

POSITION PAPERS

In an effort to expand upon the high quality of debate at DPSMUN, delegates (**with the exception of those in the Security Council**) are *required* to submit position papers prior to the conference. Position papers allow delegates to organize their ideas and aid in formatting and representing a country's policy. The position papers will also aid delegates in formulating their speeches. Each position paper should relate to a topic on the agenda, answer the "Questions to Consider" that are provided in the background guides and define the topic's relationship to the country's national interests.

Length:

Position papers are a maximum of one page for each topic within the committee.

What the position paper should include:

The paper should include a brief introduction and a comprehensive breakdown of the country's position on the topics that are being discussed within the committee. An excellent position paper includes:

- a clear statement of policy on each topic;
- the country's background on the topic, including:
 - political and/or foreign policy;
 - action taken by your government in relation to the topic;
 - actions your government has supported or not supported;
 - resolutions and declarations that your country supports;
 - quotes taken from speeches made by heads of government;
- answers to the "Questions to Consider" from the background guide; and
- action that the country would support in a resolution.

The Position paper should be typed out in Font Arial and Size 12.

We have included a sample of a well-written position paper.

Deadlines:

Position papers should reach by October 20, 2005.

(Source: <http://www.unausa.org>.)

SAMPLE POSITION PAPER

Delegate(s) : Simon Boule and Jennifer Bozzuto
School : Robinson High School
Country : The Kingdom of Denmark
Committee : Commission on Human Rights
Topic : Freedom of Religion

The freedom to practice one's professed faith is protected under early United Nations doctrines including the Charter and the Declaration of Human Rights. However, violations of freedom of religion are still being committed in every region of the world. Denmark believes that such violations exist despite protests from the governments of states where religious intolerance is believed to exist. Repeatedly, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have addressed this committee regarding the numerous instances of religious intolerance they have experienced worldwide. The Special Rapporteur of the Commission of Human Rights has recently published reports on his findings in this area and has called for action. The Committee must heed his call before further outbreaks over religious intolerance, such as in Kosovo, threatens the international community once more. Furthermore, Denmark asserts that forcing people to flee from their homeland in order to escape religious persecution is an atrocious human rights violation that is reminiscent of a war that once turned the states of the world against each other.

In Denmark, 97% of those affiliated with a church are Evangelical Lutheran. Although there is also a small minority of Catholics and other Protestants, Denmark has not experienced difficulty in toleration of these minority religions. Denmark was one of the first to sign the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which declares that the state should not impose one cultural (or religious) standard for its people. Under Danish law, no person may be denied civil or political rights or political liberty because of his or her religious beliefs. In public schools, parents are given the option of excluding their children from Evangelical Lutheran religious instruction.

Denmark does not recognize religious traditions or cultural aspects as an argument against following universal human rights. Such an argument would violate the major principles that the United Nations was founded upon. By signing the Declaration of Human Rights, states have agreed to respect the universal rights that the U.N. has set forth for humankind.

Denmark is aware that suppression of religious freedom does, unfortunately, occur within the borders of the European Union. Reports have been issued that expose religious intolerance in countries within this coalition. Denmark is appalled, but is confident that E.U. countries will work together to remedy this serious problem.

Denmark urges the formation of an educational plan of action which would help spread religious tolerance worldwide. Denmark acknowledges the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, but would like to see additional treaties created. This treaty could be drafted at a global summit that would convene for the sole purpose of addressing this pressing issue. Denmark also proposes that 2005 be designated as the International Year of Religious Liberty in order to further spread the message of tolerance.

(Source: <http://www.unausa.org>.)