

# BACKGROUND GUIDE

## BARBIELAND

Composed by Katalina Li-Kroeger



WMIDMUN-XXII

# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Hello there delegates and welcome to WMIDMUN XXII! My name is Katalina, and I am so incredibly excited to welcome you all to Barbieland for a weekend full of incredible debate, diplomatic discussion, and – yes, we see you Ken – very important Beach.

I grew up on Barbie movies (my favorites are *Barbie and the Island Princess* and *Princess Charm School!*) and thus have very much enjoyed the recent revival of the Barbie spirit! Outside of Barbieland, I am a political Barbie (majoring in International Relations and Public Policy!) and a cowgirl Barbie (I'm from Houston, Texas... yeehaw!). This Barbie is also a lover of books, Taylor Swift, and quality time with my friends.

This year, Barbieland has some very important discussions on the table. Stereotypical Barbie has shown us the dangers and fears that are so prevalent in the Real World. Meanwhile, Ken, Ken, and all the other Kens have shown us the inequalities that are equally present within our own nation. This weekend, we bring together Barbies, Kens, and all of our Barbieland friends to discuss how we can make Barbieland a better place for all of us.

As Lizzo says, come on, we've got important things to do. So grab your folders and your pink attire. It's time to get this show on the road. Closer I am to fiiiine

Bye (for now) Barbies!

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# BACKGROUND

## INTRODUCTION

Since the beginning of time, since the first little girl ever existed, there have been dolls. But you all knew that. You remember reading that and more in our Constitution of 1959.

I, Stereotypical Barbie, and my cohort of strong, independent Barbies wrote our constitution to remind each and every one of you of your worth as a doll. Barbie can be whoever she wants to be. Lawyer. Doctor. Author. Astronaut. Barbie can – and does – run the world. And that is a beautiful lesson to young girls everywhere. Because if Barbie can do it, every girl can!

Together, Barbies worked hard to fix the world. Now, women and girls everywhere no longer feel hopeless, sad, or scared. Every day is just as perfect as yesterday was, and just as perfect as tomorrow will be. Or so we thought...

So let me tell you guys a little bit about the real Barbieland. What it was, what it is, and what I hope it will very soon become. Grab your helmets, prepare your rollerblades, and get ready for a bumpy ride. Everything you once knew will soon be turned upside down.

## What Barbieland Was: Hopes and Dreams for Our Perfect Universe

Barbieland was formed when the first Barbie – Barbara Millicent Roberts – was born in 1959. Named after Barbieland creator Ruth Handler's own daughter, Barbara "Barbie" Roberts was a role model for young girls in the Real World, showing girls everywhere that if they could dream it, they could be it.

And Barbieland reflected those dreams. Every Barbie could own her own Dream House, drive her own car to work at her esteemed job. Barbie was an author, a doctor, an astronaut, a president... Barbieland was all Barbies' dream world: made with beautiful beaches and idyllic scenery, Barbies could reach their dream destinations with just one short ride in their pretty pink Corvettes. And if Barbie wanted to visit her neighbor, the walk was as short as just a few steps, making Barbieland the ideal place for a Girls' Night sleepover, every night!

With all Barbies so connected through their houses, professions, and friendships, each Barbie could support and uplift each other every day. From a "Hey, Barbie" in the morning to a dance party every night, Barbies are always there for each other. And because Barbieland is about equality for all Barbies, women in the Real World can have the same! That's why Barbie is never sad, and Real girls are never sad either!

# BACKGROUND



## What Barbieland Is: How Stereotypical Barbie Showed Us Our Flaws

Except sometimes, Barbie gets sad. And sometimes, real girls are sad too. Sometimes, pink and feminism and women's empowerment in Barbieland isn't enough to make equality happen in the Real World. The Real World has Real problems, like Patriarchy and Consumerism and Women Feeling Bad about Themselves. And these real problems opened up all Barbies' eyes to the problems inherent in Barbieland.

Equality means all dolls are equal. Equally happy, equally prosperous, and equally represented. Unfortunately, while the Barbies experience this equality in Barbieland, the Kens have fallen far behind their fellow dolls. Ken has no house but Barbie's Dreamhouse - and that's only when Barbie lets him in. Ken has no job but Beach, which gives him no real purpose in Barbieland. And most importantly, Ken has no representation.

When Ken and Barbie visited the Real World, Ken realized what it meant to have Real power, and Ken brought Patriarchy back to Barbieland. Ken's house - the Mojo Dojo Casa House - replaced Barbie's Dreamhouse, and Kens - and horses, which served as Ken-extenders - took over the jobs, customs, and government of Barbieland the newly established Ken Land. Though they went about it in the wrong way, this major change exposed the true flaws behind Barbieland: in establishing equality for all Barbies, other dolls had never been equal in Barbieland. That important and glaring issue needs to change.

## What Barbieland Will Be: A New Constitution and A Fresh Start

We now call to order the 2024 Barbieland Constitutional Convention, made up of our newly elected members of the Barbieland Supreme Court. This new court is made up of a representative number of Barbies, Kens, and other important friends, and you will each have an important role to play in this very special proceeding. **We, the Barbieland Supreme Court 2024, will be rewriting our constitution to ensure that all dolls feel heard.** And we need your help to do it.

You will each have equal power and equal say as a member of this court. Feel free to make your priorities known to your peers and fellow judges, for our new Constitution should represent all voices on these vital issues. We will convene to discuss three topics which have recently been brought to our most immediate attention: equality in Barbieland, education in Barbieland, and our future beyond Barbieland.

# BACKGROUND



## **I'm Just Like You... You're Just Like Me: Equality in Barbieland**

We know that Barbieland is unequal right now. This inequality leaves Allan feeling singled out, makes Midge face judgement due to her pregnancy, places Weird Barbie as the laughingstock of Barbieland, and displaces all the Kens, all the time.

In our new constitutional convention, it is imperative that we make Barbieland less Barbie-focused and, therefore, more inclusive to the equally important other dolls that serve as our friends, supporters, and neighbors. Our first step – and one we've already codified into law – was the diversification of our Supreme Court. But let's take this one step further: let's diversify our legislative system, our social structures, and even our name.

Barbieland has always been centered around Barbies. But Barbie aren't the only residents of our beautiful land – other dolls deserve representation too. In the new Barbieland constitution, all dolls should feel important and represented – and that starts with rewriting equality into our constitution. How can our legislation, our representatives, and – yes – even our Supreme Court better represent all inhabitants of Barbieland? This year, the Barbieland Supreme Court will work to Constitutionalize equality.

## **I Need to Know: Education in Barbieland**

Barbie can be anything and anyone she wants. But can Midge, or Allan, or Weird Barbie? When Stereotypical Barbie needs a leader, she opts to just “wait and hope that one of the more leadership-oriented Barbies just snaps out of it and does something about this whole mess.” Meanwhile, Ken can't surf, he can't lifeguard, and – despite his high hopes – he isn't trained to be a Doctor. His job is just... beach. He doesn't know how to do anything else.

If Barbie can be anything, then it is important that all dolls learn how to achieve their biggest dreams. And that starts with training. How can we help all dolls broaden their horizons and learn new skills, so that anyone can learn to be an author, a doctor, or even a president...

The Constitution of 1959 says nothing about education in Barbieland. But now is our chance to rewrite that, to establish an education system so that all dolls can be whoever they want to be. Nobel Prizes shouldn't just go to Barbie. We all deserve recognition for our hard work. And that needs to start now, with education and preparation.

# Committee Topics



## I Feel Connected! Beyond Barbieland

Barbieland is a place where we all felt safe and happy, knowing that – out there in the Real World – young girls everywhere felt empowered due to the contributions of Barbie and her fellow Barbies. But now we know... that's not the case.

Instead of thanking Barbie and giving her a huge hug for all her help bringing equality to the Real World, Sasha and her friends called Barbie a “last resort” toy that “made women feel bad about themselves.” Barbie was “destroying girls’ innate sense of self worth” and representing “everything wrong with our culture.” And yes, brutal as it is, those are Sasha’s exact quotes. In being honest, Sasha made it clear to all Barbies that the Real World is not as perfect as we once thought it was.

How can we, as Barbies, help make the Real World a better place for women? Well, one place to start is knowing how we, in Barbieland, can interact with the Real World. In our new Constitution, we should set parameters for how Barbieland and the Real World can collaborate to improve both sides of our universe. Should people be allowed to pass between the worlds? Should there be lines of communication to ensure that dolls can talk to their human counterparts?

# BARBIELAND

# CONSTITUTION



1959 Barbieland Constitution: Full Text

We the Barbies of Barbieland, in order to form a more perfect universe, ensure women everywhere feel happy and powerful, remind Barbies that they can achieve anything they want to, and secure the beauty of Barbieland for ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for Barbieland.

## **Article One: Our History**

Section One: Since the beginning of time, since the first little girl ever existed, there have been dolls. But the dolls were always and forever baby dolls. The girls who played with them could only ever play at being mothers.

Section Two: This continued until Barbie changed everything. Then she changed it all again. She might have started out as just a lady in a bathing suit, but she became so much more. She has her own money, her own house, her own car, her own career. Because Barbie can be anything, women can be anything.

Section Three: This has been reflected back onto the little girls of today in the Real World. Girls can grow into women who can achieve everything and anything they set their mind to.

Section Four: Thanks to Barbie, all problems of feminism and equal rights have been solved. We know this to be true.

## **Article Two: Our Government**

Section One: The executive Power shall be vested in a President of Barbieland. She shall hold her Office during the Term of four Years, with no term limit.

Section Two: Each Barbie has the power to vote for the President of Barbieland. Each Barbie's vote will be counted once, with the Barbie who receives the largest percent of the popular vote being elected President.

Section Three: No Person except a natural born Barbie, or a Barbie present at the time of the Adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the Office of President.

Section Four: Before she enter on the Execution of her Office, she shall take the following Oath or Affirmation: I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of Barbieland, and will to the best of my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of Barbieland and all the women's empowerment for which it stands.

# BARBIELAND

# CONSTITUTION



## **Article Three: Our Courts**

Section One: The judicial Power of Barbieland shall be vested in one supreme Court. The Judges shall hold their Offices from the hours of 9 to 3, to ensure preparatory time before Girls' Night.

Section Two: The Justices of the Barbieland Supreme Court shall be appointed by President Barbie, and must adhere to the following requirements: is a Barbie of Barbieland and has an understanding of the Barbieland Constitution of 1959.

Section Three: The Justices of the Barbieland Supreme Court are appointed for life, or until they should choose to retire.

**The powers not delegated to Barbieland by the Constitution are reserved to the Barbies.**



## Dossier

**Weird Barbie:** Weird Barbie was once the most beautiful Barbie in Barbieland... until the girl who was playing with her went a little too far. Now, she stands out as an oddity in Barbieland. Formerly shunned by the Barbies, she has recently served as a source of wisdom for Barbieland amidst the recent chaos – and she was recently promoted to the position of Sanitation Minister in President Barbie’s cabinet.

**Elina:** Elina is a Barbie and a Flower Fairy from Fairytopia. Amidst a curse which destroyed fairies’ ability to fly, Elina took the lead in saving Fairytopia from the evil Laverna, as she had no wings at the time – which meant that she was ostracized and bullied by fellow fairies. She has since become an advocate for promoting equality for untraditional Barbies – first serving as an apprentice to the Guardian Azura and now serving on Barbieland’s Supreme Court!

**Azul:** A regal peacock hailing from an island as of yet untouched by humans, Prince Azul Vasu Morantha IV is the sidekick and loyal animal companion to Ro in *Barbie and the Island Princess*. A proud royal fellow, Azul’s vanity is only eclipsed by his love for those around him. He hopes to represent the overlooked animals of Barbieland – including his dear friends, Tika and Sagi.

**Brutus:** Villains are often shunned in Barbieland, and Brutus has been no exception. Clever and self-interested, Brutus has always been ambitious – and that’s why he has always been interpreted as a bad monkey. But truly, he has turned over a new leaf – and he promises to be good, as long as his interests are represented fairly. He’s loyal and intelligent, and if you need an investigator, he’s absolutely your monkey.

**Skipper:** The younger sister of Barbara Millicent Roberts herself, Skipper is a blogger and lover of technology who hopes to use her understanding of the technical world to implement some major technological changes that could impact Barbieland’s connection to the Real World. She has lots of ideas – her older sister having encouraged her creativity from a young age... but can she implement them?

**Ken 2:** At times, Ken 2 felt overshadowed by Stereotypical Ken. This has led to more beach-offs than any Barbie could ever count. But the true shadow Ken 2 lived under was the shadow of the Barbies – no Ken could truly be happy when their existence depended on Barbie’s acknowledgement. That’s why Ken is here at the Constitutional Convention, to fight for Kens’ equality. And maybe an expansion on Ken’s knowledge, so he can do more than beach...

**Marie-Alecia:** One of the most fashionable people on the court, Marie-Alecia got close to Barbie when performing A Fashion Fairytale to save Aunt Millicent’s from becoming a Hotdogeteria. But ever since she finished walking the runway, Marie-Alecia has had little to do in Barbieland besides make clothes. And sometimes, she harbors a tiny dream to expand beyond clothing production and into fashion education.

**Princess Isla:** Welcome to Princess Charm School, where soon-to-be Princess Delancey Devons runs the school and Princess Isla remained in the school’s outer circle until Blair was selected to join. Of course, this means that Isla understands both the importance of education and of equality, and she is incredibly passionate about those issues. That’s why she has pulled her DJing headphones down and joined our Court for this important discussion.

**King Julian:** Being a Ken is exhausting – but replacing a Ken by marrying a Barbie, despite her betrothal to a that particular Ken... that makes now-King Julian unique. Initially Princess Annaliese’s tutor, he shows extraordinary bravery in saving her from Preminger. His quick thinking and selflessness served him well as a tutor, and helped prepare him to rescue Annaliese... now he hopes they will serve as an asset at the Constitutional Convention

**Nikki Watkins:** Nikki and Barbie have been close friends since as long as she can remember. Nikki is a vlogger and a lover of all things fun and fashionable – and she’s recently opened up two new businesses, so she is adding entrepreneur to her resume. Nikki has dealt with inequality many times in her life, so her priority this Constitutional Convention is to propel Barbieland toward greater levels of representation and inclusivity!

**Allan:** Everyone knows Allan as Ken's best friend. No other Allans currently exist in Barbieland, which makes him a bit of an oddball in conversations. But he's always stepping in between Beach-Offs to serve as a diplomat, helping cool tensions between his best friends. He hopes that this position will serve him well at this Constitutional Convention, helping him mediate differing interests while still, of course, expressing his own desires for change.

**Raquelle:** Let's get one thing clear: Raquelle is NOT the villain here. So why is everyone treating her like an antagonist? She and Barbie are friends! And it seems to be quite unfair that people who are imperfect are treated like outsiders in Barbieland. It is time for change, so that people like Raquelle – who has never quite fit into Barbie's world – will finally feel welcome in a land which has never truly been theirs.

**Odile:** The daughter of Swan Lake's evil sorcerer Rothbart, Odile has always gotten the short end of the stick – she has perpetually been blamed for her father's mistakes. She hopes that this new Constitution will be the turn of a new leaf, one in which each doll can define themselves and be defined by their own actions, instead of shunned because they made one tiny mistake... She champions equality not just because it impacts her... but mostly because of that.

**Princess Brietta:** Once the crown princess, Brietta refused to marry the evil Wenlock and was transformed into a pegasus. Years later, her sister Annika nearly suffers the same fate – but she is whisked off on Brietta's back to the Cloud Kingdom. This heroism is not the only lesson Brietta imparts upon her sister – she teaches Annika the value of perseverance and bravery, and pushes her to do her best. She now hopes to do the same for Barbieland, propelling it to new heights.

**Fungus Maximus:** “Lefting, leftaroo.” People don't think Max is all that smart. They are wrong. Behind the large, webbed feet and long ears, Max is loyal, hardworking, and intelligent. And yes, he was Laverna's assistant in *Barbie: Mermaidia*... but in his defense, he thought they were friends. Now he knows better, and he'll work hard to ensure that no doll is ignorant enough to fall for trickery like that again.

**Becky:** Known in the Barbie movie as “wheelchair vet Barbie,” Becky is a former gold medalist in the Paralympics and – as her name suggests – is a current veterinarian in Barbieland. Becky is also a close family friend of the Roberts' (both Barbie and Skipper), and hopes to do Barbie proud in the Constitutional Convention. Though equality is her primary concern for this Constitution, she knows the value of both education and connection as well

**Sunburst:** Witty, sarcastic, and talented, Sunburst and Elina got off to a rocky start. As a sparkle fairy, Sunburst is not one who often shares the spotlight – and unfortunately, Elina got caught in the crosshairs. But when it came down to it, Sunburst had Elina's back, sticking up for Elina against Laverna... and the two became begrudging friends. Sunburst hopes to take her talents back to the Guardianship, and teach apprentices – like her and Elina – what magic (and kindness!) truly mean.

**Crystal:** Crystal made one tiny mistake – out of love, no less, which a girl can't be blamed for – and it ruined her whole life. She had a prosperous career, a prestigious position at Princess Graciela's right hand, and a great knowledge of potions. And though she's lost those first two, she hopes that she can turn her potions into a career and teach some new apprentices the fading trade of potionmaking.

**Eden:** A popular opera singer, Eden never really had to work for the talent that came naturally to her. Growing up, her family's motto was “in a selfish world, the selfish succeed,” and that's what Eden always aspired to do... until her world turned upside down and she realized that selfishness is not the true meaning of happiness. Since then, she has championed selflessly the ideas of equality for all, Barbie or not.

**Teresa Rivera:** Being best friends with a movie star is never an easy gig – and Teresa knows it as well as anybody. She is often seen as Barbie's sidekick, and sometimes feels out of place among Barbie's glamorous world. Nevertheless, Teresa will always support her best friend – and she's here on Barbieland's Supreme Court to do just that! With Barbie now living in the real world, Teresa wants to make sure that the two remain connected in as many ways as possible!

**Melody:** Once relegated to the role of apprentice muse and stuck in a mirror, Melody is a musician – a flautist, to be exact – who helped save the Diamond Castle from the corrupt former muse Lydia. She has since returned to the castle as a newly established muse herself, taking Lydia’s place with her former teachers. Now seeking apprentices herself, Melody hopes to use these changes to bring the arts back to Barbieland!

**Thumbelina:** “Though she be but little she is fierce.” Shakespeare may have existed way before Thumbelina was born, but his words resonate fiercely with the Twillerbee girl – when Thumbelina’s home was threatened by builders, she fought for her flowerbed. And now, she is once again fighting for her home – for Barbieland cannot continue to exist without major changes in its understanding of the Real World.

**Duchess Amelia:** Duchess Amelia believes in duty. That is, of course, why her niece – Princess Victoria – was responsible for her royal duties and could do little else. Strictness runs in Duchess Amelia’s family, as their line has always borne the weight of the kingdom. She wants to ensure that Victoria remains proper and poised – and she’s been villainized for it. She wants to represent the villains in fighting for equality in this new Constitution.

**Hélène:** An educator and longtime Musketeer, Helen saw Corinne and her friends’ talent and decided to expand upon it. In a hidden room in the castle, Helen educated the girls on how to be Musketeers – and her hard work paid off when the Prince’s life was put in danger and the new Musketeers were there to protect. She has since served as a head supervisor and security advisor to the king, before gaining the opportunity to serve on Barbieland’s Supreme Court.

**Zuma:** A bright pink dolphin, Zuma lives in the underwater kingdom of Oceana, where the Queen was imprisoned by her evil sister. Zuma helped Princess Merliah save the ocean – and when Merliah was torn between returning to her life on land and staying with her mother in the sea, Zuma helped her find a way to live in both worlds. Zuma knows how to solve problems of flitting between worlds – and she hopes to use this experience to support Barbieland as it adapts to this new knowledge of the Real World.

**King Eric:** The Nutcracker – also known as King Eric – is a Ken of the Barbieland universe. Turned into a Nutcracker by the evil Mouse King, who wanted Eric’s crown for himself, Eric sought out Barbie as Clara to protect his kingdom and free him from the Mouse King’s spell. Despite his closeness to Clara, he has nevertheless felt the distance growing between the Barbies and the Kens – and he hopes to pull Barbieland back together.

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