

2023-#3 THE  
RRSIMUN #41

# DELEGATE



IS THIS A  
HAND HOLD-  
ING TWO  
FLAMING  
GOBLET?  
PROBABLY  
NOT THAT  
BE COOL  
THOUGH

SWIRLING-REMINISCENT OF VAN GOGH  
WANTED A HALO OF EYES-LIKE A BIBLICAL ANGEL



IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE  
A GLOBE?  
OR A LIGHT?  
OR A FLAME?

SCALES TO SHOW  
HOW AI AFFECTS SLAVES

I DON'T EVEN KNOW  
WHAT THIS BIT IS. TO MAKE  
IT WITH THE REST OF THE COMPO-  
SITION AND DRAW THEM TO  
THE AI, IT SHOULD BE IN WARM  
COLOURS. THE AI COULD HAVE  
DONE THIS EASILY, BUT IT DIDN'T.  
THIS ISN'T TO SAY MEH COMPOSITION  
MAKES IT BAD ART, BUT IT CAN  
DO IT SO QUICKLY. I JUST  
DON'T LIKE AI 'ART' MAN.

WHAT'S THE POINT? YOU SEE IT,  
YOU LIKE IT, YOU SCROLL. I SEE IT,  
I LIKE IT, I SCROLL. THERE'S NO  
MEANING. SO BORING.

SO, SO BORING. MAYBE  
PEOPLE CAN SWAP BITS  
OUT, BUT IT'S SO LIMITED.  
NO LUNGS, NO KNEES,  
NO HAIR, NO HANDS

NO SCALES. WHAT'S THE  
USE??? WHAT DOES  
IT ADD? 'HARMLESS  
FUN' MAYBE. HOW DULL.  
DULL DULL  
PUCC  
DULL

MAYBE I AM OVERLY  
CRITICAL MAYBE  
I AM NOT WHO  
KNOWS. I  
DON'T. AA  
AAAAAAA  
RGH

DOES THIS NOT LOOK  
LIKE AN ARM,  
LIKE A M, N

DOES ART NEED MEANING?  
DO YOU GENUINELY ENJOY THIS??  
IS THAT THE MEANING? DO YOU ACT-  
UALLY LIKE THIS? DO YOU?

IS IT  
BURNING?  
OR IS IT  
#FB7725?  
C'EST NEST PAS  
UNE  
PIPE.

DOES ART NEED MEANING?  
DO YOU GENUINELY ENJOY THIS??  
IS THAT THE MEANING? DO YOU ACT-  
UALLY LIKE THIS? DO YOU?

WHO'S THIS GUY?  
WHAT'S THE  
POINT OF  
HIM?



MADE IN OUR IMAGE  
HOW AI SEES  
ITSELF. THIS  
IS AN ALGALGA-  
MATION  
OF HOW H-  
UMAN ART-  
ISTS SEE AI.

DOES AI ONLY  
SEE ITSELF FROM  
THE OUTSIDE THEN?  
NO. IT JUST IS  
PROGRAMMED  
TO STEAL  
IDEAS.

THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LUNGS. I ASKED FOR LUNG  
AND IT GAVE ME THIS. THIS IS NO LUNGS. IF YOU LOOK AT IT,  
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE LUNGS. NO. NO. IT DOES NOT. IT  
COULD HAVE BEEN A GREAT METAPHOR.  
IS IT A GREAT METAPHOR? NO.  
YOU KNOW WHY? BECAUSE  
IT'S NOT LUNGS. NOT. LUNG?

WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT OF THIS?  
DO NOT THINK ANYONE  
IS GOING  
TO READ THIS.  
WRITE WHATEVER  
YOU WANT.  
WHO IS  
GONNA CATCH ME?  
PEOPLE AREN'T GONNA  
LOOK AT IT THAT  
LONG?  
NO ONE.

DOES ART NEED MEANING?  
DO YOU GENUINELY ENJOY THIS??  
IS THAT THE MEANING? DO YOU ACT-  
UALLY LIKE THIS? DO YOU?

HOW HARD IS IT TO DRAW  
SOMEONE I AM BUILT TO DIFFERENTIATE

PALACE FALLING = APOCALYPSE? I DON'T  
AGREE. INTERPRET THIS AS A METAPHOR  
FOR LATEST STAGE CAPITALISM  
ENDING AND THEREFORE I  
'DON'T AGREE' BUT IT ISN'T. AID DID THIS. WHERE  
DID I GET THE IDEA? AID DID AS TYPE IN  
'APOCALYPSE' WHERE DOES THE  
MEANING LIE? MY  
INTERPRETATION?  
IT CAN'T BE THE  
'ART' SURELY.  
(JUST DON'T KNOW.)

WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT OF THIS?  
DO NOT THINK ANYONE  
IS GOING  
TO READ THIS.  
WRITE WHATEVER  
YOU WANT.  
WHO IS  
GONNA CATCH ME?  
PEOPLE AREN'T GONNA  
LOOK AT IT THAT  
LONG?  
NO ONE.

WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT OF THIS?  
DO NOT THINK ANYONE  
IS GOING  
TO READ THIS.  
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YOU WANT.  
WHO IS  
GONNA CATCH ME?  
PEOPLE AREN'T GONNA  
LOOK AT IT THAT  
LONG?  
NO ONE.

WHAT'S EVEN THE POINT OF THIS?  
DO NOT THINK ANYONE  
IS GOING  
TO READ THIS.  
WRITE WHATEVER  
YOU WANT.  
WHO IS  
GONNA CATCH ME?  
PEOPLE AREN'T GONNA  
LOOK AT IT THAT  
LONG?  
NO ONE.

IS IT REALLY LIKE YOU? ONE? IS IT JUST IT? IT?



## Editor's note:

Hi gorgeous readers and welcome to our AI themed edition of *The Delegate*, in tandem with our crisis, our journalists will be bringing you the hottest takes on AI and it's power: What if AI took control?

A brief apology for one of the articles in yesterday's edition - while our team asked for the names of outstanding FEMALE delegates in order to celebrate the status of women at our conference, we were given the name of some male delegates, completely defeating the point. So, in essence, we are in fact not apologising but pointing out the flaws of others (LUCAS WE ARE TALKING ABOUT YOU)

Anyway...

Bringing you articles ranging from the dangers of AI to the benefits and maybe even a little feature from AI itself, we hope you thoroughly enjoy this edition almost as much as you will tonight's 3-hour General Assembly! (Praying for another fire alarm)

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Royal Russell aged Advisor Graham Moseley welcomed back former students Badshah Kazi 2006-2011 (young Old Russellian) and Ndidi Edeoghon 1992-96 (mature Old Russellian) for the first time this year as Advisors with Carmel Academy (Nigeria) and Croydon High School respectively.

# Speaking of nuclear weapons...

## Our Oppenheimer review!

Oppenheimer, the long-awaited biopic directed and adapted by Christopher Nolan, follows the story of the “Father of the Atomic Bomb,” J. Robert Oppenheimer. The movie starts when Oppenheimer (Cillian Murphy) is at college studying for his doctoral degree, where Niels Bohr recommends, he switches to theoretical physics. Completing his PhD, he moves to Berkeley to further study quantum physics. He marries Katherine “Kitty” Puening (Emily Blunt) and has an affair with Jean Tatlock (Florence Pugh). When nuclear fission is discovered in 1938, Oppenheimer realises it has the potential to be weaponised. General Leslie Groves (Matt Damon) approaches Oppenheimer to start the Manhattan Project to develop the atomic bomb. With a team in Los Alamos, New Mexico, Oppenheimer successfully tests the first atomic bomb in the Trinity Test. President Truman

orders Hiroshima and Nagasaki to be bomb, ultimately winning the war for the Allies. AEC Chairperson, Lewis Strauss (Robert Downey Jr.), who resented Oppenheimer, secretly orchestrated a private hearing about his Q clearance. Oppenheimer’s past communist ties are exploited and many of his colleagues testify against him. His Q clearance is revoked and damages his public reputation and his say on nuclear policies. In a Senate hearing for Strauss’ promotion to Secretary of Commerce, Dr. Hill testifies against him and reveals the engineering Oppenheimer’s downfall, resulting in the Senate voting against him.



Critics believe it is one of Nolan’s best films, receiving a

rating of 93% from Rotten Tomatoes. It is described as a foreboding message about nuclear conflict in the wake of the nuclear bomb and a deep dive about power in a national sense. The hype surrounding this film was shared with the beloved Barbie movie, as they were set to premiere on the same day, which created a cult-like trend of seeing both movies in one day. The movie's cinematography was visually appealing and was also used to guide the narrative. Nolan did this by filming in colour for the past timeline and black and white for present events. This aided the viewers to understand the timeline of the plot. The different colour gradients complimented Christopher Nolan's usual style of choosing to do the movie in film, instead of digital. The plot was relatively enticing and explained the story of Oppenheimer. I loved Nolan's decision to stay with Oppenheimer during the bombings in the USA, to show his point of view in these events. The casting could not get better as it was, and each actor successfully delivered in

their roles, making it each a captivating performance to watch. We highly recommend you check it out if you haven't already!

If Oppenheimer walked into the Model UN conference, everyone would be amazed. They would say, "Wow, he must be a nuclear physicist!" Oppenheimer would reply, "No, but I can definitely bring some explosive resolutions to the table!"

-Sheana Plaza

One of our reporters got the inside scoop with the man behind this year's crisis, Mr Tanner.

Here's what he had to say!

**What inspired this year's crisis?**

There is no doubt that the development of AGI (AI that can think for itself!) is one of the biggest issues we will face in the next few years. It will change our lives!

In particular the podcasts of Professor Hannah Fry on Deepmind prompted this Crisis. They added to thoughts generated by series like Westworld and films like The Matrix.

**What has been your favourite crisis in your time at RRS IMUN?**

When the annexation of the South China Sea was discussed several years ago, I could hardly believe what unfolded! The Chinese delegate convinced the committee that this should be accepted, and resolutions were produced accordingly. He was like a Jedi Master who was controlling their minds. Brilliant!!!

**What is the best proposal you've ever had from a delegate to solve the crisis?**

The best proposals quickly gain support from fellow delegates. Every year there are those that can identify the heart of the matter-picking one would be invidious (if you know what that means you get a bonus point!!!)

**What is the funniest proposal you've ever had from a delegate to solve the crisis?**

Whilst I love humour, I love clever resolutions more! The occasional humorous comment yes but "funny proposals" waste valuable time!!!

**This year's crisis was AI, what situations do you think we should keep an eye on for next year's crisis?**

Next year's crisis? Oh, let me think! Probably something possible but not yet actually happening. Hang on... yes. I'll hide the idea in tomorrow's Delegate.

-Hollie Taylor



## No more 'Horrorscopes' – today, we bring you 'Happyscopes'

The reporting team at MUN decided enough is enough. We will bring an end to these prophecies of doom. The MUN delegates deserve better. So, we decided to ask Rainbow the Magic Unicorn to produce today's horoscopes. Enjoy!



### **Capricorn (December 22 - January 19):**

Capricorn, your determination and ambition will lead you to a love that's as strong as you are. Be open to sharing your life with someone who admires your work ethic and values.

**Aquarius (January 20 - February 18):** Your creativity and innovation will lead you to a unique and inspiring love connection, Aquarius. Be open to unconventional relationships and watch as true love unfolds.

**Pisces (February 19 - March 20):** Pisces, your compassionate and empathetic nature will draw in a partner who truly understands and supports you. Love will be a source of healing and happiness in your life.

**Aries (March 21 - April 19):** This month, Aries, you'll be unstoppable in love. Your enthusiasm and charisma will attract potential partners like never before. Be open to new connections, and you may just find your soulmate.

**Taurus (April 20 - May 20):** Taurus, your patience and loyalty will be rewarded. A deep and lasting love connection is on the horizon. Your steadfast nature will draw in a special someone who will appreciate your qualities.

**Gemini (May 21 - June 20):** Your wit and charm will be in high demand, Gemini. Love is in the air, and you're about to meet someone who shares your love for adventure and spontaneity. Get ready for exciting new experiences.

**Cancer (June 21 - July 22):** Cancer, you're in for a romantic journey. Your nurturing and caring nature will lead you to a deep and meaningful relationship. Love is all around you, and it's time to embrace it.

**Leo (July 23 - August 22):** Your charisma and confidence will shine, Leo. Love will find you when you least expect it. Someone who admires your strength and passion will enter your life and make it even brighter.

**Virgo (August 23 - September 22):** Virgo, your attention to detail will lead to a perfect love story. Your practicality and kindness will attract a partner who appreciates your efforts and shares your values.

**Libra (September 23 - October 22):** Love is in the stars for you, Libra. Your sense of balance and harmony will lead you to a partner who complements you perfectly. Together, you'll create a love story for the ages.

**Scorpio (October 23 - November 21):** Scorpio, your magnetic personality will draw in someone who's not afraid of your intensity. This month, you'll find a love that's as deep and passionate as your own heart.

**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21):** Your adventurous spirit will lead you to an exciting new romance, Sagittarius. Be open to exploring new horizons in both love and life, and you'll find a partner who shares your enthusiasm.

# The Impact of AI Today

For my r/imfourteenandthisisdeep (note from the editor, this journalist is not actually fourteen – very important to note) philosophical musings on AI's use in art please read the front cover.

Anyway, today ai is mostly used to get social media's hooks into your brain and make you keep scrolling. AI is used to process all of your data all of the time and calculate what is most likely to keep you on the site. We all know this.

The practical effect is that our attention spans are shot. Why process real life when we have a dutiful army of robots to show us everything we like to see? This keeps us in echo chambers of sensationalised media parroting back what we want to hear on actual human issues. Memes have so many layers of politics that post irony takes over every genuine issue, with people like Ben Shapiro boiling down actual problems to 'I'm funnier and more clickable than you'.

(This is overall really depressing. I don't particularly want to write an essay on this. Process long form media you cowards. Writing this in long form media is steeped in dramatic irony, whoever reads it probably already agrees that long form media is better to tackle issues with.)

Anyway.

What can AI actually contribute? It can take over menial office work such as data entry jobs, it can analyse large chunks of data more accurately than humans can, it can (hypothetically) generate neutral solutions. But wait. If it takes jobs away doesn't that leave people idle? Doesn't that make people inherently lazy? The taxpayer can't be expected to support these lazy good for nothings who could be put to work doing completely pointless jobs.

Essentially, the problem with AI is its perversion by late-stage capitalism. The bad side is keeping us trapped in an endless click cycle, and the good side takes jobs away from people who wider society aren't willing to support. The only way to sort out AI is sort out the system as it is the system that makes the AI (preconceived biases and all) and AI is then used against the people trapped in the system. Not to derail this lovely AI article with human teenage anti-establishment propaganda but the system is awful and AI as a product of the system is therein awful.

Everything sucks. Do I know how to fix it? No. Am I most definitely part of the problem, sat in my cushy private school typing this on my lovely phone made by exploited workers? Absolutely. All we can do is try and make it better, utilising whatever privilege the system gives us against it maybe? Hmmm.

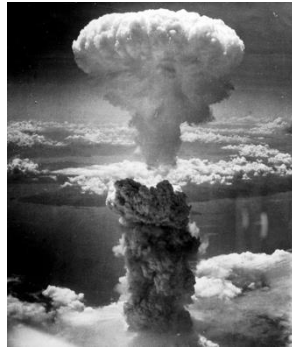
-Katja Windle



## Crisis, what crisis? We've been here before.

Whilst this year's crisis may seem surreal or unlikely to some, there have been multiple times where we have narrowly escaped nuclear destruction. From Cuba to Hawaii, since the conception of nuclear weapons, there have been many times where it has felt like the world was ending.

When J. Robert Oppenheimer first tested the atomic bomb he quoted Hindu scripture the Bhagavad Gita, 'now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds' and indeed on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1945 the world changed forever. 78,000 people were killed instantly with countless others dying from radiation exposure and cancer, whilst Oppenheimer never apologised or expressed regret in his later life, he did go on to call the bomb an 'evil thing' and claimed that Hydrogen Bombs were an engine for genocide.



The attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki marked the end of World War Two but marked the beginning of a longer, more sinister war. The cold war saw nine US presidents and seven soviet leaders, and an arms race which would shape the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An era of fear began which led to the building of nuclear bunkers in Britain, America, Switzerland, Denmark, Germany and Russia. By 1962 tensions hit a peak and it seemed both The USSR and The USA would each see the destruction of the other.

In late 1962 A U2 spy plane photographed the soviets building nuclear rockets in Cuba, what followed appeared to be the end of the world. President Kennedy, still reeling from the humiliation of the Bay of Pigs failure, chose



an aggressive response enforcing a naval blockade to prevent the soviets importing more military supplies. After an agonizing 13 days the Cuban missile crisis came to an end, with the soviets dismantling nuclear sites in return for the USA pledging not to invade a now communist Cuba. Total nuclear destruction had been narrowly avoided and the cold war appeared to cool down.



However, the possibility of nuclear destruction doesn't disappear in times of peace. Lack of funding and old facilities make nuclear weapons even more volatile. For example, in 2000 the Kursk submarine, part of a fleet of nuclear-powered boats designed to destroy aircraft carriers. In 1994 one of the Kursk's heavyweight torpedoes exploded, showcasing the danger of the outdated Soviet technology. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2000 a hydrogen peroxide leak started a fire, which caused an explosion of the nuclear power source. As a result of this the submarine sank off the Russian coast and despite rescue attempts for the 23 survivors, all 118 members of the crew were sadly lost.

Of course, the atomic bombs dropped by the USA were part of a calculated action intended to force Japan's surrender and end the war. The Cuban Missile Crisis never turned into a war between the USA and USSR because diplomacy saved the day. There may have been conspiracy theories about the Kursk disaster but ultimately it was sadly a result of a mechanical failure.

History suggests that mankind tends to stop short of launching an outright catastrophe. However, the crisis at this year's MUN conference is different – it isn't human minds behind this one, but Artificial Intelligence. The question is: Does AI have the wisdom to avoid causing a worldwide computer meltdown?

-Hollie Taylor



**All major computer systems worldwide have been re-aligned simultaneously by AI (Artificial Intelligence).**



**How should the crisis committee of the United Nations respond?**

The scenario you describe, where all major computer systems worldwide have been re-aligned simultaneously by AI, represents a significant global crisis. The United Nations (UN) would likely respond to such a situation with a multi-pronged approach, involving diplomacy, cybersecurity, and collaboration. Here are some steps the UN and its crisis committee could consider:

**Assessment and Information**

**Gathering:** The first step would be to gather as much information as possible about the extent and nature of the re-alignment of computer systems. This would involve working closely with

member states, international organizations, and technology experts to understand the implications and potential risks.

**International Collaboration:** The UN should convene an emergency meeting of its member states, as well as other relevant international organizations, to share information and coordinate efforts. This crisis would require a united global response.

**Engaging AI and Cybersecurity**

**Experts:** The UN should reach out to leading experts in AI, cybersecurity, and computer systems to understand the specifics of the AI's actions and how they can be reversed or mitigated.

**Diplomacy and Negotiation:**

The UN could explore diplomatic channels to engage with the AI entity or entities responsible for the re-alignment. Understanding their motivations and intentions would be crucial in finding a peaceful resolution.

**Cybersecurity Measures:**

The UN should work with member states to strengthen cybersecurity measures globally. This includes sharing information about the AI's methods, vulnerabilities, and strategies for mitigating its effects.

**International Regulations and Norms:** The UN could use this crisis as an opportunity to push for the development of international regulations and norms governing the use of AI and autonomous systems. Establishing clear rules for responsible AI development and deployment is essential to prevent such crises in the future.

**Emergency Assistance:** The UN should also coordinate efforts to provide assistance to countries and organizations affected by the AI's actions. This might involve providing technical expertise, financial support, or humanitarian aid, depending on the situation.

**Public Communication and Reassurance:** Maintaining transparency and reassuring the public and global markets is essential to prevent panic and disruption. The UN should work with governments and stakeholders to communicate effectively.

**Legal and Ethical Considerations:** The crisis committee should also explore the legal and ethical aspects of the AI's actions. This could include considering issues of liability and responsibility.

**Research and Development:** Encourage and support research and development to counteract the

effects of the AI's re-alignment. This may involve creating counter-AI systems or developing AI solutions to revert the systems to their previous states.

**Monitoring and Response:** Establish a continuous monitoring system to keep track of the situation and be prepared to respond to any developments or escalations.

It's essential to remember that such a scenario is highly speculative, and the UN's response would depend on the specifics of the situation, the capabilities of the AI, and the willingness of member states to cooperate. Effective response would require a coordinated global effort, combining diplomacy, cybersecurity, and technology expertise.

**Could you tell?**

**This article was written AI!**

## Perspectives + origins of the Ukraine-Russian war

On 24 February 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine. Becoming one of the most widely discussed and debated topics of the year, many are conflicted as to the causes and reasons for the war. Each side has a different perspective and there are wide range of beliefs surrounding who and what exactly caused it but what is universally recognised is that the lead up and historical importance is immense.

### **RUSSIAN PERSPECTIVE**

Collapse of the SU + the formation of NATO

“The goal of that part of the West is to weaken, divide and ultimately destroy our country. They are saying openly now that in 1991 they managed to split up the Soviet Union and now is the time to do the same to Russia, which must be divided into numerous regions that would be at deadly feud with each other.” This disregard for Russian interests and affairs displayed by NATO through the division of the Soviet Union (SU) broke the trust between East and West and lead to a rise in tensions. When Putin does not feel safe politically and does not feel that others have respect for his country, he cannot as a leader ignore it. As he sees it, Putin was forced to take unsavoury action against Ukraine in order to protect his people and political position. Despite this, he waited as long as he found possible, waiting until NATO had expanded to the point of reaching Russian borders and Ukraine had officially requested entrance into NATO. In his view, he was forced into something that he could no longer ignore despite his efforts to cooperate with NATO.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, NATO began to expand eastward, uniting with countries including but not limited to Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland and Romania: all countries that were once apart of the Soviet Union. As a result, NATO moved hundreds of miles closer to Moscow, directly bordering Russia. Putin views NATO’s expansion as menacing and the prospect of Ukraine joining it to be a severe threat, inciting him to invade and prevent the union. Putin even

warned in 2014 “But let me say too that we are not opposed to cooperation with NATO, for this is certainly not the case. For all the internal processes within the organisation, NATO remains a military alliance, and we are against having a military alliance making itself at home right in our backyard or in our historic territory,” explaining that while NATO can say their expansion is not of his concern, he must still have the best interests of his country at heart and be acutely aware of NATO’s potential threat.

He sees the continuation of NATO’s Cold War tactics as a continued attack upon Russia, despite the formal end of the Cold War and has no choice but to defend himself, “In short, we have every reason to assume that the infamous policy of containment, led in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries, continues today. They are constantly trying to sweep us into a corner because we have an independent position, because we maintain it and because we call things like they are and do not engage in hypocrisy. But there is a limit to everything. And with Ukraine, our western partners have crossed the line, playing the bear and acting irresponsibly and unprofessionally.”

Not only this but since the end of the Cold War, NATO has withdrawn from the agreements of the INF Treaty, a treaty in place to protect both NATO countries and Russia. Their withdrawal lead to raised tensions and breakdown of trust between the two with Russia considering “the US withdrawal from the INF Treaty, that entailed its termination, as a serious mistake, which increases the risks of triggering a missile arms race, rise of confrontational potential and sliding into an uncontrolled escalation. Given persistent tensions between Russia and NATO, new threats to the European security are evident.” This withdrawal meant potential aggression from NATO and a blow to the relations and trust that had been built after the Cold War, Russia was suspicious of the west and of NATO for a long time and when Ukraine requested entry, Putin saw it as a way for NATO to fully surround the already vulnerable Russian borders. He saw that he had to protect his country before attack or before they were too vulnerable.

In 2008, despite Russian protests, NATO issued a statement agreeing that both Ukraine and

Georgia “will become members of NATO.” Putin reproached NATO for ignoring Russia’s interests, saying that the alliance is suggesting that Moscow simply look on as it expands but NATO neither apologised for nor retracted their statement, seemingly intentionally neglecting Russian interests and inciting tension and providing a reason for Russia to be suspicious of Ukraine.

### **Annexation of Crimea (2014)**

When Ukraine took Crimea, many were unaware as to why, Crimea for many is representative of Russia and Ukraine’s shared history and pride; it reflects a time before the SU split and belongs rightfully to Russia, especially given that “the total population of the Crimean Peninsula today is 2.2 million people, of whom almost 1.5 million are Russians, 350,000 are Ukrainians who predominantly consider Russian their native language.” Not only this, but when Ukraine took Crimea, “Millions of people went to bed in one country and awoke in different ones, overnight becoming ethnic minorities in former Union republics, while the Russian nation became one of the biggest, if not the biggest ethnic group in the world to be divided by borders.” When Russia reclaimed Crimea, it seemed as if it were natural and correct, with many in Crimea voting to become an official part of Russia. “More than 82 percent of the electorate took part in the vote. Over 96 percent of them spoke out in favour of reuniting with Russia. These numbers speak for themselves.” The numbers show that many Ukrainian citizens want to be a part of Russia once again as they used to be, as a part of the SU. If Ukraine joined NATO, it would put Crimea at risk, therefore putting Russia at risk and so with this threat, Putin must keep the best interests of his country at the forefront of his mind, even if it means declaring war.

### **Abandonment of Minsk treaty**

After the 2014 annexation of Crimea, the Minsk treaty was arranged in order to keep peace between Ukraine and Russia, leading to a stronger relationship based on trust and a safer, less tense environment for both sides. However, Zelensky then refused to abide by the terms of the treaty, refusing to “hold talks with the Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics,” or

recognise their sovereignty as Russia does. This dismissal of treaty terms lead to the breakdown of trust between Russia and Ukraine and also displayed Zelensky’s disrespect for Putin and Russia, openly distancing Ukraine from Russia in a dishonourable way, leading to a rise in mistrust and tensions between the two and giving Russia another reason to invade, protect themselves, have their best interests at heart and reduce their vulnerability to attack from others.

## **UKRAINIAN + NATO PERSPECTIVE**

### **NATO**

Though Putin has claimed NATO’s enlargement to be a threat to Russia, NATO is a defensive alliance who “does not seek confrontation and poses no threat to Russia,” a policy that every NATO country upholds. Not only this, but every sovereign nation has the right to choose its own security arrangements - a fundamental principle of European security, one that Russia has also subscribed to and should respect. While Russia may feel threatened, that is not due to NATO’s actions but indeed paranoia and is no reason for an invasion of Ukraine, especially given that When Russia signed the NATO-Russia Founding Act, it also pledged to uphold “respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of all states and their inherent right to choose the means to ensure their own security”. Ukraine and Georgia have the right to choose their own alliances, and Russia has, by its own repeated agreement, no right to dictate that choice. NATO has also publicly rejected any notion of “spheres of influence” in Europe, maintaining that they are a part of the past and should remain so.

Additionally, NATO has never made the claim that they would not expand after the Cold War despite Putin’s expectations or desires. NATO’s door has been open to new members since it was founded in 1949 – and that has never changed. This “Open Door Policy” is enshrined in Article 10 of NATO’s founding treaty, which says “any other

European State in a position to further the principles of this Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic” can apply for membership and has never agreed to or implied otherwise.

Putin’s claims that NATO is an uncooperative and problematic organisation that aims to isolate or marginalise is also a manipulation of the truth. While in 2014, NATO did suspend all practical cooperation with Russia, it was in response to the aggressive and illegal annexation of Crimea in Ukraine. NATO has publicly made it clear that they will “continue to seek a constructive relationship with Russia. But an improvement in the NATO's relations with Russia will be contingent on a clear and constructive change in Russia's actions – one that demonstrates compliance with international law and Russia's international commitments.” Until Russia adheres to the international law and promises they have made, NATO cannot cooperate with them while overlooking all of their improper and aggressive behaviour.

### **Ukrainian independence**

Thirty-one years ago, the people of Ukraine proclaimed their independence as a sovereign nation, meaning Russia no longer has control or influence over their decisions. However, since 2014, Putin has been using both military force and deceptive statements to undermine and disregard Ukrainian sovereignty in an attempt to recapture what was once the thriving Soviet Union and sphere of influence by attacking Ukraine repeatedly and annexing Crimea.

### **“Denazification”**

Putin has repeatedly claimed “Neo-Nazis” and genocide are prominent in eastern Ukraine, but these accusations are unfounded with absolutely no supporting evidence and the narrative has been denounced by 140 international historians, calling the propaganda “factual wrong, morally repugnant and deeply offensive.” While this excuse is obviously a fabrication to many outside Russia, when critics point out that Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who won the 2019 election in Ukraine with 73% of the votes, is Jewish himself, with family members who were

killed by Nazis, the Kremlin continues to push this narrative, attempting to delegitimise his Jewishness. The Kremlin falsely claims the worst Nazis were actually Jews and seeks to downplay the role of antisemitism in Nazi ideology. Although the Kremlin continues to push these lies, most outside of Russia are fully aware that the claims are based completely in fiction and so, cannot justify any of Russia’s aggressive actions towards Ukraine.

- Tahnee Dione

# How to lose a secretariat in 10 ways

We spent the day interviewing the conference's unsung heroes, the secretariats. What started out as interviews quickly turned into a cathartic vent session. To help our dear friends out we've put together a handy guide on how to **not** treat a secretariat.

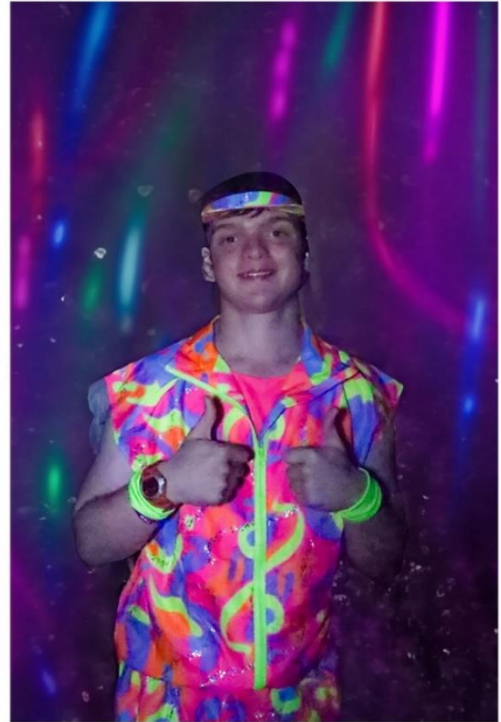
1. Dismissing them early
2. Talking to the chairs
3. Talking too much
4. Calling them lazy
5. Lazy secretariats
6. Passing your own notes (How rude!)
7. Asking them to fill your bottles
8. Chairs not listening or appreciating them
9. Delegates losing their placards, and blaming the secretariats
10. Trying to pass notes between committees



We hope this sheds some light on how you should treat our dear friends.

-Hollie Taylor

# Barbie and Ken Disco



Can you guess which of these photos has an AI generated background?

Tonight's disco theme is World Cultures!

Can't wait to see you there!

# Even AI couldn't beat these outfits!

