

# Candidates for the World Schools Debating Championships Motions Committee 2015



## 1. Charlie Morris (England)

**Proposer:** Kip Oebanda (Philippines)

**Seconder:** Kallina Basli (Greece)

### **Personal statement:**

I believe that WSDC motions should be diverse, fair and accessible. Having taught debating in over 15 countries on four continents, I understand that selecting motions that consistently fulfil these criteria is a challenging task. I have attended WSDC tournaments in a variety of capacities; as a judge, coach and organiser. Motions should be inclusive and engaging for debaters at all experience levels. I do this on a regular basis in my current role as Debate Coach at Cornell University, and recently as one of the Chief Adjudicators for the 2014 Canadian National Championships. WSDC is an amazing opportunity for competitors from around the world to learn, have fun, and debate at the highest level. I wish to be part of the process that makes that possible. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and I look forward to seeing you all again in Singapore.

### **Sample motions:**

- This House would allow individuals convicted of non-violent crimes to serve their sentences in the military
- This House would ban foreign investors from purchasing urban residential real estate
- This House believes that police officers on regular patrol should not carry firearms

## 2. Hayah Eichler (Israel)

**Proposer:** Miriam Kalman (Israel)

**Seconder:** Emmanuel Reed (Hong Kong)

### **Personal statement:**

I joined the WSDC community in 2002 as a debater on Team Israel in Lima, Peru. I have since served as coach, adjudicator, CAP member, Executive member, and as a member of the motions committee at various WSDC tournaments.

The motions at the tournament are one of the key elements that determine how successful the tournament is. I have very much enjoyed my role these past few months, discussing motion ideas and trying to assess their fairness, wording, and how interesting they would be for the participants. I would love to serve the community once again in this role.

### **Sample motions:**

I am having trouble with the request to submit motions I have set. All the motions are a collaboration and by the end of the process it's hard to even remember which ones I suggested to begin with. The following motion is one that I suggested as a rewording of a motion someone else suggested and it's a motion I can definitely say I fully stand behind:

- This house would lift tax exemptions from religious institutions that refuse to recognise marriage equality.

### **3. Zaynab Al Nasser (Kuwait)**

**Proposer:** Abigail Bartholomew (Kuwait)

**Seconder:** Ross McGuire (Ireland)

**Personal statement:**

I have been involved with WSDC since Stuttgart 2004, first as captain of Team Kuwait for two years, and then as a Coach for four (non-consecutive) years. I have had first-hand experience of the competition, working with students for whom English is a first, second or even third language. My experience makes me acutely aware of the need to bear in mind the diversity of participating students, in terms of debating ability and linguistic limitations. I am also conscious of the need for cultural sensitivity when setting motions. Although I have had some time out of coaching and motion-setting whilst completing my legal training, I have continued to judge school level debating competitions for various educational organisations in the UK, at both primary and secondary levels. I was also part of the Motions Committee for WSDC 2013, and I understand that the motions that year were particularly well-received.

**Sample motions:**

As mentioned above, my opportunities to set motions over recent years have been limited, so I would simply direct everyone to the list of motions that was set in 2013, without wishing to take sole credit for any of them as they were most certainly a team effort.

### **4. Branislav Fečko-Čegiň (Slovakia)**

**Proposer:** Andrej Schulcz (Slovakia)

**Seconder:** Jana Gilke (Germany)

**Personal statement:**

Brano attended his first World Schools Debating Championship in 2008 as a judge where he broke to the Grand Final. Since then, he has adjudicated the Grand Final at four of the five WSDC tournaments and served on the Chief Adjudicator's Panel in 2009 and 2013. In 2011 he coached team Slovakia. Currently, he's a member of the WSDC 2015 Executive Committee. He's been setting motions for Slovak schools debate program as well as numerous local BP competitions for over 8 years. He's also been on the CAP setting motions for Bratislava Schools Debating Competitions 2011-2014, Eurasian Schools Debating Championship 2013, ARGO Open 2013 and 2014, EurOpen 2014 and Prague Debate Spring 2014. He'll be reprising his role for ESDC 2015 and is scheduled to be Chief Adjudicator for ARGO 2015 and WSDC 2016 in Stuttgart.

When setting motions, he values balance, clarity and a chance to broaden debaters' horizons.

**Sample motions:**

- This House believes that national central banks should set limits on governmental spending (EurOpen 2014 Prepared)
- This House regrets the European court's decision to afford people the right to be forgotten on the internet (ARGO 2014 Prepared)
- This House would reinstate a system of mandatory military service for all citizens in western liberal democracies (ARGO 2014 Impromptu)

## 5. Daniel de Kadt (South Africa)

**Proposer:** Luke Churchyard (South Africa)

**Seconder:** Tracey Lee (Canada)

**Personal statement:**

I would be very grateful for the opportunity to serve on the WSDC motions committee. I have been a part of the WSDC since 2003, most recently as Chief Adjudicator in 2012. I see debating as both a competitive sport and an educational tool, and believe that motions should reflect both of these elements. In motions I look for two things – first, balance, which ensures competitive fairness. Second, and often more important, is that a motion should challenge scholars to think creatively, to articulate new arguments about an issue, and, ideally, to learn something new about the world (either theoretically or empirically). I have a preference for motions grounded in reality, that tackle non-trivial social, economic, and political issues. I shy away from “moral conundrum” motions. I hope I will be able to contribute this perspective to the next WSDC.

**Sample motions:**

Set at the 2014 National Schools Debating Championship in South Africa (some are location specific)

- This House would ban the keeping of mammals at zoos and ocean parks
- This House would abolish all traditional leadership structures in South Africa
- This House supports deporting illegal immigrants rather than granting them amnesty

## 6. Cindi Timmons (United States)

**Proposer:** Tracey Lee (Canada)

**Seconder:** Geetha Creffield (Singapore)

**Personal statement:**

My purpose in volunteering for the Motions Committee is to serve the international community as a representative of the USA National Speech & Debate Association. I am the Team Manager for USA Debate and have been involved in WSDC events in Europe, Asia and the US in my capacity as manager, judge, coach and instructor. I bring experience in crafting the national topics in each of the American debate formats, serving as the national committee chair the last three years. I am fully versed in working through a committee process to draft timely and balanced propositions. I believe in a collaborative process that recognizes the strengths of individual committee members while working to create consensus on topics that will be accessible and balanced for each member delegation. I have been recognized for my 35 years of experience in leadership and coaching by being inducted into our National Hall of Fame.

**Sample motions:**

US topic format uses the introductory “Resolved” rather than “This House believes that” or “This House would”

- Resolved: NATO should strengthen its relationship with Ukraine in order to deter further Russian aggression
- Resolved: Current U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East undermines (inter)national security
- Resolved: Developed countries have a moral obligation to mitigate the effects of climate change