

# PROJECT LAZARUS

## DELEGATE PREPARATION GUIDE

Emergency Session — Geneva, 96 Hours Post-Leak

SCIMUN 2026

The Scindia School, Fort Gwalior

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## PART 1

# The Real-World Background

## Understanding the Jeffrey Epstein Case

*Project Lazarus is a fictional crisis simulation. The scenario is inspired by — but distinct from — real events. This section explains the real case so that you understand the world the simulation draws from. All names, networks, and organisations in the committee itself are invented.*

### ■ Who was Jeffrey Epstein?

Jeffrey Epstein was an American financier who moved in some of the most powerful social and political circles in the world across the 1990s and 2000s. He was not a government official or a celebrity in the traditional sense — his influence came from his money, his social network, and what people believed he could do for them. He counted heads of state, royals, scientists, and billionaires among his associates.

In 2008, Epstein was first convicted of soliciting prostitution from a minor in Florida. He was given a remarkably lenient sentence — thirteen months, with extensive work-release privileges — under a non-prosecution agreement that later became the subject of significant legal and political controversy. The deal, negotiated by then-US Attorney Alexander Acosta, shielded not only Epstein but also unnamed co-conspirators from further federal prosecution.

In 2019, federal prosecutors in New York arrested Epstein on new charges of sex trafficking of minors. The indictment described a systematic operation spanning multiple properties in which Epstein, along with named and unnamed associates, trafficked and sexually abused dozens of underage girls over many years. He was denied bail. On 10 August 2019, Epstein was found dead in his cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York. His death was ruled a suicide by hanging. Two jail guards on duty that night later pleaded guilty to falsifying records.

### ■ Why did it become more than a crime story?

The Epstein case became something larger than a prosecution for three intersecting reasons, and understanding all three is essential to understanding what Project Lazarus is exploring.

**The Network.** Epstein's operation did not exist in isolation. He was a connector who facilitated access between powerful people. His properties functioned as venues where influential individuals spent time with him. The question of who knew what, and when, has never been fully answered by any court.

**The 2008 Deal.** The non-prosecution agreement was negotiated in secret, without notification to the victims, and its scope — protecting unnamed co-conspirators — raised serious questions about who had the political influence to shape a federal prosecution. A court later found it had violated the Crime Victims' Rights Act.

**The Death.** Epstein's death in custody, under circumstances that included the failure of surveillance cameras and sleeping guards, produced a wave of public distrust that has never fully dissipated. The institutional failures were so improbable that they invited scrutiny that was never definitively resolved.

### ■ What happened after his death?

Ghislaine Maxwell was arrested in 2020 and convicted in December 2021 on multiple counts of sex trafficking and conspiracy. She received a twenty-year prison sentence. But the Maxwell trial did not produce the wider accountability that survivors and advocates had sought. The names of other participants remained largely protected. The questions that the Epstein case left open — who else was involved, who was protected and why, and whether any formal institution was compromised — remain unanswered in the public record. That unresolved space is precisely where Project Lazarus begins.

### ■ What should you take from this for committee?

You do not need to be an expert on the Epstein case to do well in this committee. What you need to understand — conceptually — is the following:

- Powerful networks can survive the removal of their most visible member.
- Legal accountability can be structurally prevented without any single act of obvious corruption — through deals, deferrals, recusals, and silence.
- Intelligence agencies and governments routinely face conflicts between what they know and what they can act on without exposing their own equities.
- Victims and survivors can be systematically sidelined by institutions nominally designed to serve them.
- Information, once released, cannot be classified. But how it is framed and responded to can fundamentally shape its consequences.

◆ *These five dynamics are the engine of Project Lazarus. Every crisis inject, every personal dossier, and every decision point in the committee is designed around one or more of them.*

## PART 2

# The Fictional Scenario

## The World of Project Lazarus

Project Lazarus is set in 2026. The fictional financier at the centre of the story — Edmund Voss — died in custody in 2019 under disputed circumstances that mirror the real Epstein case closely enough to be recognisable, but all names, nationalities, and specific details are invented. Delegates should never cite real individuals or real events in committee as if they are factual. You are operating in a fictional world that draws on a real template.

### ■ The Core Premise

On the morning of 14 March 2026, an anonymous group calling itself the Lazarus Coalition releases 47,000 documents simultaneously to fourteen major news organisations. The documents reveal something more dangerous than a simple re-exposure of Voss's crimes: they show that Voss was not the architect of the network. He was its gatekeeper. The real network — referred to internally as the Second Tier — survived his death entirely intact. It has continued operating for three years, within and protected by institutions that are represented in this very room.

The governments, intelligence agencies, prosecutors, and network insiders assembled in Geneva cannot officially acknowledge the meeting. They have been brought together — off the record, deniably — to answer one question: does the truth come out, or does it get buried permanently?

### ■ What makes this scenario unique

ELEMENT	WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU
No blocs	Every delegate has an individual, private mandate. You are not representing a country in the traditional sense. You are a person with something to gain and something to lose.
Shifting alliances	Today's coalition partner may have leaked your file in the last session. Trust is a resource — manage it carefully.
No clean resolution	The crisis is structurally designed to resist easy consensus. Every path forward costs someone something real.
An informant is here	One delegate is a Lazarus Coalition informant. The room does not know who. You do not know if it is you — until you read your dossier.
The Successor	The individual who currently runs the Second Tier is present in this room, operating under a different role. Identifying them — or protecting them — may define the outcome.

## PART 3

# Understanding the Committee Format

## What is a Rolling Crisis Committee?

Most MUN delegates are familiar with committees where you write clauses, debate resolutions, and try to build consensus across blocs. Project Lazarus is fundamentally different. It is a rolling crisis committee — and if you have never been in one, this section is the most important thing you will read before Day 1.

### ■ How it works

In a rolling crisis, there are no formal resolutions. The committee operates as a live simulation. Crisis Directors — who sit outside the main committee room — control a fictional world that responds directly to what the delegates do. When the committee issues a directive, makes a decision, or even fails to act, the Crisis Directors inject a consequence back into the room. The simulation is continuous. It does not pause between sessions.

*Think of it this way: in a regular committee, you debate and then vote on a resolution that changes nothing in the real world. In a rolling crisis, you debate and then live with what you decided.*

### ■ What delegates do instead of writing resolutions

- **Directives** are public — they go out from the committee as a whole and produce consequences the whole room must navigate.
- **Crisis notes** are private — they are your individual instrument and can be used to act in ways that serve your personal mandate rather than the room's collective interest.
- The tension between these two instruments — what is known and what is hidden — is where most of the interesting committee dynamics will live.

### ■ The moral dimension

Most MUN committees ask delegates to be good negotiators. Project Lazarus asks delegates to make genuinely difficult moral choices under pressure. There are no clean hands in this room. Every faction has protected something it should not have. Every individual has a private reason to want some version of the truth suppressed. The committee will be evaluated not on whether it achieves a tidy outcome, but on whether delegates engage seriously with choices that have real moral weight — even in a fictional setting.

**■ This is not a committee where the goal is to 'win' by defeating the other side. It is a committee where the goal is to make the most defensible decision you can in a situation that offers no good options. That requires preparation, not just performance.**

### ■ What Crisis Directors do

The Executive Board includes Crisis Directors who manage the simulation from outside the room. They will send injects at key moments — sometimes in response to committee action, sometimes on a pre-set timeline. They know who the Successor is. They know who the informant is. They are watching everything.

You cannot negotiate with the Crisis Directors. You can, however, send crisis notes that reach the fictional world they control — communicating with the journalist outside Geneva, the Lazarus Coalition itself, or other off-stage actors.

## PART 4

# What to Expect — Day by Day

Project Lazarus runs across three conference days and four committee sessions. Each session forecloses options that existed before it. What you do in Session 1 shapes what is possible in Session 4. There are no resets.

<b>DAY 1 · SESSION 1</b>		<i>The clock starts here. The archive is six hours old.</i>
<b>WHAT HAPPENS</b>		<b>YOUR JOB</b>
<p>The Lazarus Coalition's document dump is fresh. Governments are in denial. Intelligence agencies are assessing damage. The Network is quietly panicking. Someone in this room is named in the released files. The Coalition has made contact: they want something in exchange for suppressing the second archive. No one yet knows what that something is.</p>		<p>Your first job is orientation. Establish your position, identify who your interests align with, figure out who is lying to the room, and begin processing what your personal dossier tells you that others do not know. Do not commit to anything you cannot walk back.</p>
<b>DAY 1 · SESSION 2</b>		<i>The demand is on the table. The clock is real.</i>
<b>WHAT HAPPENS</b>		<b>YOUR JOB</b>
<p>The Coalition reveals its conditions. The committee has eighteen hours — in simulation time — before the second archive releases automatically. One person in this room is an informant who has been feeding information to the Coalition throughout. This is now internally confirmed by the Crisis Directors. The room does not know who it is.</p>		<p>This session is about pressure and reading people. Who knows more than they are admitting? Who is stalling and why? What does the Coalition actually want — is it justice, leverage, or something else? Start making alliances carefully. The informant will not announce themselves.</p>
<b>DAY 2 · SESSION 3</b>		<i>The room is closing in. Someone here is not who they say they are.</i>
<b>WHAT HAPPENS</b>		<b>YOUR JOB</b>
<p>The leaked documents begin to name the Successor. Intelligence assessments confirm they are present in this room under a cover identity. Three delegates receive identical anonymous notes at the same moment. The journalist outside Geneva publishes a partial story before the committee can coordinate a response. The room is now publicly connected to the crisis.</p>		<p>This session requires you to act. Passive positioning is no longer viable. Whether you want to expose the Successor, protect them, or use knowledge of their identity as leverage, you need to decide — and act on it. The external publication means the committee can no longer pretend this meeting is not happening.</p>

<p><b>DAY 3 · SESSION 4</b></p>	<p><i>The archive drops. Everyone is compromised. Someone must pay.</i></p>
<p><b>WHAT HAPPENS</b></p>	<p><b>YOUR JOB</b></p>
<p>The second archive releases regardless of what the committee decided. Every delegation is now publicly implicated to some degree. The Coalition surfaces its final offer: a surgical deal. Protect most of the room. Permanently destroy a few. The committee must choose how this ends — and who pays the price for everyone else's protection.</p>	<p>This is the session where every earlier decision comes due. Who did you make promises to? Whose information did you sit on? Who did you expose and who did you shield? The choices in this session are irreversible. Think carefully about what your portfolio can defend — and whether defending yourself means sacrificing someone else.</p>

◆ *The four sessions escalate from 'gather information' to 'take positions' to 'act under pressure' to 'face consequences.' Go into Day 1 knowing your character and your goals; go into Day 3 knowing your red lines.*

## PART 5

# Preparation Checklist

## What to Research and How

Good preparation is not about memorising facts. It is about building a mental model of a complex situation so that when new information arrives — as it will, constantly — you can process it quickly and make smart decisions.

### 5.1 — Understand the Epstein Case

- 1. The 2008 NPA:** The non-prosecution agreement — what it was, why it was controversial, and what it shielded.
- 2. The Network:** How Epstein's network functioned — who moved in his circles and what the structural purpose of those relationships was.
- 3. The 2019 Charges:** The federal re-arrest and indictment — what was different and why it mattered.
- 4. The Death:** The circumstances of Epstein's death — what officially happened, what failed, and why it remains contested.
- 5. The Aftermath:** The Maxwell trial — what was proven, who was named, and what remained unresolved.

*Suggested sources: The 2019 New York federal indictment (publicly available). The Miami Herald's investigative series by Julie K. Brown ('Perversion of Justice'). The US District Court's unsealed documents from the Maxwell case. Wikipedia's entry on 'Jeffrey Epstein' is a reliable overview for orientation.*

### 5.2 — Understand Your Faction

Each faction has a distinct institutional logic. Before your dossier arrives, understand the general mindset of the faction you are in:

FACTION	CORE QUESTION YOUR FACTION IS TRYING TO ANSWER
The Legal Bloc	How do we produce accountability — or the appearance of it — without destroying the institutions we represent?
The Intelligence Bloc	How do we prevent exposure of our equities while the world around us burns?
The Network	How do we survive this? Who can we sacrifice, and who must be protected at all costs?
Governments & Diplomats	How do we protect our principals' private interests while maintaining public credibility?

Within your faction, think about which portfolios are natural allies and which are natural adversaries. Not all members of the same faction share the same interests — and that internal tension is by design.

### 5.3 — Understand the Concepts

You do not need a law degree or a background in intelligence. But you should be comfortable with the following concepts before Session 1:

#### ■ Legal and Accountability Concepts

**Prosecutorial immunity and plea agreements:** How they work and what they can shield.

**Jurisdictional complexity:** Why crimes that cross borders are difficult to prosecute, and how financial secrecy laws complicate evidence gathering.

**Victim rights in criminal proceedings:** What survivors are legally entitled to, and how those rights have been historically circumvented.

**The ICC and its limitations:** What it can and cannot do, and why major powers resist its jurisdiction.

#### ■ Intelligence and Security Concepts

**Intelligence 'equities':** Why agencies protect sources and operations even when those protections create moral and legal problems.

**Compartmentalisation:** How information is kept from people within the same institution, and why.

**Non-official cover and cutouts:** How individuals operate within networks without direct, traceable connections.

**Accountability vs. operational security:** The core problem the Intelligence Bloc must navigate.

#### ■ Financial and Structural Concepts

**Offshore financial architecture:** How shell companies, trusts, and secrecy jurisdictions protect assets and identities.

**Dual-use access:** How commercial or diplomatic relationships can serve criminal or intelligence purposes simultaneously.

**How document leaks work:** The Snowden, Panama Papers, and FinCEN Files cases offer useful analogies for understanding how leaked archives are structured and deployed.

## 5.4 — Prepare Your Character

When your personal dossier arrives, you will have a specific portfolio with specific objectives. Before it arrives, do the general preparation below:

PREPARATION TASK	WHY IT MATTERS
Know your faction's core interest	You need to know what your faction is nominally trying to achieve so you can position yourself within it — or against it.
Understand what information is most dangerous	In this committee, the most powerful resource is knowing something that others do not. Think about what categories of information your character would want suppressed.
Have a position on the second archive	Before Session 1 starts, you need a view on whether you want the Coalition's second archive released, suppressed, or used as leverage. Your position may evolve, but you need a starting point.
Know your red lines	There will be moments in Session 4 where you are asked to choose between protecting yourself and protecting someone else. Know in advance what you will not do — and what you will.
Prepare two or three short speeches	In a rolling crisis, the ability to speak confidently and concisely on a developing situation is a core skill. Prepare two or three short (90-second) framings of your character's position that you can deploy quickly when the room needs a clear voice.

## 5.5 — The Day Before: Final Preparation

In the 24 hours before SCIMUN begins, do the following:

1. Re-read the Background Guide once, focusing on the faction tables and the crisis arc.
2. Read your personal dossier carefully. Read it twice. Identify: (a) what secret advantage you have; (b) what your character is afraid of; (c) what your character wants to happen by the end of Session 4.
3. Make a short list of the three delegates whose portfolios are most directly in tension with yours — you will need to keep track of them throughout.

4. Identify which faction member you trust least and which you might be able to bring into a working relationship. These relationships will be the currency of Sessions 2 and 3.
5. Get a good night's sleep. This committee rewards clarity of thought over quantity of notes.

## 5.6 — Things Not to Do

■ **Do not treat this like a regular MUN committee. There is no resolution to draft, no clause to sponsor, no bloc to join. Delegates who come in looking for the familiar structure of a UN committee will spend Session 1 confused. The structure here is the crisis itself.**

■ **Do not share your dossier. Not even with someone you trust. Your private intelligence is only valuable as long as it is private. Showing it to another delegate — even as a trust-building gesture — eliminates its value and potentially changes the simulation's dynamics in ways the Directors cannot account for.**

■ **Do not mistake silence for safety. In a rolling crisis, choosing not to act is itself a decision — and it will produce consequences. If you are not shaping the narrative, someone else is.**

■ **Do not expect fairness. This committee is not designed to be fair. It is designed to be realistic. Real situations like this one do not offer all parties equal footing, equal information, or equal options. That is the point.**

## GLOSSARY

## Quick Reference: Key Terms

TERM	DEFINITION
The Second Tier	The fictional network of principals who directed and protected Voss's operation. They survived his death. Some of them are in this room.
The Lazarus Coalition	The anonymous group that released the archive. Their identity and true objectives are unknown. They hold a second, more damaging archive.
The Second Archive	The unreleased portion of the Coalition's documents — believed to directly identify the Second Tier's current members. Its release or suppression is the committee's central dilemma.
The Successor	The individual currently running the Second Tier. They are present in this room under a different portfolio identity.
The Informant	One delegate in the room is feeding information to the Coalition. This is confirmed by Crisis Directors. The room does not know who.
Crisis Injects	Updates, documents, and news events delivered by Crisis Directors in response to committee action. They cannot be reversed.
Crisis Notes	Private communications between a delegate and the Crisis Directors — your individual instrument for taking action outside the committee's collective knowledge.
Directives	Collective committee decisions that produce consequences in the simulation. Public and binding.
Controlled Demolition	The strategy of sacrificing a limited number of network members to protect the rest. The Coalition's final-session offer.
Cover Portfolio	A role in this room that does not reflect the delegate's true affiliation. The Successor and the Coalition proxy both operate this way.

# A Final Note from the Executive Board

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*Project Lazarus is not a comfortable committee. It is designed to put you in situations where there is no obviously right answer — where the legally correct path and the morally defensible path and the strategically viable path all point in different directions. That is not a flaw. It is the point.*

The case that inspired this simulation — the Epstein case and the wider questions it raised about accountability, institutional failure, and the protection of the powerful — remains one of the most significant unresolved questions in recent public life. We are not using it because it is sensational. We are using it because it is serious. The dynamics it surfaces — how networks survive, how institutions protect their own, how victims are sidelined, how information becomes a weapon — are dynamics that operate in the real world, continuously.

You have been selected for this committee because the Executive Board believes you can engage with that seriousness. Do not disappoint us. But more importantly — do not disappoint the quality of thinking this material deserves.

Come prepared. Come honest about what your character needs and what they fear. And come ready for the room to surprise you.

**We will see you in Geneva.**

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THE CRISIS DIRECTORATE · PROJECT LAZARUS EMERGENCY SESSION · SCIMUN 2026