



# UNGA

United Nations  
General Assembly

Topic A: the abolition  
of house-elf slavery



## UNGA

### The United Nations General Assembly

**President:** Valentina Sánchez Beltrán

**Moderator:** Valentina Velasco Gutierréz

**Conference Officer:** Michelle Marisol Manrique Velazquez

Dear delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 15th edition of the Alexander Bain Irapuato Model of the United Nations. As your chair, we are excited to guide you through the sessions of **The United Nations General Assembly**, where you will address critical global challenges with commitment and creativity.

This year, you will be focusing on **Topic A: The abolition of House-elf slavery**. We encourage you to approach this issue with thoughtfulness, creativity, and a commitment to justice and equality, striving to develop meaningful and effective solutions.

We, **Valentina Sánchez Beltrán, Valentina Velasco Gutierréz and Michelle Marisol Manrique Velazquez**, are honored to serve your chair. After years of dedication and preparation, we are fully committed to ensuring a dynamic, respectful, and enriching debate experience for everyone involved. Our role is to support you not only in understanding the rules of procedure but also in deepening your grasp of the topic at hand.

Please remember that if you have any questions about the debate format, resolutions, or research, your chair and high command will always be available to assist you. Do not hesitate to reach out at any time.

We look forward to seeing all the passion, intelligence, and collaboration you will bring to the table.

Warm regards,

**The United Nations General Assembly Chair**





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## SEMBLANCE

### History:

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) was established in 1945 under the United Nations Charter, is the principal organ of the United Nations<sup>1</sup>. The Assembly provides a unique forum for multilateral deliberations on the full range of international issues covered by the Charter. It also plays a central role in the norm-setting process and in the codification of international law. The General Assembly is the representative, policy-making, and deliberative body of the UN, and the only one with universal representation, with its 193 Member States represented. Although its resolutions are not legally binding, they carry significant political weight. Their key functions include approving the UN budget, appointing the Secretary-General, electing members of the Security Council, and addressing global issues such as peace, development, and human rights.

### Actual state:

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is the principal deliberative, policy-making, and representative body of the UN, playing a key role in addressing global challenges and fostering collaboration among countries<sup>2</sup>. It is composed of 193 Member States, all with one vote, ensuring full representation. The Assembly is currently in its 79th session (2024-2025) under the presidency of Philémon Yang. The Assembly meets annually in New York and also holds special sessions to address urgent issues.


### Actions and objectives:

The United Nations General Assembly examines the general principles of cooperation for the maintenance of international peace and security, including disarmament, and makes recommendations; studies matters of the UN Charter and issues recommendations; conducts studies and suggestions to member states for them to foster political cooperation, develop international law, in the economic, social, cultural, Educational, and health areas; proposes peaceful solutions to conflicts affecting relations between nations; receives and examines reports from the Security Council and other bodies; approves the budget and sets the assessments of Member States; and elects non-permanent members of the Security

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<sup>1</sup> Asamblea General De Las Naciones Unidas. 2018. "Asamblea General de Las Naciones Unidas." Wwww.un.org. 2018. <https://www.un.org/es/ga/about/background.shtml>.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations. 2024. "General Assembly of the United Nations." United Nations. 2024. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/>.



Council and other bodies, it also appoints the Secretary-General upon nomination by the Security Council.<sup>3</sup>

#### Limitations:

As an organ of the United Nations, the General Assembly faces several important restrictions: its decisions are not binding and serve only as suggestions; it has no enforcement methods, such as military force or economic measures; and it cannot intervene in issues under the Security Council's scrutiny unless invited to do so. Furthermore, the Assembly's effectiveness is often affected by geopolitical factors and its need for the cooperation and willingness of member states to implement its resolutions.

#### Main accomplishments:

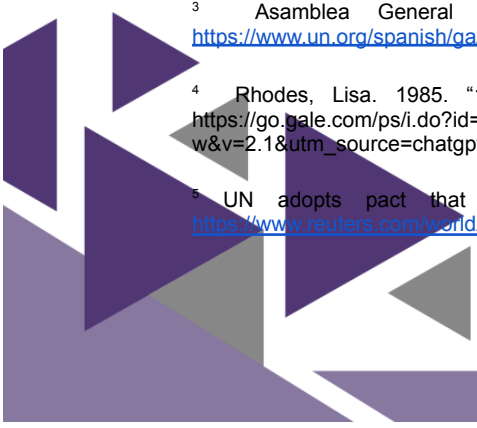
The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has played a primordial role in shaping the international order through several landmark achievements. One of its most significant accomplishments is the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, which established a global standard for human rights and has influenced numerous national constitutions and international treaties.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, the General Assembly has taken steps to enhance global cooperation and governance. In 2024, it adopted the "Pact for the Future," a comprehensive agreement aimed at strengthening multilateralism and addressing pressing global issues such as climate change, digital cooperation, and sustainable development<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas . 2014. "Funciones Y Poderes." Www.un.org. 2014. <https://www.un.org/spanish/ga/about/background.shtml>.

<sup>4</sup> Rhodes, Lisa. 1985. "10 Major Achievements of the United Nations." *Scholastic Update* 118 (October): 4–7. [https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA3983502&issn=07457065&it=r&linkaccess=abs&p=AONE&sid=googleScholar&sw=w&v=2.1&utm\\_source=chatgpt.com&userGroupName=anon%7E3ec0c4d3&aty=open-web-entry](https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA3983502&issn=07457065&it=r&linkaccess=abs&p=AONE&sid=googleScholar&sw=w&v=2.1&utm_source=chatgpt.com&userGroupName=anon%7E3ec0c4d3&aty=open-web-entry).

<sup>5</sup> UN adopts pact that aims to save global cooperation. September 22, 2024. access: May 3, 2025. [https://www.reuters.com/world/un-adopts-pact-that-aims-save-global-cooperation-2024-09-22/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/un-adopts-pact-that-aims-save-global-cooperation-2024-09-22/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)



## TOPIC A. The abolition of house - elf slavery

### 1. Introduction:

Based on the social structure of the Wizarding World, the practice of house-elf slavery is an ancient tradition that highlights the deep-seated injustice and inequality in wizarding communities. House-elves are magical creatures who serve wizarding families, often under harsh conditions and without receiving payment, rights, or the freedom to make their own choices.<sup>6</sup> Despite their strong magical powers, they are treated like possessions and are expected to demonstrate unbreakable loyalty to their owners, following all orders without hesitation.

This enslavement system has persisted for numerous generations, and although some witches and wizards, such as Hermione Granger with her Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare (S. P. E. W.) initiative, have fought for their rights, little advancement has been made to enhance the living and working situations of house-elves. In fact, many house-elves have been trained to accept their servitude as a normal aspect of life, believing that their purpose in life is centered in serving their masters faithfully. Freedom for a house-elf can only be granted if their master gives them clothing, which is a rare occurrence and often seen as disgraceful and humiliating by the elves themselves.

In actuality, the magical community is gradually starting to see the significance of ensuring rights and fair treatment for all magical beings, including house-elves. However, traditional beliefs still prevail in many wizarding households, and the mistreatment of elves continues mostly unchallenged. The struggle for house-elf liberation brings to light wider social justice concerns, questioning the justice of a system that allows certain individuals to exert control over others based solely on their lineage or status. The campaign to end house-elf slavery is not solely about releasing these beings; it also represents a move towards establishing a fairer and more equitable magical society where every creature, regardless of their kind, can exist with respect and freedom.

### 2. Concept definition:

1. **House-elf:** "Magical being which is immensely devoted and loyal to the one designated as their master."<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> House - elf. Harry potter wiki. access: May 3, 2025. [https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/House-elf#cite\\_note-CoS-3](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/House-elf#cite_note-CoS-3)

<sup>7</sup> House - elf. Harry potter wiki. access: May 3, 2025. [https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/House-elf#cite\\_note-CoS-3](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/House-elf#cite_note-CoS-3)

2. **Slavery:** “The practice or institution of holding people as chattel involuntarily and under threat of violence.”<sup>8</sup>
3. **Emancipation:** “The act by which a person who was once under the authority of another is set free from that authority.”<sup>9</sup>
4. **Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare (S.P.E.W.):** An organization founded by Hermione Granger to advocate for elf rights and freedom.<sup>10</sup>
5. **Freedom:** “The condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think, etc. whatever you want to, without being controlled or limited.”<sup>11</sup>
6. **Oppression:** “Situation in which people are governed in an unfair and cruel way and prevented from having opportunities and freedom.”<sup>12</sup>

### **3. Actual situation:**

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is home to over one hundred house-elves who perform kitchen duties and other maintenance tasks. Although these elves choose to be cooperative and are generally treated with greater kindness and respect than in some private homes, the nature of their servitude remains.<sup>13</sup> Wizards often interpret elves' willingness to work without wages as proof of their happiness in these roles, which contributes to a complacent societal perception. While the Ministry of Magic has implemented regulations to safeguard the well-being of various magical creatures such as centaurs, giants, and dwarves, house-elves lack most of these legal protections. Their status as bound servants leaves them vulnerable to abuse and mistreatment, with few alternatives for seeking justice. Despite some isolated efforts to raise awareness, most of the Wizarding community does not consider house-elf slavery an issue, viewing it as inherent and, in a sense, indispensable within the Wizarding world.

<sup>8</sup> Slavery. merriam webster. access: May 3 2025. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/slavery>

<sup>9</sup> Emancipation. Cornell Law School. May 3, 2025.

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/emancipation#:~:text=Emancipation%20is%20an%20act%20by,this%20would%20also%20include%20slaves%20>

<sup>10</sup> Elfos domésticos de Hogwarts. Fandom. access: may 3, 2025.

[https://harrypotter.fandom.com/es/wiki/Elfos\\_dom%C3%A9sticos\\_de\\_Hogwarts](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/es/wiki/Elfos_dom%C3%A9sticos_de_Hogwarts)

<sup>11</sup> Freedom. Cambridge dictionary. Access: May 9, 2025.


[https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/freedom#google\\_vignette](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/freedom#google_vignette)

<sup>12</sup> Oppression. Cambridge dictionary. Access: May 3, 2025. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/oppression>

<sup>13</sup> Elfos domésticos de Hogwarts. Fandom. access: may 3, 2025.

[https://harrypotter.fandom.com/es/wiki/Elfos\\_dom%C3%A9sticos\\_de\\_Hogwarts](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/es/wiki/Elfos_dom%C3%A9sticos_de_Hogwarts)





Activist organizations such as the Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare (S.P.E.W.), led by Hermione Granger, seek to challenge these norms, fighting for fundamental rights, fair wages, and adequate working conditions.<sup>14</sup> However, these efforts are often considered futile and naive, both in the Wizarding community and by the elves themselves, who, as a result of their upbringing, tend to resist change. The experiences of some house-elves who have managed to escape servitude, like Dobby, highlight the considerable personal and systemic obstacles they face. Freed elves often suffer from deep-rooted prejudices, which hinder their access to decent, well-paying employment. Their testimonies not only reveal their individual struggles but also underscore the broader resistance in society towards dismantling Wizarding slavery and embracing true equality within the Wizarding community

#### **4. Initiatives:**

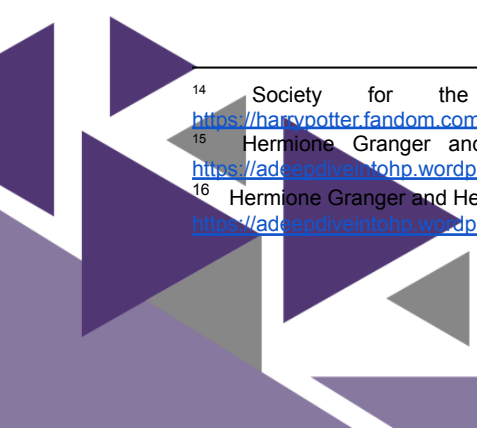
The Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare (S.P.E.W.) has presented a clear approach to promoting equality and the rights of house-elves in the magical world. This organization seeks to change the working and social conditions of elves, linking its goals to the fundamental problems that perpetuate their servitude, such as historical exploitation, lack of legal recognition, and the exclusion of elves from decisions that impact their lives.<sup>15</sup> The main objective is to empower house-elves so they can demand their rights, defend themselves against abuse, and achieve fair and safe working conditions. These actions aim to make elven voices heard through programs that encourage their leadership and active participation in decisions that affect their well-being.<sup>16</sup> Ways to incorporate equality and elven rights into policies, institutional norms, and accountability methods are examined. Many of these efforts focus on developing legal frameworks that regulate elven labor rights and ensure their protection from exploitation. .

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<sup>14</sup> Society for the Promotion of Elfish Welfare. Fandom. Access: May 3, 2025. [https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Society\\_for\\_the\\_Promotion\\_of\\_Elfish\\_Welfare](https://harrypotter.fandom.com/wiki/Society_for_the_Promotion_of_Elfish_Welfare)

<sup>15</sup> Hermione Granger and Her Crusade for S.P.E.W. A deep Dive Into Harry Potter. access: May 3, 2025. <https://adeepdiveintohp.wordpress.com/2018/10/13/hermione-granger-and-her-crusade-for-s-p-e-w/>

<sup>16</sup> Hermione Granger and Her Crusade for S.P.E.W. A deep Dive Into Harry Potter. access: May 3, 2025. <https://adeepdiveintohp.wordpress.com/2018/10/13/hermione-granger-and-her-crusade-for-s-p-e-w/>








These initiatives are aligned with fundamental ethical principles and seek to establish standards that foster structural reforms in the treatment of magical creatures. In this context, Dobby's defense has emerged as a tangible symbol of progress, showing that decent conditions can be achieved through negotiation and personal example. His story has served to inspire an initial cultural shift, although traditional resistance continues to pose a significant challenge.

Progressive allies in the wizarding world, such as Albus Dumbledore, symbolize isolated but vital efforts that strengthen the cause by offering fair working conditions and recognizing elves' autonomy. These examples demonstrate the possibility of equitable treatment, while highlighting the need to extend progressive practices at a systemic level.

Finally, debates over legal reform have created an essential space to question the ethics of elf enslavement and consider legislative changes. Although laws to abolish serfdom have not yet been implemented, these discussions represent a crucial starting point toward sustained transformation, driven by social pressure and community movements led by organizations like S.P.E.W.

### **5. Guiding questions:**

1. Why do house-elves, despite being magical beings, accept their role as servants to wizards?
  2. How does Hermione's approach to house-elf rights reflect real-world social justice movements?
  3. What are the psychological and cultural effects of freedom on house-elves, especially those like Winky who were conditioned to serve?
  4. How can a culturally-aware approach change the success rate of the programs that are implemented?
  5. What are the main reasons house-elves accept their servitude?
  6. In which ways is the treatment of house-elves similar to or different from human slavery?
  7. What role does education play in changing attitudes toward house-elves and upholding their human rights?
  8. What steps could the Ministry of Magic take to ensure elf freedom and fair treatment?
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## 6. Participants

- Albert Runcorn
- Amelia Bones
- Amelia Bones
- Amos Diggory
- Arthur Weasley
- Augustus Rookwood
- Bartemius Crouch Sr.
- Bertha Jorkins
- Bob Ogden
- Broderick Bode
- Cornelius Fudge
- Dirk Cresswell
- Dolores Umbridge
- Griselda Marchbanks
- Hermione Granger
- John Dawlish
- Kingsley Shacklebolt
- Ludo Bagman
- Mafalda Hopkirk
- Mathilda Grimbalehawk
- Percy Weasley
- Reginald Cattermole
- Tofty
- Travers
- Wilhelmina Grubbly-Plank

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