

## **Connect Global: Week 2 Report**

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

This week, participants completed their second sessions. Some groups opened their sessions with icebreakers while others engaged in the identity activity and learned more about each other's backgrounds. After the opening activities, groups explored social and global issues on a deeper level. Some groups shared their thoughts about gender inequalities in their own countries while others lead free-flowing conversations about other global issues such as poverty, environment and stereotypes. Many facilitators reported how participants from different cultural backgrounds shared similar views on the discussed issues which helped them build stronger bonds.

After the discussions, groups started working on their final projects. Participants picked the topic they will discuss during their interviews and developed the first question they will ask the community members they will interview by the third week of the program.

This week, most facilitators reported that the session dynamics were good. Though some students still need more time to feel comfortable and share their opinions more openly, facilitators shared several instances where participants avoided shallow discussions and explored their identities on a deeper level. During the sessions, facilitators described how participants were developing their listening skills and reflecting tolerance in the way they share feedback.

### **Attendance and Technology:**

This week, the absence rate was still high. A large number of participants either missed their sessions or did not attend full sessions. We still need your support in reminding your students to attend the remaining sessions fully.

On the technical front, some groups were affected by technical issues. We will follow up with more details in separate email.

### **Next Week**

During the third week of the program, participants will dive into a group selected topic. Students will practice asking good questions and discover how they will impact the dialogue process. Enabling students to pick their topics is a way to reinforce an active learning process and encourage them to take the lead over the dialogues. Outside of the group sessions, students will conduct their first set of interviews. With the help of the community members they selected this week, participants will record ninety-second videos that will be uploaded on the virtual exchange platform by Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>.