

23 AUGUST
SUNDAY

Press Gazette

CONFERENCE
DAY 01

BE HONEST

BDBBPS MUN 2026

BE BRAVE



BD BLUE BELLS PUBLIC SCHOOL

— Building Bridges of Peace and Sustainability —
for Generations to Come

BDBBPS MUN 2026 opened its doors to a gathering of young voices ready to debate, negotiate and deliberate. As delegates settled into their committees, the first day set the foundation for two days of diplomacy, discussion and diverse perspectives.



Across the committees, delegates engaged with complex agendas, challenged opposing viewpoints and began shaping their positions on the floor. From measured speeches to spirited exchanges, Day One brought the conference theme of peace and sustainability into active



VOICES, VISIONS & DIPLOMACY
Beyond the formal proceedings, the day was defined by the people who filled the rooms, delegates finding their voice, dais members guiding debate and the International Press documenting the moments that shaped the opening chapter of BDBBPS MUN 2026.



BUILDING BRIDGES OF PEACE AND SUSTAINABILITY FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

THE SCALES THAT STILL TILT

BY: PARTH VERMA

This report offers a critical assessment of the agenda item “Ensuring and Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls,” as adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women and mirrored in this committee’s mandate. While the theme is framed as forward looking, a close reading of the underlying data and the negotiating history behind it suggests the agenda risks repeating a familiar pattern in international gender policy: strong diagnosis, weak prescription.

The scale of the problem is well documented and rarely contested even by skeptical delegations. According to the UN Secretary-General’s 2026 report, Ensuring and Strengthening Access to Justice for All Women and Girls (E/CN.6/2026/3), women worldwide hold just 64 per cent of the legal rights available to men. In 54 per cent of countries, rape remains undefined on the basis of consent, and in 44 per cent of countries, equal pay for equal work is not a legal requirement. UN Women further reports that women face steeper barriers to justice than men in nearly 70 per cent of countries surveyed, citing discriminatory legal frameworks, harmful social norms, weak enforcement, competing traditional justice systems, and conflict settings as the primary obstacles.

These figures are not new to this committee. Similar statistics have circulated through CSW sessions for over a decade. What has changed less is the response.

When the Commission negotiated Agreed Conclusions on this exact theme earlier this year, the text passed with 37 of 45 member states in favor and the United States voting against, a result frequently cited in conference materials as evidence of consensus. This report argues that framing is generous. A vote of 37 to 1, with several abstentions, reflects fragile agreement on broad principles, not binding commitment to specific enforcement mechanisms. The Agreed Conclusions, like most CSW outputs, are non-binding. They obligate no state to fund legal aid, retrain judiciaries, or report progress against measurable indicators. This committee should not mistake procedural consensus for substantive

The most consistent critique from practitioners, including UN Women’s own policy work on access to justice, is that legislative reform without implementation changes little on the ground. Eighty-seven per cent of countries already have domestic violence legislation, yet enforcement remains inconsistent, survivors frequently report police reluctance to file complaints, and legal aid access remains scarce in rural and conflict-affected regions.

As highlighted by UN Women and reported through UN coverage of the issue, UN Women’s Director of Policy, Sarah Hendriks, has noted that justice systems reflect the pressures on the societies around them rather than standing apart from them, meaning weak institutions, conflict, and democratic backsliding undermine legal protections even where they exist on paper.

The UN Secretary-General’s 2026 report (E/CN.6/2026/3) further estimates that, at the current pace of reform, it will take 286 years to close the global legal rights gap between women and men. That timeline is not a rhetorical flourish. It is a direct indictment of an approach that has relied primarily on legislative amendment rather than institutional capacity building, funding commitments, etc.

This report recommends that draft resolutions in this committee move beyond repealing discriminatory laws and instead prioritize three measurable commitments. First, dedicated funding lines for legal aid and one-stop centers that combine protection, healthcare, and legal support, rather than symbolic funding pledges without disbursement timelines. Second, mandatory training requirements for police and judiciary personnel handling gender-based violence cases, paired with reporting mechanisms to track compliance. Third, explicit provisions addressing parallel or traditional justice systems, which UN research identifies as a persistent barrier in many regions, but which most resolutions at this level avoid naming directly.

The agenda item before this committee is not lacking in evidence. It is lacking in enforcement architecture. Delegates should treat the 2026 Agreed Conclusions not as a finished achievement to reference approvingly, but as an unfinished draft whose gaps this committee is specifically positioned to address. A resolution that merely restates existing international consensus will not move the needle. One that names funding sources, enforcement bodies, and reporting timelines might.

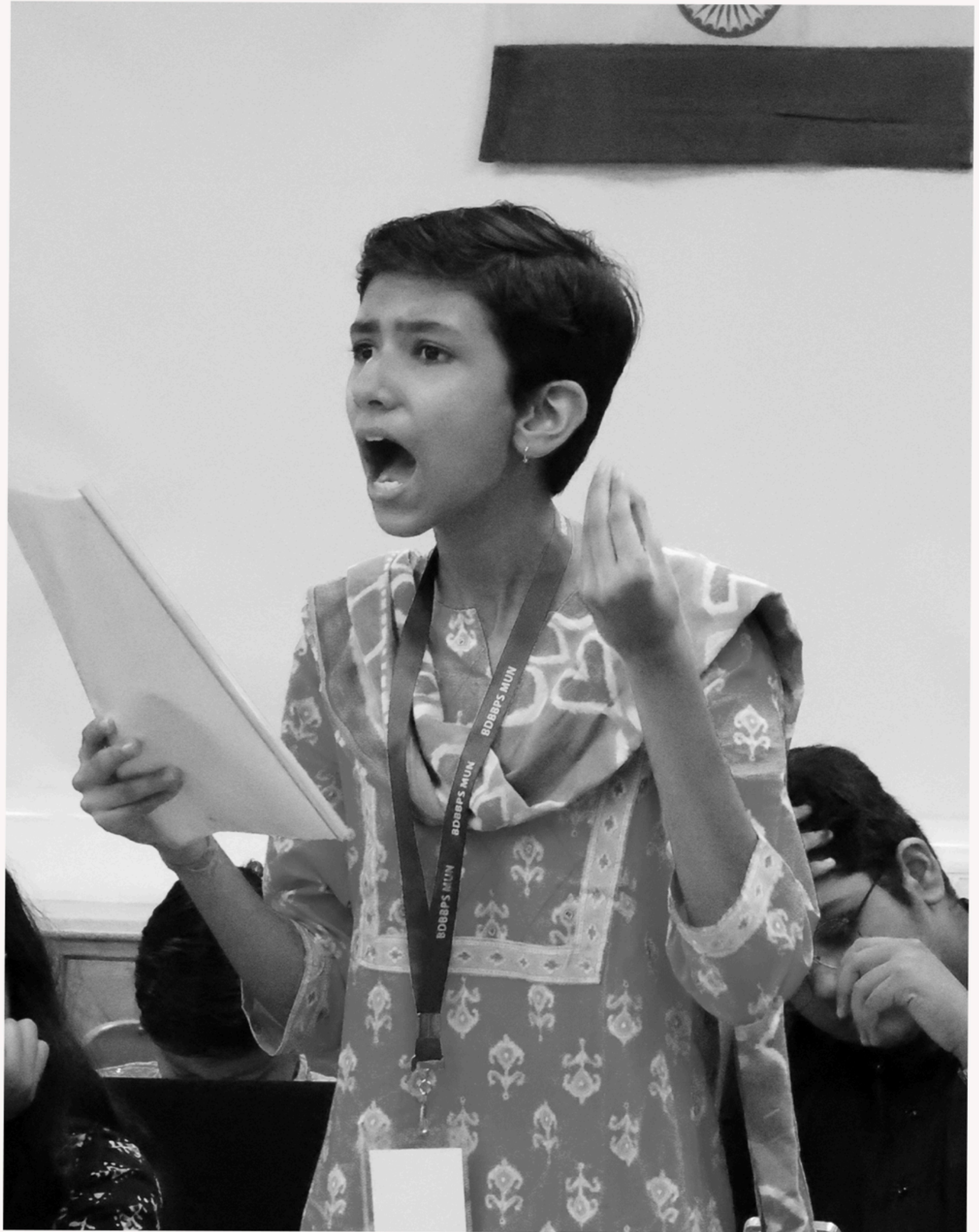
WHEN PROTECTION BEGINS TO CONTROL

BY: AAKRITI NAGPAL

"Sometimes we end up dismantling the freedom we want to protect in order to protect other people."

Such an irony is embodied in the proposed Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026. By requiring medical board evaluation prior to issuance of identity certificates, the bill overturns an essential principle protection in the pioneering 2019 Act, which granted recognition based on self-perceived gender identity. As evidenced by the Parliamentary Reports compiled by PRS India, this policy change reintroduces administrative gatekeeping to personal identity. In doing so, the bill begs the question of whether medical certification should be a condition for legal recognition within the realm of human rights policy.

Effective protection cannot and should not involve litigating one's own humanity. Any procedure involving medical examinations as part of an administrative recognition process is a blatant disregard of individual dignity, bodily autonomy, and privacy. Despite the claim that institutional oversight will prevent any abuse, the 2014 Supreme Court of India's judgment in the NALSA case made it clear that self-determination is inherently a part of human freedom.



A system of regulation is needed, but not one that puts already vulnerable groups under constant state scrutiny. Thus, the solution calls for the creation of a simple, rights-based identification system. Medical evaluation needs to be detached from legal gender recognition through a confidential, self-declaration approach accompanied by the appeals process. Furthermore, the government needs to establish a Transgender Rights Review Committee consisting of transgender representatives, legal experts, and human rights defenders who would regularly review the compliance of this policy. Lastly, laws protecting transgenders against discrimination in education, employment, and public services should have clear civil penalties. Protection means empowerment, not policing.

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LOREM IPSUM

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BDBBPS INTERNATIONAL MUN CONFERENCE 2026

The BDBBPS International MUN Conference 2026 began with an engaging online session connecting students and global partners from across the world. This year, the conference brought together participants from eight countries—USA, Greece, Croatia, India, Romania, Poland, New Zealand, and Zimbabwe.

The session was formally addressed by Ms. Roopali Kudesia, Principal, BDBBPS, who welcomed the guest speakers and students.

The key agenda for Day 1, August 23, 2026, was “Cyber Security and the Future of Artificial Intelligence.” The students and facilitators presented thoughtful, well-researched presentations, highlighting the opportunities, challenges, and future implications of AI and cybersecurity.

The conference featured an impressive panel of international guest speakers, including Mr. Sam Thomas from USA; Ms. Rania Lampou, STEM Instructor & Researcher, Greek Ministry of Education; Ms. Angela Ghinea, Educationist, Ion Luca Caragiale College, Ploiesti, Romania; Prof. Nada Ratkovic, Secondary Vocational School Ban Josip Jelačić, Sinj, Croatia; Dr. Patricia Gonde; and Ms. Kathleen Chipadza from Zimbabwe.

The session was structured into three meaningful segments: Presentations, Interaction, and Takeaways. The students from Lusitania School, Zimbabwe, along with students from BDBBPS Sector 10, Gurugram, presented their research and actively participated in discussions.

Day 1 successfully created a platform for global learning, cultural exchange, and meaningful dialogue, encouraging students to think critically about the rapidly evolving world of technology and its impact on the future.



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THE ART OF THE DEBATE



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THROUGH THE LENS



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