

// BRIDGES BEYOND BORDERS

CIRCLE BRIDGE, COPENHAGEN - DENMARK



BIGMONITOR

NEWSLETTER

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WHAT WE WISH WE'D KNOWN



Letter from the Editor

Honourable chairs, distinguished delegates and esteemed guests,

As Editor of the 2026 BIGMONITOR, it is an honour to welcome you to the opening edition of this year's conference coverage. BIGMONITOR at its core is a web of communication throughout the conference, standing on the sidelines, capturing key moments, and connecting through visual design. The BIGMONITOR is a fully student-led project that, during BIGMUN, observes and relays information to delegates, staff and speakers. However, it is more than that, allowing conversations relevant to international relations and local politics to enter the sphere of discussion outside of the conference rooms.

Centred around the theme of Building Connection, this opening publication introduces BIGMUN to the newcomers, and welcomes familiar faces, offering insight, preparation, and early access into the BIGMUN spirit.

Truth be told, there is much I could say about the importance of BIGMUN, about how it shapes young people's understanding of the world. Especially through an international lens, delving into politics, economics and social responsibility. I have chosen to spend my words in this letter focusing on the importance of language. Language shapes all of us, and, whether written or spoken, words have a strong impact on ourselves and those around us.

BIGMUN itself relies on language to communicate complex ideas and strategies, the same ways that students from different countries will use language to break cultural barriers in debate. Language holds a special place in the BIGMONITOR too, as journalists mold it to write compelling articles, as designers pick fonts, as photographers convey meaning without words, and as the social media team update and entertain through their online presence. It can be difficult to know whether individuals or communities across borders share our perspectives, and with the polarising effects of politics and social media, the expression of diverse perspectives is crucial.

BIGMUN acts as a bridge, from continent to continent, from school to school, and from person to person. Here, we all have a chance to explore the nuanced perspectives of global issues, and encourage diverse opinions. In this way, language is central to the conference, allowing for students to embrace opposing opinions and gain tolerance for disagreement. Political and societal changes rarely stem from easy agreements, but grow from discussion, negotiation, and a willingness to hear all perspectives. From the press room, I have seen friends butting heads, strangers finding equal ground, and resolutions being negotiated. And that's the point isn't it? To be able to explore these difficult conversations in a safe environment that forges friendships above all else.

It is a privilege to use language to document BIGMUN 2026, and to urge my journalism team to convey the enjoyment and complexity of the conference. While the press team doesn't participate in the debate, we will be the watchful eyes that get to report on the larger issues that define BIGMUN, community, international politics, and cultural literacy. We hope you enjoy this first publication and look forward to meeting our readers in February.

Anna Sørensen
Editor of the BIGMONITOR



Getting To Know *BIGMUN*

Written by Malin McKay

Serving its 14th annual conference in 2026, Birkerød Gymnasium Model United Nations (*BIGMUN*) is the world of engagement you didn't know you needed! The conference is fully student-led and organised by the self-styled "BIG 12," a nod to the "Big Three" of the League of Nations era — Woodrow Wilson (USA), David Lloyd George (Britain), and Georges Clemenceau (France). *BIGMUN* is about making change for the individual and seeing its impact on the whole.

Hosted by Birkerød Gymnasium just outside Copenhagen, the conference brings together students from around the world for several days of debate, diplomacy, and collaboration. It has grown into one of Scandinavia's largest and most prestigious MUN conferences, welcoming delegates and teachers from diverse backgrounds.





Throughout the conference, delegates deliver speeches, negotiate resolutions, and collaborate across cultural and political differences. Beyond formal debate, BIGMUN is known for its vibrant atmosphere, from intense lobbying sessions to social events that foster lasting friendships and international understanding.

Participants step into the roles of diplomats, policymakers, and international representatives, engaging in structured debate on pressing global issues. Committees range from multiple General Assemblies and ECOSOC bodies to specialised committees like the Security Council, WHO, UNHCR, OHCHR, and Crisis Committees, allowing delegates to choose what best matches their interests and experience.



With a dedicated academic and press team, including the daily conference newspaper BIGMONITOR, BIGMUN offers a dynamic and immersive experience. Whether attending for the first time or returning as a seasoned delegate, BIGMUN 2026 promises challenging debate, meaningful dialogue, and an unforgettable international experience.

from screens to speeches: getting in the bigmun spirit

written by Malin McKay

As a writer and full-time atmosphere enthusiast, I am well acquainted with the need to fully immerse oneself in the vibe of an event. BIGMUN is no exception. From high-stakes debate to late-night resolutions, here is the BIGMONITOR's curated list of movies, series, and songs to help you step fully into the BIGMUN spirit. If you try any of these, tag us at @bigmun.2026 on socials — we'd love to see it!



Set largely at the UN, **The Interpreter** captures the power of language and the real-world consequences of global dialogue. Stream The Interpreter on Netflix, HBO Max and Amazon Prime Video.

film



Winning London focuses on campaigning, public image, and strategic communication, skills which serve as essential to committee debate. Streaming is available on Apple TV.

When Worlds Collide explores global crises and international response, emphasizing multilateral problem-solving and the moral dilemmas that arise when countries must cooperate under extreme pressure. Available for streaming via Amazon Prime.



the official BIGMUN '26 playlist



From confidence-boosting anthems like Everybody Wants to Rule the World (Lorde) and Beyoncé's Run the World (Girls), to performance-driven tracks like Lose Yourself (Eminem), and reflective classics such as Vienna (Billy Joel) and Non, je ne regrette rien (Édith Piaf), this playlist mirrors the rhythm of BIGMUN itself.



You can find the full playlist here: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0xASwP51a81vFNlBHKnrIk?si=DJUQ01ZURIKu2z730Zr7eg>



television



Madam Secretary

Dives directly into diplomacy, crisis management, and ethical decision-making at the highest level. Stream it on Amazon Prime and Skyshowtime.

Suits, though set in a corporate legal world, is a masterclass in navigating debate, using verbal strategy and fiery confidence. Stream the series on Netflix, Prime Video or Apple TV.



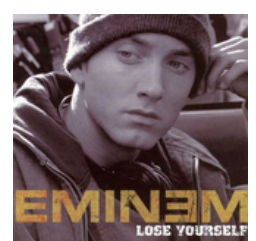
The Diplomat

follows an ambassador navigating high-stakes international crises, offering a modern look at diplomacy, negotiation, and the personal pressure behind global decision-making. Stream on Netflix.



the official

bigmun '26 playlist



You can find the full playlist here: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0xASwP51a81vFNlbHKNrik?si=DJUQ01ZURIKu2z73OZr7eg>



Challenges Beyond Borders

Right now, more than 110 million people have been forced to flee their homes due to war, violence, and persecution — the highest number in recorded history. The international political, social, economic and environmental welfare grows a larger battle for the global community, marking a clear defining period for humanity. The complexity of progression and instability is a popular topic in discussions amongst politicians and experts. Nations across the world are facing challenges that are necessary to attend to, surpassing their own borders. A rise in security threats, economic uncertainty, social inequality, environmental crisis and rapid technological advancements continue their attempt to prevail against the foundations of our civilization. The necessity of diplomacy is becoming critical within this period of ambivalence and chaos.

Securing justice, security and global order

Increasing pressure on global order and social justice to retain stability has created fear and insecurity, leading economic investments to be directed toward military expenditures amid unresolved regional and national conflicts. Despite efforts to instate international nuclear disarmament, many find it unjustifiable, and it remains an elusive goal. As the world stands at a crossroad, the question remains whether the global arena will prioritize national security built on deterrence or embrace collaboration in the pursuit of global disarmament. Recent reports have cast a focus on the growing geopolitical tensions surrounding Greenland, where European leaders have firmly backed Denmark's sovereignty and rejected recent U.S. tariff threats linked to pressure over Arctic security and influence - a situation that underscores how even remote regions are now turning points in international diplomacy and strategic competition.

Securing justice, security and global order

Growth without compromise
As development sacrifices human rights, equality, or environmental sustainability, it ultimately undermines long-term global stability and prosperity. True progress cannot be measured by economic growth alone. Attention has been shifted away from investments in environmental sustainability, though such efforts are essential for lasting economic progress. It is vital during this time to highlight the necessity for inclusive growth that reduces global inequality with collaboration from governments, global institutions and corporations that hold this responsibility in the hands of our society. This issue is urgent: according to the UN, over 1.3 billion people live in extreme poverty, global CO₂ emissions reached a record 36.3 billion tonnes in 2025, while rapid technological change continues to widen the wealth gap. Trends that demand immediate and coordinated global action.

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Social, cultural and humanitarian realities

The human impact of the present global issues goes beyond the political or economic state of the world, as people collectively battle to acquire the basic necessities to live. Social challenges such as poverty, migration, education gaps, and limited access to healthcare demonstrate that without adequate support, individuals cannot achieve equal opportunities on a global scale. Although globalization has challenged local traditions and identities it has highlighted the resilience, unity and social cohesion of communities. Recently, EU nations have started collaborating together to support Ukrainian refugees with housing, education, healthcare, and work, fostering inclusion and social cohesion across communities.

The choice before us

Humanity faces a defining choice, one that will determine whether global cooperation or division will guide the future. The presence and significance of justice and security that will ultimately lead to sustainable growth is crucial by means of international cooperation and multilateralism. Inaction or division will only deepen instability and conflict; decisions must be guided by both practical and moral considerations. The path forward demands shared responsibility and global unity, through a collective effort will this goal be achievable.

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Engineering the next age

The progression of technology in the 21st century has actively shaped the future, eliminating tensions and encouraging partnerships across international borders. Innovation, science, and technology play a central role in tackling global challenges by providing practical solutions - driving sustainable development and improving quality of life worldwide. Greater focus should be invested into improving research, education and development as the next generation is the drivers for long - term progress. By driving sustainable growth, strengthening security, and reinforcing worldwide stability, innovation must be guided with intention, responsibility, and inclusion to shape the next age of global development. In recent weeks, breakthroughs in technology have showcased how engineers and scientists are shaping the future. Experts have pointed to innovations such as direct air capture and other emerging climate technologies that could remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, illustrating how technological development is becoming central to global efforts against climate change.

PROGRAMME

BIGMUN 2026

WEDNESDAY - FEBRUARY 18TH

13:00 - 15:30

Welcome and Registration

There will be staff waiting at Birkerød Station to escort visitors to Birkerød Gymnasium. Sandwiches will be available upon arrival

14:00 - 15:30

Student Officer briefing

14:00 - 15:30

Take seats for Opening Ceremony

There will be staff positioned around Birkerød Gymnasium and in the ceremony room to help Delegates find their seats.

16:00 - 17:15

Opening Ceremony

17:15 - 18:45

Host family pickup

THURSDAY- FEBRUARY 18TH

08:30 - 09:00

late registration

08:45 - 09:00

Student Officer briefing

ECOSOC

09:00 - 11:30

Introductions

11:40 - 12:00

Lunch

12:00 - 16:45

Committees in session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

09:00 - 11:30

Introductions

11:40 - 12:00

Lunch

12:00 - 16:45

Committees in session

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

09:00 - 11:30

Introductions

11:40 - 12:00

Lunch

12:00 - 16:45

Committees in session

14:15 - 14:30

Student Officer debriefing

09:00 - 14:15

Approval Panel Open

FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 20TH

08:45 - 09:00

Student Officer briefing

09:15 - 10:30

Panel Session in F-Hall

All Delegates and Student Officers meet in their committee rooms to leave their coats and bags. Thereafter the Student Officers will lead the Delegates to the Assembly Hall. All the rooms will be locked after.

ECOSOC

10:30 - 11:30

Committees in session

11:30 - 12:00

Lunch

12:00 - 14:15

Committees in session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

09:00 - 12:00

Introductions

11:40 - 12:00

Lunch

12:00 - 16:45

Committees in session

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

09:00 - 11:30

Introductions

11:40 - 12:00

Lunch

12:00 - 16:45

Committees in session

14:15 - 14:30

Student Officer debriefing

09:00 - 14:15

Approval Panel Open

14:30 - 17:00

Canal tour

Buses leave at 15:00 sharp for the Canal Tour of Copenhagen. The evening is then free for participants to socialize.

SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 21ST

08:45 - 09:00

Student Officer briefing

ECOSOC

09:00 - 12:30

Committees in session

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 17:00

Plenary session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

09:00 - 12:30

Committees in session

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch

14:00 - 17:00

Plenary session

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

09:00 - 13:00

Committees in session

13:00 - 14:30

Lunch

14:30 - 17:00

Committees in session

17:00 - 17:15

Student Officer Debriefing

9:00-16:45 (ADHOC)

09:00 - 12:30 (GA AND ECOSOC)

Approval Panel Open

GAs and ECOSOCs can use the Approval Panel up until lunch. The Panel will stay open for Special committees until closing.

17:00 - 20:30

Dinner buffet and party

Buses leave at 21:00

PROGRAMME

BIGMUN 2026

SUNDAY - FEBRUARY 22ND

08:45 - 09:00

Student Officer briefing

ECOSOC

09:00 - 12:00

Plenary session

12:00 - 12:30

Lunch

12:30 - 14:00

Plenary session

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

09:00 - 12:00

Plenary session

12:00 - 12:30

Lunch

12:30 - 14:00

Plenary session

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

09:00 - 11:30

Committees in session

11:30 - 12:00

Lunch

12:00 - 14:00

Committees in session

09:00 - 13:00

Approval Panel Open
Open only for Special committees

14:00 - 15:00

Closing Ceremony and awards

BIGMUN

2026 Topics Overview

By Zenith Hammeken

BIGMUN 2026 is approaching, and hundreds of students are preparing to take part in four days of debate and diplomacy. With 14 committees and 25 delegates in each, BIGMUN 2026 will host over 350 lovely participants who will gather to discuss some of the world's most pressing challenges of our time. As the BIGMONITOR press team, we are preparing to follow you into the conference room, capturing the arguments, alliances, and unexpected plot twists that make this conference so memorable. Our goal is simple: to help you understand not just what you will be debating, but why these topics matter now. This year's theme, 'Building Bridges Beyond Borders', encourages delegates to look beyond the interests of their countries of choice and focus on mutual responsibility across the globe. Below, we break down what you can expect in some of the committees you will soon be representing, what kinds of debates they encourage, which real-world situations they connect to, and which countries harbour strong opinions on specific topics.

General Assembly Committees

The General Assembly is often the safest place for newer delegates to begin. The topics are broad, global, and deeply connected to the human experience. Take SOCHUM, for example. Delegates advocating for SOCHUM will be debating on ongoing humanitarian crises, and will be talking about people—their rights, their culture, and their safety. They might discuss the displacement of indigenous communities in the Amazon rainforest due to illegal gold mining or they might discuss the extreme natural hazards in Southeast Asia and East Africa. These topics invite emotional, heartfelt speeches, moral arguments, and mutual collaboration. You are likely to see delegates who arrived nervous the first day of the conference delivering passionate speeches and arguments by the third day. Then there is DISEC, which sits at the other end of the spectrum. Delegates of the DISEC can expect a more strategic, high-stakes atmosphere, whilst debating about rising global tensions and security. It might be mentioned that unmanned weapons are a defining feature of modern conflict, such as it is seen with prevalent drone warfare in the Middle East and Eastern Europe; and that territorial disputes, such as the disputes across the South China Sea, are impacting international security; or global arms trafficking networks.



Commissions of the Economic and Social Council

Where real-world problems meet real-world solutions, the ECOSOC commissions are often the most grounded in reality. Their committees deal with issues that governments and international organisations face daily, from economic instability to social discord. If you are in the CSTD, you will be preparing for debates that balance innovation with responsibility. It is likely that ethical topics surrounding the use of technology will be brought up; such as AI bias, a prominent topic of concern, with its rapid development, as governments have been adopting automated systems for policing, hiring, and border control; and how the energy costs of data centres have been detrimental to the environment, especially in Europe and North America. Another candidate is the CCPCJ, in which delegates are likely to have to debate about human trafficking, as it is especially prevalent in Southeast Asia and Eastern Europe, justice against sex crimes, and systemic racism. Future lawyers will likely blossom here.

Special Councils and Committees

Where diplomacy becomes urgent, the Special Councils and Committees focus on vulnerable communities, active conflicts, human rights violations, and other issues that demand immediate action. The SC delegates will face some of the most urgent geopolitical flashpoints of 2026, such as the tensions between Thailand and Cambodia over border demarcation that have escalated. The committee is intense and will demand a lot of quick thinking from its delegates. Committees like the UNHCR and OHCHR focus on refugee camp conditions, responsibility sharing, and human rights violations, including ongoing displacement crises and asylum policy debates in Europe and the Americas. The CC is just as much of a mystery to the delegates as it is to us, seeing as the Chairs will decide the topics on the day of the conference.

From the onset of the BIGMUN 2026 this February, delegates will bring these issues to life through debates and diplomacy. The press team will be right alongside you to capture every moment during the conference. We at Birkerød Gymnasium cannot wait to see you!



WHAT MAKES A GOOD DELEGATE?

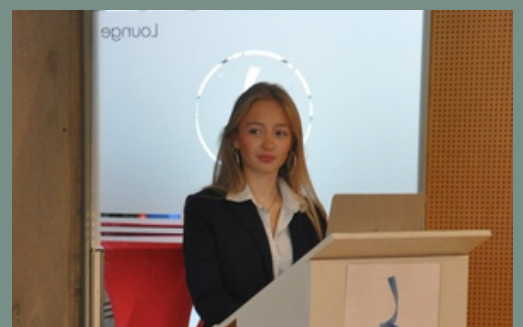
Article By Keilah Emmanuella

Design by Sophia Hede

Each year, MUN conferences bring together students from a wide range of backgrounds, and BIGMUN is no exception. As BIGMUN week approaches, Birkerød Gymnasium looks forward to welcoming hundreds of delegates into its committee rooms, some familiar with the structure, and others completely new to MUN. And with so many potentially new faces, it's natural to ask, "What makes a good delegate?"

Those familiar with BIGMUN will know that strong delegates rarely fit into one mold and there is no single approach that guarantees success. Still, certain habits and attitudes tend to shape more productive debate, such as coming with a clear sense of one's country's priorities and staying open to compromise for a better conference experience.

Public speaking naturally plays a part throughout the process. At BIGMUN, delegates bring a range of speaking styles. From carefully prepared statements, to spontaneous interventions. These contributions clarify ideas and introduce new perspectives. Ultimately, what matters most is committee discussions built on what has already been said.





WHAT MAKES A GOOD DELEGATE

Beyond speaking, preparing is also important, it doesn't mean memorising every detail. Rather, a clear understanding of one's delegation and its goals, helps more effectively. Furthermore, supporting your statements with real-world developments from the news or existing international agreements, also adds direction and clarity to discussion.

Diplomacy is another important and sometimes underestimated skill in BIGMUN. While speeches are the most visible part of committee sessions, much progress also happens through negotiation discussions. Delegates who can listen to others and compromise when necessary, often achieve stronger and more widely supported outcomes.

To conclude, when asked what makes a good delegate, the answer is rarely about being flawless or experienced. More often, it comes down to effort, openness, and a willingness to engage—whether through thorough preparation or constructive debate. These qualities are often what the Best Delegate award seeks to recognise at the end of the conference. As BIGMUN week approaches, delegates can aim not to be perfect, but prepared, collaborative, and purposeful.

MEET THE PRESS

The importance of journalism is ever-present in our big and complex world, and the BIGMONITOR is not exempt from the expectations placed on relaying information on BIGMUN. As Head of Journalism it is my honour to introduce you to the press team that will withhold the standards of a student led news outlet as they write, edit, design, post and photograph for our audience. It is time to look behind the curtain and into A14 to familiarise with the teams that turn the cogs of the BIGMONITOR.



HEADS OF PRESS



In the BIGMONITOR, the Heads of Press lead the departments necessary for the publishing of each issue. Both third year students, Malin McKay and Emma Bargmann oversee the complex process of coordinating 40 or so students to write, design, photograph and post material for each issue. Over the years of BIGMUN, there have been changes with every head of press, and this year, the addition of a January newsletter to open the conference and a March newsletter to wrap up the events has been added. We hope this change will give new opportunities for you to experience BIGMUN through the press team's eyes.

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

The Department of Journalism is responsible for the various articles that you, our audience will enjoy reading. The journalism team is led by myself, Anna Sørensen and Diva Srivastava. Our aim this year is to demonstrate the incredible talent that our journalists bring to the team and into their writing. In the upcoming issues of BIGMONITOR, you can expect informative articles that report on the events of BIGMUN, alongside pieces exploring relevant political, and international topics. And don't fret, there will also be entertaining articles, and more informal opinion pieces to enjoy.

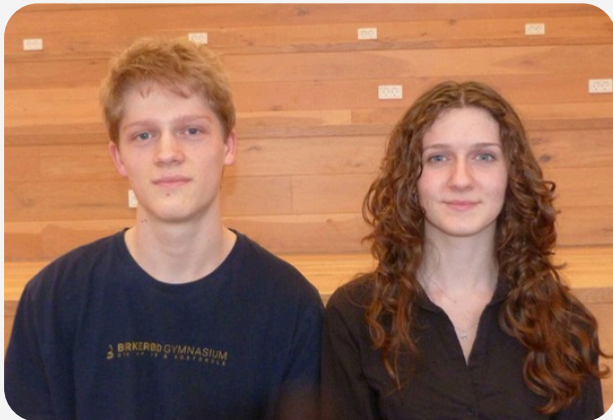


DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN

The Department of Design is the one that turns the aforementioned articles into visually digestible publications. Heading this team are Neo Nongcebo Qhobosheane, Margot Dejean and Mohammadmatin Mosayebi, creatives in their own right, guiding the design team and organising each issue's layout. Their job is to clearly communicate the messages of the issues visually through colour, images, and overarching design. These students are also responsible for the aesthetics of the BIGMONITOR covers, which is often our audience's first impression of the magazine. The design team will deliver collages of photographs, visually appealing articles, and unique layouts for your enjoyment.



DEPARTMENT OF PHOTOGRAPHY



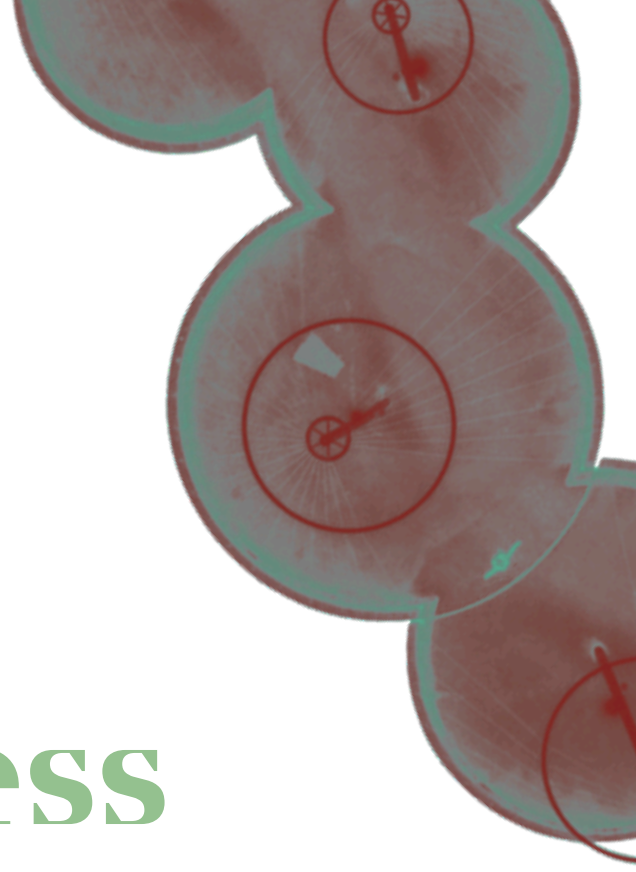
Similar to the Department of Design, the Department of Photography represents BIGMUN through visual mediums. Olivia Emmett and Julius Ohly lead a team of students who will venture into the debate halls and panel sessions to photograph the happenings of committees and interviews. The team captures not only rooms but individuals such as speakers, delegates, members of staff and those deserving a spot on the Best Dressed page of the BIGMONITOR where your fashionable outfits will be featured.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA

Last, but never least is the Department of Social Media that is led by Sophia Hede and Zoe Pattinson. This team has control over the BIGMUN social media accounts that post both entertaining content and necessary information needed for the conference. The team uses their own videos and photographs from the photography team to spread the joy that comes out of BIGMUN in debate rooms and lunch breaks. These updates and photos are able to act as an online keepsake for the memories made at the conference.



These departments will be the eyes, ears and camera lenses that will report during BIGMUN, and we can't wait to see you all in February.



From the Press

Room:

Building
Connections



at BIGMONITOR

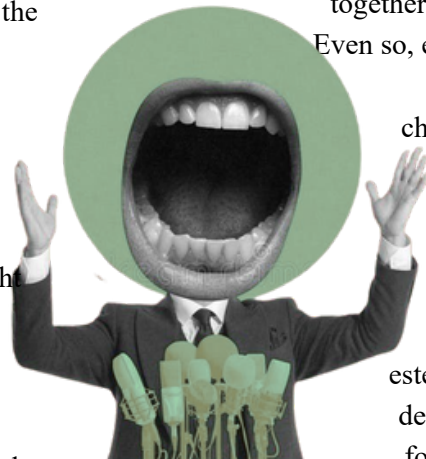
BIGMONITER builds connections through the work we put into the world.

By Malin McKay

Design by Neo Qhobosheane

We establish a connection to our audience through the interviews we do, the pride we take in our work, and through ensuring that we have a dedicated team. One that connects with each other through editing, the exhaustion of the conference, and other mundane things.

Our collaboration at BIGMONITOR is the core of our connections. Beneath the layers of stress, tears and blood, what we emphasise to our teams is that clear communication and good collaboration make our world go 'round. We see it through the photographers accompanying our interviewers and giving their opinions on the questions being asked; through our design team pairing up with our writers to ensure that the layouts of our magazine are as crisp and inviting as they can be. We see it through the opinions that our SoMe team express at the photos we receive from our photographers; about where we need more, where we have too many people, and where, in the lucky chance that we get it right, we have just the right amount of people. We are working on this newsletter before most of those involved in the conference have even thought about writing their research papers and preparing for their roles. Mistakes that we see throughout the week seem inevitable: American spelling, a typo on a post, blurry photos or a miscredit in a layout, but we work to minimise them, and if we miss one, we laugh about it when it's pointed out. All in a days work, most would say.



The connections we form with you, our readers, are born of the connections we've built in the A14 classroom, with its windows that never stay open, the clack of heels, and the "ask your head of department before asking us" of it all. We have built lasting friendships and memories not necessarily on purpose, but born of the necessity of having someone who has gone through the same pressures as you have—a kind of comrade-in-arms. We hope that the efforts we put into our work come across as more than just a newspaper by a couple of high-schoolers, because when it comes down to it, we wouldn't be anywhere without the hundreds of delegates, chairs, staff, and teachers who have read our works over the years.

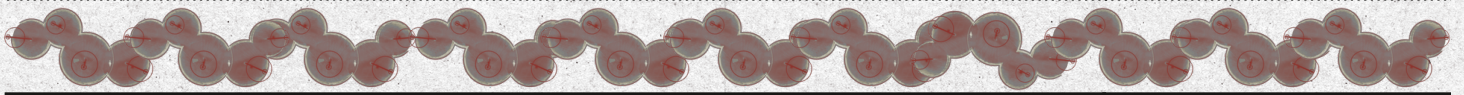
The fact that BIGMONITOR is a staple at BIGMUN is only because readers from the past decade have picked up our magazine and thought, "this is worth reading and worth my time," and we thank you for keeping us in business. It reminds us, every year, that connection and attention are not things we can demand; they are things we have to earn, page by page.

From my previous years of experience I can tell you that the BIGMUN conference as a writer is gruelling, chaotic and, most of all, an opportunity to see my craft appreciated in the real world of print. We work day in, day out, throughout this conference, creating magazines and content that are enjoyed around the globe by thousands of people each year. We get the chance to reflect on the speeches, panels, and resolutions passed, real-world issues and solutions, while also putting together fun and inviting TikToks and Instagram posts. Even so, every issue reminds us how much we still have to learn, and how much this work continues to challenge us. As the press team we are the voice of the many, the writers, photographers, media personnel and designers of the future. If we didn't have hundreds of people to talk to and events to cover, we wouldn't be needed, so as the press team, we thank you esteemed guests, honourable chairs, distinguished delegates and our hardworking members of staff, for keeping us employed, and giving us so many fun and exciting things to write about. We truly hope you enjoy the press coverage from our team this year, and can't wait to see you all at the conference.



Written by:
Eva Knudsen

Layout:
Sophia Victoria



FROM FACES TO FRIENDSHIPS

“I see me maybe going to her country or her going to my country”.

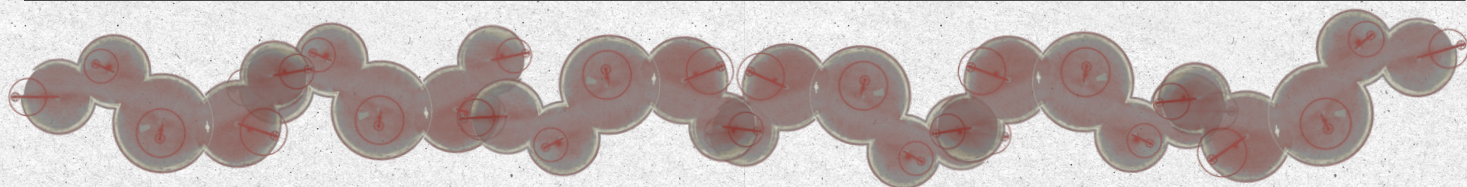


“I think I would be really excited to see them again” says Eva-Maria, 3rd year student at Birkerød Gymnasium, attending BIGMUN for the third time. For all the BIGMUN participants I’m interviewing, Caroline in the 2nd year, and Susy also in her 3rd year, excitement to see their friends from BIGMUN again, paints a smile on all their faces.

Even though friends can be a long train-ride to Germany or flight to Turkey away, most of the time the people furthest away make the deepest impacts on you. At BIGMUN, friendships are formed from what at first are mere faces but quickly turn into bonds and deep-felt friendships.



Ideas and visions of the next meet-up outside of the conference also fill the participants’ imaginations, for example Susy tells me about her thoughts on how for her, “doing something active with them” would be a thrilling way to “get to that deeper level” that every friendship needs. Because even though BIGMUN is a great way to form friendships fast, bonding with the ones you find interesting happens on its own. The host programme that the conference offers also allows for these friendships to grow even closer.



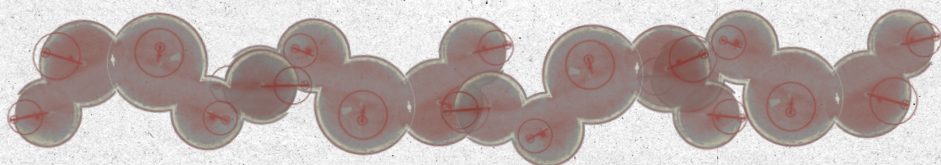
"You don't know who is important to you until you actually lose them"

This quote from Mahatma Gandhi echoes the experiences of all four girls I've interviewed about BIGMUN based long-distance friendships. They've taught me that while it can be difficult, these friendships also give a rare perspective on the people you love, and how much distance can show you really appreciate them.

They say absence makes the heart grow fonder, and that couldn't be more true for these girls. They've given their experience of how distance can allow for friendships to bloom in a way that is different to most. You can call your friend all the nicknames in the world, tease them when they forget your other friend's birthday, or laugh at them falling to the ground. Yet, at the end of the day, when you part ways, you realize just how much love you have for them and how much you'll miss them when they're gone.



For all the participants, open-mindedness and respect for others are also keys to "expand your social circle" at BIGMUN. Eva-Maria tells me that she has formed several friendships through the conference but finds that it's different from other conferences she's attended in Poland and the Netherlands. Friendships formed from BIGMUN can improve your social skills and widen your perception of people different from you.



Even though participants have nationalities from all over the globe, we're all from different parts of the world, we still have something in common. We're all human, from the same spinning rock in the middle of the universe and we're all participants at BIGMUN. As long as we look for those commonalities, friendships will form in a flash.

Expectations of these friendships shouldn't be low, but more open to surprises, because to Caroline, the friendship she formed through BIGMUN and being a host, is a good one. She shows me her pictures after some of the other participants leave. From the beautiful mountains to the hills of Germany, the infamous Oktoberfest, and biking with her friend. "When she asked me to come, I was surprised" Caroline says, but "wants it to become tradition" to travel to Germany or Denmark and go on adventures with her friend.

DRESS CODE

BIGMUN is a formal conference, therefore the conference requires all attendants to dress in **professional business casual attire at a minimum**. This includes suits, ties, professional dresses, skirts of modest length, no shorter than one palm width above the knee, or slacks with a blazer.

This ensures that everyone looks professional and stylish, however, still have the ability to apply their **own creative spin for the best dressed issues.**

More specific requirements:

- Dress code must be worn throughout the conference
- Visible ID badge
- Blouses, button-down shirts, sweaters, smart trousers, midi skirts are recommended
- **NO** hoodies, open toed shoes, denim, national costume/military attire, bowties, team accessories, or sportswear

Recommendations for packing:

- 2-3 bottoms (dress pants and skirts)
- 4-6 tops (blouses, button up shirts, sweaters)
- 1-2 pairs of dress shoes
- 1-2 ties (for gentlemen)
- Casual clothing for the party



Throughout the conference, all attendants are expected to adhere to the dress code and must wear their badge visibly at all times to be allowed entrance to the conference. Any breaks in the dress code are considered serious violations of the code of conduct and may therefore result in the disruption to their participation.



The conference week is five days total meaning that all participants travelling abroad must pack sufficient formal attire to last throughout the conference. The party on the 22nd of February is dress code free and so the more creative the outfit, the better.

We are excited to welcome you all and see your fabulously planned outfits!

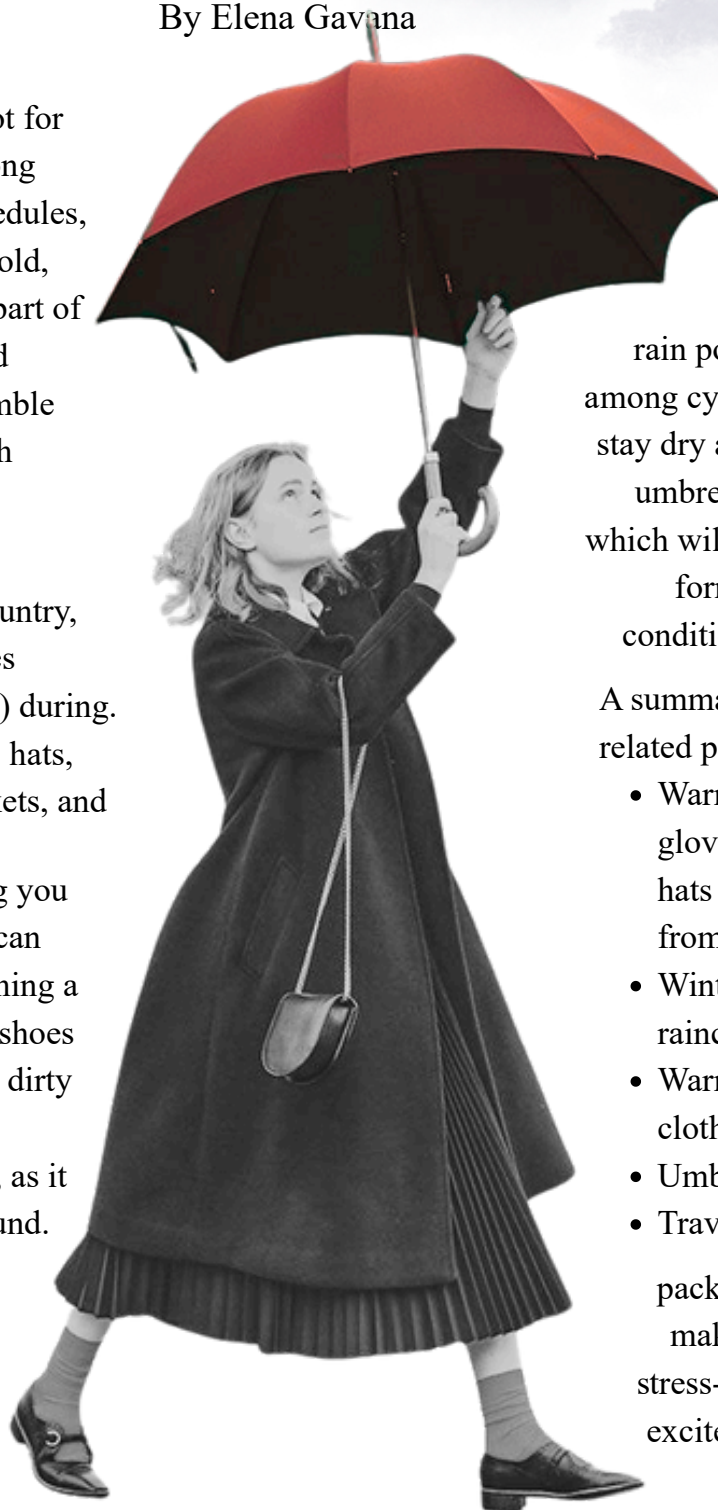
How to Stay Snug *and Stylish* in Copenhagen

By Elena Gavana

BIGMUN in February is not for the unprepared. Between long days of debate, packed schedules, and Copenhagen's winter cold, self-care quickly becomes part of the strategy. Planning ahead means arriving ready to rumble and equipped to handle both committee pressure and the weather outside!

As Denmark is a Nordic country, you can expect temperatures between 0–7°C (32–44.2°F) during late February, which means hats, gloves, scarves, winter jackets, and the like are a good idea to pack. Ensuring you are warm and comfortable can help prevent you from catching a cold, and packing a pair of shoes that you don't mind getting dirty is also a good idea when sightseeing in Copenhagen, as it helps avoid the muddy ground.

Though the weather in Copenhagen can be starkly different from that of many of the visiting delegates' own countries,



However, it will not only be cold but also wet. In Denmark, it rains very frequently, which makes plastic rain ponchos a fashion must among cyclists. Another way to stay dry and chic is to bring an umbrella or pack a raincoat, which will keep your smart and formal clothes in pristine condition for the conference.

A summary of some weather-related packing ideas:

- Warm scarves, thick gloves, and comfortable hats that protect your ears from the cold
- Winter jackets and raincoats
- Warm jumpers and clothing that can be layered
- Umbrellas
- Travelling shoes

packing the right items can make it a comfortable and stress-free experience. We're excited to see you brave the Copenhagen climate!



A chat with Isabella Hilmar & Buster O'Donoghue on past BIGMUN experiences and best tips for newcomers.

Written by Malin McKay:

With the conference looming in the now not so distant future, the mixed feelings of anticipation and apprehension begin to creep in. With a conference this large, it's impossible not to feel at least a little nervous for your first day, whether as a delegate, guest or student officer. In preparation for this newsletter we had the opportunity to ask two delegates with experience from the conference about their experiences and advice for first time attendees or anyone looking for a bit of reassurance leading up to the conference.

Meet **Buster O'Donoghue** and **Isabella Hilmar**. Buster took part in BIGMUN once last year, and was a part of GA4 (The Special Political and Decolonization Committee). Isabella Hilmar has been a delegate at BIGMUN twice, in ECOSOC3 (Commission on the Status of Women) and ECOSOC 4 (Commission on Science and Technology for Development).

"There's a lot more pressure to say the right thing, and you don't want to look silly in front of that many people."

Buster O'Donoghue

Reflecting on his first experience, Buster explains how speaking during plenary sessions was far more intimidating than individual committee debates. Isabella fully agrees and shares that for her, the biggest challenge was having to think on the spot, when answering points of interest (POIs) from other delegates.

“If I don’t have an answer, that’s kind of terrifying.”

Isabella Hilmar

“I didn’t feel prepared to give a speech and then sometimes not being able to answer POIs,” she adds.

When asked how reality measured up to expectation:

“I think I inflated it a bit in my mind, but I’ve definitely gotten better over the years at answering POIs, and I’ve learned there’s always an answer.”

“People are usually nervous at first, but then people start making speeches or saying something funny, which makes everything easier.”

Isabella Hilmar

Both delegates say that initial awkwardness fades quickly. Isabella notes that even one dramatic action or speech from a “villain-coded nation like Russia” can break the ice in committees.

Buster adds that committee and council chairs set a welcoming tone from the start, and he emphasizes the value of icebreakers — a point Isabella enthusiastically agrees with.

“Once we finished icebreakers, we were all very comfortable with each other. We’re actually still friends, so we really did get the chance to connect.”

“Understanding your country’s point of view and the historical context matters most, but I wish I’d spent more time preparing clauses or speeches in advance.”

Buster O'Donoghue

On preparation, both delegates stress that research is never wasted, but connecting with the countries represented is crucial. Isabella reflects:

“I’d spend more time researching what other countries think. One of the first things you do is talk to other countries and collaborate, and that’s much easier if you already know their positions.”

Buster adds practical advice for debate preparation:

“Practice debating, and learn to research quickly. Many struggle with finding facts or statistics fast. Preparing clauses or speeches in advance makes debate feel more fluid and helps you fully participate.”

“Being well slept and well dressed is what makes me feel my best throughout the week.”

Buster O'Donoghue

Buster explains that walking around in a full suit not only looks the part but helps you feel it too. Isabella adds:

“Along with a good outfit for each day, the more risk you take, the more comfortable you become — because you’ve tried it.”

BIGMONITOR

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// BRIDGES BEYOND BORDERS