

# TBMUN '19



---

## TBMUN'19 | SOCHUM | STUDY GUIDE

Agenda Item: Media Censorship

---

**President Chair:** Harun Selim GEDİKLİ | [selimgedikli@hotmail.com](mailto:selimgedikli@hotmail.com)

**Deputy Chair:** Defne KULA | [kuladefne@gmail.com](mailto:kuladefne@gmail.com)

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

Letters	3	
Letter of Secretary-General	3	
Letter of Chair	4	
Letter of Co-Chair	4	
INTRODUCTION	5	
Introduction to the SOCHUM Committee	5	
Introduction to Agenda Item	5	
DEFINITIONS	6	
What is Censorship?	6	
What is Media Censorship?	6	
INFORMATION	7	
Top Countries that have Media Censorship	7	
How Media Censorship Affects the News	8	
Protecting a Person's Privacy		8
Avoiding Graphic Details and Images		8
Concealing National Security Information		9
Hiding Political Bias		
What is Censored?	10	
Who Censors?	10	
Conclusion	11	
Points the Committee Should Address	11	
Useful Links	11	
Useful media links		
For country profiles and lots of other useful information		11

---

# Letters

---

## Letter of Secretary-General

---

Dear distinguished delegates of TBMUN'19;

I'm İris Azra Yardımcı and I will be serving as your Secretary General throughout the conference. It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you all to Bodrum and Ted Bodrum College.

In this conference not only you will discuss some of the most important 21st century problems but you will also meet new people, have lots of fun and make new memories.

It's our second year hosting a conference on our own. But we've been attending conferences as TBMUN since late 2015. We came closer and now we're a family ever since. We are extremely happy to include all of you in this family.

We hope to see you all here in March and wish you all an amazing journey at TBMUN'19.

Best regards,

- İris Azra Yardımcı.

## Letter of Chair

---

Esteemed participants of TBMUN'19;

My name is Harun Selim Gedikli and I will be your chair during TBMUN'19 conference. It's an honor for me to serve you as a chair in this committee which is more interested in the current media censorship.

From my previous experiences, I learned that being an MUNer and attending MUN conferences is a unique experience that you can't forget in the future. Especially if you want to improve your academic career, you are taking a right step. And we (with my fellow partners from academic and organization team) are going to try our best for you to be the best in that step.

My only desire from you is to take this job seriously and always try to improve yourself. Also, don't forget that you are in TBMUN'19. You have to have fun.

If you have any question, please DO NOT hesitate to ask us.

Sincerely,

- Harun Selim Gedikli

---

## Letter of Co-Chair

---

Most Esteemed MUN Participants;

It is my greatest joy and utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the 2nd annual session of TBMUN'19. My name is Defne Kula and I will be hosting you as the co-chair of SOCHUM committee. I have been attending MUN conferences since 2014 and it is my first year in TBMUN. I could not be prouder and more enthusiastic to be a part of this incredible team. We look forward to see you in March, as we hope that this committee will provide you with a broader perspective, help you become more confident, knowledgeable, gain awareness about media censorship and hopefully our brainstorming sessions will encourage you to take further actions.

Sincerely;

- Defne KULA

---

# INTRODUCTION

---

## Introduction to the SOCHUM Committee

---

Social, Cultural and Humanitarian committee mainly focuses on the protection of human rights. The committee was first founded in 1948 to create solutions in order to provide globally high standards, protect human rights and suggest solutions for the humanitarian and social development crises. So, what does SOCHUM deal with? Sochum basically deals with problems about refugees, human trafficking, protection of children's/women's rights, advancement of the woman, protection of public resources and so forth.

There are lots of violations of human rights in almost every part of the World. Sochum's main purpose is to examine them and set global standards in order to protect human rights while working together with the Member States. The committee has the right to suggest recommendations concerning issues of peace and security to a member of the General Assembly, UN Security Council and other bodies and agencies. Sochum can also request reports from UN Human Rights Council by special rapporteurs.

To create comprehensive solutions members should first analyze the problem carefully, direct your research towards sustainable and long-lasting policy, as always ensure you have the financial resources to back up your ideas.

Lastly, understand your government's views and policy on the national/international affairs.

---

## Introduction to Agenda Item

---

Since our agenda item is a general topic, you have a lot of points that you can discuss in the committee. Just try to solve the problems about media censorship with easier ways like the ways that do not require fund and etc. Also, since media censorship affects public, you shouldn't forget to state you actually care about this situation and raise public awareness. Moreover, in most countries, media censorship caused by the government and its law. So, you can have to make some updates in your laws and highly suggest the government to change this situation.

Furthermore, you have to decide do you agree to have media censorship in your country or not. In order to clarify this, you should first know should you censor anything and if you should, what kind of content you should censor in your country. Since this is a controversial topic, different countries can have different opinions. But please bear in mind that we are gathering here in order to solve problems.

---

# DEFINITIONS

---

## What is Censorship?

There has been an ongoing change on the definition of censorship since the first definition-giver resources. After all the discuss, a professor named Chuck Stone gave its definition as;

"The cyclical suppression, banning, expurgation, or editing by an individual, institution, group or government that enforces or influences its decision against members of the public of any written or pictorial materials which that individual, institution, group or government deems obscene and 'utterly without redeeming social value' as determined by 'contemporary community standards.'"

---

## What is Media Censorship?

Media Censorship is the act of altering, adjusting, editing, or banning of any or all media resulting from the presumption that its content is perceived to be objectionable, incendiary, illicit, or immoral by the applicable legislative authority or Government within a specific jurisdiction. The ideology, methodology, and measures or determination regarding media subject to Media Censorship exists in conjunction to the vast expanse of the varieties of media in existence; this can include – but is not limited to books, publications, expressions, products, services, radio broadcasts, televised broadcast, Internet-based broadcasts, films, movies, pictures, images, videos, and speech.

---

# INFORMATION

---

## Top Countries that have Media Censorship

---

According to a research that is done by The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 10 most censored countries are below:

- 1- Eritrea
- 2- North Korea\*
- 3- Saudi Arabia\*
- 4- Ethiopia
- 5- Azerbaijan
- 6- Vietnam\*
- 7- Iran\*
- 8- China\*
- 9- Myanmar
- 10- Cuba\*

\* Countries with this mark will be in SOCHUM.

---

## How Media Censorship Affects the News

---

While news stories are often edited for length, there are many subjective choices that are made which are designed to keep some information from becoming public. Sometimes these decisions are made to safeguard a person's privacy, others to protect media outlets from corporate or political fallout, and yet others for concerns of national security.

### Protecting a Person's Privacy

This is probably the least controversial form of media censorship. For instance, when a minor (someone under age 18) commits a crime, his or her identity is concealed to protect them from future harm -- so he or she isn't turned down from getting a college education or a job. That changes if a minor is charged as an adult, like in the case of violent crime.

Most media outlets also conceal the identity of rape victims, so those people don't have to endure public humiliation.

Journalists also protect their anonymous sources from having their identity exposed for fear of retaliation. This is especially important when informants are highly placed individuals in governments or corporations that have direct access to important information.

### Avoiding Graphic Details and Images

Every day, someone commits a heinous act of violence or sexual depravity. In newsrooms across the country, editors have to decide whether saying a victim "was assaulted" suffices in describing what happened.

In most instances, it does not. So, a choice has to be made on how to describe the details of a crime in a way that helps the audience understand its atrocity without offending readers or viewers, especially children.

In most cases -except some exceptions-, editors will cross out information of an extremely violent or sexual nature, not to sanitize the news, but to keep it from offending the audience.

---



## Concealing National Security Information

The U.S. military, intelligence, and diplomatic operations function with a certain amount of secrecy. That confidentiality is regularly challenged by whistle-blowers, anti-government groups or others who want to remove the lid on various aspects of U.S. government.

In 1971, *The New York Times* published what's commonly called the Pentagon Papers, secret Defense Department documents detailing the problems of American involvement in the Vietnam War in ways the media had never reported. The Nixon administration went to court in a failed attempt to keep the leaked documents from being published.

Decades later, WikiLeaks and its founder Julian Assange are under fire for posting more than a quarter million secret U.S. documents, many involving national security. When *The New York Times* published these U.S. State Department papers, the U.S. Air Force responded by blocking the newspaper's website from its computers.

These examples show that media owners face a difficult relationship with the government. When they approve stories containing potentially embarrassing information, government officials often try to censor it.

## Hiding Political Bias

Critics often lambast media for having a political bias. While viewpoints on the editorial pages are clear to see, the link between politics and censorship is harder to spot.

The ABC news program *Nightline* once devoted its broadcast to reading the names of more than 700 U.S. servicemen and women killed in Iraq. What appeared to be a solemn tribute to military sacrifice was interpreted as a politically-motivated, anti-war stunt by Sinclair Broadcast Group, which didn't allow the program to be seen on the seven ABC stations it owned.

Sinclair is the same company that a media watchdog group says called more than 100 members of Congress "censorship advocates" for raising concerns to the FCC about Sinclair's plans to air the film, *Stolen Honor*. That production was blasted for being propaganda against then-presidential candidate John Kerry.

Sinclair responded by saying it wanted to air the documentary after the major networks refused to show it. In the end, bowing to pressure on several fronts, the company aired a revised version that only included parts of the film.

---

## What is Censored?

---

- Speech
- Art
- Books
- Periodicals (published with set frequency)
- Films
- Plays
- Photography
- Television programs
- Radio programs
- Internet (Web sites and e-mail)
- News reports

## Who Censors?

---

- Government
  - Church
  - Private Pressure Groups
  - Speakers, Writers and Artists (self-censorship)
-

## Conclusion

To conclude, media censorship has an effect in our lives. Although media censorship can be considered as a bad thing, it has also some advantages in some conditions. So, it is important that which part of it should be worked on.

## Points the Committee Should Address

- What is censorship in the media?
- How does media censorship affect society?
- Does your country implement censorship, or is there another way?
- Who controls the news in your country, and is media ownership a good thing?
- Should there be legislation on how the media are run and controlled?
- Does the UN have a role in controlling media?
- What can NGOs do in order to solve media censorship? Which NGO's?
- What is the purpose of media censorship?
- What is censorship in mass media?

## Useful Links

Useful media links:

- [http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=7&issue\\_area\\_id=6](http://www.fair.org/index.php?page=7&issue_area_id=6)

For country profiles and lots of other useful information:

- <http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/>
- [http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country\\_profiles/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/country_profiles/default.stm)
- <http://media.okstate.edu/faculty/jsenat/censorship/defining.htm>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Freedom\\_of\\_expression\\_organizations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Freedom_of_expression_organizations)
- [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/373](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/71/373)