

## OUR FREEDOM OF SPEECH

*13th March: Press conference FoscaMUN 2019, Ca' Farsetti*

As in previous years, this morning a FoscaMUN press conference took place in Venice City Hall. All the members of the Board were there to explain, officially, what they had introduced in this new FoscaMUN.

The Secretary-General, Carlotta Medić, started by explaining the meaning and the importance of MUN. Briefly, it is a simulation of the United Nations debates, where students have to discuss different topics, already covered by the UN commissions, representing the position of a given country. The purpose is to find a hypothetical solution to real-life issues.

There will be nine different committees (DISEC, ECOSOC, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHRC, UNWOMEN, UNWTO, WHO and ICJ) and seventeen different topical issues, discussed in three official languages, English, French and Spanish.

This is an important event that allows students to cooperate, to socialize and to learn one from each other.

After SG Medić, it was the turn of the Deputy Secretary-General, Alberto Pauro, who presented all the members of the Student's Governing Body and the Staff Board. Each of them pointed out their own role in this project. The Public Relations Coordinators, Maria Teodoro and Aurora Trevisan, deal with the guest delegations, coordinate the sightseeing in Venice with a full historical and cultural program and manage the social media, which is a great task nowadays. The Fundraising Coordinators, Nicolò Calderan, Bianca Danesin and Bianca Rubin, instead have to secure as many sponsors as possible to support this ambitious MUN. Finally, the System Coordinators, Giovanni Zamprogno and Carlo Haas, have the responsibility of setting up the venue for FoscaMUN committees and to guarantee the smooth running of the event.

The Principal, Massimo Zane, showed all his pride in seeing the development of this project, not only in Venice but also in other Italian cities. Moreover, last year FoscaMUN gained **official recognition** from UNESCO and this year the **Cervantes Institute of Milan** is supporting it. He also informed everybody that from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> May the school will host "United Network", a special MUN edition for the middle school.

The General Coordinators, Ms Veronica Harkins and Mr Liam Mac Gabhann, expressed their enthusiasm for such a challenging but satisfying project. Our generation is accustomed to being interconnected 24/7, interacting through brief, and sometimes frivolous, posts. This experience is unique and helps delegates to develop and share deeper thoughts.

The Vice Coordinator, Mrs Caterina Rossi, added that our school had decided to create a MUN after BIMUN 2013 (the Baur International Model United Nation) in Mexico City. Our delegates had such a wonderful experience that they brought this model to Italy.

Students and teachers expressed their thanks for the ongoing support of the Venice City Councillor for Tourism, Paola Mar. She underlined that in the last years the project has been consistently stimulating and able to foster future citizenship.

In conclusion, I hope that this extraordinary experience will fascinate more and more students, and that our hypothetical solutions could really be taken into account by heads of state in the future.

Fabiana Ranieri.