



A Background Guide for the

PRESS CORPS

Efficacy of Peace Journalism in Conflict Resolution

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings, delegates!

We, the Executive Board of the Press Corps, welcome you all to the Press Corps simulation for Shishukunj Model United Nations 2017.

Our Director, Jivya Vaidya, is a 11th grader and is pursuing Humanities and Arts as her major. She loves doing adventure sports, singing, painting, binge watching TV series, and reading. She is also a huge fan of F.R.I.E.N.D.S., a self-proclaimed connoisseur, and a professional procrastinator. The Assistant Director or Vice-Chair, Hridhima Tyagi, is a 10th grader. She considers herself to be a pretty blithesome person and loves a song and a dance. She is a major bibliophile and likes to trifle away time watching movies. The other Assistant Director, or the Rappoteur, Ashlesha Purohit, loves to dance and read like the rest of the Executive Board. She also likes painting, loves movies, and enjoys watching TV shows.

MUNing for each of us has been an exhilarating and inspiring experience. We have learned so much along the way – public speaking, the art of diplomacy and negotiation, general knowledge, and, most importantly, the ability to be confident and believe in one's self. Writing for us is a method of expression, a medium of communication, and a necessity for creation. Writing is the painting of the voice and the photography of the thoughts. It is an expertise of its own which can never be mastered by reading or by learning about it. Yes, reading does ameliorate our vocabulary and enhance our writing, but we think that what we write comes from the heart, and as we write, it just flows out of our hands.

The Press Corps is an interactive and dynamic simulation of the real world press. We envision the Press Corps to be a successful simulation designed for reporters to test their imagination, research, and writing skills along with their presence of mind while playing an active role in the refinement of global dynamics and happenings. Besides being tasked with reporting in an assortment of committees, the reporters will be responsible for shaping an issue faced by the world of journalism. We expect the reporters to be well-researched about their agencies, the agenda, and the committee itself. We would like the reporters to use the Press Corps as a platform for showcasing their creativity in every way achievable, whilst still reporting in their beats. Furthermore, we want reporters to bear in mind their role, their influence, and the power they hold in the world as they make choices throughout the conference.

Most importantly, we want reporters to have a good time, learn new things, and experience the role and life of a journalist. As the Executive Board, we try our best to pave the reporters' way to being good journalists, but in the end, the reporters put pen to paper. Good grammar and a striking vocabulary are completely futile if the interest and comprehension of the commons are not kept in mind.

We look forward to meeting you all in July!

Sincerely,

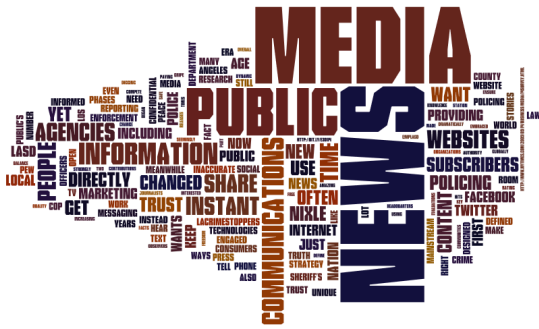
Executive Board

Press Corps

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Introduction

Humans, as social beings, cannot exist without communication. We need to interact with others to make sense of the world and to position ourselves in its immense social and cultural reality. Media is a method of communication.



The word ‘media’ has been obtained from the word ‘medium’, meaning mode or carrier. In the past, the word was used in respect of books and newspapers, i.e. print media, and with the emergence of the digital age, media now also comprises television, movies, radio, and internet.

Today, media has become as essential as our daily needs. It plays an exceptional role in creating and shaping public opinion as well as empowering people around the globe. It is the sword arm of democracy, as it acts as a watchdog to protect public interest against malpractice and create public awareness.

In the present scenario, when politicians are taking unfair benefit of their posts, an evil nexus of mafia and crime syndicate is making the life of the common man miserable, the taxpayer’s money is siphoned out for the personal gain of the powerful, and the common people are a mere spectator, media has a greater responsibility to protect and

inform the general populace. As the fourth pillar of democracy, the media of the new world has an all-embracing and eloquent role in the termination of injustice, oppression, malpractices, and biases of our society.

The Press Corps committee at Shishukunj Model United Nations Conference 2017 is going to be an unconventional, dynamic simulation of the media today and its role in the orchestration and discussion of international affairs. The delegates will spend part of their time reporting in committees and the other time debating amongst themselves over one of the most wrangled-over topics in modern journalism. Press Corps members will have the option to choose from multifarious mediums of reporting which include tweets, articles, cartoons, illustrations, and more to communicate the events of the different committees through the official Shishukunj Model United Nations newsletter.

The reporters will also get the opportunity to showcase their humorous and creative sides by writing informal articles and interviews, which will also be presented in the Shishukunj MUN newsletter.

The reporters will also be discussing their very own issue: *the efficacy of peace journalism in conflict resolution journalism*. Ethics and the role of media are two of the most disputed issues in the world, chiefly because of the media’s undeniable power, role, and strong influence on common people. One controversial topic, which has not yet arrived at a conclusion, is how journalism should be practiced. One

might say that journalism is reporting only and only the truth. Some might argue that at times it becomes necessary to twist the reality in the interest of the public. Peace journalism has been developed from studies that indicate that most of the time, news about conflict has a value bias towards violence.



Peace journalists claim that they report the reality in a manner that creates an option of non-violence as a response to conflicts. However, many others beg to differ. They believe that it a journalist's duty to report the reality to the people, even if it is harsh; only then can a feasible solution be created. The goal of our committee will be to discuss and to decide whether peace journalism is the appropriate way to report and handle conflicts. The committee will be arguing upon matters which question the very core of journalism - reporting the truth.

Forms of Media

This year, Shishukunj MUN has decided to give reporters a chance to display their reporting talents in forms other

than simple articles.

There are many forms of media; however, they can broadly be classified into two categories: textual and visual. Textual media involves formats which are comprised of written texts only. They usually do not have much scope for humor and are mostly formal, except for informal opinion pieces, which can be used by reporters to write more witty, humorous, and creative pieces. Textual media includes various forms of articles, interviews, and social media posts.

Visual forms of media are the more attractive, eye-catching and artistic forms of media. They involve minimum usage of text and maximum visualization. However, they can be more difficult to present, as it is important that the reporter broadcasts the message clearly, for easy interpretation. Visual media includes illustrations, photographs, videos, and visual graphics.

1.1 Textual Media

The Press Corps is expected to predominantly produce written content. Modern media forms include everything from digital media like social media, blogs, visual graphics, television channels, etc. to traditional print media consisting of books, newspapers, etc. This year, reporters will have the opportunity of producing content in such contemporary forms.



The Press Corps delegates will have the option of presenting various types of

written content, including news pieces, opinion pieces on discussions in committee, tweets, interviews, and informal articles.

Getting the basic facts and information wrong can be hazardous for a reporter, and in such cases, understanding the situation and the issues being discussed in the committee is essential. If a journalist is not able to do so, he or she is encouraged to approach the dais with a note for clarification. However, to gather detailed and proper information about the committee proceedings, it is imperative that the reporter be present in the committee for the entire session or for an hour or so, depending upon the content he or she wishes to produce.

One should remember that a refined and quality piece is devoid of factual inaccuracies and assumptions, features quotes and interviews, and is an original work. The following are the kinds of written content which can be presented in the Press Corps. Each of these is a unique way of conveying information. It would be appreciated if the delegates try to use as many of these as possible.

News pieces



News pieces are the most common way of reporting. They constitute fact-based articles stating key facts about proceedings of a committee, some background information, and information about the agenda of the committee (In case of two agendas, it

can include specifications of the topics of debate, the delegates who spoke in the session, discussions in informal sessions, etc.). Remember, every article written must abide to a certain standard of accuracy.

Reporters take care to get the facts right, and in case of doubt, they should approach the delegate or the Executive Board described, for clarification.

Opinion Pieces

As one can decipher from their name, opinion pieces generally feature the reporter's opinion upon an issue. A good opinion piece features a convincing theory and a series of equally convincing justifications for the same. An opinion piece is judged upon the facts and viewpoint presented, so it is essential that reporters think through the argument they will be making and its presentation, so as to engage a wider audience.

For example, 'The delegates gave good solutions in the moderated caucuses.' does not provide the facts on which this opinion is based, while 'The delegates proposed moderately substantial solutions, putting special emphasis upon the establishment of exclusive institutions which will help, to an extent, discontinue the practice of child marriage, prevent adolescent pregnancy, and ensure gender equality in Africa.' is much more apt. In many cases, reporters may have to interview and quote some delegates, keeping in mind that the ultimate goal is to provide their opinion a firm, factual base armed with the reporter's opinion.

Interviews

Interviews are another common method of gathering information and presenting data. Reporters may interview the delegates or even the Executive Board

during breaks or lobbying sessions. The reporters are NEVER to do an interview inside the committee room. If the reporter wishes, he or she can send a note to the person who is to be interviewed and do the interview outside. The number of questions asked should be minimal, but significant. (See Tips for Reporters)



Reporters should also remember that creativity is an essential part of good journalism. Interviews should not be limited only to the delegates of the committees but can be extended to the members of the Executive Board and the Secretariat. Interviews can be anything from general conference opinion, to expectations, to the committee proceedings, or even fun, interactive quizzes (see Informal Articles). However, reporters should never ask anything that is inappropriate or makes the interviewee uncomfortable. The interviewee reserves the right to deny answering any question and should not be compelled to do so under any circumstances.

Twitter

Social media is one of the best means of mass communication. It is fast, effective, and widely used.

The Press Corps will have a Twitter account at hand, through which the reporters will have the choice to send out tweets. This Twitter account will be used to send out conference updates and to keep delegates up-to-date with the

issues being discussed in various committees.



The reporters should always look out for instances which can be described in a short tweet (140 characters or less). For example, if a delegate makes a particularly controversial statement, says something humorous, or delivers a speech on anything particularly informative, reporters can consider the content to be ideal for a tweet. A committee setting a new topic up for discussion may not get the reporters a full article, but it can be tweet-worthy. The tweets should be brief, elucidative, and creative. The Press Corps Executive Board will give additional information regarding the operation of the twitter account during the conference.

Informal Articles

While most of the conference reporting is formal and profound, reporters will have the option of portraying their more creative and humorous sides through informal articles.

The official Shishukunj Model United Nations newsletter will be a forum for any article featuring content that is witty, creative, humorous, critical, or as simple as a conference update. Delegates can present all sorts of content like a list of DOs and DON'Ts at an MUN, confessions by delegates, a list of conference-related puns and jokes, and much more! However, the reporters should always maintain a level of professionalism and optimism. No reporter is to write anything that might offend any person and should refrain from accusing people in any manner.

1.2 Visual Media

Along with written content, journalists can also cover committee sessions through visual content, which includes photographs, videos, and visual graphics. Journalists are highly encouraged to present visual content, as it is an unconventional, attractive, modern, and creative way of reporting. However, as in textual media, the basic norms of reporting apply here too.

Photography



Photography is a powerful journalistic medium. Photographs are much more attractive than written media and speak a thousand words, one picture at a time.

Reporters this year have been given the option of clicking photographs alongside traditional textual reporting. Photographs of the committee proceedings and the delegates can be taken throughout the committee session. However, photojournalism should not be taken lightly, and a few basic rules should be kept in mind.

The photographs of the delegates should be un-posed and impromptu, and they should be professional in nature. Good photographs generally show committee

proceedings, such as a delegate raising a placard, discussion of the resolution, and informal discussion amongst delegates. Selected photographs clicked by reporters will be featured in the official Shishukunj MUN newsletter. The subjects of the photographs generally should not be directly looking into the camera, or the photographs might appear staged. The journalists may take pictures to supplement their articles, or they may post them as a stand-alone story. Photography will be evaluated by taking into consideration its formal structure and its storytelling value. Journalists have to bring their own cameras as well as cables for transferring of photographs if necessary. Shishukunj MUN will not be responsible for lost or damaged gadgets.

Videos

Reporters can use their personal video cameras to capture B-roll (background footage), all the while making sure not to disrupt committee proceedings. Reporters wishing to submit a video should prepare a transcript so that the video can be understood easily. Just like photographs, videos should be of candid nature, covering the committee proceedings.



Diverse creativity is encouraged in producing videos. Videos of crises, interviews, stand-up reports, and more are encouraged. Reporters also have the freedom to interview two delegates at a time or have a well-researched delegate provide information or opinion on the proceedings. A list of questions should be prepared by the interviewer. An interview can only be conducted on video with due permission from the delegate(s) and their general approval on the topic to be discussed. While some knowledge of video editing might be useful, it is not required of reporters.

Visual graphics

Alongside photos and videos, journalists also have the option of creating visual graphics, which include political cartoons, caricatures, committee sketches, and data visualizations (e.g. informal polls or surveys) that relate to the aspects and actions of the committees. These may be created by hand or digitally.

Some committees might forbid photography at certain points during the conference, so the reporter will have to rely upon the pad and paper to create a drawing or an illustration. However, while visual graphics are a fun and attractive way of communicating a message, reporters should be careful that the message can be easily interpreted by readers.

1.3 Beats

A beat is basically the coverage area allotted to a reporter for extensive

reporting on any issue or institution. They are assigned to the reporters to avoid disproportion and centralized reporting of only one committee. Beats are allotted based on the preferences set by the reporters and will be assigned at the beginning of each committee session (after some time dedicated to discussion of the Press Corps agenda), and reporters will switch beats each session so that each reporter has equal coverage opportunity in all of his or her preferred committees throughout the conference.

For the specific purposes of this conference, at the beginning of the first committee session, reporters will be handed out Preference Papers in order for them to fill out their reporting preferences. Reporters should keep in mind the agendas of the committees, the broad categories of committees (GA, ECOSOC and Regional Bodies, Specialized Agencies), their interests, and their knowledge about them. This ensures systematic, productive, and accurate reporting.

The purpose of this system of preferential allotment is that each reporter should get a fair chance to learn, observe, and write about an agenda, issue, or committee of his or her interest. Reporters may spend their time in the Press Corps room working upon their pieces instead of covering their beats. However, each reporter is to cover a minimum of 4 different committees out of the total 8 committees. Reporters are encouraged to visit the Shishukunj MUN website for further details regarding the committees

in the conference and are recommended to go through the study guides of the committees they wish to cover. This year, Shishukunj Model United Nations presents the following committees:

General Assembly --- (Double Agenda)

- GA-1 DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee)
- GA-4 SPECPOL (Special Political and Decolonization Committee)

Economic and Social Council & Regional Bodies (ECOSOC) and Regional Bodies --- (Double Agenda)

- UNESCAP (United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific)

- EU (European Union)

Specialized Agencies --- (Single Agenda)

- UNSC (United Nations Security Council)
- ACADEMI International 2020
- SRWC (Serbo Russian War Cabinet, 1914)
- AHEEM (Austro-Hungarian Empire Emergency Meet, 1914)

The Preferences (Beats) Paper has been attached on the following page.



PREFERENCE PAPER

Name of Delegate –

Name of News Agency –

Committee Type Preference – (General Assembly, Regional Bodies, Specialized Agencies)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)

Committee Preferences –

- 1) Name of Committee –
Agenda-
- 2) Name of Committee –
Agenda –
- 3) Name of Committee –
Agenda –
- 4) Name of Committee –
Agenda –
- 5) Name of Committee –
Agenda –

Content Type Preference – (1. News and Opinion Pieces 2. Informal Articles 3. Producing Video Content or/and Taking Photographs 4. Visual Graphics)

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)

Note on Specialized Agencies Committees

In the real United Nations, committees like the Security Council frequently have closed-door meetings, in which the press is not allowed. Additionally, having members of the press present in some of the Specialized Agencies' meetings has been perceived as impractical.

Hence, as in real time, there are certain restrictions upon the entry of the press delegates in the Specialized Agencies committee rooms. However, that does not mean that reporters will not be permitted to cover these committees or that they will not have much to report. On the contrary: reporters have special roles to play in these committees. Reporters could be called to broadcast breaking news, which can result in a drastic turn of events in the committee. In addition, reporters may be called to do press stakeouts exclusively in the Security Council, as a part of their procedure. Hence, reporters covering these committees will avail themselves to many interesting opportunities.

However, at certain intervals, reporters will be required to exit the committee rooms. Reporters are not to enter the crisis rooms (rooms separate from the main committee rooms, for responding to crisis notes) unless granted permission from respective Executive Boards. Please take note that no sort of disruptive behavior will be tolerated in the committees and that reporters should maintain a certain level of diplomacy and professionalism at all times.

Committee Procedures



This year at Shishukunj MUN, the Press Corps constitutes of news organizations from all over the world. These news agencies were selected keeping in mind their size of circulation, international representation, and relevance to the agenda. This was done in anticipation of reporters setting their committee and agenda preferences, according to their news agencies' interests.

1. Aftenposten
2. Al Arabiya
3. Al Jazeera
4. Associated Press
5. La Jornada
6. Le Monde
7. New Matilda
8. People's Daily
9. Russia Today
10. The Australian
11. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
12. The Hindustan Times
13. The Korea Herald
14. The New Republic
15. The New York Times
16. The Weekly Standard
17. The Independent
18. Xinhua News Agency

Delegates should be thoroughly researched on their agency, its history and policies, its editorial stance, and the kind of audience it serves. It is extremely important that the delegates keep in mind

the topics their news agency covers, the writing style of the agency, and its policies when writing articles.

Reporters should be certain of what kind of bias their paper might project and should keep this in mind at all times. They should be certain of the kind of news and issues their agency tackles and should make decisions throughout the conferences based on their understanding of the agency.

The Shishukunj MUN Conference will this year be practicing UN4MUN



procedure in a majority of its committees. This procedure was established by the United Nations Department of Public Information in accordance with actual UN procedure. It focuses on adoption of resolutions upon a complete consensus, which means delegates will be negotiating until they all concur to a draft resolution, which is adopted without a formal voting procedure.

The Press Corps, along with other Specialized Agencies (except the Security Council), will be following standard UNA-USA procedures.

However, the GA, ECOSOC, and Regional Bodies will be following UN4MUN procedure. Reporters should be thorough with UNA-USA as well as UN4MUN, as they will be spending their time reporting in committees practicing one or both procedures. It is highly recommended that reporters go through the procedures, especially UN4MUN, and may visit the official Shishukunj MUN

website (www.shishukunjmun.com) for further information.

2.1 Working of the Press Corps

At the beginning of each committee session, it is **absolutely mandatory** for every single reporter to be present in the Press Corps room for a brief meeting, after which reporters may go back to their work. Failing to do so might result in a reporter being at a disadvantage for the rest of the conference or even removal from consideration for awards.

In the very first committee session of the conference, reporters will be asked to set their preferences in the Preference Paper and will be given a briefing. Shortly after this, reporters will be given their very first beats.

There are 4 main types of content that can be produced in the Press Corps:

1. News and opinion pieces
2. Informal articles for the newsletter
3. Video content and/or photographs
4. Visual graphics

Ideally, reporters spend most of their time producing (1) and (3) and some of their time working on (2) and (4). However, it is the reporter's choice which type of content he or she wishes to produce. Reporters are encouraged to use their creativity and experiment with the variety of forms of media at their disposal.

The Press Corps delegates will be assigned beats, which will be rotated amongst them throughout the conference based upon the preferences they have set in the Preferences Paper. The beats will be assigned in such a manner that each reporter gets the chance to report on all of

their committees of choice at least once. After every hour, reporters are to report back to the Press Corps room to update the Executive Board upon the events in the beat as well as the work done by the reporter.

By the end of each day (6pm), reporters are to submit at least 3 pieces for editing to the Press Corps staff, out of which at least one should be in the form of textual media. Failure to meet the deadlines may result in negative marking for the reporter. Reporters are encouraged to spend their free time during the conference clicking photographs or writing informal articles for the newsletter.

Out of the total committee hours of the day, the reporters will be spending a third of their time in the Press Corps committee room, discussing their own agenda. Reporters may spend the time for covering their beats to work upon their pieces, however, it is compulsory for a reporter to cover at least 4 out of the total 8 committees throughout the conference in formal pieces; that is, news pieces, opinion pieces, or interviews.

2.2 Press Releases in the Security Council

As mentioned before, the Press Corps has a special role to play in the Security Council. To reaffirm, the Press Corps will be following UNA-USA procedure, while the Security Council will be following UN4MUN. According to UN4MUN, there are 3 types of press engagements with the Security Council:

- 1) Press Element – This is a pre-prepared, bulleted document which summarizes what Security Council Members should say to the Press. The bullets will be decided upon by the Members, and

their answers to press questions will be restricted to its content, but the Press will not be given the bulleted document for review. No other issues related to the agenda or the private meetings of the Council can be brought up. The reporters will engage in a “stakeout”; that is, reporters may question any member of the Council who wishes to meet with the Press and agrees to answer their questions.

- 2) Presidential Statement (PRST) - The PRST is a statement quoted from a written document. This written document is prepared by the Council. It is more general than a resolution, can request the Secretary-General to report a crisis, or can express the concerns of the Council as a whole. This statement is read by the President of the Security Council to the Press, after which the Press will get a physical copy of the PRST. Here, the Press cannot raise any questions upon the statement.
- 3) Press Releases - A Press Release is distributed after every public meeting conducted in the Council. It synthesizes the proceedings and debates of that meeting. There will be no discussions upon the same. These Press Releases should be precise and strictly formal. The reporting should be accurate, as the prepared content will be released in the Council and will act as a source for them.

Reporters should remember that each of these plays an important role in the Security Council proceedings; hence, it is imperative that reporters give their full attention to the same. The Security Council procedures are somewhat different from the other committees. To

learn more about the procedures, reporters may go through the Security Council study guide.

Agenda: Efficacy of Peace Journalism in Conflict Resolution



There are many kinds of journalism; however, the Press Corps committee comprises of news agencies performing propaganda, advocacy, or peace or war journalism. Because of this, the Corps will be focusing on the issues revolving around them and how they affect the main agenda.

- **Propaganda journalism-** Propaganda literally means - "information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote a political cause or point of view."¹ News propaganda is journalism with decreased transparency about the reasons for a piece's release and its source. It may be spread for any reason - political, cultural, governmental, commercial, practical, or because of precautionary purposes in a time of war.

- **Advocacy journalism-** Advocacy journalism is a more factual form of journalism that seeks to advocate a cause or express a belief. This type of

journalism deliberately adopts a rule-abiding, partisan stance on issues and often results in extensive investigation into people and events involved in a situation.

- **Peace journalism-** Peace journalism uses conflict analysis to construct realities, putting special emphasis upon less visible causes and effects of a conflict, such as death rate and destruction, rather than focusing on the most visual problem, its causes, and its reasons, as long as it prevents violence. It is a broader, fairer, and more accurate way of framing stories to pacify people during times of war.

- **War journalism-** War journalism propagates violent responses to conflicts instead of the peaceful ones. War journalism also has a tendency to bring out differences between different parties in a conflict instead of pointing towards common ground or past instances of consensus, ignoring the impacts, so as to indirectly drive consumers to violence. While practicing war journalism, reporters mainly concentrate on physical impacts of war instead of psychological impacts.

3.1 Origin of Peace Journalism

Peace journalism originates from a long history of news publication. It initially started with the non-sectarian Christian peace movements and utopian communities in the early 19th century. From the 20th century, it started spreading a bit, for e.g. Dorothy Day's *Catholic Worker*.

¹ Wikipedia. Accessed May 16, 2017.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Propaganda>



Peace journalism was actually promoted by John Galtung who showed the journalists to follow to show how a value bias towards violence can be avoided when covering war and conflict. Galtung claimed that he had experienced World War II, which made him a peace mediator. Galtung insisted that the remainder of his social service be spent in activities relevant to peace. In 1993, he co-founded TRANSCEND: A Peace Development Environment Network, an organization for conflict transformation by peaceful means.

Peace journalism came about through research arguing there's something wrong with typical conflict reporting. Research and practice in peace journalism outlines a number of reasons for the existence and dominance of war journalism in conflict news.

There were four ways to handle conflicts – A wins B loses, A loses B wins, the solution is postponed because neither A nor B feels ready to end the conflict or a confused compromise is reached, which neither A nor B are happy with. Galtung introduced a fifth way in which both the parties feel that they win, and this he promoted by peace journalism, respectful identity, and physical well-being

Attention given to peace journalism in the academy is relatively recent, dating from the 1970s and flourishing in the 1990s and beyond. It was further spread by institutions like Jake Lynch and Annabelle McGoldrick. Christian organizations such as The World Council of Churches and The World Association for Christian Communication also practice peace journalism.

However, peace journalism mainly emerged as a whole new



branch of journalism in the 1970s with Johan Galtung, a Norwegian socialist and a peace researcher who proposed it to show how a bias towards violence could be avoided while covering war-affected regions and how people could be pacified by using peace journalism through balance, fairness, and accuracy in reporting. He proposed it keeping in mind the ruinous impacts of war journalism and the winning-is-only-important attitude of many journalists of his time.

Peace journalism was further propagated by Jake Lynch and Annabel McGoldrick. McGoldrick and Lynch defined peace journalism as a wider, more just, and more precise way of structuring stories, inferring on the understandings of conflict analysis and transformation.

3.2 Popularity and Acceptance

Peace Journalism today is being practiced by thousands of reporters and activists around the globe. Special courses can now be found in parts of the UK, Australia, USA, Mexico, South Africa, Costa Rica, Norway, and Sweden. Some journalists in Indonesia and the Philippines have also participated in training programs for peace journalism. It has reportedly been used mildly in conflicts like the Taliban conflict and the Sectarian conflict resolution. However, many more people around the world believe in the more-activist kinds of journalism and criticize

peace journalism.

3.3 Introduction

Public communication had become really important amongst the growing atrocities of war. Most wars and conflicts were not brought to our attention if there were no journalists to report on them and no media organizations to send their reporters to conflict spots.

To end this journalists got together to make the world a better place. Similarly, critic scholars began to promote a vision of journalistic practice which was far away from the main objectives of a true journalist which were neutrality and detachment. According to them, “It was important to be biased to promote peace.” Journalists and scholars together gave rise to peace journalism.

Although the field of peace journalism is being spread everywhere, it keeps attracting critiques. The controversy is still on-going whether the concept is needed first and can be practiced second. While many institutions promote peace journalism as they believe, “news needs remedial measures to ‘give peace a chance’”, many practitioners state that peace journalism mainly emphasizes on the struggles of people and fails to provide the main objective of news reporting to the people which is ‘fact-based reporting’. They believe that peace journalism does not provide the public both sides of the war.

Thus questioning if peace journalism is “right or wrong” is important as even though it promotes peace, it also prevents the people from knowing their fair share of information and make their own judgement, which is the true spirit of journalism

Institutions For and Against Peace Journalism

FOR -

Adept international journalists Jake Lynch and Annabel McGoldrick are teachers and firm upholders of peace journalism. According to Jake Lynch, “Peace Journalism” is said to be practiced when “editors and reporters make choices – about what to report, and how to report it – that create opportunities for society at large to consider and to value non-violent responses to conflict.”²

Both of them profess peace journalism to be a “broader, fairer, and more accurate way of framing stories, drawing on the insights of conflict analysis and transformation.”

Supporters of peace journalism have confidence in the fact that a journalist’s job is not only to report the facts but also to sculpt opinions and frame an issue equitably. According to supporters of the movement, peace journalism puts this potential to good use. By reporting less about wars, who is to blame, and who is winning, instead delineating more about solutions and reciprocal beliefs of conflicting parties, violence as an answer to conflicts can be minimized.

Supporters of peace journalism believe that journalists should contribute in establishing peace in the world. Jake Lynch and Annabel McGoldrick have tried to spread this message around the

² Lynch, Jake. “What is Peace Journalism?” TRANSCEND. Published since 2008. Accessed May 12,

2017. <https://www.transcend.org/tms/about-peace-journalism/1-what-is-peace-journalism/>

world and convince people that peace journalism is successful in reducing violence as a response to conflict.

AGAINST –

According to BBC correspondent David Loyn, much of the peace journalism argument is derived from John Galtung's work, in which he claimed that war journalism is journalism in enclosed space and time, with no context, concealing peace initiatives and making wars opaque and secret. However, some think that making peacemaking politicians is not a journalist's job.

According to Thomas Hanitzsch, another critic, peace journalism is an outdated conception of media effects. Normatively, he says that peace journalism calls for bad news to be suppressed when it jeopardises non-violent impacts and for journalism to take on unsuitable advocacy, peacekeeping, or campaigning tasks that should be done by legal or military leaders. In his opinion, peace journalism will result in an equating of journalism with the media, which will result in the collapse of public relations, advertising, and emerging hybrid forms of quasi-journalism on the internet. For him, peace journalism should be accused for organization of general awareness and state policies, indirectly letting go of powerful social and political forces easily. Peace journalism's main focus is not interpretation of individual psychology but on how individuals may be prevented from resorting to communal violence. In addition, it has been found that in peace journalism, facts absent in audiences' understanding of conflict are similar to the ones ignored in war journalism.

In the past, there have been many instances of war, like North Ireland in the 1990' and Kosovo in the 1990s, where peace journalism had absolutely no use.

In Kosovo, an armed conflict took place between the federal republic of Yugoslavia and the Kosovo Albanian rebel group which came up as the Kosovo liberation army (KLA).

The resulting war lead to the deaths of thousands as violence and its intensity grew. Peace journalists as claimed tried their best at peacekeeping but failed. Their aim to find common ground and mutual goals was not fulfilled, and situations grew worse. Ultimately, NATO interfered to stop the conflict and protect Kosovo by a military action. By other violent methods, Yugoslavia was forced to stop the war against Kosovo.

In Northern Ireland, according to some people, the situation in Northern Ireland was such that peace was only achieved because peace journalists were absent in its process. The dispute was between the majority of Northern Ireland who wanted it to remain a part of the United Kingdom, whereas, the Catholic minority want it to become a part of the Republic of Ireland. This violent conflict also known as 'The Trouble' finally came to an end when leaders of both parties signed The Good Friday agreement. This agreement was only achieved by a series of secret and disclosed meetings between the two. Peace journalism which aims for transparency and reporting all ties and peace talks, if active in this case, would have actually destroyed all efforts to achieve peace. In this case their peace journalism's practice would have backfired.

There are several claims that peace journalism only reports the suffering of

the people and not the actual situation on-ground. Too much coverage is given to the trauma faced, and little details are given about the “when, why, how, and what” of a situation. This results in deliverance of incomplete information. Keeping this in mind, critics believe that, instead of sharpening the old tools, we are buying a completely new box.

3.4 Closing Remarks

Peace journalism gives a voice to all parties in an issue, on all levels. Hence, all opinions are taken into consideration and moved forward. It also offers unique ideas for conflict resolution, mutual development, peacemaking, and peacekeeping. It tries to expose culprits on all sides and brings the sufferings of all parties to the limelight. It gives special attention to post-war developments and seeks to maintain peace.

However, peace journalism demands an addition to the original job of spreading the truth. It makes a journalist into more than an observer or reporter, perhaps even an active participant. This is one of the major reasons people criticize peace journalism. It is often argued that reporting and peacemaking are not the same job, and expecting journalists to do more than simply reporting facts is wrong. People against peace journalism believe that peace journalists are not able to focus on reporting because peacemaking takes up their resources, energy, and time. They argue that peace journalists are required to under-report certain issues regarding war and are expected to report other parts of the story.



People think that peace journalism is an unwelcome departure from objectivity and towards a journalism of attachment. It wrongly assumes powerful and linear media effects. Some also say that it is a normative model - maintaining strict ties with peace research - that fails sufficiently to take into account the limitations inflicted by the dynamics of news construction and, hence, leaves little for journalists to actually practice.

The committee is expected to critically analyse the feasibility of peace journalism, and whether it has been successful in achieving its objective of conflict resolution by softening the truth. Every aspect of peace journalism, both physical and psychological should be kept in mind, while discussing it. Reporters are expected to form a firm opinion upon the agenda by the end of the conference and produce a final opinion piece, highlighting their individual opinions and justification for the same.

Code of Conduct and Policies For Reporters

The Press Corps committee is a committee of exclusive nature and has characteristics of its own. Therefore, to

ensure proper functioning and uniformity in the conference and the committee, there are certain policies and regulations dedicated to only Press Corps delegates:

- Reporters are expected to be respectful and polite to every delegate, staff member, and conference executive. When in committee, reporters should not cause any sort of disruption. If a reporter wishes to interview a certain delegate or member of the Executive Board, they are to communicate with the person and arrange a time for the interview, which can only be conducted during lobbying sessions or breaks. However, if urgent, a reporter may confer with the person via notes and conduct the interview outside the committee room during the session, so long as it does not inhibit participation.

- At times, reporters may not be permitted to enter committee rooms, especially the Specialized Committees rooms. The Press Corps delegates are to follow the rules set by the Executive Boards of respective committees, and no violation of them will be tolerated. The Press Corps Executive Board will specify and elaborate upon the committees to be covered and times to enter their rooms at time of allotments.

- Reporters are advised to carry an active cell phone at all times. This is so that in case the Executive Board calls for an emergency meeting or is taking up delegates for a press conference, the Board is able to directly communicate with the reporters in an easier, faster way. However, reporters are to avoid using cell phones inside committees. Reporters are forbidden from calling inside committee rooms but are allowed to send and receive texts,

unobtrusively. A recording device may be carried by reporters.

- Reporters are allowed to use their laptops when working on their pieces, only inside the Press Corps room. Permission to work on pieces outside the Press Corps room can be granted only by the Press Corps Executive Board. Reporters are prohibited from using laptops inside other committees.
- The Press Corps of Shishukunj MUN has a strict plagiarism policy. No act of plagiarism of material from any online, tangible, or literary source will be tolerated. Any content caught indulging in this will be frowned upon, and its author will be subjected to negative marking. Originality is the key to successful reporting. Creativity, originality, and uniqueness are always applauded and encouraged.

4.1 Evaluation Criteria for Reporters

- The delegates will be evaluated majorly on the basis of reporting skills. Write-ups should have a certain level of accuracy and clarity and should be informative.
- Reporters should actively participate in the discussions in the Press Corps. It helps shape the reporter's personal opinion and also others' opinions. A reporter's level of debate in committee plays a crucial role in their evaluation.
- Submissions within deadlines are always appreciated. If a reporter is not able to submit the work at the set deadline, then they should make every effort to complete the work as soon as possible and also inform the Press

Corps staff about their missed deadline.

- If reporters complete their work before the set deadline, they are expected to utilize the remaining time on productive work, like writing informal articles, indulging in visual graphics, or editing. Reporters should always utilize their time wisely to work on something. Hard work and diligence are qualities that are looked for in journalists.
- The facts in the write-ups should be presented in an effective manner, and the write-ups are expected to be free of spelling or grammatical mistakes. It is expected of a reporter to submit a grammatically-correct piece. Constant grammatical errors never allow a piece to appear good to the eye, despite its content.
- Reporters are expected to be professional, well-mannered, ethical, and willing to work. Any reporter found being ill-mannered or indulging in anything deemed unprofessional by conference standards may be subjected to negative marking.
- A major part of the evaluation is the final article submitted by the reporter. It is the last piece the reporter is to submit in the conference, and it elaborates upon the reporter's agency's stand upon the issue. This article gives a frame to all the debates, discussions, and opinions the news agency has taken into consideration, and it is presented as a separate perspective on its own. Hence, it is essential that reporters write this final piece well.

4.2 Tips For Reporters

MUNs are a lot of fun, but they can be overwhelming, especially if you are a journalist. You have to constantly be mindful of a lot of things at once, and it can get very messy. However, these things are extremely important and collectively pose as a challenge for the journalist. While the Press Corps Executive Board is always there for assistance and editing, a journalist can only be a good and successful one if he or she keeps the following in mind:

- Research is something too obviously needed for an MUN but also often ignored. The more you research, the more confident you will be not only just in the Press Corps but also in all of the other committees. Reporters need to know what is going on in the committee they are writing an article on; otherwise, they will end up sitting blankly and wasting the beat. In the case of your own committee, active participation is really appreciated, and for that, one should be thoroughly researched.
- When in the beats, it is highly recommended that reporters note down the things being spoken in committee. While a recording device is helpful, it is preferred that the reporters write down the things on paper, as the sound may or may not be recorded properly in this case. However, the usage of a recording device for an interview is preferred.
- No one likes to read articles with long, complex words and confusing long sentences. Reporters should keep language in the pieces - formal and informal - simple and professional.

Usage of slang, abbreviations, or inappropriate language is prohibited. Reporters should remember that they are writing about a formal conference.

- Accuracy is crucial. Reporters should take care to spell the names and quote the delegates correctly, get the facts right, and avoid grammatical errors. While the Press Corps staff will be editing the pieces, a journalist should always be careful about their grammar and content.
- Reporters this year will be representing news agencies from all around the world. Reporters are urged to go through the articles published by correspondents and reporters from the agency so as to get a proper idea of the agency's content type, the audience it targets, and the style of writing. When reporting, journalists should keep these in mind and write accordingly. Reporters should also be well-researched about the history, stance, and opinion of their news agency in reference to the agenda.
- Only opinion pieces can be made up of the reporter's personal views. The reporter should take care not to include his or her personal opinion in any other types of pieces. In interviews, the reporter may voice his or her doubts and question delegates but should never directly express personal opinion.
- Opinion pieces may be written in first or second person, and all other pieces should be in third person. Reporters may write in either American English or British English but not both.
- Interviews always make a good story. It is recommended that reporters prepare a diverse set of interviews to

submit. They may be formal or informal. For formal interviews, reporters should pick a particularly outspoken delegate, or one with an unusual opinion. When taking an interview, the press reporter should inform the delegate what the interview is about and that he or she is on record, that is, being recorded. Also, it is best if the interviewer prepares a list of questions and writes it down prior to the interview. However, it is not necessary to stick entirely to the list, and the reporter may ask follow-up questions.

- Reporters should try to avoid yes/no questions in interviews. Try to get as many detailed, opinionated, and comprehensive answers as possible.
- Always start a piece with a particularly eye-catching headline. No one likes to read a piece with a boring title. Also, the beginning content of the piece, that is, the first paragraph, should be the most interesting so that it captures the reader's attention for the rest of the piece. The content after that may be more elaborative and detailed.
- Reporters should try to indulge in as many types of media as possible and should have a diverse collection to submit. Many new forms of media have been made available for the reporters, and creativity and humor in them would be really appreciated.
- It would be great if the reporters could write some informal articles as well as formal pieces, as informal pieces pose as a good opportunity for reporters to display their more witty, creative, and humorous sides.

4.3 Sample Article

The following is a News piece by a Reporter X of News Agency Y ---

NORTH KOREA BREWS POTENTIAL CYBER ATTACK ON THE WORLD

By Reporter X, News Agency Y



India is on high alert, monitoring critical networks across sectors like banking, telecom, power and aviation to ensure that systems are protected in the wake of reports of possible cyber-attack. The reason? An outbreak of a certain kind of ransomware ‘WannaCry’, has taken the world by surprise, and is now creating havoc in over 150 countries.

A ransomware is a type of malicious software designed to block access to the files in a computer system, until a sum of money, that is, ransom is paid. It is of two types – encryptors and lockers. ‘Wannacry’ is an encryptor.

‘WannaCry’ ransomware, spread out on 12th may 2017, has disrupted networks in over 150 countries, including Russia and the UK, and is being termed as one of the most widespread cyber-attacks in the history. Research has traced this to North Korea and many perceive it as a threat to

all the countries – a pathway for another war.

It is a well known fact, that North Korea has been taking in and training the country’s best programmers,



and enlisting them in cyber warfare and unfairly exploiting its enemies, like the United States, and its Southern counterpart – South Korea. Reports have found, that in the past decade, the country has sent these programmers as ‘ sleeper cells’ across Asia, and evidence has been found, that they were the ones who released this virus in 200,000 computers across Asia.

Reports have found that the virus’s main victims are gadgets equipped with a Microsoft Windows operating system.

This malware used software developed by the National Security Agency or



the NSA to spread through local networks, and telephone lines, locks the files in the electronics and asks for \$500 in bit coins. If the ‘ransom’ is not paid within a week, the demand keeps on increasing, and simultaneously all files are lost. Studies have shown that over 2 million computers, have already been victimized by this virus which has grabbed a good sum of \$50000 in US currency. Most of these, strangely, are operating on Microsoft old operating system XP. Now, the big question is – should the Redmond, Washington - based tech giant completely stop operation of

Windows XP, through which the company has gained millions in profit?

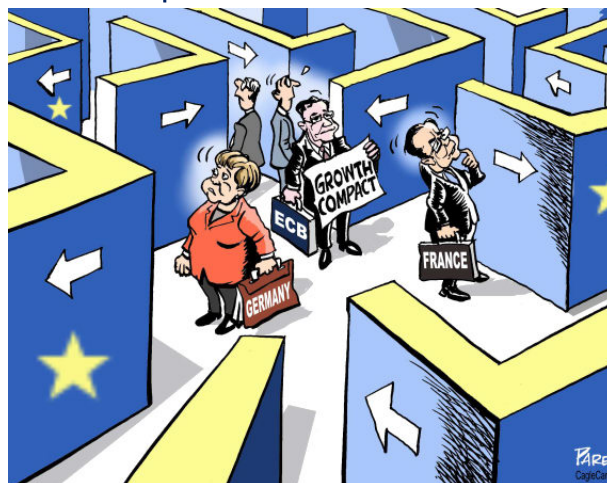
India's cyber security unit CERT earlier said it has not received any official report of cyber-attack on India's fundamental networks. "Everything seems to be normal, so far. No reports have come to Cert-In. We have been in touch with Microsoft and others...even they have not got any reports," CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team), director general, Sanjay Bahl told the Press Trust of India.

Banks, government departments and corporate houses have issued messages of caution and fortified online security, and malware-detecting software. Fortunately, business was unaffected as markets and offices opened on Monday after a weekend during which ripple effects of the immobilizing malware attack were witnessed across the globe. It is still not advised to indulge in e-banking or any other commercial activity.

4.4 Sample Cartoon

- 1) This cartoon has been submitted by Reporter X, of the News Agency Y.

The European Maze



- 2) This cartoon was made in the year 2016, as a roster for UNHRC members, when they voted almost exclusively for resolutions against Israel.

The Human Bias Council



The cartoons submitted can either be in the form of a cartoon strip or a political cartoon. The drawings need not be too complicated, as long as the cartoon is easy to interpret. The usage of words should be to the minimum. Each cartoon should be given a title, and the cartoonist, and the cartoonist's news agency should be mentioned.

4.5 Position Papers

Every reporter is to submit a position paper. Since Press Corps does not have the conventional country distribution but constitutes news agencies, reporters are to write position papers about their news agency. The position paper should include but should not be limited to the history, the style of writing, the target audience, the area of circulation, and the type of journalism it follows. It should also specify the agency's stand on the agenda and its policies regarding the same.

Position papers are an important part of the evaluation, so the reporters should send it by the deadline without fail.

4.6 Links For Further Research

- <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199756841/obo-9780199756841-0155.xml>
- http://www.cco.regeneronline.de/2007_2/pdf/loyn.pdf
- <https://www.transcend.org/tms/about-peace-journalism/1-what-is-peace-journalism/>
- <https://sluggerotoole.com/2013/11/29/little-support-for-the-phrase-peace-journalism-different-ways-of-seeing-facts-justice-public-interest/>
- <http://www.e-ir.info/2010/08/28/the-role-of-media-in-peace-building-conflict-management-and-prevention/>

4.7 Bibliography

- http://www.peacejournalism.org/Peace_Journalism/Welcome.html
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_journalism
- https://ses.library.usyd.edu.au/bitstream/2123/12623/1/FrontMatterandIntroductionExpandingPeace_TEXT.pdf
- http://www.monitor.upeace.org/innerpage.cfm?id_article=1052
- http://www.academia.edu/2765635/Peace_Journalism
- http://cco.regeneronline.de/2007_2/pdf/hanitzsch.pdf

- http://www.cco.regeneronline.de/2007_2/pdf/loyn.pdf
- <http://aut.researchgateway.ac.nz/bitstream/handle/10292/7908/AslamR.pdf?sequence=3>
- <http://wcms3.rz.tu-ilmenau.de>
- <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com>

Closing Remarks

The Shishukunj MUN provides every reporter a chance to channel his or her creativity and experience a professional journalism stimulation. A substantial amount of time and preparation goes into making sure that the reporters' experience is fun-filled as well as beneficial.

Aim high and try to become the true voice of the people. Confidence is tantamount for a journalist. This study guide has given you a brief idea of what the committee is going to be like, and additional information will be provided during the beginning of the conference. In the meantime, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask us anything regarding the Press Corps committee at presscorps@shishukunjmun.com. We are looking forward to meeting you this July. Best wishes!