

MUNAPAC'26

WORCESTER CONVENTION Study Guide



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1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Participants of MUNAPAC'26,

My role as the Secretary-General grants me the distinct honor of contributing to a conference that embodies the principles of education, excellence, and collaboration. Engaging with a team of exceptionally dedicated and talented individuals, I am truly excited to help shape an event that reflects the very best of our community. Motivated by our shared vision, we strive to deliver an experience that captures the spirit and ambition of our club. Rooted in a strong tradition of Model United Nations excellence, this year's conference continues to build upon years of dedication and growth.

Every member of our academic and organizational teams has worked tirelessly to ensure that MUNAPAC'26 becomes an unforgettable experience. Not only do we aim to provide three remarkable days, but also to contribute meaningfully to your academic and personal growth. In this spirit, our conference offers a wide and dynamic range of committees designed to appeal to all styles of debate. Notably, this year we are proud to present 12 unique committees, each crafted with immense care and originality.

Among them are Historical GA1: DISEC where you can relieve the political tension of the breakup of a major state, GA4: SPECPOL which brings you an out-of-this-world debate experience; forming the backbone of our General Assembly and international governance discussions.

Moreover, our special committees consist of UNHRC in which you will be the voice of the unheard, Historical UNSC where the dust of the Middle East can be felt, Historical NATO and the desperate need for a reform, Parlamento Italiano with its unique Mediterranean atmosphere, World Trade Organization where global trade is in your hands, and the Worcester Convention where the fight for equality is born; all bringing diverse political perspectives to the table.

Keeping innovation and adrenaline at the core of our crisis committees; the Department of Homeland Security attempts to maintain public security, FCC: Small Council is challenged with the well-being of Westeros, FCC The Apocalypse of St. John plunges delegates into a world of prophecy and chaos, and JCC: Anglo-Soviet Invasion of Iran takes delegates back to WWII to relive the unjust nature of war.

On behalf of the APAC Model United Nations Team, I truly hope MUNAPAC'26 will be an unforgettable experience for each and every one of you, and eagerly anticipate welcoming you all to our conference this June.

Warm regards,
Saniyar Safari
Secretary-General, MUNAPAC'26

2. Letter from the Under-Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

We are Can Akın Körpe and Umran Büyükbayram, your Under-Secretaries-General for this committee. We are glad to be writing this study guide as we are both loyal participants of MUN conferences and are in admiration of the extraordinary team behind this conference.

This committee takes you to the 1850s to the United States of America to Worcester, Massachusetts. Here; we will simulate the Worcester Convention, the first women's rights convention to be held in the United States.

For your allocations, keep in mind that you are free to develop your own policies and to change them for flow of debate. Imagine as if you are your own person and find yourself a persona in 1850s USA. You can be a rich landowner housewife from the South or a young abolitionist radical feminist from the North if you please. Be it, you can even develop your own ideologies. This committee is based on creativity, delegate engagement and the betterment of the lifestyles of American women.

To quote Thomas Jefferson, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.”. With this policy in mind, we shall work for equality for all Americans, men and women alike.

If you have any questions regarding this committee or MUN overall, you can reach us at ecekorpe2009@gmail.com and umranbuyukbayram@gmail.com. We hope you find this guide helpful and we are looking forward to meeting you.

Best regards,
Can Akın Körpe and Umran Doğan Büyükbayram
Your Under-Secretaries-General

3. Introduction to the Committee

After the [Seneca Falls Convention](#), women's rights movements and activists increased their awareness considerably. However, in order to achieve their rights a more effective, widespread and recognised gathering was necessary. That is why preparations started in May 1850 to gather a national convention. At the end of the New England Anti Slavery Convention a large meeting took place with the agenda of the necessity of a national women's rights convention. This level of seriousness in change needed a place that is equally embedded in reforms and changes. That is why Worcester, Massachusetts, which has a well-developed network of reform organizations and anti-slavery societies that could support a large gathering, was chosen. Primary organizers consisted of Lucy Stone, Paulins Wright Davis, Elizabeth Cady Stanton (who is the organiser of the Seneca Falls Convention) Eventually the Convention took place in Brinley Hall between October 23-24 1850. This convention marked the first national-scale step for the women's rights movement. Majority being men, more than a 1000 delegates attended the convention. The convention with the mentioned seriousness carried along a radical set of agenda that included:

- Political Equality
- Educational Equality
- Economic Equality
- Property Rights
- Equality Before the Law

These were significantly radical for the view of women in the 1850s. Even the discussion was unorthodox and received harsh criticism around the whole country. That is why it is really crucial for the development of women's rights in the United States and frankly internationally. Another reason why Worcester matters so much is that it demonstrates how deeply intertwined abolitionism and women's rights were. Most of the participants were abolitionists and as a result women's rights followed a similar path to the anti slavery movement with petitions, public meetings, national networks and more. This committee is based on this heated environment of the 1850s with participants taking upon the roles of delegates from different states. Participants are expected to address the women's rights issues, events and produce solutions which will be suggested at the end of the conference. Participants will encounter different events and problems that they will be required to tackle while maintaining the fruitful debates.

4. The Climate of 1850s

4.1. Sociological Climate

The 1850s followed the South and North to be divided into 2 as the North and the South. The North; industrializing and modernizing, getting immigration and being a ground for reform. Cities such as New York and Boston became industrial havens. There was an influx of immigrants from Ireland and Germany due to the “Potato Famine” and political unrest. This led to the “Nativism” “Know-Nothing” movement that was deeply suspicious of Catholics and foreigners. The spirit of the Second Great Awakening (a religious revival) fueled movements for temperance, public education, and women’s rights (just two years after the Seneca Falls Convention).

4.2. Economical Climate

During the 1850s, the American economic climate was defined by rapid industrial growth, intense regional specialization, and a widening divide between the North and the South. The Northern economy boomed as an industrial powerhouse, driven by a massive expansion of railroads, textile mills, and manufacturing plants fueled by an influx of European immigrant labor. Meanwhile, the Southern economy remained predominantly agrarian and highly profitable, yet dangerously dependent on a single cash crop—cotton—and the brutal system of enslaved labor. Westward expansion and the California Gold Rush further stimulated national wealth, banking, and speculation. However, this period of immense growth was also highly volatile, punctuated by the Panic of 1857, a sharp financial crash that exposed the severe systemic and ideological economic rifts that would ultimately help push the nation toward the Civil War.

4.3. Political Climate

In the year of 1850, the United States of America was on a tightrope. The country was falling apart with sides clashing and constant compromises being made. With the Mexican-American War from two years ago, America had gained large parts of land; California, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and New Mexico. The North and South were split; the north wishing for “Free Soil” with no slaves and the South insisting that they deserved to bring slaves onto the land they had fought for. This conflict was ended with “The Compromise of 1850” The graph below illustrates the pillars of the compromise:

Provision	Winner	Impact
California admitted as a free state	North	Permanently tipped the balance of power in the Senate.
Fugitive Slave Act	South	Required Northerners to assist in capturing runaway slaves; fueled abolitionist

		rage.
New Mexico & Utah territories created	Neutral	Used "Popular Sovereignty" (voters decide on slavery), delaying the conflict.
Slave trade abolished in D.C.	North	Ended the public auction of humans in the capital, though slavery itself remained legal there.
Texas settled border disputes	Neutral	Texas gave up land claims in exchange for \$10 million to pay off debts.

5. Previous Significant Events and Advancements Regarding Women’s Rights

5.1. Domestic

Some critical problems lie beneath the significant events and advancements of the American Women’s rights movement. These problems included the demeaning stereotypes such as passive, weak, caregiver towards women and roles such as domestic caretaker. The situation in America was no different. American women experienced rejection from leadership positions and political roles with those views for women still standing. The women who fought and contributed equally as men in the American Revolution to achieve freedom from the consuming tyranny actually did not receive the freedom they should have received a long time ago. Naturally, American women got enraged because of this injustice. Therefore, this situation led to a series of domestic events which were equally significant for international women’s rights achievements.

5.1.1. Seneca Falls Convention

With women starting to speak up about the injustice, protests started to occur and the first convention of the women’s rights history was held on 19 and 20 July 1848 in the Seneca Falls town. Hence the name, Seneca Falls convention. It was organized primarily by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott. 40 of them being men, around 300 people participated in this convention. Convention’s most important resolution was the production of the Declaration of Sentiments. This declaration’s framework was the Declaration of Independence which is the founding document of the United States. This connection made the Declaration of Sentiments a lot more powerful as its foundation is the official document of freedom from Great Britain. The document included eighteen specifically enumerated areas of life where women were treated unjustly. This number was crucial because eighteen was precisely the number of grievances America’s revolutionary forefathers had listed in their Declaration of Independence. The document

consisted of powerful words as the following statement, "The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman, having in direct object the establishment of an absolute tyranny over her. To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world." After this statement came the unjust laws imposed on women which were:

- Married women were legally dead in the eyes of the law
- Women were not allowed to vote
- Women had to submit to laws when they had no voice in their formation
- Married women had no property rights
- Husbands had legal power over and responsibility for their wives to the extent that they could imprison or beat them with impunity
- Divorce and child custody laws favored men, giving no rights to women
- Women had to pay property taxes although they had no representation in the levying of these taxes
- Most occupations were closed to women and when women did work they were paid only a fraction of what men earned
- Women were not allowed to enter professions such as medicine or law
- Women had no means to gain an education since no college or university would accept women students
- With only a few exceptions, women were not allowed to participate in the affairs of the church
- Women were robbed of their self-confidence and self-respect, and were made totally dependent on men

These strong statements allowed a large-scale peak to the status for European-American women in 1848 America, while it was even worse for enslaved Black women. The document demanded women's rights regarding these injustices. Among them, the demand that the people found the most radical was women's suffrage. Even though it was found radical in the beginning, after time it became the center for the women's right movement.

This convention marked the first noticeable step towards the long fight for women's rights. The future women's rights movements increased the spark that the Seneca Falls Convention started, to flames that would burn the barriers which prevented women from having their righteous liberties.

5.2. International

Even though the women's rights movement in the United States was still in its early stages, the demand for greater rights and opportunities for women was emerging worldwide. These developments recognized that questions about women's education, legal status and where they belong in public life were not just getting discussed in America but also all around the world.

5.2.1. Olympe de Gouges and the Declaration of the Rights of Woman (1791)

This is perceived as the first major feminist political document in modern history. We can say that its significance was rooted in the fact that it was a direct challenge against the exclusion of women from the rights promised by the French Revolution. The principle that women should possess the very same political rights as men was established here

5.2.2. Mary Wollstonecraft's A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)

This text can arguably be considered to be the most influential feminist work prior to 1850. The work played as a key tool for providing the intellectual formation for generations of women's rights activists by arguing that women's "lack of ability" was the result of unequal education rather than nature.

5.2.3. Women's Participation in the Anti-Slavery Movement

Many leaders of the American women's rights movement, including Lucy Stone and Lucretia Mott participated in this movement, which makes it more relevant to Worcester. Their exclusion from leadership roles despite their activism convinced a lot of women that they needed a movement of their own.

5.2.4. The Revolutions of 1848

Revolutions across Europe caused people to think more about citizenship, political participation, constitutional rights and equality before the law. Women took part in these actions but they didn't get the rights they helped to demand. It was as clear as day that political reform movements often ignored women's rights and helped strengthen feminist activism all around the globe.

6. Glossary & Further Reading

- <https://cwnc.omeka.chass.ncsu.edu/exhibits/show/benjamin-hedrick/politicalclimate>
- <https://docsteach.org/document/compromise-1850/>
- <https://www.google.com/search?q=https://www.loc.gov/item/98101767/>
- <https://www.google.com/search?q=https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/the-fugitive-slave-laws-and-boston.htm>
- https://www.senate.gov/senators/FeaturedBios/Featured_Bio_Clay.htm
- <https://history.state.gov/departmenthistory/people/webster-daniel>
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Compromise-of-1850>
- <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/compromise-1850>
- <https://thenonviolenceproject.wisc.edu/2023/03/31/the-history-of-the-womens-rights-movement/>
- <https://nationalwomenshistoryalliance.org/history-of-the-womens-rights-movement/>
- <https://www.nps.gov/wori/learn/historyculture/report-of-the-womans-rights-convention.htm>
- <https://www.wwhp.org/historical-library/1850-convention>