

# **INTERRUPTED SILENCE**

**ACTIVELY ENGAGED  
INTELLECTUALS,  
INTELLECTUALLY  
ENGAGED ACTIVISTS**

Compiled and Published  
SPRING QUARTER 2025

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# NEXT QUARTER'S COURSE SCHEDULE: UNDERGRAD

**INT 100 INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS  
09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 TuTh 11:20AM - 12:50PM**

**INT 200 - INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMY  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS  
09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 TuTh 1:00PM - 2:30PM**

**INT 201 - NATION STATES, NATIONALISM, EMPIRE  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS AND LOOP  
LOOP Gil Gott 09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 TuTh 2:40PM - 4:10PM  
LINCOLN PARK Shailja Sharma 09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 MoWe 1:00PM - 2:30PM**

**INT 204 - CULTURAL ANALYSIS  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS  
Kaveh Ehsani 09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 MoWe 11:20AM - 12:50PM**

**INT - 301 SENIOR SEMIAR  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS  
Jacob Stump 09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 TuTh 2:40PM - 4:10PM**

**INT 302 - CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS  
Jacob Stump 09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 Tu 6:00PM - 9:15PM**

**INT - 323 HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL LAW  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS  
Gil Gott 09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 We 6:00PM - 9:15PM**

**INT 392 - TOPICS IN GLOBAL URBANISM  
ONLINE  
Alex Papadopoulos 09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 ONLINE**

# NEXT QUARTER'S COURSE SCHEDULE: GRADUATE CLASSES

INT 401- CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS

Jacob Stump 09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 Tu 6:00PM - 9:15PM

INT 410 INTERNATIONAL LAW  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS

Gil Gott 09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 We 6:00PM - 9:15PM

INT 488 - SPECIAL TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES  
LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS

09/10/2025 - 11/25/2025 Mo 12:00AM - 12:00AM

# WELCOME LETTER



## From the Chair:

Welcome to the Spring edition of the INT Newsletter: **Interrupted Silence**. We use this student produced newsletter in INT to highlight the wonderful work done by our students in scholarship, writing, research and activism of all kinds. We hope the newsletter also helps us reconnect to our alumni who are spread all over the world and still find time to get in touch, drop by the office and attend our events. 2025 has been a momentous year, not just because it marked the re-election of Donald Trump. We saw numerous events analyzing the impact of this election for education, for our students and for the world. INT students organized and spoke eloquently at a student conference titled “Student Activism and Social Change”. Dr. Shiera Malik hosted a roundtable on April 9th, entitled “Encountering the Stranger: A Conversation” with panelists which included Siba Grovogui , Sam Opondo and Naseema Zeerak. Dr. Kaveh Ehsani organized visits and talks by Isaac Kamola, Kalli Rubaii (“Legacies of War in Iraq”), Mahasen Nasser-Eldin, and Omar Shakir. Our student, Sara Aqariden was chosen to speak at a panel at the ISA in Chicago this year. In addition, Shiera Malik and I also presented at the conference. We are closing out the year with great news about our graduate student, Rosbel Garza-Hernandez, who has won not one but two fellowships: one at the Steans Center and one with the Social Transformation Research Collaborative. Congratulations, Rosbel! And congratulations to our faculty who continue to do such an amazing job in mentoring all our students. INT now has a student lounge in our suite! Please come and try it out soon. We say goodbye to Katherine Mooney, our student representative. And we look forward to hearing from all of you and seeing you at our INTuesday events. Please join us for our end of year get together on June 5th at 4.30 pm

## HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

### INT Tuesdays, Guest Speakers, and Student Conference



**2025 CONFERENCE ON  
STUDENT &  
ACTIVISM &  
SOCIAL CHANGE**

Historically and across the world, student movements have contributed significantly to wider social and political transformations in and beyond the university.

In this conference, students will be sharing their research on how various movements contributed to making these changes.

**THURSDAY,  
APRIL 10** **FROM  
4:00-7:30**  
**STUDENT CENTER  
ROOM 314**

**Keynote by professor Isaac Kamola,**  
author of *Free Speech and Koch Money: Manufacturing a Campus Culture War* (2021); and *Making the World Global: US Universities and the Production of the Global Imaginary* (2019)

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THE DEPARTMENTS OF  
  
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CRITICAL ETHNIC STUDIES  
ISLAMIC WORLD STUDIES  
AMERICAN STUDIES AND DEPAUL'S WOMEN CENTER

Last quarter we held a screening of the Battle of Algiers! feeling that a movie about national liberation and the struggle against imperialism felt relevant. the documentary style film captures the tumultuous years leading to Algerian independence.

We also hosted guest speaker Isaac Kamola from Trinity College. Dr Kamola is author of Free Speech and Koch Money: Manufacturing a Campus Culture War and Making the World Global: US Universities and the Production of the Global Imaginary. his lecture on the trump area of the 50 year war on higher education.

Our department collaborated with numerous others across the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to host a student-organized conference highlighting the research of our peers on student involvement in numerous social movements across the globe. Students presented on topics from DePaul's divestment movement, to protests against corrupt regimes, and high tuition, sexual liberation, Filippino resistance, to anti-nuclear movements and more



**The 50-Year War on Higher Education**

To understand today's political battles, you need to know how they began.

**Isaac Kamola**

**How the Right Manufactured a Moral Panic to Remake American Higher Education (and What We Can Do To Fight Back)**

Isaac Kamola (Trinity College) is author of *Free Speech and Koch Money: Manufacturing a Campus Culture War* (with Ralph Wilson, 2021) and *Making the World Global: US Universities and the Production of the Global Imaginary* (2019). He is currently the director of the Mellon-funded Center for the Defense of Academic Freedom at the American Association of University Professors (AAUP).

**WEDNESDAY APRIL 9, 2025**  
**ARTS & LETTERS 103 4:30 PM**  
**ON ZOOM AND IN PERSON**  
**2315 N KENMORE AVE**  
**HTTPS://DEPAUL.ZOOM.US/J/9860493426**

Spurred by the following departments, programs and organizations of International studies, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Peace, Justice & Conflict Studies, Islamic World Studies, Women's Center, Political Science, and the Taskforce for the Defense of Academic Freedoms, AAUP DePaul chapter.

## HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

### Guest Speakers and Conferences



### Encountering the Stranger

What historically grounded humanistic narratives and practices do we bring to our engagement with others?



April 9th  
4:30-6pm  
Levan 504  
or via Zoom

Shiera el-Malik

Professor Shiera el-Malik organized Encountering the Stranger: A Conversation which is part of a larger interdisciplinary project that studies the theoretical limits and possibilities of the socio-political incorporation of strangers entitled Encountering the Stranger: An investigation of ideas of collective life. This conversation begins with the recognition that any study of society, governance, and diplomacy requires consideration of visions of collective life. What impact can our study of encounters with strangers have on studies of diplomacy? What historically grounded humanistic narratives and practices do we bring to our engagement with others?

Dr. Kali Rubaii came to DePaul to talk about the legacies of the Iraq war, covering the privatization of war, the privatization of reconstruction, and the toxicity that remains after the US invasion of Iraq. Dr. Rubaii explained how the privatization of aid led to the destruction of Fallujah on two different occasions to maximize profits.

At the anti-deportation workshop organized by various departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, students, professors, and alumni got together to plan and organize grassroots responses to the Trump administration's weaponization of student visas.

### Kali Rubaii Legacies of War in Iraq

22 years after the US Invasion & Occupation

Professor Kali Rubaii (Anthropology at Purdue University) is a groundbreaking research focuses on displacement, war-impacted ecologies, and environmental health justice. Through forensic ethnography, Dr. Rubaii's work has focused on the violent legacies of the US invasion of Iraq and its impact on the land. She is currently leading two interdisciplinary projects. She is working with a team of doctors, epidemiologists, and environmental activists to document the links between birth anomalies and military environmental damage in Fallujah, Iraq. She is also researching concrete production in post-invasion Iraq as it encroaches global regimes of class and citizenship. For more details, visit [kali.rubaii.com](http://kali.rubaii.com)



Monday April 21  
2:45 - 4:30 pm  
108 Arts & Letters Building  
2329 N. Kenmore Avenue

Sponsored by the Department of International Studies



My name is Rosbel Garza, I am the Graduate Student Representative with the Department of International Studies here at DePaul University. I did my undergrad at the University of Kansas in Global & International Studies as well as History, with an emphasis on Latin-American forced migrations and food systems.

Growing up as a Hispanic man in central Missouri/Kansas, I learned first-hand about the politics of being and belonging.

The town I eventually ended up in, Lawrence, Kansas's progressive atmosphere and history of abolition demonstrated the potential for communal identities and alternative ways of life. While in Kansas I was deeply involved in the local chapter of Food Not Bombs, organizing alongside students, adult professionals, and teenagers to fill empty plates with not just vegan food, but locally sourced food straight from the farms of local abolitionists. I continue this work here in Chicago through organizing alongside Disability Justice/Rights groups. I currently live in co-operative housing located on the South-West side of the city, where I continue to learn about the quirks, flaws, pros, and cons, of living in holistic community with strangers.

Outside of work and school, I enjoy being surrounded by nature and writing poetry. While I definitely miss the endless prairies of Kansas, Chicago's numerous parks and outdoor spaces offer different, but perhaps still as engaging, ways of connecting with the land. I find that most days I'm wandering from park to park, sitting down for a moment to write either poetry or for my work, then continuing my journey.

# Student Rep

My name is Katherine Mooney, and I am the outgoing student representative. I will graduate in June after majoring in INT with a minor in Public Health. I have worked alongside Rosbel as a student rep for two years. Outside of the office, I have spent the last four years playing rugby, volunteering with Alpha Phi Omega, and working at Wrigley Field. After graduation, I plan to continue my education in public health research.

I'd like to thank Professor Shailja Sharma for the opportunity to work in the department, it has been an amazing experience getting to know the professors and lead events like our student conference. I'd also like to thank Sara Aqariden and Rosbel Garza for their work as student reps, you have both been incredible partners.

The work that is being done in the INT department is more important now than ever. As uncertainty and tensions rise surrounding our work, it is critical that we continue to lean on and grow our community. I urge students to continue to reach out to professors and peers, learn as much as you can and use it to better the systems we study. Lean on one another for knowledge and comfort that you are not alone in your work. Our community is one of our greatest advantages, I look forward to seeing it grow.



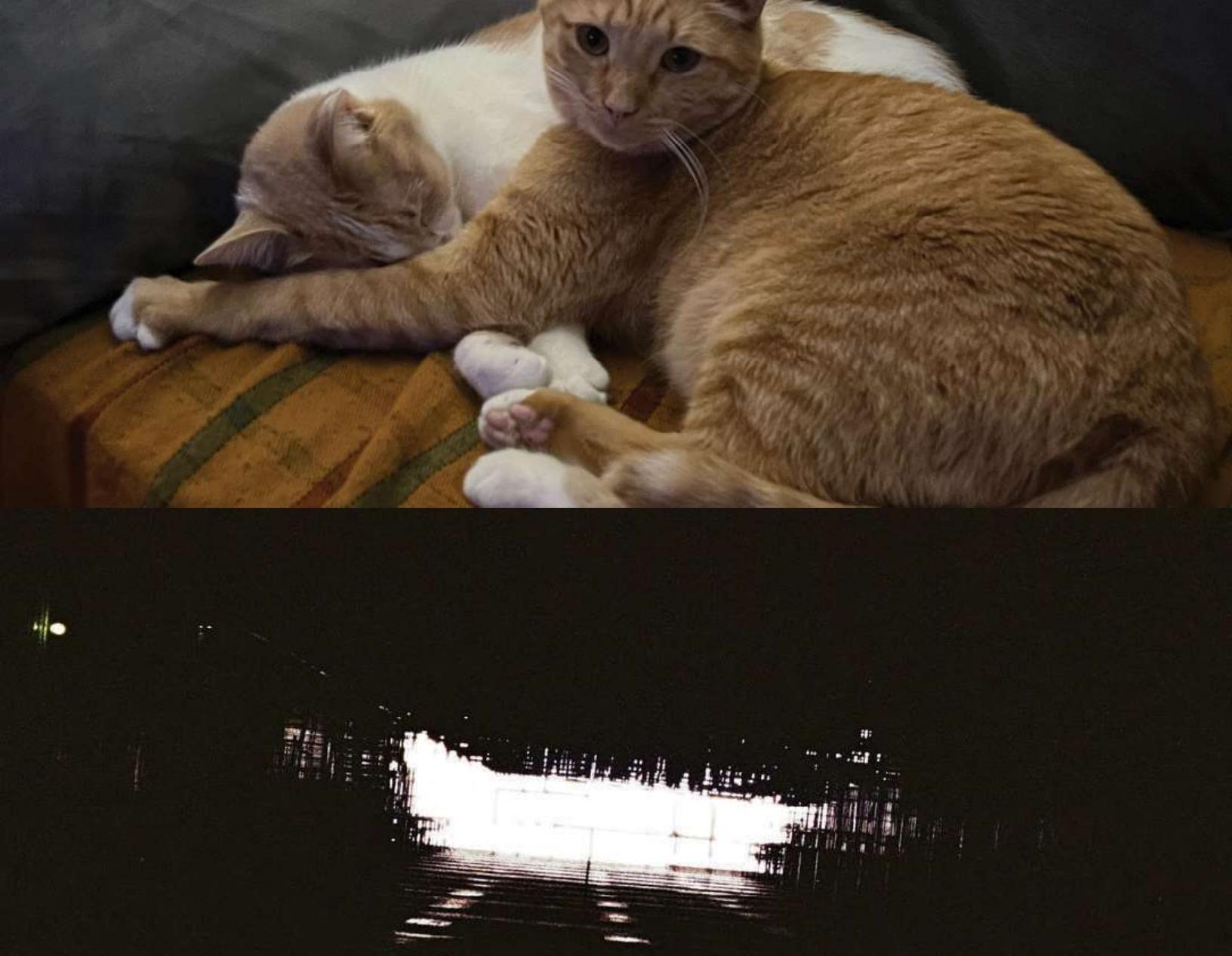
# *Editor*

My name is Michael Cottrell. I am currently a Junior majoring in International Studies. I come from the southwest Chicago suburb of Lemont.

I am one of the editors of this newsletter and this is my first time doing so. Huge thank you to my professors, friends and family for helping me get back to where I am now.

Forever thankful





**My name is Simon I'm a student worker and an editor. I am a Latin America and Latino Studies and Anthropology major.**

**This is the first news letter I am a part of, thanks INT for welcoming me and being so supportive of my studies. I was part of the conference on student activism, my presentation was on the history of Lincoln Park as a contested space and the legacy of organizing, coalition building, and community history.**

**“I hate the indifferent. I believe that living means taking sides.”**

# *Student Worker and Editor*

Hey everyone! My name is Favour Ifurueze. I'm a student worker and one of the editors for the International Studies Department newsletter. I'm currently majoring in International Studies with minors in Diplomacy and Public Health.

I'm passionate about global development, human rights, and telling the stories that connect us across borders. I'm excited to help bring our department's work and community to life through this newsletter!



One of my favorite classes so far has been International Political Economy because it helped me understand how economics and politics interact on a global scale and how these forces impact everyday lives. I chose International Studies because I've always been curious about the connections between people, cultures, and policies and I want to be part of creating positive change on a global scale.

# STUDENT SUBMISSIONS

## नछु ने :Un- touchable

### by Ishana Bhandari

"Congratulations, it's a girl," the doctor announced on April 27, 2004. The words sank in, and soon, everyone began celebrating: "Laxmi has entered your home!"—a reference to the Hindu goddess of wealth and prosperity. I was told that my birth was met with great joy. My grandfather even declared that I was born to unite. In many ways, his words made sense; as the eldest daughter in a predominantly male household, I was treated as someone special. But being special came with expectations. I became an experiment—a subject of tradition, societal norms, and the patriarchal ideologies that many Nepali families uphold.

My parents worked tirelessly to shape me into the "perfect daughter," ensuring I embodied all 32 virtues that a woman is supposedly required to have. This is the fairy tale of an eldest daughter—written not as a complaint, but as a reflection. I deeply respect the environment that shaped me, yet there are aspects of it I feel compelled to question. While I still honor the traditions I was taught, I now navigate them on my own terms. It was only when I stepped outside my familiar world—when I was placed in a different reality—that I began to see things in a new light. The story begins at 11:56 AM Nepal Standard Time on April 25, 2015, when Nepal was struck by its most devastating earthquake in nearly two decades. My family and I were returning from a vacation, driving back to the city on a gloomy day.

We had stopped for a tea break—something we now call God's way of saving us. After an hour, we resumed our journey. Halfway home, we saw people running out of their houses, screaming. Confused, we continued driving, trying to understand what was happening. It wasn't until we felt the ground shake beneath us that we realized the truth.

Our family friends, who were just five minutes behind us, were unreachable. We desperately tried calling our relatives, but the network was down. The city—just ten minutes away—was in ruins. Buildings had collapsed, burying people beneath them. Nepal, an underdeveloped country, lacked the resources for immediate rescue efforts. It took over an hour for emergency teams to arrive, and by then, thousands had lost their lives.

We were in the midst of the biggest disaster of our lives. We had been warned that another powerful aftershock could hit at any moment, but no one knew when. As a precaution, everyone was told to stay outside their homes. My family and I lived in a tent, uncertain and afraid. Two days later, on April 27th, it was my birthday. Despite the circumstances, my family did their best to celebrate. It wasn't the grandest day, but we made it work. Two days after that, I went inside my home for the first time since the earthquake to take a shower. I stepped out, got dressed, and was about to go about my day when my mother called me into her room. Her voice was serious. I walked in, and she asked me to close the door. My heart pounded. Something was wrong. She looked upset, and I nervously asked if everything was okay. That's when she told me—I might have gotten my period. I had no idea what menstruation was.

I felt a wave of sadness. She pointed out the stain on my underwear, confirming that I had started my first period. Then, she taught me how to wear a pad. As the realization sank in, I broke down. Even though menstruation is a natural process that every woman experiences, the difference lies in how we treat it.

According to Nepali Hindu tradition, when a girl gets her first and second periods, she must be isolated. She is not allowed to see the sun, interact with men, or be touched for a certain period. Historically, this isolation lasted 21 days. But in our so-called modernized version of the tradition, the duration had been reduced—12 to 15 days for the first period and 5 to 7 days for the second. It was official—I had gotten my first period. My mother immediately called my grandmother to decide what to do next.

They whispered in the corner, trying to figure out where to hide me while I wiped away my tears. It was a dilemma. We had been ordered to stay outside the house for safety, yet I couldn't be kept outside because I wasn't allowed to see the sun, be near men, or share space with others.

After much discussion, they decided to place me in a store in our house—a small, windowless space with closets lining the walls. It had an attached bathroom, which made it the most practical choice. I was 12 years old, and my grandmother volunteered to stay with me. While everyone else remained outside, protecting themselves from danger,

I was locked away inside—because I had gotten my period. Let me paint a picture of that room: It was cramped, filled with storage boxes and old belongings. There were no windows, no fresh air. They set up an air mattress for me and placed another one, far away from mine, for my grandmother. It was decided—I would stay inside for 12 days. On the 13th day, I could finally step out.

I stayed inside for 12 days, isolated from the world, with no human interaction except for my mom, aunt, and grandmother. On the third day of my isolation, sometime around 3:00 or 4:00 PM, another aftershock struck. I was alone in the storage room—except for a friend who had briefly stopped by but immediately ran outside. I had to save myself, all while still following the ritual. Panicked yet bound by tradition, I grabbed a blanket, wrapped it around myself, and ran—shielding myself from the sunlight that I wasn't supposed to see. When the shaking stopped, my mom rushed to find me and immediately took me back into the storage room.

That's when I saw it—one of the heavy closets had collapsed. If I hadn't run, I could have been buried underneath it. Finally, on the 13th day, a ritual was performed for me. I was showered with gifts and officially allowed to step outside—the end of my confinement. That day was May 12, 2015. We were sitting on the lawn, sipping tea, enjoying the fresh air I had long been deprived of. And then—it happened again. A massive earthquake, nearly 7.5 in magnitude, struck. This time, though, I was free.

I ran without hesitation, without restrictions, protecting myself without fear of breaking a ritual. Almost 15 days later, I got my period for the second time. We were still living in the tent, as warnings of another major earthquake loomed over us. This time, I had questions. Where would they hide me now? Would I be sent back inside the house, risking my life? Or would they find another solution?

Thankfully, this time, I was allowed to stay in the tent. A partition was set up—one small section for me and a larger one for my family. For five days, we remained separated by a thin divider. But unlike the first time, I felt safer. My family was right there, just beyond the partition. I wasn't locked away in a dark, airless room. I wasn't alone. Years later, nothing has changed. Periods are still treated as something shameful, something impure. Even now, when my mom is on her period, she is not allowed to enter the kitchen or share same bed as my dad. And unlike the first or second time, now that it happens regularly, I, too, must remain untouched for four days. I do not eat at the same table as my family. I sit in a corner, careful not to let my impurity spread to the spaces shared by my family. I sleep in a different room. I eat from separate plates. In those four days, I am a guest in my own home—one that cannot be touched. As I reflect on those days—hiding in isolation while the earth trembled around me—I realize that fear came in two forms: the fear of nature's wrath and the fear of breaking tradition. But should a natural part of life—something every woman experiences—ever be treated as something shameful or dangerous? Change doesn't come easily, especially when it challenges deeply rooted beliefs. But change begins with a voice, and today, I choose to use mine. My story is not just mine alone; it belongs to every girl who has ever been made to feel untouchable because of something as natural as menstruation. I will honor my culture, but I will not let it define my worth. I will respect tradition, but I will question it when it no longer serves justice. And I will ensure that my sister—and every girl after her—knows that she is not impure, not cursed, but strong, capable, and deserving of dignity. Because no girl should ever have to choose between safety and tradition

# Resolution Paper by Favour Ifurueze and Simone Prosper, representing the delegate of Germany from the Midwest Model United Nation Conference.

GA-P-H-1 The United Nations Environment Assembly, Recognizing the need for global cooperation to adopt and implement ambitious marine policies that would combat marine degradation that is caused by illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, waste pollution, and coral bleaching due to the state of emergency stated by the Sustainable Development Goal Report of 2023, Advocating for stronger international partnerships to facilitate knowledge exchange, enhance marine conservation technologies and suggesting stricter regulations on marine pollution, in alignment with the goals highlighted in Sustainable Development Goal 14, Suggesting to Member States to reach and maintain heightened awareness to the dangers of waste and/or plastic pollution in our oceans as for example mentioned in the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML) and the abundance of oil spills and the pollution of incoming imports and exports, Emphasizing United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14 (End Plastic Pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument) on the establishment of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) on Plastic Pollution, Having considered the effects of eutrophication on coastal waters through agricultural run-offs, sewage discharge, and industrial waste leading to an explosion of algal growth which is depleting oxygen levels in the water,

1. Urges Member States to implement national and regional action plans within the sovereignty of their respective nations and territories to combat marine degradation in order to assist in the protection of the world's seas and oceans;
2. Calls Member States to collaborate with the International Marine Organization (IMO) facilitating cooperations between Member States, organizations, research institutions, and private actors to: a. Seek funding for the development of surveillance technologies to protect marine ecosystems with the Environment Fund, b. Deploy these technologies for marine conservation efforts such as biofilters for waste treatment, Artificial Intelligence powered by hydrophones for the detection of illegal fishing activities, coral nurseries to preserve marine life, and autonomous drones to clean up plastic waste;
3. Suggests the use of funding by the United Nations Environment Fund under the United Nations Environment Programme to offer developing countries technology and training to perform similar surveillance flights as the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) to observe imports and exports to ensure that noxious emissions and spills are reduced in fear of hefty fines from local and regional authorities which can foster cooperation between under developed Member States and developed nations;

4. Reiterates the importance to Member States of building closer partnerships as vital for oceanic preservations with civil organizations and NGOs by following the guidance and frameworks of the INC;

5. Encourages the permanent halt of the flowing of urban run-off and power plant emissions into the coastal waters which is causing the contamination of oceans and overabundance of phosphorus due to run-off fertilizers in reference to Tackling Harmful Algal Blooms which will aid in the protection of the world's oceans.





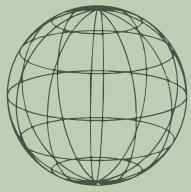
# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

The Department of International Studies is now accepting submissions for its quarterly newsletter! Submit artwork, photographs, essays, recipes, or more. Submissions are open to all majors and students.

***Publish your work and polish your resume!***

Questions? Email [INTdept@depaul.edu](mailto:INTdept@depaul.edu)

Submit at [tinyurl.com/INTerruptedSilence](https://tinyurl.com/INTerruptedSilence)



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