

Role-Play Simulation: NGO–UN Dialogue on Human Rights

Overview

In this simulation, you will take on the role of a policymaker, diplomat, or NGO representative addressing a human-rights crisis in a developing country.

Through structured negotiation, you will experience the tensions between **humanitarian principles, state sovereignty, and political realities**. This assignment connects theoretical learning with applied skills in diplomacy, collaboration, and advocacy—core to understanding democracy and human rights in practice.

Learning Objectives

By participating in this simulation, you will:

1. Analyze competing perspectives on democracy and human-rights policy.
2. Apply course concepts (accountability, legitimacy, sovereignty, gender equity, global justice) to a real-world scenario.
3. Develop persuasive communication and negotiation skills.
4. Experience how international and local actors coordinate—or clash—when responding to crises.

Simulation Scenario

The year is **2024**.

A developing country—**Azuria**—is experiencing a surge in human-rights violations: mass detentions of journalists, restrictions on women’s education, and violent crackdowns on protests. International NGOs, UN agencies, and the Azurian government must decide whether to **impose sanctions, initiate humanitarian aid, or pursue diplomatic mediation**.

You will represent one of the following roles:

- **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR)**
- **Representative of the Azurian Government**
- **NGO Director (Human Rights Watch / Amnesty International)**
- **Regional Organization Delegate (e.g., ASEAN or SAARC)**
- **Local Civil-Society Leader or Journalist**

Assignment Components

1. Position Brief (40% of Simulation Grade)

- Write a **2-page (single-spaced)** policy position brief from your assigned role's perspective.
- Include:
 - Your organization's mandate and priorities.
 - Your position on the Azurian crisis (what action should or should not be taken).
 - Two key policy recommendations.
 - Anticipated objections from other actors and how you would respond.
- Use at least **three credible sources** (reports, policy documents, or academic readings).
- Upload your position brief to Canvas by the due date.

2. Discussion Board Debate (30% of Simulation Grade)

- Post your position brief summary (150–200 words) to the Canvas **Simulation Discussion Board**.
- Respond to **at least two peers** from different roles.
- Use evidence-based reasoning, maintain professionalism, and stay in character.
- Posts should engage critically with peers' arguments (not just agree/disagree).

3. Negotiation & Resolution (30% of Simulation Grade)

- Participate in a **final live or recorded Zoom session** (Week 14).
- Each actor will present a **2-minute opening statement**.
- The class will then work toward a **joint resolution** (e.g., sanctions, investigation, peace delegation, or aid plan).
- After the session, submit a short **250-word reflection** on what you learned about international cooperation, power asymmetries, and democratic accountability.

Grading Rubric (Total: 30 Points)

Criteria	Excellent (A)	Good (B)	Satisfactory (C)	Needs Improvement (D/F)
Position Brief (40%)	Clear, well-argued, evidence-based; strong understanding of assigned role and human-rights frameworks.	Good understanding; minor gaps or limited depth.	Descriptive; lacks theoretical or contextual grounding.	Minimal effort or off-topic.
Discussion Engagement (30%)	Thoughtful, analytical, and responsive to peers; advances debate with new insights.	Engages peers respectfully; some repetition or limited depth.	Minimal engagement or superficial replies.	Fails to post or violates professionalism.
Negotiation & Reflection (30%)	Persuasive in role; actively contributes to resolution; reflection shows deep understanding of dilemmas.	Participates meaningfully; reflection clear but lacks depth.	Limited participation or surface-level reflection.	Absent from session or no submission.

Submission Details

- **Position Brief Due: Week 13, Friday by 11:59 PM (Canvas Upload)**
- **Discussion Board Posts: Open Week 13 (Mon–Fri)**
- **Final Negotiation Session: Week 14 (Live via Zoom / Recorded Option Available)**
- **Reflection Due: 48 hours after the session**

Academic Integrity

All work must be original and reflect your assigned role’s research and reasoning. Any use of AI or external content must be acknowledged transparently. Misrepresentation or plagiarism will result in a zero for the assignment and referral to the Dean of Students.

Technical & Participation Notes

- If you are unable to join the live session, you may submit a **recorded 2-minute presentation** of your position statement and participate fully via discussion threads.
- Use professional tone and respectful disagreement throughout the simulation.
- Review the **“Role-Play Simulation Tips”** posted on Canvas before starting.