
T W E L F T H S E S S I O N



INTERNATIONAL PRESS:
PHOTOGRAPHY

B A C K G R O U N D G U I D E



LA MARTINIÈRE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025





LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Members,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to the International Press Corps of La Martiniere Model United Nations, 2025.

We are sure that it is in your inherent knowledge, that journalism is one of the strongest and the most impactful tenets of the contemporary world. The establishment of public opinion as an authoritative critique and its aftermath has created a dimension that has changed the course of history as we know it.

We as a team called The International Press must know more, hear more, see more and say more. We have to broaden our horizons of creativity and our ability to think which can only be done when each and every member of the press regardless of being a journalist or a caricaturist is well-researched and well-aware of the agendas of the committees.

The vision here is to create a newsletter which echoes the power of the press. Articles, photographs and caricatures which give the readers food for thought combined with well placed satire or humour. An ideal reporter or an interjector during simulations of international organisations and think tanks requires more research and presence of mind than an international delegate. The entire image of a press delegation without adequate research is flawed. The very basic roots of this draft is based on our research and a strong value of transforming the role of the press. This approach is referred to as an idealistic approach to journalism.

This will be an experience that you will cherish and it shall be etched in your memory forever. There will be deadlines, work, tempers flared and a lot of video calls, but there will also be memories you create and the people you meet, and of course, the knowledge you gain. Just remember, that it is people who make a team and not a team who make the people and here we are more than just a group of people running around with notepads and cameras, we're inherently the keepers of memories, the recorders of history, the warriors of reason and ideas.

May the odds be in your favour!

Regards

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INTRODUCTION TO IPC

The International Press Corporation focuses on providing comprehensive, independent coverage of international events, news and issues. IPC has a strong reputation for commitment to journalistic integrity, accuracy and professionalism as an influential publisher in the media sector.

The fact that it can collect diverse views from all over the world is one of IPC's main strengths. The IPC shall endeavor to facilitate understanding, dialogue and awareness amongst readers through the support of an integrated and balanced report. Its multilingual publications and translations make it easier for people from different linguistic backgrounds to access reliable information, further reinforcing this commitment to global representation.

In addition to its news coverage, IPC also produces detailed analyses, features and opinion pieces addressing the complex issues of global affairs. The IPC aims to contribute to informed debate and dialogue in the fields of climate change, human rights, economic development or geopolitical conflicts by offering a more nuanced view on critical issues.

The International Press Corps is committed at its core to upholding the principles of ethical journalism and press freedom. The IPC shall play an important role in shaping a healthy, informed world community which is capable of participating constructively in national dialogue and contributing to the development of more equitable and secure societies by virtue of its commitment to truth, accuracy and objectivity.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Introduction Photography is a method of expression for every single individual who wields the camera. Photographs are one of the, if not the main medium through which generations upon generations remember their history and their ancestors. They have informed and educated people worldwide about the situation of their fellow human beings. While photography is taken very lightly in MUNs these days, I would like to reflect on what

Photojournalism:

“Photojournalism is a particular form of journalism (the collecting, editing, and presenting of news material for publication or broadcast) that employs images in order to tell a news story. It is now usually understood to refer only to still images, but in some cases, the term also refers to video used in broadcast journalism.” Photojournalism is distinguished from other close branches of photography (e.g., documentary photography, social documentary photography, street photography or celebrity photography) by complying with a rigid ethical framework which demands that the work is both honest and impartial whilst telling the story in strictly journalistic terms. Photojournalists create pictures that contribute to the news media



CHARACTERISTICS OF PHOTOJOURNALISM

- **Timeliness:** The images have meaning in the context of a recently published record of events.
- **Objectivity:** The situation implied by the images is a fair and accurate representation of the events they depict in both content and tone.
- **Narrative:** The images combine with other news elements to make facts relatable to the viewer or reader on a cultural level. The Photographic Process does not only consist of taking a photograph. It can be understood in the following manner:
 - **Recce -** Before the MUN starts, be sure to visit the venues and imagine it in different scenarios - with light, without a lot of light, with people moving around and people seated. If possible, take a few test photographs from different angles. Note down any questions you have or problems you face, and address them in the orientation session.
 - **Preparation -** Make sure you have the equipment you will need in order to do your best work. This will include fully charged batteries, at least two empty memory cards, a laptop and a pen drive to download and transfer the photographs. A major aspect that is often forgotten is time management. Transferring photographs, selection/ editing, and submission are time-consuming. Please ensure that you count this when you're given your schedule.
 - **Collaboration -** Ensure that you collaborate with the journalists of your allotted committees and assist them with the relevant photographs required to supplement their articles.
 - **Timeliness -** Each photojournalist must be present at their designated venues before time. To cover the event properly, as photojournalists, our work starts before the event starts and ends after the event ends. People coming into the committee rooms, or in the lunch venues sometimes provide for good photographs without a lot of disturbance. The same is when schools start arriving at the gate or begin registering at the Registration Desk. The same goes for the deadlines we have to follow. If you are required to submit your entire shoot at 4 pm, plan backwards and factor in how much time it would take you to transfer photographs onto a PC or laptop, selection of the final photographs and submission.
 - **Being a Model UN Conference,** it is extremely difficult to capture still photographs during breaks or unmoderated caucuses, when everyone is moving around. But these are also the times when some of the best expressions and actions reveal themselves. Be patient, and if you know there is a good photograph, do not be hasty. Take your time, move around your subject, and press the shutter at the right moment.



POST-PROCESSING OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Photoshop or Lightroom is a highly sophisticated image manipulation programme and photojournalists will use only a tiny part of their potential capability to format the photographs, crop and size them and balance the tone and colour.

The Rules are:

- No additions or deletions to the subject matter of the original image. (Thus, changing the original content and journalistic integrity of an image)
 - No excessive lightening, darkening or blurring of the image. (Thus, misleading the viewer by disguising certain elements of an image)
 - No excessive colour manipulation. (Thus, changing the original lighting conditions of an image)
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P O R T R A I T

- Photographers may direct the subjects of portraits and formal interviews when it is needed to illustrate a story. This **MUST NOT** happen during committee sessions - formal or informal. Portraits look best with a clean background, avoiding distracting shapes or colours in the backdrop.
 - The best news photography occurs when the presence of the camera is not noticeable.
 - Photojournalists should be as unobtrusive as possible to avoid influencing events and consider using prime lenses, such as 50mm, 85mm, 100mm, or high focal lengths similar to the given examples in their telephoto lenses.
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ELEMENTS OF A GOOD PHOTOGRAPH

- **Visual Storytelling:** Photographs that tell a story are not only beautiful but also require their subjects to be placed in such a way that it tells a story even without captions. Knowledge about the topics of discussion helps the photojournalist weave a narrative that is subtle, yet powerful. Without a narrative, individual photographs do not elicit appreciation from an intellectual and well-informed audience.
- **Emotion or Action:** Every emotion or action has a beginning, rise, peak, decline and end. Photojournalists should try to capture the peak that defines that action or emotion. For example, laughter begins with the curving of the lips into a smile, followed by the showing of teeth and then it develops into a full laughter. This is the peak that a photographer should capture. Then it dwindles down into a smile and then finally, a straightening of the lips. Capturing the peak of an action or an emotion is what separates photographs from snapshots.
- **Framing and Composition:** The eye is always drawn to the brightest part of the frame first. Having bright lights or colours at the edge of the photographs is seriously discouraged. This is why photographers are encouraged to correctly expose the subject of their photograph rather than other elements. Keep your backgrounds as clean as possible so that the viewer does not get distracted from the subject(s). Avoid unnecessary clutter/colours in the background.
- **Rule of Thirds:** The Rule of Thirds is scientifically based on the impact that is created in the human brain in relation to the placement of the subject in the frame. Follow it as much as possible, but if you do find a more interesting composition, take it! To understand the Rule of Thirds more, please see photography composition basics – the truth about the rule of thirds, symmetry.
- **Patience:** Few people these days associated with the tag of photographers possess patience. It is the single most necessary trait of a good photographer. The advent of digital technology and the ability to take thousands of photographs on a SD Card rather than wait for the single most powerful photo because you only have 36 exposures on a reel, has diluted the quality and skill of many young photographers today. Only with patience can a photographer study their subject, the light in a scene, capture the peak of an emotion/action and compose an interesting photograph.



GUIDELINES

I welcome all photographers and other members of the International Press on board. Whole idea of this brief is not to let those efforts go to waste that all photographers put in to click thousands of pictures. Also, those many pictures will not be worthy if you deviate from the guidelines provided in this guide. Photographs serve as the memoir of all events and when it comes to the conferences like MUNs it gives a chance to delegates to get hold of the memories of the days spent in the conference; also, it gives budding photographers a chance to brush up their photography skills, learn new techniques and capture best of actions and emotions. Photographers of the IP click photographs exclusively for our newsletter and should follow certain guidelines:

- All photojournalists will carry their own equipment including but not limited to, cameras, lenses, empty SD/CF Cards, fully charged Battery and Charger, Card Reader, and Laptop for postprocessing.
- All photojournalists should shoot in RAW+JPEG format. In case your camera doesn't support RAW, shoot at the highest resolution JPEG.
- The ISO should be kept to a bare minimum to avoid noise in the photograph as noise reduction is not permitted in post-processing. It is strongly advised to not go beyond 800 ISO, and 1600/3200 ISO in the most extreme of lighting conditions.
- All photographs must follow the Rule of Thirds wherever possible, and very few should be clicked in Monochrome or Sepia.
- Editing will be subject to the decision of the editorial board in case they deem it necessary.
- There must be at least 10 photographs showing all members of a council/committee, with different perspectives. At least three of them should be at the time of a moderated caucus or a procedural vote when placards are raised showing maximum participation. Three to five photos each from the opening ceremony and unmoderated caucus should be there.
- The photographers will be allotted particular committees for which they have to submit the Photographs, however, they are not bound to that committee only.
- The photographs shall be judged primarily on composition, lighting, meaning and the overall impact that it has.
- The deadlines for the submissions would be clarified earlier on the same day. Exceeding the deadlines is unacceptable and may lead to disqualification.



THE TWELFTH SESSION