Twittering Trump

Sundus Al Adra
Qatar Academy

The U.S. presidential race of 2016 was like none other, and sure to go down in the books as one of the most influential in American history. With the possibilities of having the first Jewish president, or even the first female president, no one really thought that we could have a first kid president, who would enjoy waging twitter wars.

When a president takes office, their choice of communication with their citizens really impacts their acceptance among people. For example, President Obama was known as the ‘social media president’; he was the first president to use varying platforms of social media to connect with people. Key word: connect. Not rant, not whine, not insult, but connect. However, Trump uses his preferred social media platform, Twitter, to vent in those aforementioned and unfortunate ways, to disconnect.

We’ve seen that these tweets never fail to send the media and the people into a frenzy, until everyone is talking about how stupid, wrong, or controversial Trump’s latest tweet is. This excitement distracts everyone from the issues that make Trump so incompatible with his office.

Continued on pg.3

MUNImpact: HELA Night

Natali Al Jundy
American School of Doha

“We need to work today to shape tomorrow; if we do not work today, we will not be able to shape tomorrow,” says Sulaiman Sulaimankhil, co-founder and deputy CEO of HELA.

When asked how MUN has impacted HELA’s growth over the years, both Sulaiman and Sana Dawari, the program’s manager, agreed that as they worked towards broadening their impact and focusing on SDG5, MUN enabled them to “create a new vision for Afghan youth”. Through that, they have been able to empower women, which they believe will allow them to shape a better future for the country. Dawari added that MUN has allowed the younger participants to gain the “maturity and responsibility to speak and realize the power of words”.

Furthermore, Sulaimankhil stresses how vital MUN has been in inspiring willing participants and make a difference. He says, “this has enabled HELA to encourage their audience to start their own initiatives and, in Gandhi’s words, “be the change they want to see in the world”.

Moreover, when prompted about HELA night, which occurred on the 22nd of January in the American School of Doha, both Sulaimankhil and Dawari emphasized how grateful they were for ASD MUN’s executive team, including the hosts, Neil Udassi and Nada Haddad.

Lastly, they reiterated how shocked they were that HELA was well-known in Doha. Dawari ended the interview by talking about how the support and kindness of the audience surprised them, making them feel valued, motivating them to work as hard as they do in order to make a real difference in their country and in the world.

“maturity and responsibility to speak”
Education Above All

Sundus Al Adra
Qatar Academy

How does education empower people? And why is it important for all people, especially children, to access it? The organization ‘Education Above All’, founded by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser in 2012, aims to answer these questions through their work and their goals. Education Above All is a foundation that has established multiple programs that aim to put children back into school, amongst solving other problems in areas of socioeconomic development. One may wonder why the Sheikha Moza saw it important to found an organization that puts so much effort and focus into education. According to data measured in 2016 from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, approximately 263 million children and youth worldwide, are not in school. That’s 263 million kids who will probably only ever dream of going to school. While we may take education for granted, and even dread going to school some days, we forget the power that it gives us and the opportunities it opens up to us. So many of us are lucky enough to know that we will go to college or university, while forgetting that for so many millions of others, that will never even be a possibility. We so often overlook that our education is our path to our future career, our future fulfillment and wellbeing, our future, period. That’s why the work that Education Above All commits to, is so important. Education is the spark that lights the flame of potential, of progress, and of hope. Let’s do all that we can to ensure that it burns bright.

Qatar Under Siege

Faiq Raedaya
Al Khor International School

On the decisive day of June 5, 2017, a blockade of the air, land and sea was imposed on Qatar by neighboring Arab countries. Relations were severed, ambassadors withdrawn, and bans on trade and travel were imposed. Despite widespread panic amongst the general public, the Qatari government has maintained an atmosphere of safety and stability in the country. Qatar’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs responded to the initial announcements by rejecting the accusations made against it as they had “no legitimate justification”, as well as viewing the blockade itself as a “violation of its sovereignty”.

Despite the detachment of relations by 13 countries, there are 89 diplomatic missions operating in Qatar. Cooperation is perhaps the most prominent with Turkey, who has continuously provided diplomatic and food support. Trade relations between the two countries have witnessed rapid development in recent years. Qatar has signed agreements to export LNG, while several Turkish construction companies have agreements with the Qatari government. In addition to Turkey, the Emir of Kuwait has been an active mediator in the crisis, travelling between capitals in an attempt to bridge the countries together. Political analysts believe that any escalation of the conflict could be detrimental to the future of the GCC.

On 27 July 2017, Qatari foreign minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani told reporters that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Bahrain were showing “stubbornness” to Qatar and had not taken any steps to solve the crisis. Al Thani added that the Security Council, the General Assembly and “all the United Nations mechanisms” could play roles in resolving the situation.

“Despite the detachment of relations by 13 countries, there are 89 diplomatic missions operating in Qatar.”

“It is fatal to be a man or woman pure and simple: one must be a woman manly, or a man womanly.”

- Virgina Woolf
Gender Roles: HeForShe

Natali Al Jundy
American School of Doha

As we delve further into the theme of gender equality and its impact on the world surrounding us, it is crucial to highlight men’s roles in the ever-present battle for equality and how exactly they are impacted. HeForShe is an organization launched in 2014, designed to be “a solidarity movement for gender equality.” One of its goals is to reiterate how important it is for men to be able to confidently advocate for themselves in order to pave a clearer path to gender equality among all.

In her famous speech at the UN, Emma Watson advocates for HeForShe by talking about her own experience with feminism. She says “the more I have spoken about feminism, the more I have realized that fighting for women’s rights has too often become synonymous with man-hating. If there is one thing I know for certain, it is that this has to stop.” She touches on the fact that more often than not, feminism has been associated with the empowerment of women over men, rather than placing females over males and calling it equality.

A lot of the misconceptions regarding feminism also stem from the lack of awareness coming from the advocates themselves. This includes details such as the fact that “men are 165% more likely to be convicted than women”, or that “40-70% of domestic violence is against men, however, less than 1% of domestic violence shelter spaces are for men”. And those are only a few of the unnoticed inequalities men suffer from every day.

These inequalities affect each and every one of us. Do not take their impact lightly.

“HeForShe is an organization launched in 2014, designed to be “a solidarity movement for gender equality.”

Twittering Trump

Sundus Al Adra
Qatar Academy

As we’ve seen throughout the election, Trump never misses the chance to degrade groups of people based on their members’ refusal to accept his nonsense. These groups include women, refugees, immigrants, African Americans, Muslims, Hispanics, disabled individuals, the press, and anyone else who doesn’t support his personal vendettas. A year on from his electoral win, Trump still uses Twitter to serve up some of his select choices of fresh ignorance and disrespect.

How can a “leader” who doesn’t practice respect and tolerance be expected to lead this diverse nation? You simply can’t delegitimize these groups of people that make up most of American citizens based on race or religion. You also can’t delegitimize people such as the press, immigrants, and refugees, based on personal discomfort. These people make our country great. Our diversity makes us great.

Trump’s tweets lead us to momentarily forget his extraordinary abilities to disrespect people, break promises, and never be able to make up his mind. The only thing that’s stayed consistent is his promise to “Make America Great Again”. Thanks Mr. Trump, but America is already great, greater than you make it seem. We need a leader who can help us solve our present problems, not ignore present issues (or enlarge them), nor resurrect issues of the past that the people of this country worked so hard to overcome because you thought it might be a good way to relive the good ‘ol days. But don’t take my word for it. Donald Trump has the lowest approval rating of any U.S. president ever. All I can say is, numbers don’t lie. And no, Donny, Twitter is not a toy.

“How can a “leader” who doesn’t practice respect and tolerance be expected to lead this diverse nation? You simply can’t delegitimize these groups of people that make up most of American citizens based on race or religion.”
The Price of Naivety

Nafilah Khan
Park House English School

Rotting in a four-by-four cell for over three years gives one a lot to think about. Whether for an actual criminal, or one who was simply framed, a life sentence in prison ultimately means hell.

So how did I end up in this murky, abominable place? It was all because of one devious soul.

My sister looked up to me. But unfortunately for Matilda, I’m here now, deteriorating in this horrific place for a crime I never committed.

My sister became all alone, and he was the only one there to console her. All her loved ones had abandoned her, I myself being forced in doing so, and he found it the perfect opportunity to strike my fragile dear sister. Despite how pathetic he felt, he assuaged her. Being too helpless to do anything else for my sister, I can only pray that Marcus has changed his ways and didn’t abandon her. Of course, he could leave her, but he won’t, because he’s desperate for someone to care for him, even if under a false image - because nobody can love his true, hypocritical soul.

How do I know all this? He was so proud to tell me of his deeds. And I know that, unlike me, Matilda will refuse to believe that Marcus is not who he appears to be, because he is the only person she has. Perhaps it is best that she never knows that her husband is the conspirator behind the disappearances of her actual loved ones. He is a fraud. If I could, I would murder him without mercy, regardless of the fact that it would make me a real criminal.

“My sister became all alone, and he was the only one there to console her. All her loved ones had abandoned her, I myself being forced in doing so, and he found it the perfect opportunity to strike my fragile dear sister. Despite how pathetic he felt, he assuaged her. Being too helpless to do anything else for my sister, I can only pray that Marcus has changed his ways and didn’t abandon her.”
Hidden away from the public eye, a garden of flowers blooms. Hundreds of petals, painted with streaks of colour, a clear image of innocence and purity - undisturbed. Like every good thing in this world, this scene, a discerning depiction of humanity's morality and virtue, does not last long. Ragged hands reach into the bushes, digging into the flowers' roots, pulling them out from deep within the soil. The flowers wilt. No one hears them scream.

The story of Zainab Ansari is one we are all aware of. A seven-year-old girl, brutally raped and murdered - Pakistan's portrait of grief. Her story, and the stories of countless other children, has brought to light the ineffective legal protections provided to women and children in Third World countries. Though the prime suspect of this case has been arrested, Zainab's murder has sparked an international outrage. Worldwide, there has been a call against immoral acts against a child's safety, for this is not the first incident of such nature taking place in Kasur.

Child protection education is crucial to the amelioration of such situations; however, in a country where mentions of sex and rape are severely taboo, many fail to speak out about incidents where their sexuality has been exploited. Kasur was first brought to the world's attention in August 2015, when 280 children were sexually exploited by a gang of men; the incident was filmed. Yet, parents kept silent in fear of these videos being released - 280 broken voices were cruelly suppressed. Will our flowers continue to wilt?

THIMUN-Q is a conference known to bring together a plethora of opinions from all around the world, coming from various ethnic, religious and linguistic backgrounds. As many students come to Qatar to engage in invigorating debate sessions, they are given the opportunity to experience a foreign culture, which may propose significant differences from their own.

Qatari culture is often praised for its versatility; many aspects of the locals' way of life are incredibly unique in their own way, yet not too surreal. Many international delegates commented on how Qatari landmarks were adorned with many culturally specific designs, yet were familiar to the Western eye. The strong influences of traditional bedouin culture on the design and structure of landmark areas, such as Katara, truly depict the stunning beauty of Qatar to tourists (or MUN delegates!).

International delegates also were given to opportunity to attend cultural events and completely indulge themselves in the Qatari experience, venturing deep into the heart of the culture - Qatari food! A delegate remarked that her favourite meal had changed from pizza to machboos immediately after her first bite - evidently, Qatari culture succeeds at making its way to people's hearts through their stomachs.

A truly appreciable quality of international conferences like THIMUN-Q is the inclusive nature of their sessions - every opinion, from every individual is valued and thoroughly considered, making THIMUN-Q a monumental event treasured deeply by hundreds. To delegates from Qatar, or from anywhere else around the world: I hope you will all leave this conference inspired and fueled up for change. The future is ours!

“Qatari culture is often praised for its versatility; many aspects of the locals’ way of life are incredibly unique in their own way, yet not too surreal. Many international delegates commented on how Qatari landmarks were adorned with many culturally specific designs, yet were familiar to the Western eye.”
The THIMUN Profile series seeks to shed light on some of the high-ranking, hardworking individuals who are pushing this conference forward. These are faces you may have seen, and jobs you may even recognize, but THIMUN Profile seeks to really explore these individuals and understand why they do this job, what do they earn from this job, and how they got this job in the first place.

Sandev Ferdinando made his mark on this conference before ever even stepping into the building, becoming the first SG to ever head the conference that was not a student at Qatar Academy. This marks a serious shift in how this conference is operated, and gives hope to the countless up and coming delegates who do not go to QA, but who still hope to lead this conference.

He began early, by stating exactly how THIMUN Qatar has an impact on all students, claiming that is more than “a simulation, we want to show what is possible if people put their mind to it.” He pushed forward the idea that this conference exists as a real example for the future students to come in and really perform. Furthermore, while his destination is unique, his journey is not. It was the same continuation of hard work, of passion, and of dedication that so many before him had, and after him, will.

Beginning in grade seven, he was pushed into full fledged MUN conferences, struggling and fishing his way through different issues, eventually meeting Lisa Martin and becoming the first EAO of Qatar at OMUN, helping to to push forward and revive the Oman-Qatar MUN program. His journey continued, eventually peaking as he became the Secretary General we know him as today.

What’s unique about this story is how common it is; so many others have overcame their fear of public speaking, so many have been touched by Mrs. Martin, so many have a found a niche part of MUN and become successful at this level. Yet, Sandev did something more with this same journey, he potentially understood the magnitude of the situation he was in, claiming, “I now understand I am a part of something bigger, and that changing the norms of today is what our new task as a generation is.” It is through this that has he pushed his ideas forward, and continues to work hard because “success is inevitable if you work for it.”
The TQ Heroes series aims to highlight the work of special individuals and organizations that work tirelessly behind the scenes to make THIMUN Qatar events operating smoothly.

Akbar Ali – Event Manager

Look around – awe in wonder at the magnificent architecture of the Qatar National Conference Center which has been accommodating the THIMUN Qatar conference for many years.

All these privileges would not be possible without the continued cooperation of Akbar Ali, the QNCC Event Manager who has supported TQ since 2011. His responsibilities entail managing the venue’s operations, including procuring essential logistics for the event.

THIMUN Qatar a successful event year after year.

Aside from THIMUN, Mr. Ali also organizes other events, such as actual United Nations conferences, exhibitions and healthcare meetings. To him, THIMUN is a gathering of future leaders taking part in simulated UN conferences, which is important especially with new problems arising without solutions to answer them, and uncertainties increasing.

“So vibrant and colorful”, says Mr. Ali as he describes the wonderful atmosphere of the event and praises the brilliant energy exuded all around the conference. To work with exceptional students, with their enthusiasm and confidence, as been a part of his motive to strive to make THIMUN Qatar a successful event year after year.

To conclude his interview, his final words to all the young people attending THIMUN was not an advice – but a hope. A hope to encourage the younger generation to be more compassionate and to be more understanding towards each other.

“In a distressed world of political conflicts occurring every day, we should take Mr. Ali’s hope to heart, as he trusts us to make a better world for the future generations, and in his own words: “You are the future leaders.”

“As a closing statement to all attendees with future aspirations, Mr. Mahmoud advises the young generation to learn from your elders – be it your parents, teachers or seniors – and to take their advice to heart. “They have more experience in being wrong”, he claims.”
Behind The Screens

Nafilah Khan
Park House English School

The growth of technology - is it really as a good as the world makes it seem?

On your one Saturday off from work, you decide to stay home and spend your day scrolling through (and shopping from) various online websites. Quite a relatable scenario, don't you think?

The next day you open up your bank account only to find out that all of your hard work's savings have vanished into thin air. This practice is known as cybercrime. Cybercrime is literally what the word suggests: the usage of the internet to commit crime. To be brutally honest, it is a far too common occurrence. According to Cybint Solutions, a hackers attack occurs every 39 seconds.

If matters get any more out of hand than they already are, technological development and increased dependency on the use of technology to go about with daily life will have done anything but prevent this crimes from taking place.

A notorious example of a cybercrime that took place in Qatar was the hacking of the Qatar News Agency in mid-2017 which sparked the ongoing rift between Qatar and its neighbors.

Despite the leaked information being recovered soon after the hacking. A hideous stain remains between Qatar and its neighbors, making us wonder whether the relations between the countries will ever be the same again.

One can only hope that the future is in favour of us. But until then remain safe online, as you may have your very own hacker waiting to make their move...

“The US experiences an annual loss of $525 million due to cyber crime.”

The Irony of Privilege

Rayan El Amine
American School of Doha

In a time of great social awareness, it is easy to point out flaws in our understanding of the global space, flaws in individuals of great power. I always compared it to that of a boxer, punching up is always easy, because you know you can knock them out.

Yet, and I ask this with great caution and great understanding, lest we ever look down across the totem pole and observe the corruption that we’ve become entranced by, because it is easy to claim that equality is necessary when equality is present in your life, but how much can one really understand the struggle having never been through it?

How fair is it for us to criticize the corrupt when we bask in a bath of our own corruption?

This is not attacking those who have made it their lifelong service to alienate those who are deserving of it; on the contrary, it celebrates those who have plunged into the abyss of struggle and have reached out to pull someone back up with them. Nevertheless, while this rescue is beautiful, I am wary of those same individuals who glorify a lifestyle of struggle, who glorify ideas of poverty, because for every kid that needs saving, there are tens more that refuse to be saved.

So take your privilege, understand it, appreciate it, but leave it at the door when you step into a room. You are defined by your equity, and the choices you make must reflect that. Be proud of where you come from, and not envious of a struggle. attempt to understand said struggle, but more than that - help said struggle.
In thinking about feminism and its connotation in today's world and society, I've often caught myself contemplating just why it is so difficult for men to be able to freely advocate for themselves without being reprimanded, or simply shut down. These thoughts have only been magnified by my own personal experience in witnessing the everyday hardships that my own father has gone through. One particular issue that has always stood out to me is how short a father's paternity leave is in comparison to the mother. As a kid, I had been taught to value my dad’s role just as much as my mom’s, no matter the circumstance. And so I was truly shocked when one of the teachers I had been talking to just a few days ago told me that he was awarded 3 days for a paternity leave, while his wife had earned 2 months for hers.

Gender equality is essentially meant to encompass both men and women's needs and make it so that the perception of both genders is equal in society, not to be misconceived or misrepresented. Moreover, feminism in and of itself relies on the belief that women and men should have equal rights and opportunities. Providing dads with time off work aids parents in evenly distributing childcare duties and subsequently allows the mothers to take more time off and therefore be able to better maintain her health, her child's health, and her career. In addition, the extended leave periods awarded to women discourages employers from hiring women in the first place, or even promoting them.

“Gender equality is essentially meant to encompass both men and women’s needs and make it so that the perception of both genders is equal in society”

Though it is obvious that women go through a great deal throughout their pregnancy and the birth-giving process and thus deserve a significant amount of time to recover and attend to their child's needs, a vital issue lies in not providing fathers with the same respect is that it gives room for conventional gender norms to grow and therefore negatively impact societal beliefs. These societal gender norms about how women are meant to be the main caregivers of their children is an inaccurate representation of the responsibility that parents are meant to share in raising their child. The reason for which I am so passionate about this topic is because to this day, I've watched my father's role as a parent be undervalued by our society despite my needing his presence as a child just as much as my mother’s. And if advocating for gender equality is meant to provide men and women with equal rights and opportunities, then why should two capable parents not have the same access to their own child?

“Both moms and dads need that time with baby to hone their new-parent skills. Studies show that dads who are involved in the family reap many benefits, such as a longer life and healthier relationship.”
“We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back.”

- Malala Yousafzai
Across
2. THIMUN wouldn’t be possible without this woman
4. the team that deals with computer-based technology
5. the team who creates these newspapers and shows you a fabulous video at the end of THIMUN
7. the building you are currently in

Down
1. the iconic structure inside this building
3. the people who assist you during conferences and help you navigate around the building
6. where you buy merchandise and receive additional information about the conference

CAN YOU GET THROUGH?