

GDMUN 2019 report

For the fifth edition of Georges Duby Model United Nations, 340 student delegates assembled at Lycée Duby on Saturday, 29th March for the first day of the MUN conference weekend where they engaged in debate on the theme of **'Empowering Youth.'** Schools invited included the International School of Provence (Bouc -Bel -Air), Lycée St Charles (Marseille), Lycée Cézanne (Aix-en-Provence), Lycée Sainte-Victoire International School (Fuveau) and Lycée Notre-Dame (Valence).

The delegates were welcomed by Mme Miron (Head of the English Section at Lycée Duby) whose address, encouraging public speaking and listening skills, featured a number of Brexit jokes (!) but also urged us all to seriously pursue a culture of open-mindedness.

The first keynote speech from the conference's two guest speakers, focused on the necessity to defend the rights of students. Mme Petre-Guerin, a lawyer who practises locally, talked about the fact that, in French law, the rights of children take precedence in accordance with the UN Declaration on the Rights of the Child.

Our second guest speaker, Mr Guerin, a fellow lawyer, elaborated on the paramount importance of children's rights in today's world.

This year's GDMUN General Secretary, Eva Dulong, then opened the conference weekend and delegates moved to their committees – ten rooms alive with heated discussion and opinion!

Day two of the conference was held at the Centre de Congrès in Aix and began with a round table discussion which culminated in a question and answer session - responding to an address by **Mr Wankoye, the Belgian and Dutch Consul (???)** based in Marseille. At the closing ceremony, Héléna Pannetier, a Lycée Duby Seconde student, representing the UK in the WHO committee, was awarded 'Best Delegate at GD MUN 2019.'

Mme Bretelle ended the conference by highlighting the fact that « the organisation of, and inspiration behind, GDMUN is an excellent example of youth empowerment. » She thanked the many parents who had hosted delegates over the weekend, her fellow teachers and AGESSIA also - for its financial support.

Many congratulations then to GDMUN organisers, Eva Dulong and Aurélie Lacroux and their teams - the chairs and the press and the administrative staff. Bringing the year of MUN conferences to a close, we thank Mrs Bretelle and Mme Byrnes for supervising at GD MUN and for all the training and support they have given in 2018/19 to many of this year's GD MUN delegates who enjoyed the regular Wednesday Lycée Duby MUN Club so dynamically presented by Terminale students, Adèle Deprez and Aurélie Lacroux. In addition, our thanks go to Mme Laget who was very much involved with the paperwork in advance of the actual event and also shopped, stored and delivered the light refreshments which sustained the delegates over the weekend !

List of committees & issues

UNICEF : how can youth break free from conservative and traditional influences ?

Political : How can countries be helped so that they can each develop a stable political system ?

Human Rights : How can we provide freedom of speech ?

World Health Organisation (WHO) : How to provide universal access to sex education and contraception ?

UNGEC : The question of preventing violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

ECOSOC : How to build strategies in order to increase prosperity and limit the 'brain drain' in developing countries ?

Crisis Committee : GAFA (Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon) take control of the African continent – what is the response ?

Security Council : What do we do about the number of children in armed forces, worldwide ?

International Court of Justice : Crimes against the planet (how to find a general consensus on the punishment of climate sceptics ?)

UNODC (Office of Drugs and Crime) : The question of drugs in Afghanistan with special emphasis on Taliban-controlled drug lines.