Trouble in the Dreamhouse

FEBRUARY 2ND, 2024 - FEBRUARY 4TH, 2024 CRISIS COMMITTEE | BLACKSBURG, VA





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THE PREMIER VIRGINIA TECH MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE VTMUNC.ORG



Dear Delegates of VTMUNC I,

We appreciate your participation and dedication to the premier Virginia Tech Model United Nations Conference's efforts to promote productive and civil discourse and conversation. Nevertheless, please be warned that some presentations, discussions, and or information found in the background guides may contain delicate or triggering material. At Virginia Tech, we prioritize fostering a safe and inclusive environment, so we want to ensure that you are prepared for the nature of the discussions to occur.

That being said, the following content areas may contain sensitive material:

- 1. Conflict Zones & Human Rights Violations: Some conversations may involve sensitive global problems including human rights violations, armed conflicts, and or other difficult themes.
- 2. Sensitive Cultural or Religious Topics: Some topics may raise sensitive cultural or religious issues for individuals.
- 3. **Violence and Trauma:** In their speeches or resolutions, delegates may reference incidents of violence, trauma, or abuse in real-world scenarios that may potentially be a sensitive topic to delegates in committee.
- 4. **Discussions about Discrimination and Marginalization:** Emotionally intense discussions concerning discrimination, marginalization, or inequity may arise during committee.

As you prepare for the conference, we encourage all of our delegates to approach these discussions with both respect and empathy for differing perspectives. If the content of these committees is something that you are uncomfortable with, we recommend that you take the appropriate steps to prioritize your well-being, such as seeking support from conference staff or Secretariat of VTMUNC I.

Bound by the motto Ut Prosim (That I May Serve), we serve to ensure that we will promote constructive and respectful dialogue during committee sessions. As you prepare and participate in the conference, we promise that VTMUNC I will stay committed to creating a space where all your voices are heard and are welcome.

Thank you for your compassion and cooperation to our goal of respectful and intellectual discourse for all. We hope that as you progress with our conference, you continue to bloom.

Sincerely,

Aaryan Menon, Secretary General of VTMUNC I Shriya Chemudupati, Under-Secretary General of General Assemblies of VTMUNC I Madeline Pedersen, Under-Secretary General of Specialized Agencies of VTMUNC I Juan Camilo Bonilla, Under-Secretary General of Crisis Committees of VTMUNC I



CONFERENCE GUIDELINES

The first iteration of the Virginia Tech Model United Nations Conference, otherwise known as VTMUNC I, is committed to providing a safe and pleasurable experience for all delegates, advisors, and individuals involved with VTMUNC I. Although participating in Model UN is being involved in competitive activity, its fundamental purpose is to uphold and put into practice both the principles of diplomacy, collaboration, and cooperation. Any individual that violates the policies and procedures of VTMUNC I and the ideals of an open and inclusive environment will be subject to disciplinary action from the staff of VTMUNC I; disciplinary action may include a warning or being disqualified from receiving awards. Promoting an environment that is open to all by being safe, equitable, and exhilarating is our utmost priority. In order to ensure this, the following are **prohibited**:

- 1. Any pre-writing or working on committee content outside of VTMUNC I committee sessions (as described by the Schedule of Program).
- 2. Any speeches, directives, crisis arcs, or actions in committee that intend to create violence or promote a violent environment to a specific group of people, including mentions of sexual violence, graphic violence, and other behavior that is beyond committee guidelines.
- 3. Any hate speech, written documents, or behavior that uses language that is discriminatory and disrespectful, including but not limited to any language that is racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, xenophobic, antisemitic, Islamophobic, or language harmful to any specific group.
- 4. Any actions that are deliberate, both knowingly and intentionally, to bully, harass, or otherwise harmful behavior that may or has hurt other delegates' physical and or mental health.





BRIEF OVERVIEW OF CRISIS COMMITTEES

As the wise and bright minds of the world engage with knowledge of the unknown, new and innovative ways of thinking start to dominate the world. Said ways of thinking make the world what it is today: a cocktail of organized chaos or, what we like to call it, organized crisis. Unlike any conventional committee in the Model UN Circuit, Crisis Committees are unique spaces of debate which consist of continuous cycles of debate filled with uncertainty and, in the process, crisis. Their procedure differs from the procedure that committees in the General Assembly manage, having no formal motions to open debate nor speaker's lists to depend on. This causes crisis committees to resort to 3 styles of debate, which are:

- 1. Round Robins are a style of debate in which each delegate has a stipulated amount of time to express their opinions/thoughts with respect to the current crisis situation. The delegate proposing the motion to round robin will have the right to stipulate the amount of time each delegate has to speak (equally). It is recommended that round robins be executed at the beginning of the committee or when there are major crisis updates throughout the committee.
- 2. Moderated Caucuses consist of a specific topic of discussion, a duration, and a speaking time per delegate. These will have chairs individually calling delegates to speak in the debate, be a default if the chair doesn't exercise a round robin motion, and managed in continuous rolling cycles throughout the debate.
- 3. Unmoderated Caucuses, on the other hand, are a style of debate which focuses more on free discussion and flow of debate between delegates without a necessity to conduct a motion to structure speech. Delegates will have full autonomy of how much times they speak in the unmoderated caucus and will be able to chat with other delegates relative to the topic being discussed.



CHAIR'S LETTER

Hello everyone! My name is Madigan Voss, and I am a sophomore here at VT from Northern Virginia. I am currently enrolled as an International Relations major with a Sustainability minor. This is only my 2nd year of participating in Model UN, and I am so excited to lead you guys in my first experience as a chair. Model UN has given me some amazing opportunities and experiences. I've made so many new friends and have had the opportunity to travel all over the country with VT MUN. All in all, I'd like to welcome you to VTMUNC's inaugural conference! In this crisis committee we'll follow the plot of the wildly popular 2023 Barbie movie, directed by Greta Gerwig. This committee focuses on creatively solving the problems proposed in the movie itself, as well as solving new problems that arise in Barbie Land and the Real World alike. I hope you all are as excited as I am in participating in this committee. We have all worked so very hard, and I am already so proud of each and every one of you. Over the weekend I am so very excited to see how you all will solve the "Trouble in the Dreamhouse."

BRIEF HISTORY OF BARBIE DOLL

Barbie was created by a woman named Ruth Handler in the year 1959. Being a mother, Handler was inspired to make Barbie after watching her daughter play with paper. Her daughter often projected her hopes and dreams onto her dolls, and Handler, being the visionary she was, recognized there were holes in the market. Most toy manufacturers only marketed baby dolls to young girls. Handler wondered "what if I created a doll for little girls to imagine themselves as something other than future mothers." Thus, Barbie was born. When playing with Barbie, girls could imagine themselves as presidents, surfers, scientists, lawyers, and so much more. In fact, Barbie has had over 250 careers. Handler wanted to inspire and prove to young girls that they could be anything they wanted to be!

As Barbie became more and more popular, the Mattel company added more dolls to their repertoire. In 1961, Ken was introduced as Barbie's on again, off again boyfriend. One could potentially say Barbie's "short term, long distance boyfriend." In 1963, Barbie's best friend Midge was introduced, and so was a little sister named Skipper. In 1967, Barbie went to the A-list and came to resemble various celebrities, with British model Twiggy being the first. During the 80's Barbie not only became more diverse, with African American and Latina Barbie's being introduced, but it went global, with multiple international Barbies being released to the public. In 2016, Barbie expanded to include four different body types, seven skin tones, 22 eye colors and 24 hairstyles. Since 1959, Barbie has had quite the evolution, but Barbie hasn't stopped there. She has come to resemble historical figures, drag queens, cancer patients, and has even dawned the cover of Sports Illustrated. Through Barbie's long and winding history, and despite her flaws, she has become an iconic figure in pop culture, one of the most recognizable to date.



BARBIE MOVIE SUMMARY

Stereotypical Barbie and her high achieving friends live in the seemingly perfect, matriarchal society of Barbieland. The Barbie's hold the most prestigious jobs, they control the government, the supreme court, and create their dream houses perfectly to their liking. Not only do Barbie's live in Barbieland, but so do the Ken's, who are only happy when they are in the presence and light of the Barbie's gaze. In addition, various other discontinued Barbie's live in the dreamland, such as Midge, and the wonderfully awkward Allan. One night at one of Barbie's perfectly choreographed dance parties, Stereotypical Barbie outwardly begins to question her mortality, and overnight she develops bad breath, cellulite, and FLAT FEET. The next day she visits Weird Barbie, a doll whose owner played with her a bit too hard, and inquires about her new ailments. Weird Barbie Tells Stereotypical Barbie she must journey to the real world and discover the girl that is playing with her to set things right. Stereotypical Barbie travels to the Real World, but unbeknownst to her, Ken has tagged along. When the two arrive in Venice Beach, Barbie discovers a world very different from her own. Men catcall her, she is spoken over by men, and women don't hold the typical occupations they do in Barbie Land. Through a series of incidents Barbie and Ken repeatedly get arrested which spurs Barbie's creator company, Mattel to find Barbie and Ken and recapture them. Eventually, Barbie tracks down who she believes to be her owner, a teenage girl named Sasha. While Barbie expects Sasha to greet her with admiration, Sasha does the exact opposite, scrutinizing her for perpetuating unrealistic beauty standards, and even fascism. Meanwhile, Ken is on his own journey, discovering the joys of patriarchy. For the first time in his life, Ken feels respected. He embraces "manly" fashion, trucks, beer, and most importantly, horses.

Barbie is captured by Mattel executives, who try to "put her back in the box," in order to send her back to Barbie Land. Feeling cornered, Barbie escapes and is picked up by Gloria, a Mattel employee and coincidentally Sasha's mother. The two quickly realize that Barbie's ideas of mortality did not come from Sasha at all, but rather Gloria, who has been playing with Sashas old dolls. Barbie concludes that the three of them must return to Barbie Land to set things right. Sasha and Gloria agree, and soon enough they're off. When Barbie, Sasha, and Gloria return to Barbie Land, Barbie is confronted with a very different world than she left it. The Ken's have taken over, establishing "mojo dojo casa houses," and indoctrinating the Barbies into becoming their submissive girlfriends, housewives, and maids. Stereotypical Barbie begins to lose hope until she is met with Weird Barbie, who allows Gloria to give a speech which recognizes women's capabilities and qualities in the real world. The group sets off to deprogram the other Barbies with empowering memories behind the Kens' backs. The mission is a success and the Barbies eventually manipulate the Ken's into petty infighting on the beach, which causes the Kens' to forget their plan to rewrite Barbie Land's constitution.



The Barbie's have once again gained power, and a defeated Ken confides in Stereotypical Barbie and recognizes that he hardly knows who he is. Barbie inspires him to discover his own identity without her. In addition the Barbies, now recognizing how oppression feels, decide to reconcile with the faults of their previous society, emphasizing better treatment of the Kens. Barbie, still unsure of her own identity, is confronted by the spirit of Ruth Handler, the creator of Barbie. Ruth shows Barbie the wonderful ups and downs of being a human, including not only the love, but the pain and nostalgia that goes along with living. An incredibly moved Barbie decides that life as a human is a life she wants to live. She returns home with Sasha and Gloria, bidding goodbye to the Barbies' and Kens' of Barbie Land. Dropped off by an encouraging Sasha and Gloria, Barbie closes the film with a universal female experience, by saying "I'm here to see my gynecologist."

CHARACTER LIST BARBIES

Stereotypical Barbie: She's as beautiful as she is kind. Stereotypical Barbie is known for her charisma, kind nature, dancing skills, fabulous hair, and leader persona. In the original 2023 movie, Stereotypical Barbie is the first Barbie to venture into the Real World, thus she was the first of the girls to discover the system of patriarchy. Due to her experience in the Real World, she has become the natural leader of the rest of the Barbie's on their new adventure. Will she be able to keep Ken off of her back? Will she continue her journey of self discovery? Will she be able to successfully inspire the other Barbies? Finally, will she be able to close the rip in the "space toy continuum?"

Ken: She's everything, he's just Ken. Since the "patriarchy incident," in Barbie Land, Ken has been grappling with self discovery in the wake of Barbie returning to the Real World. On his journey of self discovery, he has expanded his love for horses, spending most of his time at the Barbie Land stables, in addition he's taken up work with President Barbie as her secretary. Through his work as a secretary, Ken has learned to read and write! He hopes to one day climb to the rank of being the President's #1 coffee attendant. Will Ken continue to pine for Barbie's affection? Will he be able to fight against the encroaching power of the other Mattel toys? Will he remain loyal to the Barbies? Or will he once again succumb to patriarchy?

Weird Barbie: Weird Barbie is the most knowledgeable in regards to the ins and outs of the real world. She embraces her oddball persona to the absolute fullest, and in turn inspires Barbies, and humans alike to be who they truly are. As of recently, Weird Barbie has taken the position of resident "armchair psychiatrist," throughout Barbie Land. She often helps the other Barbies with their thoughts and fears of mortality. This makes Weird Barbie a very knowledgeable and empathetic character, who is an inspiration to all others. Will Weird Barbie remain true to herself? Or will she succumb to the unbearable pressure of being trauma dumped at 24/7?



Allan: Forever the awkward cynic, Allan has always had a hard time fitting in in Barbie Land. He prefers to spend his time crocheting, learning Britney Spears choreography, and gardening. In fact, Allan established the first ever Barbie Land gardening co-op, making sure none of the plastic Barbies ever go hungry! Despite Allan being an outsider, he has always had a deep admiration for the feminine psyche. His entrance into the Real World has been particularly hard for him, because, to be quite honest, Allan likes when women are in positions of power. Will Allan ever discover feminist literature? Will he rise up against the Mattel toy army? Will he ever meet his idol Britney Spears?

Lawyer Barbie: In the 2023 "Barbie," film, Lawyer Barbie is the fearless leader who ensures the Barbies' rights are forever enshrined into the constitution. During her time in the real world, she has taken up work as a local civil rights attorney. This has given her much purpose and meaning during her time in the Real World. Will she ever figure out the CIA's role during the crack epidemic (a civil rights nightmare,)? Will she be able to expand rights to toys and humans alike?

President Barbie: The ever poised and vigorous President Barbie has taken to the Real World quite well. She is currently serving as mayor of Venice Beach, despite being a newcomer to the community. Despite this remarkable achievement, she finds herself having a hard time not being the most powerful figure in all the land, after all, it's what she was born to do! Her first acts as Venice Beach Mayor have been to paint the sidewalks pink, and to expand homelessness infrastructure. Total queen alert! Will she be able to rise through the ranks of the American legislative system? Will she be able to create policies in order to fix the rip in the "toy time continuum,"?

Physics Barbie: While this Barbie was the leading scholar of quantum physics in Barbie Land, she has found so much more support in the Real World, collaborating with famous physicists from all over the world! Next fall she plans to take a position on UCLA's doctoral programmes teaching program to spread her love of physics throughout the world. When speaking of the "toy time continuum", will she be able to find a way to bend space and gravity to close the portal?

Pulitzer Prize Barbie: This Barbie has had a hard time adjusting to the real world. Being a journalist, it's been incredibly hard for her to find meaningful work. However, instead of wallowing, she has decided to begin work on a new book, titled "How to Be a Real Doll: A Plastic Fantastic Expose on Barbie's Unnatural Beauty Secrets." How ironic. Will she be able to overcome the predatory fees imposed by publication companies? Will she be able to compete in a world addicted to their Iphones?



Mermaid Barbie (Dua Lipa): Since the 2023 "Barbie," movie, Dua Lipa, iconic pop-star, has taken time for herself to recenter and work on new music. However, despite only making a cameo, she is recruited by Stereotypical Barbie to sway public opinion on the Barbies. What will her newest hit be? Will there be a feature? Will she ever get her mer-tail back?

Kenmaid (John Cena): You know him, you love him, you may not be able to see him, but you know he's an icon, John Cena. John has had quite the career, as Kenmaid, or as a professional fighter. In addition to Dua Lipa, the Barbies' recruit Kenmaid back for a media campaign to once again sway public opinion. Through helping the Barbies' he's been able to establish multiple body positive gyms across the country. Will his superior strength intimidate Ken? Will he be able to expand his gym brand to aquatic facilities with hopes of getting his tail back?

HUMANS

Gloria: The loveable and beautiful Gloria is one of Barbie's best friends in the real world. She helps her navigate day to day life and even helped her buy her first apartment. It is important to mention that Gloria is now the creative director of Mattel. She is a guiding and motherly figure to all of the Barbies.

Sasha: Sasha is Gloria's free thinking daughter. Despite being young, Sasha is quite the activist and is a huge help in recommending different charities, and organizations the Barbies' can help out with. She is quick thinking and pragmatic, and always keeps Ken and Allan on their feet.

MATTEL CORPORATION

CEO of Mattel: Powerhungry, manipulative, yet somewhat dimwitted, the CEO of Mattel is always on the lookout to throw a wrench in the girls' plans. He sends agents out regularly to hunt for the Barbies' to put them back in their boxes. Despite being the primary antagonist, one can make an argument that this CEO has a good heart deep down. Will he continue evading taxes as all CEOs do? Will he join the Barbies' in closing the "toy time continuum,"?

Aaron Dinkins: This Mattel employee is often overshadowed by some of the louder employees, but that doesn't mean that his opinions are any less important. Recently he has been working with Gloria and her team to think up new and creative Barbie Doll ideas. In fact he was the primary creator, along with Gloria of course, of the Anxiety Barbie, featured in the 2023 movie.



MATTEL TOYS

Minion: Known for their despicable deeds, Minion is actually a caring, kind, and docile person. Minion is also very naive and would rather serve someone than call the shots. While recently enjoying a new podcast, Minion learned about stereotypical Barbie's journey to the real world and felt empowered by her message. Will Minion become an empowered Girlboss? Or will Minion find an evil master amongst the criminals of Los Angeles? Will Minion join a gang? Which will it be?

"Rock em' Sock em" Robot #1: Known as the premier prizefighter in the Mattel toy universe, Rock em' Sock em' Robot#1 is eager to compete against new competition besides his brother Rock em' Sock em' Robot #2. His all action and aggressive approach to boxing also describes his personality where his unflinchingly, tough, and hardheaded demeanor makes him successful not just at boxing but his other passions like weightlifting, eating protein, and listening to Joe Rogan. However, how will he fare against other opponents? Will he crumble under the pressure of social media and constant ridicule? And will he learn to dodge a punch?

"Rock em' Sock em" Robot #2: While also a talented fighter in his own right, Rock em' Sock em' Robot #2 has always felt like he is in the shadow of his brother. This started when his parent's, Mr. Rock em' and Mrs. Sock em', named his brother Rock em' Sock em' Robot #1 even though he was born after Rock em' Sock em' Robot #2. Alongside this, Rock em' Sock em' Robot #2 never wanted to get into boxing as a kid, instead his family forced him to box and fight against his brother. When Rock em' Sock em' Robot #2 wanted to pursue other passions like baking and knitting, but his family wasn't receptive and forced him to continue boxing. Will he continue fighting now that he is in the real world? Or will he quit and pursue his passions?

Cabbage Patch Kid: Despite being an infant, this Patch Kid has been yearning for life outside of her cabbage patch since her creation. Despite only being able to crawl, this patch kid is off puttingly 10 times larger than an average human baby. This allows the patch kid to cause destruction everywhere in her wake as she doesnt know her own strength or size. Because of this, it is of utmost importance that the Mattel corporation, and subsequently the Barbies' find a way to send this Cabbage Patch Kid back home where she belongs.



CURRENT STATE AT BARBIELAND

Stereotypical Barbie has spent the past year in the real world. Her time spent fully immersed with humans has been exciting and enlightening, although Barbie hasn't fully gotten the whole crying thing down yet. One day as Barbie arrives back at her apartment in Venice Beach she receives a call from a strange phone number, 1-800-227-243, which, when deciphered, spells 1-800-BARBIE. Being the quick thinking woman she is, and despite not knowing who is calling her, or for what reason, Barbie immediately answers.

"Hello?" Barbie asks.

"Oh Barbie thank God you picked up, how's life as a mortal going, well no how's life as a HUMAN going?"

"Weird Barbie! Thank God it's you." Barbie exclaims. "Um, life as a human is going well, or um, I'm not su-"

Weird Barbie cuts her off, "Oh Barbie, something terrible is happening in Barbie Land." "What?!" Barbie replied.

"Sales are plummeting, Barbie isn't popular anymore, and on top of that, the Barbies have gotten wind that there's some sort of rhetoric around us saying we are bad for women! Can you believe that?!"

"Well actually, I can belie-"

"You MUST come back, the girls are losing their confidence, the Ken's are depressed because the Barbie's are depressed, and more and more of us are beginning to question... uh I shouldn't say" "Beginning to question what?" replied Barbie

"Their mortality," Weird Barbie replied with a woeful lament.

"Oh gosh Weird Barbie. I'm not sure I know what to do but I can come back and try my hand at helping the girls."

"Thank you, thank you, a thousand times thank you."

Stereotypical Barbie laid back in her chair with a sigh, and thought to herself "well I guess it's time to unpack my rollerblades."



Barbie journeyed through desert, land and sea, and finally arrived at her old home. While walking through the front gates the first person Barbie sees is of course Ken, "it's almost like he senses my presence," Barbie thought to herself. Ken is still desperate as ever for Barbie's attention, and in an effort to woo her, he tells her of his new position in Barbie Land.

"Ya, you know my whole gig at Beach was getting pretty old, so I convinced Madam President Barbie to make me her secretary."

"Wow Ken, that's great," Barbie replied.

"Yea, I mean it's pretty difficult stuff, reading and what not."

"Ok, Ken, I would love to hear more, but I'm trying to save Barbie Land, Bye!"

"Thank God I got out of that one," Barbie thought to herself. "Now I've gotta find the girls.

Barbie arrives at the courthouse and finds the girls working on a referendum to allow antidepressants in Barbie Land. The situation is much worse than Barbie originally thought. Barbie formulates a plan, and makes a speech to convince the girls to travel to the real world with her so they can see for themselves all of the good work they have done. They begrudgingly agree. Barbie tells them to pack their bags, and get into the "Limited Edition, Barbie Camper PlaysetTM."

During their journey to the Real World, Barbie puts on a bit of music to lighten the mood, "Speak Now, Taylor's Version," of course. Halfway through "Sparks Fly," Barbie senses somebody, or something breathing down her neck.

"KEN!" Barbie Screams

"Yep that's right," says Ken. "And I brought a special guest."

Barbie turns and sees Allan, "oh Allan are you alright?"

"Just peachy Barbie," replies Allan, with a hint of fear in his voice..

"Alright, well, if you two are going on this trip you are going to have to listen to everything I say.

Remember, I'm human now, you two are not."

"Yes Barbie," they say in unison.



The girls arrive in the real world, and all except Stereotypical Barbie are flabbergasted by women's circumstances.

"Where are the female construction workers?" President Barbie asks.

"Why does everyone care about Opppenheimer?" Asks Astrophysics Barbie.

"And WHY is the CEO of CNN a MAN?" Pulitzer Prize winning Barbie screams.

"Girls, we are getting there, we just have to prove the real world wrong, and show them we ARE worth it." Barbie says in a comforting tone.

Over the next month the Barbie's followed through on their plan to make a good name for BarbieTM. They do good deeds around Venice Beach, they get hired for prestigious jobs, and they visit schools around So-Cal to change public perception, and uplift girls. In addition, the Barbies create a tik-tok page showcasing their talents, they are officially viral! Their plan to change public perception seems to be working, although with some difficulties. A wrench is thrown into the entire plan when the CEO of Mattel finds Stereotypical Barbie at work and tells her that her plan has not only taken the Barbies' out of Barbie Land, but has unleashed multiple toys out of the Mattel Universe and into the Real World! Whatever will the Barbie's do to solve the rip in the space time, or rather, toy time continuum?!

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