

LVMUN VII

7th Annual Las Vegas Model UN Conference
February 7-8, 2020

Dear Delegates of the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee,

Hello, delegates, my name is Mary Kenstler and I'll be one of your chairs in SOCHUM for the 7th annual LVMUN conference. I am a senior at SVHS, and this year is my 2nd year of being involved with SVHS's MUN program and it is one of the best classes I'm in. When I first came into MUN, I was surrounded by advanced members and unfamiliar faces. I spent my first cycle of debate silent and afraid of saying something stupid and making a grave mistake. I even thought about quitting the program because I thought that it just wasn't for me. When I took the initiative to go to BruinMUN at UCLA, my entire MUN experience changed. I pushed myself to actively participate in debate and was able to contribute to and present each working paper in my bloc. My partner and I came out as our committee's best delegate. If you're scared or nervous about this conference, just remember that we all start that way, and your skills are guaranteed to improve over time. I participated in LVMUN last year and I will be returning BruinMUN this year. In my free time, I like to draw, sew costumes, and play a multitude of video games ranging from console to mobile platforms. My current favorite video game is Persona 5. I also love to play the violin; I am a part of SVHS's advanced and chamber orchestras. Outside of school, I play in the Las Vegas Youth Philharmonic, and I performed at the Sydney Opera House last July with the Honors Performance Series. As your chair, it is my duty to ensure that debate runs smoothly and that all delegates get as much knowledge and experience out of this conference as possible. I can't wait to see what solutions and ideas you bring with you to debate.

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Hello delegates, my name is Tan Richie. I will be co-chairing with Joshua Ferguson and Mary Kenstler in Spring Valley's Model United Nations conference, LVMUN VII. I have participated in multiple west coast conferences, including BruinMUN, LVMUN, and shortly, UCI MUN. In regard to my academic journey, I am currently an officer in Spring Valley's MUN program and I also participate in multiple clubs and varsity sports. As of this year, I am a graduate candidate for the International Baccalaureate program here at Spring Valley. Being involved in Model United Nations cultivates young academics minds who set out to better the world, and I commend you all for participating. My initial MUN debate experience left me terrified. I felt uneasy with the lack of knowledge and capabilities I had, so if you are frightened, know that I too once was in your place. This year is my third and final year of high school MUN, and I have seen my fair share of extraordinary orators and writers, and I'm sure all of you will reach high standards. As chair, I aim to provide the best experience for all delegates, and as delegates, it is your responsibility to do the best you can at this conference. I hope the best for all, and I am genuinely excited to see the creative solutions and in-depth research you all bring to our committee.

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Greetings, delegates, my name is Joshua Ferguson, and I will be one of your chairs for the upcoming SOCHUM committee. Likewise, to my fellow co-chairs, I am a senior at Spring Valley High School and also an International Baccalaureate (IB) Candidate for graduation. Throughout my four years in Model United Nations, I attended BRUINMUN at UCLA, UCI MUN, ILMUNC at UPenn, and most recently, NHSMUN. I am very involved with various extracurriculars and sports, including that of Tennis, NHS, Mu Alpha Theta, and DECA to list a few of my favorites. Outside of the extracurriculars and school activities, I tend to enjoy learning about innovative technologies such as Blockchain/Cryptocurrencies, International Business/Entrepreneurship, and Deep Learning (AI), all self-taught through Massive Open Online Courses offered by world-class universities and organizations. Continuing my passion for these industries, I have been actively participating in the Microsoft and Zappos sponsored program "The Knowledge Society" right here in Las Vegas. In my little amount of free time, I relish in playing the popular video game "League of Legends."

Leaning into discomfort and joining MUN was possibly one of the best decisions I have ever made. Suffering from crippling social anxiety for most of my life, MUN was the last thing I ever saw myself doing. Yet, through all that I ended up just throwing myself into it, and it wasn't until an advisor told me to "just raise my placard, you'll think of something to say" that I finally stepped out of my old self and stepped into a life that I can say I'm deeply proud and appreciative of. I urge you all to follow in these words and throw yourself into a position of a

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little discomfort, and “just raise that placard” because you never know what you might find within yourself.

Sincerely,

Mary Kenstler, Tan Richie, and Joshua Ferguson

Email available on www.svhsmun.net

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Committee Background

Consequent to the aftermath of the Second World War, amid an ailing society, the world's leading countries assembled to create the United Nations in 1945 with one central mission: to maintain international peace and security. Along with the introduction of the global organization came one of the six main organs, the General Assembly, which involved six central committees; the third being the Social, Cultural, and Humanitarian Committee (SOCHUM). Comprised of all 193 member states, SOCHUM sets out to present topics and resolutions to the United Nations General Assembly, focusing on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The committee commonly works to conduct human rights examination questions along with reviewing Human Rights Council's¹ distinctive procedures. In addition, the committee also discusses various issues including the advancement of women, protection of children, indigenous issues, and many others.² Along with this, SOCHUM also addresses various demographic matters. In yearly meetings, the committee drafts numerous resolutions addressing human rights issues and considers some to be presented to the General Assembly. However, unlike the United Nations Security Council, the resolutions passed by SOCHUM are not legally binding and are considered to be recommendations for country-specific or human rights issues.

¹“United Nations, Third Committee, Social, Humanitarian, Cultural, Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly.” *United Nations*, United Nations, www.un.org/en/ga/third/.

² *Ibid*

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Topic: Rights to Privacy in the Digital Age

Goals/Expectations of Committee

Resolutions are recommended to address current issues regarding the topic but can include solutions to possible future circumstances regarding infringements of privacy in the digital age. Although not every region and state may have a high proliferation of internet or masses of digital data, preparational foundational frameworks and guidelines should be discussed to be implemented in periphery states as they move further into the digital age. Resolutions are also encouraged to be specific and comprised of solutions that have an actor, action, coordinating timeline to follow, and proper funding means if needed. Creative and innovative ideas are supported, but be sure to provide a how, why, when, and where for each solution presented.

Privacy should be referenced in tandem with the definition provided by the twenty-third Human Rights Council session, which states “Privacy can be defined as the presumption that individuals should have an area of autonomous development, interaction, and liberty, a ‘private sphere’ with or without interaction with others, free from State intervention and from excessive unsolicited intervention by other uninvited individuals.”³ Although this definition will be utilized during committee, it can be revised or edited through a resolution if the committee wishes to do so.

³ “Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Frank La Rue*.” *Human Rights Council Twenty-Third Session*, United Nations, 17 Apr. 2013, www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session23/A.HRC.23.40_EN.pdf.

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Finally, if there are any unknown technical terms present within the background guide without an explicit definition, it is recommended that you look up the term or phrase. Most of these concepts or phrases are marked with asterisks. Ex- *Periphery State

Statement of the Issue/International Involvement

Amidst the constant changes and headway in the information and communication technologies in the core states of the world, comes new chances for the impediment of a person's right to privacy, as outlined in *Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The issue of privacy in digital matters will only be further prevalent as states move from service-oriented economies to information economies, and thus, frameworks and guidelines that address the problem are vital, as both current core states and semi-periphery states develop in the digital age. It should also be noted that an infringement of the right outlined in article 12 can also be defined through *Article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in which states such an action as an "... arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence." ⁴

The issues of rights to privacy in the digital age lies within multiple dimensions and features a vast scope of controversial issues. The dimension of the issue that the UN can best address are governments using digital technologies to acquire, track, and use citizen's data, often without proper means or permissions granted. China's controversial *"Social-Credit System" (SCS) is a prime example of a tool to collect and use citizens' data passively. The SCS

⁴ *Definitions of the Right to Privacy*. Claiming Human Right, www.claiminghumanrights.org/privacy_definition.html.

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can be considered a violation of Article 17 of the ICCPR, as it indiscriminately and arbitrarily uses mass surveillance to place restrictions on citizens that the state deems immoral.⁵ Likewise, the United States of America could be considered to have broken Article 17 through the NSA collecting millions of Verizon user's telephone records, which can be considered an indiscriminate action as well.⁶ Often, states will defend such actions with the argument that it is a standard of state security and is a needed application. Now, whether this is an adverse action is up to the committee, but almost every state has its defensive measures and arguments to support them collecting data through means that would usually breach international law.

Within the aspect of business and the global economy, the fact that many applications of *"Industry 4.0" rely on the business model of harvesting and exchanging/selling/using data in order to operate, where the consumer is the product and not so much the customer, makes it significantly harder to pass legislation. Extreme legislation on the industry could potentially damage large global and multi-billion-dollar corporations that work off this business model, namely Google LLC, Facebook Inc, and the Chinese platform WeChat. The link between the aspect of business and states is that ordinarily , court orders or government enforcers require these companies to hand over data of citizens, such as in the case of WeChat to China and

⁵ "The Human Right to Privacy in the Digital Age." *American Civil Liberties Union*, www.aclu.org/other/human-right-privacy-digital-age.

⁶ Szoldra, Paul. "This Is Everything Edward Snowden Revealed in One Year of Unprecedented Top-Secret Leaks." *Business Insider*, Business Insider, 16 Sept. 2016, www.businessinsider.com/snowden-leaks-timeline-2016-9.

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Verizon to the U.S.^{7,8} Solutions that address this issue will have to manage both the state and business impact of infringing upon the rights to privacy.

The infringement of digital privacy and data is not only a national state issue but a global epidemic, as several governments have even passed *‘‘extraterritorial’’ laws that transgress their own boundaries and apply to other regions or countries, that then allows them to collect data on foreign citizens or organizations.⁹ In the recent U.S election, it was reported that Russian officials were *‘‘phishing’’ for private information from U.S citizens through Facebook.¹⁰ The phishing tool gave no notice to the victims that their information was being harvested.¹¹ Several major industrialized states enacted similar policies that grant them the ability to ‘‘spy’’ or collect data on foreign citizens.

In the past, the issue of privacy was largely neglected but had risen to the forefront of multiple UN agencies since 2015.¹² Most notably, the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights prepared A/HRC/39/29, a comprehensive report detailing standards/principles for promoting privacy rights and the responsibility of business to uphold a social-

⁷ Coldewey, Devin. ‘‘Chinese Government Admits Collection of Deleted WeChat Messages.’’ *TechCrunch*, TechCrunch, 30 Apr. 2018, techcrunch.com/2018/04/30/chinese-government-admits-collection-of-deleted-wechat-messages/.

⁸ Greenwald, Glenn. ‘‘NSA Collecting Phone Records of Millions of Verizon Customers Daily.’’ *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 6 June 2013, www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/06/nsa-phone-records-verizon-court-order.

⁹ Vincent, James. ‘‘The UK Just Legalized Everything That Snowden Warned Us About.’’ *The Verge*, The Verge, 29 Nov. 2016, www.theverge.com/2016/11/23/13718768/uk-surveillance-laws-explained-investigatory-powers-bill.

¹⁰ Barry, Rob. ‘‘Russian Influence Campaign Extracted Americans' Personal Data.’’ *The Wall Street Journal*, Dow Jones & Company, 7 Mar. 2018, www.wsj.com/articles/russian-influence-campaign-extracted-americans-personal-data-1520418600.

¹¹ *ibid.*

¹² Carly, and Tomaso. ‘‘Right to Privacy in the Digital Age.’’ *OUP Academic*, Oxford University Press, 1 Feb. 2017, academic.oup.com/jhrp/article-abstract/9/1/104/2965689?redirectedFrom=fulltext.

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responsibility.¹³ Although principles are clarified and defined, some delegations still stress the need for international mechanisms for extraterritorial laws and hacking.¹⁴

Online Tracking

The Internet, released to the public on 6 August 1991, was designed to be a tool for open research.¹⁵ However, that system proved to be flawed as the Internet provided no form of privacy or security. Also, the way the online society is structured, it provided users with anonymity which has rendered other users from knowing that they are being tracked. As the years progressed and the Internet has increasingly become more technologically advanced, it provided governments and companies with online sources and databases to collect public information. These corporations and organizations not only collect browsing data, but they also collect personal data including IP addresses, geographic locations, and also browser characteristics.¹⁶ There are three main methods, mentioned previously, that a website or an outside party can use to track your online activity: cookies, fingerprinting, and beacons.¹⁷ Cookies are small text files that are stored on your device and often saved to be used in their respective domains.¹⁸ Most websites today often use cookies to save login credentials and track behavior. For example, if a person logs into Twitter the browser sends a message containing the login information and if the request is successful it instructs the browser to create a cookie that

¹³ "Report on the Right to Privacy in the Digital Age." *OHCHR*, United Nations, www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/DigitalAge/Pages/ReportDigitalAge.aspx.

¹⁴ *Ibid*.

¹⁵ Bryant, Martin. "20 Years Ago Today, the World Wide Web Was Born - TNW Insider." *The Next Web*, 3 Mar. 2016, thenextweb.com/insider/2011/08/06/20-years-ago-today-the-world-wide-web-opened-to-the-public/.

¹⁶ Encrypt, Search. "What Is Internet Tracking? (and How To Avoid Being Tracked)." *Search Encrypt Blog*, 23 May 2019, choosetoencrypt.com/search-encrypt/internet-tracking-why-its-bad-and-how-to-avoid-it/.

¹⁷ *Ibid*

¹⁸ robertheaton.com/2017/11/20/how-does-online-tracking-actually-work/.

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contains a session ID. Facebook then uses this ID to recognize the previous history on the site and allows for login without re-inputting credentials. The problem with cookies is that they are widely used throughout many websites and allows the party to track behavior which allows them to tailor their website and ads towards the user's preference. Fingerprinting is used to collect information about the user's browser which includes the version history, operating history, plugins, and other useful parts that allow parties to create profiles for users.¹⁹ Similar to cookies, companies, and corporations use fingerprinting to outline online activity, so as users continue to visit their website there will be pop-ups that pertain to their personal interests and history. Governments such as the UK have also wielded the powers of online tracking in the name of state security. In 2016, the United Kingdom passed the *Investigatory Powers Bill*, which allows the government to collect all domestic citizen internet histories and searches.²⁰ It also grants the government the ability to pick up communications from those outside its own sphere of influence, thus making it extraterritorial and can apply to anybody using a means of digital communication.²¹ The UN's Privacy chief has regarded the action as "worse than scary."²²

Targeted Ads

In 2009, more than \$22 billion was generated through internet advertising in just the United States. Targeted advertising has become much more common in recent years, which has

¹⁹ "Browser Fingerprinting: What Is It and What Should You Do About It?" *Pixel Privacy*, pixelprivacy.com/resources/browser-fingerprinting/.

²⁰ Vincent, James. "The UK Just Legalized Everything That Snowden Warned Us About." *The Verge*, The Verge, 29 Nov. 2016, www.theverge.com/2016/11/23/13718768/uk-surveillance-laws-explained-investigatory-powers-bill.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² *Ibid.*

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stirred up debate on whether targeted ads put one's online privacy in danger.²³ Through the use of cookies, tracking browsing history, and finding personal information through social media websites, advertisers can predict what products individuals might be interested in and generate ads that correspond to those interests.²⁴ These advertisements are even being brought into the physical world; for example, in January 2019, Walgreens began testing new screen cooler doors embedded with facial-detection technology that would calculate a person's age and gender, and then advertise certain products that they might be interested in based on this information. The technology inside the screen doors would also serve to determine what items a customer was interested in, and relay feedback to advertisers.²⁵ Targeted ads run the risk of privacy intrusions through the selling or hacking of aggregated data, such as in the case of Facebook giving Cambridge Analytica sensitive data points of America citizens. Often these data points are subject to encryption errors and breaches of private information that can be used to deanonymize users if foreign nations were to get hold of it.²⁶

²³ "Privacy & Security in Targeted Advertising | CRCS | Center for" <https://crcs.seas.harvard.edu/privacy-security-targeted-advertising>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

²⁴ "The Now: What is Targeted Advertising? - GCFLearnFree - GCFGlobal." <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/thenow/what-is-targeted-advertising/1/>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

²⁵ "Walgreens Tests Digital Cooler Doors With Cameras to Target You" 11 Jan. 2019, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/walgreens-tests-digital-cooler-doors-with-cameras-to-target-you-with-ads-11547206200>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

²⁶ Minh-Dung Tran. Privacy Challenges in Online Targeted Advertising. Computers and Society [cs.CY]. Université de Grenoble, 2014. English. ffNNT : 2014GRENM053ff. ffel-01555362f

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Biometric Scanning

Widespread digital facial recognition software was first created in 1991 by Matthew Turk and Alex Pentland when they discovered that errors in *Eigenface techniques could be used to detect faces from images.²⁷ By 2000, the first Face Recognition Vendor Test (FRVT) was held and sponsored by different agencies of the US Government.²⁸ Even with continuous technological advancements, facial recognition software remains very much prone to error. Facial recognition software results in either a “false negative” or a “false positive”. A false negative happens when a person’s face is not matched with any person in a set database. A false positive occurs when a person’s face is incorrectly matched with another person in a database. These errors can lead to false arrests and criminal accusations by the state. The margin of error increases with population growth due to the vast number of people in a database, along with the number of people who share similar looks. Ethnic minorities, women, and younger people are more prone to misidentification.²⁹ Overall, the misuses and margin of error of biometric scanning lend itself to inherent flaws and continual privacy violations, as many do not consent to the state or business collecting this data.

²⁷ "Eigenfaces for recognition - ACM Digital Library - Association for" <https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=1326894>. Accessed 15 Aug. 2019.

²⁸ "History of Biometrics | Biometric Update." <https://www.biometricupdate.com/201802/history-of-biometrics-2>. Accessed 15 Aug. 2019.

²⁹ "Face Recognition | Electronic Frontier Foundation." <https://www.eff.org/pages/face-recognition>. Accessed 16 Aug. 2019.

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Questions to Consider

- 1) Are most states prepared for data breaches and how can breaches be prevented in those who are not?
- 2) How can we measure and demonstrate assent with global data privacy regulations?
- 3) How can data collected by governments be protected and how can we determine the risks levels of data?
- 4) What are the legalities of governments accessing data and information from foreign citizens without proper consent or regulatory measures? How can this be better regulated by the UN?
- 5) Is there any way to decide whether a government's collection of big data on citizens is justified through "state security"? What solution can still protect state security but also the privacy of the individual?
- 6) What frameworks/resolutions can be implemented into developing nations to prepare them for proper data security and to make sure that international law is followed?
- 7) Should varying types of biometric scanning, online tracking, or targeted ads be considered an infringement of privacy rights?
- 8) Is the privatization of data moral if the user has not consented?
- 9) Are users aware that they have consented to their data being shared?
 - a) If yes, is there any means of increasing public awareness of how their data is being collected and used?

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10) How can the digital privacy of citizens be protected in different regions and varying forms of government control?