

## **Week 8 Report**

### **What Other Groups Did & Group Dynamics**

Almost all of our groups reported excellent dynamics in their final week of discussions, with a number of facilitators reporting that they felt the last session was the best one they had and that students continued to engage one another directly and fully without any facilitator interaction.

Many groups began with discussions on topics students felt they hadn't completely explored during the semester. Most groups showed more ease in asking and answering questions, as they grew less politically correct, and showed a lot of openness and interest in cultural differences and commonalities. Many groups explored together different layers of everyday life such as community work, close friendships, Media and TV as sources of information, family matters... etc. Meanwhile, they approached disagreement constructively with each side genuinely trying to understand the other. It was clear that groups had built trust with each other throughout the semester and most conversations flowed naturally with the participants taking the lead in taking ownership of the dialogue.

Then, the majority of groups focused a large part of their sessions on discussions around youth empowerment and activation, where students spoke about their vision for the future and brainstormed together on how they can make a difference- individually and collectively, with a focus on the role of young people as change-makers. Some groups raised questions that felt important to them and worked collaboratively on approaching them in a constructive way, such as "What would equality look like in your country / society?" and "What would need to happen in your country to make that vision possible?". Groups also used this time to reflect upon the semester, discussing the process they went through and the lessons they learned. The closing round was so filled with gratitude and friendship building, where different participants opened up and shared many touching stories on their journey and in each group, students spoke about how much they will miss their group and how much they appreciate their facilitators' assistance and guidance. Groups spoke freely, expressed genuine curiosity and appreciation. Most groups ended the semester with the Recognitions activity in which students shared their genuine appreciation of fellow group members, and this ended the semester on a high, positive note.

### **Attendance & Technology Update**

Attendance levels remained the same as last week, with the necessary number of students to have a dynamic conversation in the majority of groups. Thank you all for your support in ensuring their attendance! We have also noticed lower levels of technical issues amongst students. While we managed to address the technical challenges that arose during sessions, we would like to continue addressing the unresolved technical difficulties in your university labs with your respective technical coordinators, and it would be great if they can be collaborative with our technical team.

If you get the opportunity to do so, please also thank the other members of your university – such as your technical coordinators – on our behalf for their support, time and efforts throughout the semester!