

Press Corps

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Letter from the Chair..... | 2 |
| Intro to Committee..... | 5 |
| Committee Background and Mechanics..... | 5 |
| Current Issues..... | 6 |
| Questions to Consider..... | 10 |
| Roster..... | 11 |
| Sources..... | 12 |



Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the UN Press Corps at WAMUNC XXVII. I'm Gabby Greer, and I'm excited to be your chair for the committee this year! As a third-year at George Washington University, I have been studying International Affairs with a concentration in International Development. This is my second year here in DC, after I spent my first year of university abroad in Paris, which has helped my studies immensely. As a part of GW's Model UN team, I have staffed conferences like last year's WAMUNC as well as GWCIA, and it has been such an enriching experience.

As the Press Corps chair this year, I'm looking forward to seeing all of your progress as journalists throughout the conference. The press plays a vital role in the UN's functions and goals, and I'm excited to see the reports and articles made by you all. Particularly with the many developments in the world of journalism and news outlets today, this year will be an interesting committee.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to voice them via email along with your advisor. Anything from the topics, committee, or just general introductions are welcome, and I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Best wishes,

Gabby Greer

Chair of UN Press Corps

gagreer23@gmail.com

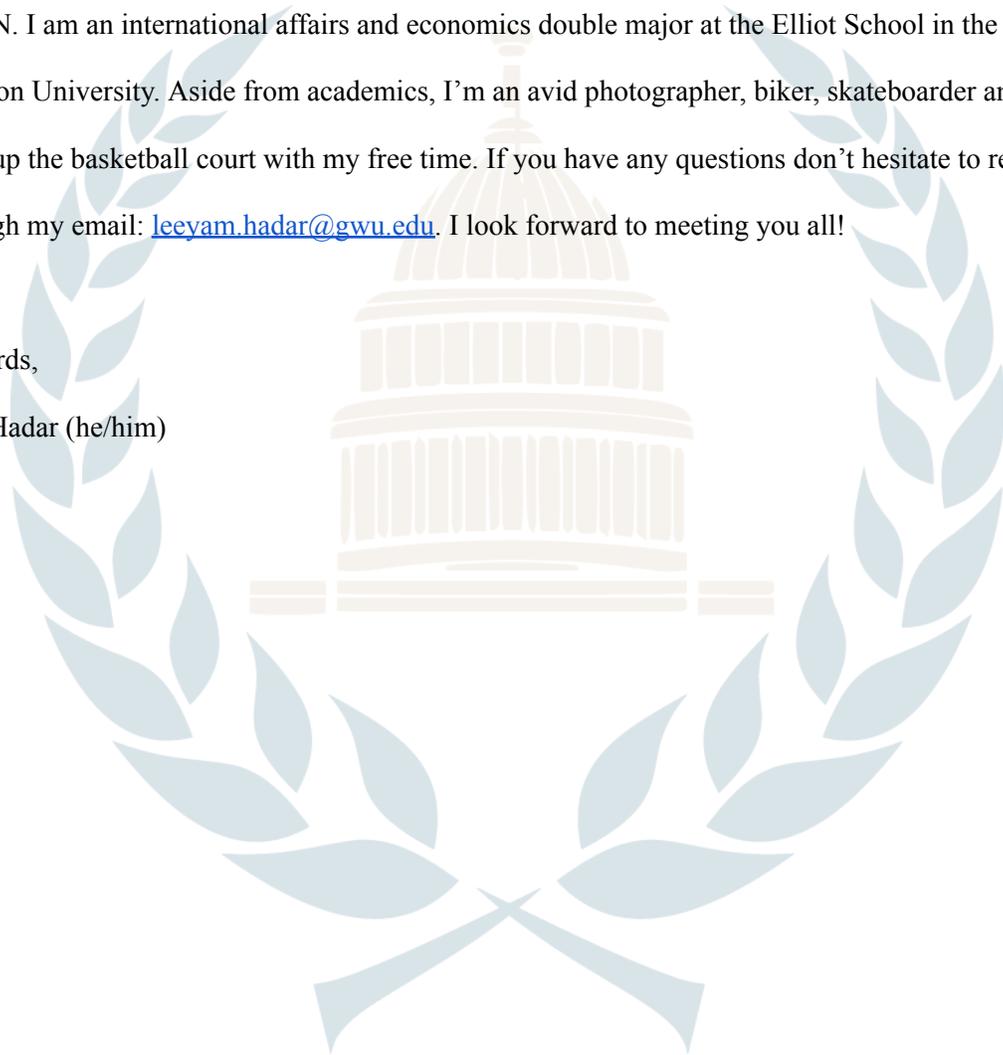
Vice Chair: Leeyam Hadar

Dear Honorable Delegates,

My name is Leeyam Hadar, and it is my honor to serve as your vice chair for the Press Corp during WAMUNC 2026! This is my first year chairing a Model UN Conference and my third year in Model UN. I am an international affairs and economics double major at the Elliot School in the George Washington University. Aside from academics, I'm an avid photographer, biker, skateboarder and will often hit up the basketball court with my free time. If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out to me through my email: leeyam.hadar@gwu.edu. I look forward to meeting you all!

Best regards,

Leeyam Hadar (he/him)



Intro to Committee

Hello reporters, welcome to the Press Corps! This specialized committee will be a fun and engaging way to debate “pressing” issues related to news media in the current day, while also keeping WAMUNC delegates, advisors, and staff updated on the intense goings-ons in the 15 other WAMUNC committees. Through diplomacy and negotiation, reporters will solve news-related crises, and through observation skills, interviews, and writing, will produce articles about committees reflecting the styles and values of their respective agencies.

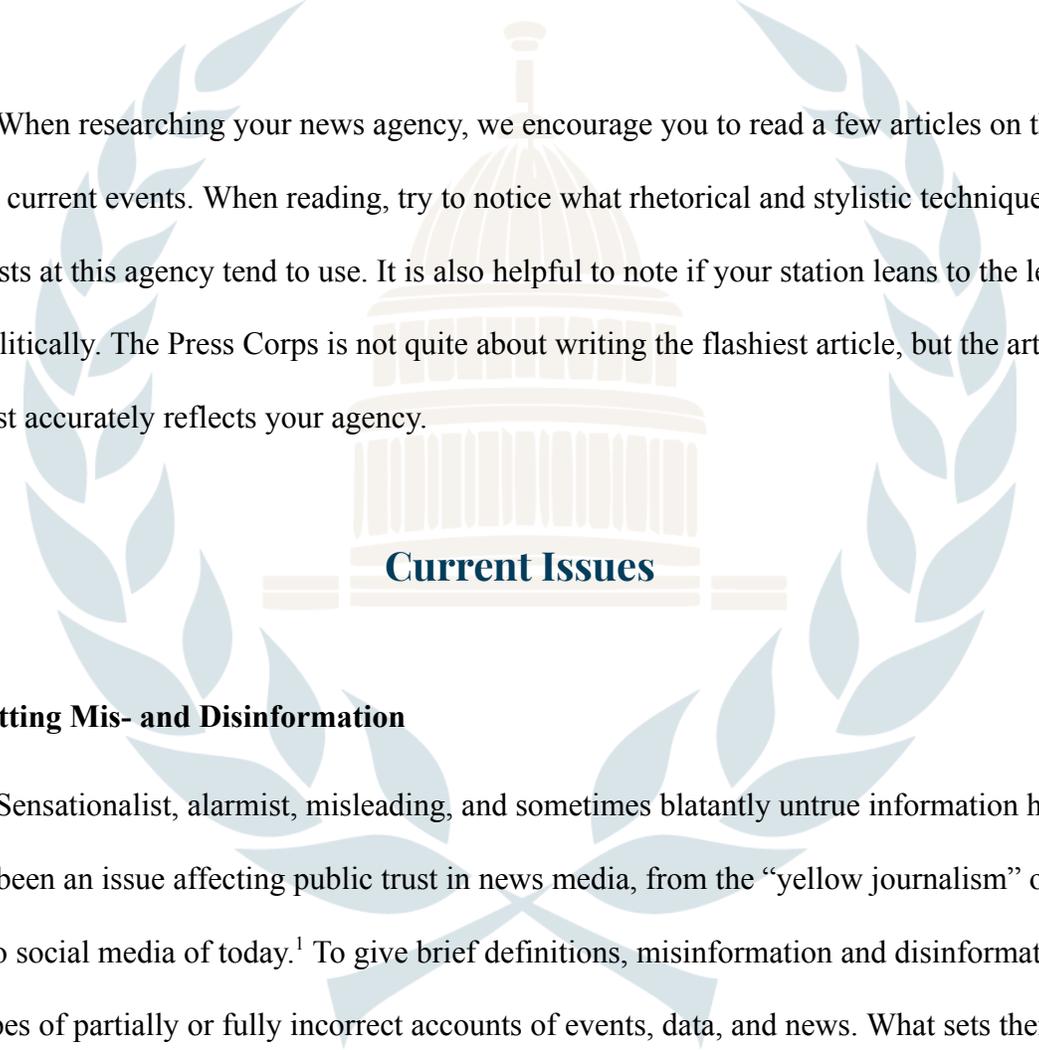
Committee Background and Mechanics

The Press Corps, in the United States, typically refers to the group of journalists and correspondents tasked with covering the President and other news surrounding the White House. The concept is similar for a Model United Nations conference: the Press Corps is a group of delegates who will act as reporters for the whole conference. As a reporter, you will be visiting different committee rooms and creating your very own updates about important discussions taking place within them. Take thorough notes, conduct interviews with delegates, and listen in during moderated and unmoderated caucuses to get the scoop, and return to the committee room to write an article. Based on your agency, you may opt for a neutral description of the events or a pointed analysis praising or criticizing the direction certain committees are going. These articles will be posted for delegates, advisors, and staffers to read.

In order to also foster debate and problem solving, part of this committee will be run like a crisis committee without backroom elements. During certain periods of time, the press corps

may be presented with an issue that they may solve by passing a directive, which is like a short version of a GA working paper. These directive rounds may last 30 to 45 minutes, so as to not take away too much from reporting time. Assume, for the sake of moving committee forwards, that the Press Corps has the resources and powers to pass directives affecting reporting policy within the various countries.

When researching your news agency, we encourage you to read a few articles on their page on current events. When reading, try to notice what rhetorical and stylistic techniques the journalists at this agency tend to use. It is also helpful to note if your station leans to the left or right politically. The Press Corps is not quite about writing the flashiest article, but the article that most accurately reflects your agency.



Current Issues

Combatting Mis- and Disinformation

Sensationalist, alarmist, misleading, and sometimes blatantly untrue information has always been an issue affecting public trust in news media, from the “yellow journalism” of the 1800s to social media of today.¹ To give brief definitions, misinformation and disinformation are both types of partially or fully incorrect accounts of events, data, and news. What sets them apart are that misinformation is spread by those who do not intend to deceive or cause harm, and disinformation is a deliberate attempt to trick its consumers.²

¹ Green, “Yellow Journalism.”

² CCDH, “Misinformation vs. Disinformation.”

Closely related is the Oxford Dictionary 2016 Word of the Year, “post-truth.” The Dictionary defines this term as “relating to or denoting circumstances in which objective facts are less influential in shaping public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief,” selecting it due to its frequent pairing by news outlets with “politics,” creating the term “post-truth politics,” in order to contextualize the 2016 U.S. presidential election and the U.K. Brexit referendum.³

During this presidential election, it was estimated that every American had been exposed to and could recall at least one false news story in the months leading up to the election, and that half of Americans believed the fake articles they encountered. Fake news that favored then-candidate Donald Trump was circulated at a higher rate than his opponent, Hillary Clinton, with Facebook articles favoring Trump being shared 30 million times and Clinton only 8 million times.⁴ It was also found that people were more likely to believe fake articles that align with their identity, worldview, or favored candidate, and articles that are novel or overly emotional.⁵

While legacy news media tends to be reliable and fact-based, it is much more difficult to combat mis- and disinformation on social media, also called new media. After a major event occurs, it is much quicker to fabricate a lie and post it online than for proper investigations and press conferences to be conducted, allowing for mis- and disinformation to reach the public more quickly than legacy media can. With the advent of generative AI, it is even easier for false or misleading content to be consumed by millions of people.

False and emotionally-driven narratives lead to polarization and general mistrust in people, institutions, and news outlets. Because of this, it is very important for the Press Corps to discuss ways to combat the spread of mis- and disinformation. At the same time, some outlets

³ Oxford, “Word of the Year 2016.”

⁴ Allcott and Gentzkow, “Social Media and Fake News.”

⁵ APA, “How and Why does Misinformation.”

may be incentivized by the profits that can be brought in with more sensationalist headlines, and often frame data in ways that is technically correct, but serves to push a certain story. Keep this in mind as you think about how your specific agency might handle this new, post-truth age threat.

Navigating U.S. Policy

Since assuming office for a second time in 2025, the administration of president Donald Trump has assumed a combative attitude towards news media organizations. The administration has taken actions ranging from the removal of financial support to legal pressure as they seek to change the reporting landscape, in America and across the world. There have been many instances as well in which the president himself has levied insults and verbal attacks at individual reporters, reflecting his attitude towards the press.

On January 20th, 2025, president Trump signed Executive Order 14172, renaming the “Gulf of Mexico” to the “Gulf of America”, citing the contributions of oil reserves, fisheries, and tourism to the American economy.⁶ This naming convention came into conflict with the style guide of the Associated Press, which recommended continuing the use of “Gulf of Mexico,” saying that “as a global news agency that disseminates news around the world... it must ensure that place names and geography are easily recognizable to all audiences.” It is also notable that the AP itself is not the sole user of the AP Stylebook, and that it “is relied on by thousands of journalists and other writers globally,” a critical resource for many.⁷ This resulted in the Associated Press being barred from the Oval Office and Air Force One, raising alarms about First Amendment freedoms of speech and press. The administration itself argued that the

⁶ Trump, “Executive Order 14172.”

⁷ Bauder, “White House bars AP.”

Associated Press' decision reflected a disregard for lawful decisions by the president and an attempt to stoke division at the start of the term. A Trump-appointed federal judge would eventually order the reinstatement of the Associate Press at these key locations, allowing coverage to continue.⁸

The president had also pursued legal action against a number of news agencies for various reasons. At the end of 2024, ABC anchor George Stephanopoulos, after conveying incorrect information about the verdict of lawsuits against Donald Trump, was himself the subject of a defamation lawsuit. As a result, ABC agreed to pay \$15 million to settle the suit, plus an additional \$1 million in legal fees.⁹ Six months later, in July of 2025, CBS's parent organization, Paramount, would settle a lawsuit with a payment of \$16 million to the presidential library. While the main cause of the suit surrounded the "mental anguish" inflicted on president Trump by the edits made to CBS's 60 Minutes interview with presidential candidate Kamala Harris, Paramount was seeking a merger with Skydance at the time, which would require the approval of the administration. Three days later, Paramount would cancel CBS's "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," whose host was often critical of Trump, citing cancellation for "financial reasons, not for content."¹⁰ Further suits would be filed against The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times,¹¹ and the BBC, with varying results.¹²

In addition, the administration also sought to reduce public media funds, specifically those given to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Passing both chambers of Congress, a bill was signed into law to rescind \$1.1 billion of funds previously appropriated for the CPB. As a result, the CPB was forced to shut down its operations.¹³ The purpose of the CPB was to

⁸ Bauder, "AP wins reinstatement."

⁹ The Associated Press, "A timeline."

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Tian, "BBC seeks dismissal."

¹³ Neuman and Langfitt, "Corporation for Public Broadcasting."

provide federal funds to public media stations across the country, with the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR) in particular receiving support from the private nonprofit which accounted for ~15% of their revenues each. Republicans in Congress believed that public media corporations were biased, and that funding them was a poor use of taxpayer dollars, and the bill passed mostly along party lines.¹⁴

With this all considered, 2026 marks a turbulent time for news media. It is up to the Press Corps to work together to come up with a plan to work through the volatile and hostile information environment in the United States.

Questions to Consider

- How do reporters from your agency or outlet write?
- Is your organization known for reporting neutral, on-the-ground information, or interpreting and analyzing events through a certain lens?
- Considering WAMUNC committees range from the Philippine Revolution to Star Wars, how might your agency report on historical or fictional events?
- What sets your agency apart from the other news agencies, and how can your writing reflect its unique identity?
- Has your organization taken any steps to fight misinformation and disinformation?
- Does your agency benefit in any way from the spread of fake news?
- Has your agency been impacted by U.S. policy recently?
- Is your agency more likely to work with the current administration or to engage in legal battles?

¹⁴ Ibid.

Roster

1. Reuters
2. AP
3. Fox News
4. CNN
5. CBS
6. NBC
7. NPR
8. ABC
9. New York Times
10. Washington Post
11. New York Post
12. Vox
13. Wall Street Journal
14. BBC
15. The Guardian



Sources

- Adam Green, "Yellow Journalism: The 'Fake News' of the 19th Century," *The Public Domain Review*, February 21, 2017, <https://publicdomainreview.org/collection/yellow-journalism-the-fake-news-of-the-19th-century/>.
- "A timeline of Trump's fights with media, including Jimmy Kimmel," *The Associated Press*, September 26, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/kimmel-trump-media-lawsuits-newspapers-d48448bd0d940e87c4dbecfda5699fb>.
- David Bauder, "AP wins reinstatement to White House events after judge rules government can't bar its journalists," *The Associated Press*, April 9, 2025, <https://www.ap.org/media-center/ap-in-the-news/2025/ap-wins-reinstatement-to-white-house-events-after-judge-rules-government-cant-bar-its-journalists/>.
- David Bauder, "White House bars AP reporter from Oval Office because of AP style policy on 'Gulf of America'," *The Associated Press*, February 12, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/trump-ap-journalism-first-amendment-8a83d8b506053249598e807f8e91e1ae>.
- Donald J. Trump (2nd Term), "Executive Order 14172—Restoring Names That Honor American Greatness," Online by Gerhard Peters and John T. Woolley, *The American Presidency Project*, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/node/375962>.
- "How and why does misinformation spread?," *American Psychological Association*, created November 29, 2023, updated March 1, 2024, <https://www.apa.org/topics/journalism-facts/how-why-misinformation-spreads>.
- Hunt Allcott and Matthew Gentzkow, "Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 31, no. 2 (2017): 211-36. DOI: 10.1257/jep.31.2.211.
- "Misinformation vs Disinformation: Understanding the difference online," *Center for Countering Digital Hate*, August 10, 2023, https://counterhate.com/blog/misinformation-vs-disinformation-understanding-the-difference-online/?utm_source=google_grant_search&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=g-00_explainer&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22756102989&gbraid=0AAAAAokHfkF3tLlqv3OVxKIh_VLPQhY6y&gclid=Cj0KCOiA-YvMBhDtARIsAHZuUzKpml-pZv3MM_nw6szLhwUhe2nZu_Tkpw94QAK7XIbGKWKAVIZAFesaAvNrEALw_wcB.
- Oxford, "Word of the Year 2016," *Oxford Languages*, <https://languages.oup.com/word-of-the-year/2016/>.
- Scott Neuman and Frank Langfitt, "Corporation for Public Broadcasting says it's shutting down," *National Public Radio*, August 1, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/01/nx-s1-5489808/cpb-shut-down-public-broadcasting-trump>.
- Yang Tian, "BBC seeks dismissal of Trump's multi-billion dollar defamation lawsuit," *The British Broadcasting Corporation*, January 13, 2026, <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c394x4z8kpdo>.