

## **The 5 winning 'Letters to the jury of GTP'**

### **Completion of the Learning Circles Children's Rights 2016**

#### **1. Kirovograd Collegium, Ukraine**

Dear Jury,

We are one of the teams of wiki learning circle "Children's Rights" and we have the honour to represent our country Ukraine in this International project.

We are a group of 11 students of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We are 11-12 years old. For most of us this is the first GTP project and we have got a very new interesting experience. We like the Wiki format of the project which has given us the chance to present ourselves through pictures and video and also to get closer to the world through the presentations of our partners. We have learned a lot about the problem of the children's rights in the course of our work. The story of Nepal school has touched our hearts and Urmila's story has opened our eyes to the kids' problems which seem to have come from the Middle Ages. It is difficult to believe such things can happen in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Our country Ukraine has a local war on its territory and it also is difficult to believe such things can happen in the 21st century. Some years ago we would proudly tell you that in Ukraine the children's rights were not violated. To our regret we should confess that today the situation is different as now because of the war many families have been forced to leave their homes, many children have lost their parents or have been wounded. It means that our country is not also an exception and we also are having problems with the violating the children's rights.

We are sure it is very important to speak loudly about the problems connected with the children's rights. And this is what this GTP project is doing as discussing the Challenges in the groups and preparing the information for the project we involve more people in our circle.

We think what we need to do is to speak loudly about those who are to blame, who are guilty in violating the children's rights. We should not be afraid, we should be brave and united in this fight for the better life on the planet.

Faithfully yours,  
Kirovograd Collegium, Ukraine

## 2. KEF Higher Secondary School, Nepal

Dear jury,

I am Bhum (...) from wiki learning circle 7. I am the student of grade ten from KEF Higher Secondary School of Pokhara, Nepal. I am normal student who is neither too much intelligent nor bad in studies. I have hobby to do something different then I had done anything before. One day our class teacher Mr. Baral, our English teacher informed about wiki learning circle. He told us that this was best way to experience difference way of learning and comparing ourselves not only with school and national level students but with the students of international level. So I decide to join it and experience something better then textbook in school life. It's great honour to be member of wiki learning circle. Thank you very much jury of global teenager project for your great effort to make us share our ideas. I am really grateful for you.

This wiki learning circle has taught me many things. I really feel proud to be member of it. I found good things developed within me. I found wiki circle learning to be one of the best way of learning. The best thing about circle I had felt that, there are many group student of international countries. I got opportunity to know about the way that students of other schools learn, how they share and express feelings and talents. It also encouraged me to learn and share my ideas and skill freely. Projects on this circle encouraged me to do research about it and find more things about it. This helped me to learn the things in different way. In my school education way only based on reading and writing books and copies. Although it was the time of twenty first century, being citizen of developing country education was limited within books and copies. But this wiki learning circle has given me to learn the things in different way. I felt lazy while reading books but while working for projects there is no chance of laziness because this project had increased the feeling to make our work better than others. This feeling had compelled to search and learn about the subjects more. I have learned the things faster from wiki learning circle then compared to the books. And I am also able to learn new things. While researching the works it has increased my creativity. Project is related to text books so it had got benefit for exams too. It had provided me the best way to learn English language. By reading others assignment I am compelled myself to look and find new meanings in dictionary. Research I have done till now have taught me a lot about child right. I have been working with group about child right and it really made me to know about child right and their importance of child right. In present we know that many children have got child right and many of them have lack them. Many things have being done by many organization and nation themselves to improve child right. But in my opinion I think he best way by which child can get right is 'Good Parenthood'. Parents are responsible to bring children in this world. So whether child gets their right or not it depends upon parent of them. Before being parents they must check whether they could bear the responsibility of parent and fulfil the basic needs required for children. If they are well educated and they had job then there is more possibility of getting rights by children. Parents must also focus on matters related birth spacing, family planning and so no. Large number of children makes it harder to provide child rights equally to them. They also must make good environment for children. They must teach good things to children rather than giving torture and beat them. In the context of our country Nepal, due to lack education, job

and partially culture many teenagers have married in an early age and have given birth before matured period.. And also due to lack of occupation couples had got more time to spend with other and they give birth to more number of children. This makes the children which were born from them to do work only and they lack child rights. So I have thought that 'Good Parenthood' is the best way by which child can get their right. Well, it was our great pleasure to appreciate you for your valuable work which allows me to improve myself and share ideas with students of other countries. I am really thankful for it. I have done my best. Now I am stopping me letter. But once again thank you very much.

Yours, .....

Bhum (....)

Pokhara Nepal.

### 3. The American School of Las Palmas, Canarian Islands

We are eight students from The American School of Las Palmas; a small international school of about 300 students (ages 3-19). Our learning circles group includes 5 Canarian students named: Raúl, Carla, Laura, Elena and Cecilia. Our group also includes 3 new members that have joined us this school year; Valentine, a French girl that has lived in multiple places in Africa, José, an American with Spanish nationality that has lived in New Jersey his whole life and Caden, another American with Indonesian heritage from Colorado. For those who don't know, Las Palmas is the capital of a small island called Gran Canaria in the Canary Islands, Spain, which are located on the north-east coast of Africa. We can proudly say that our school feels like a big family that will always be there for us and we will always feel apart of. Our school is also well known for being very welcoming with new students from all over the world.

In this Learning Circles experience we felt, most of all, grateful for how incredibly lucky we are. That motivated us to help other children that unfortunately aren't as lucky. Most of us participated earlier this year in the Model United Nations program, which is a representation of the united nations for students. We travelled to The Hague in The Netherlands and debated some of the most relevant issues that the world faces today for a whole week. After this, one of the teachers that organized M.U.N. talked to us about the Learning Circles and we instantly agreed, full of enthusiasm and eager to start!

Little did we know how eye-opening this would be. It is amazing that we can discuss such important and delicate subjects, such as fighting for the rights of children, with students from all over the world, it made us realize what a technological age we are living and how easy it is for most of the world now to stay connected. Honestly, it gives us hope that so many young students from such different places in the world have such great ideas and proposals to improve and change our world, something that, together, we believe we can achieve. It won't be easy, but activities such as The Learning Circles are a great start, as we believe education is the key for a prosperous future.

Therefore, we would like to make sure that Articles 29 and 42 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are respected. But, why is education so important? Well, as Nelson Mandela once said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to save the world". After a lot of brainstorming and debating these are some ideas we came up with:

We suggest quality early childhood education and care (ECCE) to be invested in for all children of the world of ages up to 6 years old in order to provide a strong learning foundation for later years with the help of trained teachers or teacher assistant volunteers who care deeply about the cause of children education rights. This would also reduce dropout rates, and it can be achieved by other countries donating necessary school materials, by asking government programs to provide most of the payment for education related necessities, and by promoting children's social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development through the media.

We also recommend all the less economically developed Countries, with the financing help of the International Monetary Fund and/or The World Bank, to create pre-schools, daycares,

and public schools in order to end with street children and instead have more children in school and achieving a decent education.

We are aware of how the lack of transportation is one of the main reasons children don't attend school as a lot of them would have to walk miles and usually, in hazardous environments. Therefore, we think investing in transportation is key, as it's silly to invest in building a school if then no one can get there safely.

Finally, we would like to thank every school that participated in this, it is an honor to us to have had the opportunity to work on this, and we have been truly inspired and moved by everything you have said, even if it was said through a letter, a song, or just through a picture. As you all know, the world is suffering and so are it's people. Our people. But we can stop this, together we can make a change.

## 4. Schoonhovens College, The Netherlands

Hello,

My name is Emily (...). I live in the Netherlands with my mom, dad and little sister Eloise. I go to school at Schoonhovens College and I am in B2A the T.T.O class. I love going to school, seeing my friends every day and learning new things. I also love doing sports and being creative.

During the learning circle I have seen lots of differences between countries and differences of what people think about children's rights. I have read beautiful stories of children who went through a lot. We have also seen lots of drawings and crafts that are all connected to children's rights. This was an eye-opener to me because I have only seen a few countries ( America, Aruba, Turkey, France, England ) these countries are all quit wealthy countries. In every country I saw rich houses and little sheds made by garbage, but all of the children had a beautiful smile on their face. This made me question what is a good life? I think it is different for every person. My father once told me : the grass is always greener on the other side. And I agree. The learning circle shows other schools in different countries and what they think is a good life. I really like this because what my dad said is true, everybody has a different idea of what is a good life.

I have learnt from the learning circle that the world isn't fair. And that the world is divided into groups rich and poor. The rich have a good life with roofs above their heads food on their plate and health care right around the corner. But the poor don't have this. They live in worse circumstances. Lot's of children don't get a life like I do. And I find this hard to believe. Every day I have breakfast go to school see my friends go back home and see my family. And in the meanwhile there is a kid without family and without breakfast. A kid that is starving and alone. I want to make everyone equal by giving the poor a chance of a better life.

To achieve this goal I want to send teachers to poor countries so they can learn the children how to work. Learn them things for a better future in that way they get a chance for later. And to enjoy their childhood I want to send social workers to do things with children maybe build some playgrounds. I want them to enjoy their childhood and just have fun with friends they can make. I also have a solution for the starvation in the poor countries. Cooking competitions.

It starts with a competition here in the wealthy countries. A competition of cooking or baking something simple to make, very healty and delicious. The top three winners then send the recipe and ingredients to the poor countries. Grownups in the little village where the poor live can than make the food so they and the people in their village can eat a delicious meal and it will help their health. I think this is a fun solution of increasing starvation.

I hope this solution is useful. Greetings, Emily (....)

## 5. National College B.P.Hasdeu, Romania

Dear jury of GTP,

My name is Lavinia, I am from Romania, and I study at the National College B.P.Hasdeu. I am in 7th grade and I am 14 years old.

I am a healthy child; I have no physical or mental disability (I haven't been diagnosed with anything to this day and I am very grateful).

This project made me realize that I am very privileged and that many kids, especially the ones living in poverty, face the problem I am going to talk about.

A huge problem even in our time is ableism, especially towards children and teenagers. Sadly, a lot of people won't think it's a big problem, but it is actually huge. Since the beginning of time, the human race had a knack for literally eliminating the "imperfections" in other people. We all know how many civilizations killed a newborn if it had any disability (mostly a physical one, because in most cases they couldn't realize from the start what the mental state of the child was, but in no way does it mean that the mentally ill had it better).

You'd think that in our time, we would be better at this right? Yes, we don't throw the ones that can't do the "brutally-required basic tasks of that time" (fighting, working etc.) to alligators, but are we accepting children like this entirely? No.

Because the idea of the "brutally-required basic tasks" is sadly, still alive. We take their rights to an education, a stable life, integrity, and a childhood. They rarely get the medical help they truly need recognition (especially for the mentally ill) and dignity.

To solve this problem we should take it step by step:

### 1.Educating people

We should educate others about the existence, the state and the life of disabled children. Education ends ignorance.

And believe me,ignorance is a big problem here.

Everyone should first know how much these kids suffer, because that will create the empathy that will make them wanna do something to change.

There is so much to say about these illnesses and disabilities and I think that we should start projects in kindergartens, schools and places where adults work(a lot of adults really ignore this problem). Through the internet, the TV, everyone should be educated.

Sidenote: My college started a project to help children with autism (this could be an example, something that makes me very happy)

Also, the mentally ill, even in our day, barely get recognition. ADHD, dyslexia, depression, anxiety, PTSD (caused by traumatic events in the child's life, and if we talk about the ones in poverty, this is very common) and more, more others are illnesses that affect members of our society (yes, children too) and we should offer them help. They are told to ignore it, or that they are lying/whining /asking for attention. These illnesses have scientific bases, so they deserve our help too.

## 2.Solving the problem

We can solve the problem in so many ways:

- we can get them the medical help they need
- we can try and use our education and heart to see them as equal members of society
- we can try and treat them right and offer them the right to an education, a chance to a normal and stable life
- we can validate their suffering, which really helps them get through their struggles and shows others that they are human too
- we should create more spaces for the disabled(we usually see them near stairs, but here is so much more to do)

In conclusion, we can see that ableism actually exists and as a society we should help our members, especially the young ones, the ones in poverty.

Thank you for your time and I am sorry if there are mistakes, I am not a native English speaker and I probably slipped a few times. I am very proud that there are people out there that dedicate their lives to making a better world and I respect your work. I hope my letter is well done.

Greetings from Romania!