

## **Connect Global US-MENA: Week Three Report**

### **Main Activities and Group Dynamics:**

On the third week of the program, students started their sessions with icebreakers and reminders about the final project's interview questions. Then, they engaged in activities that allowed them to develop good questions and understand how to successfully and deeply explore topics throughout the program. After the activities, most groups practiced asking good questions while they led discussions about social and global issues. Some explored current events and how the pandemic is still affecting the world while others discussed stereotypes and cultural misunderstanding.

Outside of the sessions, participants used the questions they prepared with their peers during the second week of the program to bring their communities' voices into the group discussions. Last Thursday, participants submitted the first set of videos they will use for the final projects.

This week, most facilitators reported that the group dynamics were good or excellent. Some facilitators shared how they took a step back as participants gained ownership over the dialogue. During the discussions, participants reacted to their peers' personal stories with respect and discovered similarities in how they are dealing with the current global challenges. As they shared feedback at the end of the session, some participants expressed interest in leading the upcoming discussions and suggested topics they would love to explore with their peers.

### **Attendance and Technology:**

Although most students attended their sessions this week, we will still need your support in reminding them about the importance of attendance. Each session has an important impact on their virtual exchange experience.

On the technical front, no major issues were reported this week. We still highly encourage your students to reach out to [student-tech@soliva.net](mailto:student-tech@soliva.net) if they face any potential issues and login five to ten minutes before the sessions begin.

### **Next week:**

During their fourth session, students will discuss the second set of required readings about intercultural communication. Students will reflect on the challenges that affect the process of communicating across cultures. Then, they will share thoughts on their peers' final project videos. During the session, students will split into smaller groups to help each other prepare the questions they will use in the second set of interviews. While they work on their final projects and required readings, facilitators will keep encouraging students to reflect on what they have been learning throughout the program.