co.uk](http://www.lsemun.co.uk)). The delegates pledge to abide by the behavioural conduct as listed above during all activities throughout LSEMUN 2026 to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for all participants involved.