

# King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations

## FIFA Council



## Delegate Guide

February 25-26 2022

Jamie Wigg

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honour to welcome you to the eighth annual King's MUN Conference: Voices of the Voiceless. Since the debut of the King's MUN conference in 2013, we have striven to create a conference that enables students to push past their comfort zones, connect with their peers, and learn more about the world around them.

Model United Nations (MUN) is a youth simulation of the United Nations where students have the chance to debate the world's greatest issues, problem-solve, and produce creative resolutions with their peers. Throughout my MUN journey, I have developed my critical thinking, teamwork, leadership, and communication skills, which have transferred into many different avenues of my life and which I attribute to many of my successes in high school.

We are living in a time where certain people groups are marginalized and discriminated against based on prejudice and unjust systems. At King's MUN we strive to lift the songs of those who are oppressed and listen to the stories and experiences of those whose mouths have been sealed for far too long. This year, the theme of the King's MUN conference is Voices of the Voiceless. I hope you take this to heart both during the conference and as you move forward into your future.

These past few years have, without a doubt, been ones of hardship and challenge. The COVID-19 Pandemic has built many barriers not only between countries but within countries, communities, and families. At King's MUN we acknowledge the past to live actively in the present but look to the future with hope. One thing the COVID-19 Pandemic has not taken away is our creativity and will to connect to one another. With a range of committees branching from tutorial to advanced, and real to fictional, delegates with all levels of experience have an opportunity to collaborate with peers and grow as young leaders and changemakers at King's MUN, despite the current predicaments.

Once again, I am extremely excited to greet each and every one of you at the eighth annual King's MUN conference. Myself and the King's MUN Secretariat look forward to seeing you on Friday, February 25th and Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

Sincerely,

Arianna Mastrotonardo

Secretary-General, 2022

King's MUN

## **What is the UN?**

The United Nations was established in 1945 following World War II. It is an organization that aims to maintain international peace and security, promote social progress, and ensure equal human rights. The UN tackles a plethora of global issues through its various bodies. The United Nations' work is carried out in every corner of the globe. From peacekeeping to humanitarian assistance, the organization's impact touches the lives of many. The UN works on a wide range of fundamental issues, such as climate change, disaster relief, and sustainable development. It also addresses issues such as disarmament, non-proliferation, and democratic concerns.

## **What is FIFA?**

FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) is the world's top governing body for association soccer and futsal. It oversees competitions among the national associations of various countries such as the Netherlands, Spain, France, Germany, and Denmark. FIFA has several objectives that it aims to achieve through its statutes, which includes growing the game internationally and ensuring that it is accessible to everyone. FIFA is also responsible for organizing and promoting various international tournaments, most notably, the World Cup. Despite FIFA's historic work with promoting soccer across the globe, the organization is prone to corruption and various reports presented allegations against FIFA officials in recent times.

## Topic 1: Migrant Labor Issues in Qatar

For the first time in history, the FIFA World Cup will kick off in the Middle East. Qatar 2022 will be a historic moment and one of great excitement for the footballing world and the region itself. Without the two million migrant workers, the 2022 World Cup simply would not be possible in Qatar. Men and women, mostly from Africa and Asia, are building the stadiums, the roads, the metro; they will be providing security for the football matches, transporting fans in taxis to the games, greeting them in hotels and serving them in restaurants as the tournament edges close. But in the decade since Qatar was awarded the right to host the World Cup, exploitation and abuse of these workers has been rampant, with workers exposed to forced labour, unpaid wages and excessive working hours.

A report revealed that from January to December 2010, over 6,000 workers from various countries died in Qatar. Data collected by various countries revealed that there were over 5,000 deaths between 2011 to 2020. The total number of deaths related to this World Cup is likely significantly higher since these tolls do not include deaths from other countries, such as the Philippines and Kenya. Although death records are not classified as job titles, Nick McGeehan of Fair Square Projects noted that many of the workers who died in Qatar were likely employed on the infrastructure projects related to the World Cup. Behind the statistics are the stories of families who have suffered terrible tragedies. One such worker is Mohammad Shahid Miah, who died in Bangladesh after being exposed to water contaminated with electricity cables. Details of the deaths in Qatar, which are recorded in long spreadsheets, reveal that many of these deaths are due to asphyxiation, multiple blunt injuries, and hypothermia. Most of the deaths attributed to natural causes are attributed to respiratory failure and acute heart failure. A 2019 report by the Guardian revealed that the country's intense summer heat contributed to many of the fatalities. The same year, a report by the UN's labor agency stated that workers in the country experienced harsh working conditions. It has been reported that Qatar fails to provide a clear explanation for the causes of death for many foreign workers. After years of mounting international pressure, in 2017 the Qatar

government signed an agreement with the International Labour Organization (ILO), promising to tackle widespread labour exploitation and “align its laws and practices with international labour standards.” However, weak implementation and enforcement of many new reforms by the Qatari government means that workers continue to face the similar harsh reality they are used to.

Questions have been raised as to whether FIFA is treating this issue with the seriousness it deserves. FIFA has an ongoing responsibility to both prevent abuses and to address those that have occurred as a result of their business operations linked to the World Cup. In line with its own Human Rights Policy, FIFA should not only ensure the respect of labour rights in the construction of World Cup stadia, but also use its leverage to ensure rights are respected in a broader range of infrastructure projects needed for delivery of the 2022 World Cup.

### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What responsibility lies with FIFA for the fair treatment of World Cup 2022 workers? How does this compare to the responsibility of the Qatari government?
2. What policies can be implemented immediately and effectively to ensure the safety of workers moving forward?
3. What forms of justice will the families who have suffered tragedies receive? Where else can and should justice be served?

**Topic 2: Corruption Within FIFA**

Various reports presented allegations against FIFA officials which were centered on the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cup hosting rights to Russia and Qatar. The US Department of Justice announced the indictments of several individuals on various charges. In 2015, several officials of FIFA were arrested as part of a Swiss investigation into the organization's decisions regarding the hosting of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. Several of them were suspended by the organization's ethics committee.

In 2015, US federal prosecutors announced cases of corruption involving officials and associates of FIFA. In May 2015, multiple individuals were indicted in connection with a wide-scale money laundering and wire fraud investigation carried out by the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Investigations and the IRS. The investigation focused on the alleged collusion between officials of CONMEBOL and the Confederation of North and Central American Football. The executives were also involved in the awarding of media and marketing rights for various international competitions. Several years before the arrest of Jeffrey Webb, the president of the Caribbean Football Union, among other officials, the US Department of Justice investigated allegations on bribery and corruption. On May 27, seven current and former officials of FIFA were arrested in Switzerland on suspicion of receiving millions of dollars in bribes. During the investigation, authorities carried out raids on the offices of CONCACAF in Miami where two of the arrested officials were taken into custody in December. Two of the most prominent officials in the sport of soccer, Sepp Blatter of FIFA and Michel Platini of UEFA, were banned from participating in football-related activities for eight years. In September, a criminal investigation was launched against Sepp Blatter, who is the president of world football's governing body. The scandal started in May 2015, when authorities carried out a raid on a luxury hotel in Zurich. In May, the US indicted 14 officials and associates of FIFA on charges of systemic, deep-rooted, and rampant

corruption. In December, 16 more officials of FIFA were charged with various offenses, including bribery. Among them was Ricardo Teixeira, the former Brazil football federation president.

Cries have been heard around the world from fans and officials alike who are concerned with the corruption within soccer's largest governing body. FIFA has historically been held to little accountability, and with rampant corruption rooted deeply within the organization, its future is anything but clear.

### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What systemic changes can be implemented to ensure corruption within FIFA is addressed in the future?
2. Who must be held responsible for the corruption that has already taken place? Which organizations are involved?
3. What implications do corruption claims have on the upcoming World Cup 2022, as well as future tournaments? If these claims are true, what can be done to rectify what has happened?

### **SDG Connections:**

SDG's #8 and #16 are prominent in this committee. SDG #8, *decent work and economic growth*, relates to topic one. Since SDG #8 is about creating good jobs, the UN should put focus on helping the workers in Qatar receive the rights they deserve. If the goal is to be reached it means everyone should have decent work, and this means workplace conditions needs to be safe. SDG #16, *peace, justice and strong institutions*, relates to topic two. Unfortunately, bribery has become common and must be addressed to ensure fairness and justice. Therefore, the UN needs to turn its attention to the bribery and corruption inside of FIFA. It is a prominent problem and for SDG #16 to be completed this needs undivided attention and effort.

**Sources**

“FIFA.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 11 Jan. 2022, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/FIFA>.

“History of the UN Seventieth Anniversary.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/un70/en/content/history/index.html#:~:text=The+United+Nations+is+a+n,living+standards+and+human+rights>.

“Revealed: 6,500 Migrant Workers Have Died in Qatar since World Cup Awarded.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 23 Feb. 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/feb/23/revealed-migrant-worker-deaths-qatar-fifa-world-cup-2022>.

“FIFA Corruption Crisis: Key Questions Answered.” *BBC News*, BBC, 21 Dec. 2015, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32897066>.

“2015 FIFA Corruption Case.” *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation, 7 Jan. 2022, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015\\_FIFA\\_corruption\\_case](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_FIFA_corruption_case).

“Goal 8 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8>.

“Goal 16 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs.” *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>.