

# The Westphalian Diplomat



## READY FOR THE CONFERENCE?

The International Model UN Conference of the University of Münster was opened at half past noon in Münster Castle during the first day of the conference. Everyone received a warm welcome from this year's Secretary General Yoan Schnitzler, after which he introduced the motto of this year's conference „Peace of the Powerful? Rethinking International Cooperation“. The next Speech was delivered by Klaus Rosenau, the Deputy Major. He reminded the audience of the historical relevance of Münster: The Peace of Westphalia signed in 1648, is identified as the origin of many contracts in modern international relations. In his speech he highlighted that peace is a valuable good that can't be taken for granted and reminded us all to take a moment to think of people around the world who don't live in peace and fear for their life or their loved ones.



After an introduction of the whole organization team, who made the conference possible in first place, the next speaker up was the conference's patron Chris Melzer. He is the spokesman of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Berlin. In his speech he elaborated the reasons why people become refugees, those include persecution for political beliefs, fearing torture or even being killed.

### Today's Schedule

- 10:00-12:00 Registration
- 12:30-14:30 Opening Ceremony
- 14:30-16:00 Lunch Break
- 16:00-18:00 Committee Session 1
- 18:30-20:30 Champagne Reception

He strongly pointed out that refugees are forced to flee and want to be home. They are not immigrants that chose to live in another country. Refugees mainly flee to neighboring countries, which mainly aren't rich or very developed countries, yet helping others in need. Almost half of the refugees worldwide are underage without access to (higher) education. However, progress is being made. Our Patron reported from the Ukrainian border heartbreaking scenes he witnessed there. But he also reported with how much hospitality refugees were met on the other side of the border. The Patron also raised awareness for the refugees „invisible“ to the western headlines, for example people fleeing within their country like in Afghanistan and especially vulnerable groups of refugees like people with disabilities. At the end of his speech, he pointed out that most of the help for the improvement of the refugees' living conditions isn't being provided by NGOs but by the refugees themselves. It was also a reminder to us that they are the victims and that they are not passive, but that they have power to the extent that they are able by virtue of their circumstances.



At the end everyone got their chance to get involved in a Q & A with our Patron and gain insight into UNHCR's work. It was a very efficient dialogue between the participants of the simulation and a representative of the UN. The last speaker of the ceremony was Professor Quante from the University of Münster and he greeted everyone and welcome everyone in the name of the University. And addressed a few words of encouragement to the Young audience. The ceremony ended with the Community singing of the MUN Song "Change Today, Shape Tomorrow" and a shoutout from our coordinators Louis Blanquart & Sofia Milo and Halil Tomur (Head of Finance) to our sponsors and all of you!

## 10 FACTS ABOUT MÜNSTER



1. With an average age of 44.3 years Münster is the city with the youngest population in North Rhine-Westphalia
2. Speaking of: Students make up almost 20% of Münster's population. This equals over 62 thousand students.
3. The Environment Programme of the United Nations (UNEP) awarded Münster with the "International Awards for Liveable Communities" in 2004. What stood out particularly was the civic involvement of the citizens.
4. Münster is the most Bicycle-friendly city in Germany. There are about half a million bikes in total, statistically 1.67 per citizen! So watch out when crossing the bike path.
5. The Thirty Years War ended in 1648 with the Peace of Westphalia. Two historic contracts signed in the cities of Osnabrück and Münster which brought peace to Europe and are identified as role model contracts for principles of modern international relations. (This year we are celebrating 375 years of Westphalian Peace)
6. In Münster's souvenir shops you will find lots of postcards with umbrellas or rain motifs. That's due to the typical rainy weather here in Münster. That weather phenomenon even has its own name: Münsterländer Landregen (which roughly translates to Münsterlands countryside rain)
7. Masematte was a working-class slang language from 19th century Münster. Because of the persecution of its speakers, it was almost lost in World War II. But for its tradition, a few words are still used by the locals. The most popular word and definitely known by anyone from Münster is "Leeze". It means -Yeah you guessed it! - "Bike".



8. City of Churches: Münster is known for its numerous churches and cathedrals. The most famous is the St. Paulus Cathedral, a Gothic building with two towers characteristic of the city's skyline.

9. Münsters Castle, where you will be a lot during the conference, was rebuilt true to the original after the Second World War. It's now part of the University of Münster and its botanical garden is definitely worth a visit.

10. Back to the 80s: The 80s pop band Alphaville was formed in Münster and gained worldwide popularity with hits such as "Forever Young" and "Big in Japan". By the way: Our Farewell Party on Thursday night will be 80s themed. See you there!

## AWARENESS TEAM

In today's world, it is essential to have a support system that understands and addresses the challenges individuals face. We are proud to introduce our new initiative: The Awareness Team.

We are here to listen, support, and empower you during difficult times.

If you find yourself in a situation where you feel unsafe, discriminated against, or have experienced racism or sexism, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Awareness Team.

We understand that these experiences can be deeply impactful and distressing.

Our team members are trained to handle sensitive topics with care, respect, and confidentiality.

We are here for you, ready to offer understanding, support, and guidance. Your well-being and rights matter to us, and we are dedicated to standing up against injustice and advocating for positive change. Remember you are not alone!



### Team members:

Yessica Eyleen Wendy  
Sofia Milo  
Sophie Beckord



# FIND 10 MISTAKES IN THIS POSTER



**#MUIMUN2023**

Connect yourself and send us a memes or gossips;



@gossipmuimun

**Memes of the day**

Non-german speaking delegates when the mayor startet the german speech




**“Morgenmuffel”**

The English equivalent of Morgenmuffel is morning grouch or morning person. A morning grouch is someone who is grumpy or irritable in the morning and finds it difficult to wake up early and feel energetic. They often need some time to get going and are unavailable to talk or grumpy in the early hours of the day.

**Editorial**

Münster University International Model United Nations

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Print: Uniprint 90 copies

The Westphalian Diplomat is an independent newspaper. The content of the articles does not necessarily represent the opinion of the "Arbeitsstelle Forschungstransfer".