

Barbie's Return

Middle School Crisis Committee



Background Guide

Virginia Invitational

V I M  N C

Model United Nations Conference

11th Session

March 1st-2nd, 2024

VIMUNC XI



Esteemed delegates and sponsors of VIMUNC XI,

Welcome to the eleventh annual Virginia Invitational Model United Nations Conference. As the MUN year winds down, we hope to provide the best experience yet, with paramount service and attention to detail that creates the greatest conference. From broad UN organizations to regional bodies, from corporations to criminal organizations, VIMUNC has committees that truly serve every interest. With experienced chairs, czars, and staff, we will ensure that every delegate truly has a positive experience, and we hope that you can enjoy your experience with us.

VIMUNC's 21 committees and over 850 delegates make this year's conference one of the largest editions ever, and we look forward to expanding our outreach across the DMV region to continue to provide a wonderful experience for all delegates. With a large MUN team that has years of experience, we hope that every single minute of the committee is filled with substantive debate that will create learning experiences that last for years to come.

So much hard work has been put into every single crisis update, background guide, and dossier, and we sincerely hope that the work and care placed in each aspect of this conference is displayed in its quality. If at any time you feel something about the conference is unsatisfactory, please don't hesitate to talk to your chairs, a staffer, or a member of the Secretariat.

Thank you so much for your commitment to VIMUNC XI, and best of luck in your committee, future conferences, and ambitions.

Sincerely,
Mei Torrey
Secretary-General, VIMUNC XI

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Barbie's Return

TOPIC A: *Stereotypical Barbie Gets Kidnapped*

TOPIC B: *Ken Reestablishes the Patriarchy*

Committee Background

Welcome to Barbieland, a world filled with dream houses and dolls. In Barbieland, Barbie and her friends reign supreme, they wield power in government and preside over the Supreme Court with elegance. But Barbies' influence goes beyond just politics. They work in the most important jobs and design their dream homes, each a masterpiece created to tailor to their tastes. Kens, though acknowledged, often find themselves in subordinate roles, overshadowed by their Barbie counterparts. Meanwhile, discontinued Barbies like Allan stay on the sidelines. As the sun sets on Barbieland, one wonders: what secrets lie beneath this facade of perfection?

TOPIC A: Stereotypical Barbie Gets Kidnapped

Topic Background

The Barbie universe, which is defined by its diverse characters and progressive ideas, is facing a grave crisis: Stereotypical Barbie has been kidnapped! This is alarming and may start to unravel the very fabric that Barbie's world is built on. Decades of efforts to challenge gender stereotypes and to promote inclusivity may soon be undermined unless she is found. The kidnapping represents a direct attack on the vision for the world Stereotypical Barbie has worked so very hard to create.

Current Situation

As the news of Stereotypical Barbie's abduction spreads, panic erupts all over Barbieland. Streets that once were full of Barbies and Kens alike, are now empty. Many residents have found themselves questioning their identity and are afraid to even leave their dream houses. Although there are efforts to locate her, the case is complex and there are very few leads. People have begun to speak up, claiming that Stereotypical Barbie creates toxic beauty standards and reinforces traditional gender roles. They question whether her abduction is a wake-up call to reassess what the doll actually stands for in the modern world. Yet, amidst this chaos, the kidnapping has sparked unity among a few residents of Barbieland. As they come together to confront this crisis, they are reminded that together, they can overcome any challenge.

Questions to Consider

1. How can this committee develop a comprehensive plan that saves Barbie from her perpetrators?
2. Who might be the individuals or groups responsible for the kidnapping, and what are their motives?
3. How do authorities respond to the kidnapping—does the general public need to take matters into their own hands?
4. How can the committee eliminate fear amongst Barbieland residents in order to bring joy back to the streets?

TOPIC B: Ken Reestablishes the Patriarchy

Topic Background

Despite the Barbies working so hard to dismantle Ken's original patriarchy, the domination of men has come to power again. The Kens, often in the shadow of their Barbie counterparts, started to feel overlooked and unheard once again. Out of this growing dissatisfaction emerged the movement dubbed 'Kens Rule, Barbies Drool.' This campaign is led by the Kens who have refused to accept their forgotten roles any longer. They want to give themselves a more prominent place in society and they want to force Barbies out of their positions of power. They are challenging the strong societal belief that femininity means superiority and are advocating for the rise of masculinity as the superior conception. Alliances have shifted, and the once unshakable foundation of feminism is trembling.

Current Situation

In Barbieland, tensions are reaching a boiling point as the Kens' movement becomes mainstream. This shift is causing a deep divide within Barbieland; some are siding with the movement, and some are advocating for the Barbies' rights. Despite facing pushback and doubt from some members of the population, the supporters of 'Kens Rule, Barbies Drool' have remained resolute in their cause. They viewed their efforts not as a step backward, but as a necessary jump in the right direction. As the movement presses onward, Barbies are slowly beginning to lose power in politics and the professional field. Some Kens have overtaken their

dream houses and have forced them to either become maids or live on the streets. As Barbieland stands at this crossroads, the choices made in the days ahead will undoubtedly shape its destiny for generations to come. The Barbies will not stand for this and a rebellion is soon to come.

Questions to Consider

1. How can the committee prevent future uprisings, especially considering that Barbie's last plan fell through?
2. In what ways can the committee ensure that the Kens feel more integrated and accepted in Barbieland?
3. How can the committee navigate the delicate balance between promoting equality and ensuring that power dynamics do not shift too drastically, causing further division and unrest?
4. What will you do to accommodate the Kens who might lose their new housing if you dismantle the patriarchy?

Character Dossier

Weird Barbie: Weird Barbie is characterized by her wacky hair and knowledge of the human world. She embraces her oddball personality to the absolute fullest. She often helps Barbies get through their thoughts and fears. She has mind control powers and can freely travel between the human realm and Barbieland.

President Barbie: President Barbie runs the ins and outs of Barbieland. She holds executive authority over the government. She also employs secret service agents as bodyguards and goonies to do simple tasks.

Mermaid Barbie: Mermaid Barbie is fun and carefree! She enjoys splashing around in the waves and communicating with sea creatures through a special link in their minds. She is also able to control water to bend at her will, this ability is especially helpful in transporting her through water fast.

Lawyer Barbie: Lawyer Barbie is unstoppable in the courtroom! She has connections with the lawmakers in Barbieland. Lawyer Barbie has superhuman senses that help her detect small things in and out of the courtroom.

Allan: Allan has always had a hard time finding his place in Barbieland. Due to this feeling of not fitting in, he spends lots of time alone, which has led to him being proficient in a multitude of hobbies. He loves to spend time in his garden. Allan exhibits powers that allow him to produce plants out of thin air.

Mattel CEO: Power-hungry and manipulative, the Mattel CEO is always on the lookout to stop the Barbies from entering the real world. He regularly sends out spies to figure out insider information. He has the ability to open portals between his home realm and Barbieland.

Aaron Dinkins: This Mattel employee often feels overshadowed. He hides in the shadows gathering information about Mattel, scheming plans to rise up in the ranks. Unbeknownst to the other employees, Aaron Dinkins has the keys to all the rooms in Mattel HQ and the passwords to their internet accounts.

Gloria: Gloria is a caring and compassionate woman who is the mom of Sasha. She partnered with the Barbies the first time the Kens overtook Barbieland. Mattel Inc. decided to give her the company credit card to keep her mouth shut that Barbieland exists.

Chelsea: Chelsea loves to bake cupcakes! This 7-year-old is incredibly gifted and can communicate with people telepathically. If you can't find her in the kitchen making some delicious food, you'll find her outside walking her pet pony.

Pulitzer Prize Barbie: Pulitzer Prize Barbie is a guardian of knowledge who oversees the vast archives of information in Barbieland. With her meticulous organization and attention to detail, she ensures that resources are readily accessible to all who seek them. She is a walking Google and can look things up in her mind.

Skipper: Skipper is your typical teenager and is very tech-savvy. If she isn't attached to her computer writing some code, you'll find her at her music-making station. Skipper runs a popular radio station that has influence even in the human world!

Surprise Barbie: Surprise Barbie is always scheming on how to surprise people. She is a visionary creator who expresses herself through various forms of art. She can go invisible, which she uses to sneak up on people!

Rock Em Sock Em Doll: Rock Em Sock Em Doll is a dedicated competitor who excels in sports and inspires others with his athleticism. With his determination and perseverance, he pushes his physical limits to achieve greatness on the field or court. He has elastic skin and limbs.

Raquelle: Raquelle is the trendsetter of Barbieland. She is always dressed to impress in the latest styles and designs. She deploys the ability to instantly create and manipulate fabric, allowing her to craft stunning outfits or disguises on the spot.

Physics Barbie: Physics Barbie is insanely smart. She is characterized by her bubbly personality which is always kind. Her ability to control gravity sets her apart, allowing her to manipulate the forces of nature with precision and finesse. She is also able to travel between the Human World and Barbieland with a simple thought.

Ken: Ken's personality is a blend of steadfast determination, compassion, and integrity. He is always striving to uphold justice and maintain order in Barbieland. He possesses the ability to freeze time.

Cabbage Patch Kid: Cabbage Patch Kid is bold and courageous. He feels a little out of place not being originally from Barbieland. He has flame manipulation powers and an extensive knowledge set of the ins and outs of Mattel HQ.

Sasha: This middle schooler really knows how to get a conversation started. She lives with Gloria in the human world, but regularly travels back to Barbieland after school. The Barbies decided to gift her with teleportation so she could easily get from school to Barbieland.

Kenmaid: Kenmaid is a merfolk variant of the Kens. He epitomizes bro culture with his love for sports, partying, and all things cool. He has a chiseled physique, perfect hair, and a charming smile, which makes him the ultimate heartthrob of Barbieland. He possesses an ability to create force fields. He has dubbed this power "bro shield".

Beach Ken: Beach Ken loves sitting by the beach looking out at the waves. His favorite pastimes include surfing and swimming laps! He has the ability to shapeshift his limbs into fins to help propel him through the water.