



Learning Circles Children's Rights - June 2017

Eyeopeners and quotes on Children's Rights and the Global Teenager Project

Individual assignment in peerScholar:

The jury of the Global Teenager Project has launched a 'writing contest' that allows you as LC-participant to speak out and raise your voice.

We ask you to write a paper titled: **"My plan to improve Children's Rights"**

Length about 500 words, addressed to the jury of GTP.

Include in your letter:

- A brief personal introduction, so the jury understands who you are and where you're from.
- Your lessons learned and eye-openers during the Learning Circle process.
- Design a plan to improve at least one Children's Right. How can your plan improve the conditions in the lives of children?

Eyeopeners and quotes:

I learned a lot from The Learning Circles. I didn't know much about children's rights, the only rights that I knew before were: 'Every child deserves good education.' And the right: 'Every child deserves protection.' Those 2 aren't much also I didn't even know that some rights existed like: 'Every child deserves it to be able to participate in a community and every child deserves freedom from fear.' It was a real eye-opener to me how much rights doesn't apply to so many children.

Did you know 40 million children below the age of 15 suffer from child abuse? Every city with a population greater than 250,000 reports gang activity? Approximately 27 million people are being transported across the world for child labour? Hi my name is Hamza from Tweedsmuir public school, I am 14 years old and I like to be active and explore new things because I always felt like there is more to the world than to be inside or across the street. I know the world is a very big place and my dream is to someday travel the world.

Thank you GTP for helping me learn the importance of children's rights.

So Jack, what are you going to be talking about today? "What I learned from the Global Teenager Project, how I would plan to improve one children's right, and how my plan would improve the lives of children"

So Jack, what HAVE you learned during your time doing the Global Teenager Project? "Well, I've learned a whole bunch of things, like I learned about the rights of a child, and how not everybody in another country gets these rights." What else have you learned? "I learned about how some people have to escape their country because of a war or something else, and they have to move to another country. They are called refugees, and I interviewed two refugees, Majd and Rowan about their move to Canada and how they were forced to come here, and how they made lots of friends at their new school, Eagle Heights. This taught me about how not everybody is as lucky as me..."

I have learned new things from the Global Teenager Project and would like to know more about the life of other children.

Some things I have learned is that children about my age are not being treated the way they should be and that not all children have the right to learn or play. An eyeopener to me is Zalissa Kabores story. She should be able to go to school and have a right to learn. It is not fair that she being told how her life should be. She should have a chance to have a say in things and have a right to make her own choices.

I have had fun doing work with The Global Teenager Project and I hope that we can fix children's rights. Thank you for letting me join in on this and I hope you use my solution to help others.

We have learned that even though we think the world is ok, it isn't. There are kids in this world that have been separated and taken from their family because of the government. There are also some kids that don't get to live in a safe home, they don't get to have the stuff that we have, they don't have nice clothes or good food or clean drinking water. Some kids don't get to go to school and learn like us, they have to stay at home because they don't have enough money to go to school. They won't get an education and will never get a job. We talked a lot about children's rights and how they affect people.

Over the course of our time doing the Global Teenager Project, we learned mostly about the people in our school/community. We also found out some information about schools and classes in other communities. But, why bother? Why do we bother to learn about the other people in our world? And what would happen if we didn't bother? Well, we bother because we can make a difference in doing it. By taking the time to learn about other people, we can not only get insight on how other people live, but we can find out how we can make things better for the people who don't live as good as we do.

And if we don't bother to do these things? The effect of not trying to take action in things like this is that we don't get to learn about our world, therefore we it becomes

difficult to learn where things are good or not so good. Plus, it would also make it difficult to communicate with people outside of our country, which is something that could become useful at some point. We honestly don't know anyone who has done anything like this, other than the other students who have taken part in this project. And that, in itself, is inspiring enough. We think that the Global Teenager Project is an amazing system that is hopefully changing the views of students all across the world.

We learned how different peoples communities are. How they have to go through different problems than we do. Around the beginning of the Global Teenager Project we were like what is this and we thought that it was going to be hard. It was a really big eye opener when we got it done and out of the way it was actually really easy. We learned that we like different things about our community. We also really liked learning about other peoples communities and how they are different compare to ours. We should be considered and keep in mind other peoples communities and issues they have to go through living in their community.

The children rights are very good here, I think. First, I would like to talk about children's rights in this letter, especially about disabled children. I have learned a lot in the Learning Circles Project, because some of the children's rights are different in other countries than here in the Netherlands, that was an eyeopener for me. In other countries some of the children rights aren't good. In the Netherlands we have a very good life. I'm happy with that. I have especially learned a lot about the exercises which we do in the lessons. I would like to talk about children's rights, I have chosen the theme disabled children because my sister Julia has a disability, the Syndrome of Down. It's important to me that disabled children have a good life, and that they get the right support to get the best out of themselves. In the Netherlands we have good laws for disabled children, unfortunately it isn't so good in other countries.

I have looked for different children rights and I think I have choose a good one because this is a big problem in the world, this big problem is war. My children right is that if you live in a country with a lot of war, you have the right on additional protection and care. If you're not 15 yet, you're not allowed to work in the army. I thought about a solution and I came to a conclusion that it is difficult to come up with a solution, because in developing countries is usually a lot of war.

When we started with the Learning Circles I was impressed about the fact that we were going to do this in association with other countries. Even though I wondered how Gambia was going to do this, because it's generally known that their school facilities are not that good. Right now I sit in my room, behind my desk, typing on my laptop. In Gambia, they don't have a laptop. I complain when it's raining, or when I have to eat something that I do not like. But when I think about it, I don't have anything to complain or worry about. Conclusion: my children's rights are how they're supposed to be.

Children's rights: What exactly does that mean? Before we started with this project, I was familiar with what that means. But I didn't know enough, so I gathered some information and found a list of the most important children's rights. When I read through the list, there was one right that remained in my mind. Protecting against child labour.

At my school we joined the project Learning Circles. During the Learning Circles, we spoke about children's rights. Such as a safe house, education for all children, clean water to drink and a peaceful environment. When we talked about these subjects, I realised that I am lucky to live in a country like the Netherlands. Because it is not common for everybody to go to school, have clean drinking water or have a good nursery system.

The longer we worked at this project, the more I respect people who have to live in developing country. They have so much perseverance. Despite all the hard things they go through, they stay positive and keep dreaming of a better future. That was an eye-opener for me.

Since the end of February we are busy with the Learning Circles and I like it. It is about children's rights and the difference between our life in Europe and the life in African countries. I knew that that the life was bad in Africa but I had no idea that it was horrible. They don't have enough/clean drink water. And a lot of people cannot go to school.

I have learned a lot in the last few months, like the details in differences between poor countries and richer countries. I also learned that there are much more children's rights than that I once knew. It made me realize that I'm living a good life, so there is no need to whine.

The children's right, which I want to improve, is the Children's Right to have a Family. First of all, because many children in poorer countries are getting separated from their parents, mostly by war.

Unfortunately, not every child in the world has the same safety, health, wealth and freedom like me.

I've learned a lot of things at Learning Circles. I've learned the importance of Children's Rights. I understood how important education is for children, because when they grow up, they can have a bright future and give their children education too. I would like to meet up with other children in other countries.

... After that, we did a presentation to share our idea and learned how different children's rights are being violated in different countries. Then, we discovered about child labour all around the world, especially the cocoa farms located in the Ivory Coast, where they kidnap children and force them to leave their homes and work on the farm. We also learned about fair trade, it is how people make sure there are no children working in the factory, they paid the workers fairly and protect the workers. I

think this unit makes me develop a deep understanding of global issue happened around the world. Overall, I feel satisfied after learning about this unit. We have to be aware of the issue that bothers the whole world right now because we are the one who can solve it.

In this presentation, I realized rich country's children usually have more rights, but none of the countries can give children all their rights. Also, I learned in the same country, children who live in different regions more or fewer rights. Like in Canada, some aboriginal students don't have the rights that almost every other Canadian kid has. After I learned more and more about children's rights, I realized that the main reason of why some children don't have all their right is because of poverty. Most of those rights somehow deal with money. If a place is poor, neither their adult nor their children will have the rights they should have. All they can do is work for other rich people, and be oppressed by them. Which is not fair.

Poverty is the main reason of why some children don't have all their rights.

As a child, my life is good enough, but I know I'm very lucky because of lots of children around the world that nobody cares about their rights. I learned a lot about my country, which is Chile through that. There is child labour have happened there. I did much research about which Children's right Chile were doing bad, and I know a lot more about it. We need to think about what makes children don't have a safe home and we need to show that in a poem, a song or a cartoon. It helps us to learn the specific reasons children don't have a safe home. After I learn those things, I think a lot about how to help those children.

...Also, they need to stop using child labour. About us, which are the citizens, we still can do lots of things. We can learn more about fair trade, and we can try to buy the products that have the fair trade promise. That way those factories will stop use child labour. Also, we need to buy fair trade cloth. Together we can make the world better. Let's start with small things we can do to improve Children's rights.

I have a dream to be a veterinarian, but do all children have the right to dream their future job?

Children right is one of the topics we learned in class. Children right is the right that all of us have, the definition of children is when you born until 18. Children around the world all have this right. The first problem of the violation is child labour, there are a lot of children in the poor country got kidnapped to different kinds of factories to doing free work for the owner. The second violation is safe home, according to unicef Canada's article 27 "You have the right to food, clothing, a safe place to live and to have your basic needs met. You should not be disadvantaged so that you can't do many of the things other kids can do." I have a warm and lovely home, you have a home that are full of love, but still, there are a lot of children lived in an unsafe home that are full of violence.

Dear GTP,

I start by thanking you for the initiative to create this wonderful virtual circle of young people, through which we can all learn from each other.

I am 15 years old and I am a simple student at B.P. Hasdeu in Buzau County, who also loves justice and wants the rights of the child to be taken more seriously and even improved. So, in my view, the right that should be better exploited in Romania would be the one that talks about child protection against all forms of exploitation, against violence, abuse and other harmful treatments.

I say that children suffering from many injustice will get a better fortune with GTP and UNICEF, because each one deserves a decent and happy life from all points of view. Thank you to GTP for helping to form a better society and to address the irregularities in this world, although it is very difficult and I also thank you for extending the mentality of many who will be the next power in the world and that will probably change many.

I have learned new things from doing the Global Teenager Project. I have found this fun to do while at the same time finding out interesting things about other people around the world.

Some things that I have found out doing the Global Teenager Project is how people my age are being treated around the world. I've learned the rights to a safe home and what it means to have family.

I personally feel like in many parts of the world children are suppressed and not given all the necessary equipment to develop as both individuals and global citizens. When I started with Learning circle, I had the mentality that I knew all about children's rights but it never hit me that I could actually be taking the rights that I am privileged to have for granted. I never thought much of children's rights and how they are and aren't implemented in some parts of the world. With all the discussions, research and activities, I have learnt that many things fall into being the building blocks of a child's development and future.

At this point, all I could ever want is to make an impact in another child's life. I don't really know how my plan will change the lives of other children but I know that it will touch someones life, inspire someone and make a difference in someone's life in one way or the other.

I will not lie and claim that I have formulated an award-winning plan to change the lives of millions but what I do know for sure is that this plan, if initiated can make a difference in my life and the lives of those around me. I believe that I can make a difference and all I need to do is to actually stand up and do something.

I am a child. A fourteen year girl who is from South Africa, which is a country on the southernmost tip of Africa. Being an open-minded person has always been a trait that I value in the development of my cognitive skills. I am a very emotional creature who loves Art and Science. I am Christian and I speak SeSotho (one of South Africa's 11 official languages) at home and English at school. I love happy and positive people. I am just basic me.

I have learnt that people's minds and views can be influenced by the people around them, the things that they have been through and the environment that they live in. I have also realised that this journey has made me get in contact with people who are different from me, but who also have the potential to change the world. One of the things that I have also learnt during this process is that, as children, we take for granted what we have, when we do not know that there are starving, homeless children out there.

The Learning Circle has really been a very big eye-opener for me and I don't regret my decision of joining it. I am a very curious person, I want to know and learn new things about what is going on around the globe. The Learning Circle helped me do that, I got a taste and some knowledge of some parts of the world that I've always been so curious about. I learnt that there is a lot going on around us and some of us don't want to take the initiative to even know about it and try to help, to do something useful and important. I was really shocked to know that so many of the big and successful companies use child labourers and now whenever I buy that company's product or hear of that company, that thought comes rushing back to my mind. There is no use in just talking about it and not doing anything. Use your voice for something useful and be heard. I believe that actions speak louder than words. Big things and movements start from some place small and that small place can be you.

During the Learning Circle process, I have learned so much. I have learned that when looking at issues you should try and look at them from different perspectives and to collaborate with others to have a deeper understanding of the issues. The Learning Circle is a platform for me to express my views and thoughts. I was given a voice and an opportunity to gain knowledge to one day be able to make a difference. My experience with the Learning Circle proved to me that humanity (Ubuntu) is really important in our daily lives and that it should drive us to do good.

We believe that all children should have equal opportunities as everyone else. Countries that have a lot of money, could give other countries that are poor some money. If children don't have a mom or dad, We should find all of them homes and families. We could have people go over there and build homes for all the homeless people. Also, because we have a lot of teachers here, we could get some that could volunteer to go to places that don't have enough teachers. We have the ability to do a lot of great things for other people in other countries. We should help people in other countries because we can. We have the money. We have the time. All we have to do is go over there and start working.

Something that I learned while doing the global teenager project was to think about how many people there are that need our help. We learned about schools and students all around the world and how they are not that different from us. We should not base what children are going to grow up to be by the color of their skin or what their culture or religion is. Children need to grow up in a safe community so that they learn what is right and what is wrong.

The Global Teenager Project was eye opening and I hope more people get to do this so that we can make a difference in the world.

I've learned a lot during the Learning Circle process, for example about the rights for children, what they mean and what that means for children. I've learned things about other countries, what they don't have in comparison with what we have, because there are so many children that can't get clean water and enough food. We also did an experiment, which made me aware of the fact that many clothes are made through child labour.

I think that children's rights are important because with knowledge and with the right family, they could be anyone they want. The process of GTP is very complicated at times but, it is fun and it's a good way to learn about children's rights. We get so many options and opportunities to learn about children's rights. Children's rights is a big problem in the global community.

One amazing thing that we did was make a poem for children's rights. That stood out to me because it was a lot of fun. I made my poem, practiced it, and as I was making it, I learned that there really isn't as many rights for children as there should be. We also have done some other stuff like make a presentation on the life of a guy named Mohamed Sidibay. He was a little kid when he lost both of his parents, and he was left at his village. Then he decided to fight for children's rights. He got a scholarship to a school and he lived his life not wondering what could happen when he did it. My opinion on the whole learning process was amazing because it is a fun way to introduce children's rights to children in a good and interesting way.

Our class has been taking part in the Learning Circle of Children's Rights. When we had to answer the questions in Reflective Questions Article: 24, I realized I failed to acknowledge the things important to grow up in a healthy way. One thing my parents always say is "Finish your food iha (daughter). Many children don't have food. I often ignore them, but because of Reflective Questions, I can put what they said in mind. I feel we often aren't thankful for what we have, so I thank you GTP, for reminding my class and I about the importance of the things we own.

I would like to thank you GTP, for letting me understand the rights of a child. Thank you for reminding me to be thankful of the things I need to grow up. Thank you for changing my perspective and allowing me to create an opportunity to change the lives of children.

I have had an awesome time working through tasks and challenges about children's rights and getting to know other people's perspectives from not just where I learn, but from all over the globe

During the learning circle process I have learned about different lifestyles that children have and what kids in other schools think should be children's rights. Not only have I learned about children's rights but during tasks I have learned how to use different methods to describe my feelings and knowledge toward a topic such as models and Videos. One of my personal favorites was being able to video chat with two refugees and being taught how their way of life was back in their home country.

Not only did I get to know them, but during the beginning of this circle people from other schools introduced themselves in various ways and told us a bit about themselves such as their hobbies and their names. A large eye opener for me during this circle was that not everyone/child has the lives like I do. What I mean by that is some children don't even have the right to clean water or to education where as in my life I can sometimes take things for granted like not eating supper.

I am so happy that I have had the opportunity to be apart of this circle and work with eye opening tasks to better understand children's situations from around the world. I wish all children had children's rights and basic needs but I feel that this circle has had such an inspiring impact on my self and others that if we work together this issue can be fixed.

The global classroom educated me with a plethora of new knowledge. I now perceive what other juveniles undergo. I Thank you for giving me this opportunity to expand my horizons about the world and I have benefited greatly from this learning experience.

Being involved with this tremendous experience has been an eyeopener. I learned so much about how IMPORTANT children are, and why my class needed to reflect on the lives of others our age. I would like to thank you for setting this learning experience in such a clever and insightful way.

I'd like to talk about how Global Classroom really inspired and motivated me. Firstly, I got to open up and get to know the world around me. It was quite surprising to find out that there were laws in some countries that I never even knew or imagined.

Secondly, I collaborated so much with my classmates throughout this journey. It was very fun and nice to be in groups with people I don't usually work with.

Organizations and groups who have a passion to save children around the world can help. We must see if they fit for the job or not. Not every child can speak up, and it's time we change that.

I feel that every child should have the right to be safe and free. In my community many rights such as the right to education, the right to play and freedom of speech are taken away from children. Many children drop out of school due to gangsterism. Some are forced and bullied to join gangs while others are pulled into a life of drugs and crime by members of gangs. Children have to be very careful of what they say because saying the wrong thing can get you killed. Every child should be safe in their own community. I recall walking to school one day when a gangster shot a man in front of me. I saw his lifeless body crumble to the ground. I was only nine years old when it happened and I feel that no one at that age should experience something so traumatizing.

The learning circle opened up my eyes. I thought that only my circumstances were bad but then realised that children in countries at war and in refugee camps that have it much more worse than I thought. It was shocking to find out that the clothes I wear and things I buy are actually from child labouring companies.

We have done challenges about 'A child's right to a safe home' for in the children's rights circle. We have answered questions from different articles and my group made a powerpoint video. Everybody in our class did a different challenge so we didn't do the same. From the 4 challenges my group did challenge 3. My group was told to make a video about the challenge and so Omar, Younes and I made a powerpoint video and it was posted to the circle. We have also seen work from other students from around the world that are also working for the Children's Right's and we found them nice and productive and other people could also learn from them and that how students from around the world are working on this. We have been talking about children from across the world and thinking about the possibilities like what could the parents do or the government or even people across the world and how could we motivate them to help us help them.

And one more thing: Why do we have enough money for wars but not for the poor.

We learned a lot of the lessons we learned what children's rights are and what kind of rights for children there are. We made two pages of reflective questions we had presentations. ... and we also looked to a rap and a song that children made in our class we singed a song with our lovely teacher Irma and we watched a clip at home and we made some assignments and i loved to make them it was a really nice assignment to do i learned a lot about this subject and i now understand better the subject and what those children going true

i learned about childerens right and that childerens right was difrent in western countries from eachother i knew that in third world countries childeren where forced to work and girls where forced to mary men way older then them and that some childeren needed to do realy good at school from there parents and that childeren want to go to school but can't and need to work so they can but food for there self and there parents and there siblings.

I learned many things in the childrens right project and see how hard kids have it in third world countrys where most of them dont have shelter or food or water and need help by people in for example europe and america etc.

The next right I'm gonna write about is the right so a safe home. These things we have in Europe/North America, also in Africa, but many children live on the street because of domestic violence, drugs or other violence. I think the government must be there for such children. They need to build shelter for these kids. They need to hire people to take care about them, because all of the children have the right of a safe home and to be loved by someone. I know someone who did this by herself in Brazil, she spend the most time of her life taking care for orphans in Brazil. Every year we run for her to earn money for her, such things need to happen everywhere.

We (me and my classmates) are working on the learning circles for a while now. We thought a lot about child rights. We did some assignments about some child rights.. We made a comic about 'the right to a safe home' for example. I thought everyone made a really good comic and took it seriously. I think that is important because a safe home is really important and seriously. We also did some research about child labour. I didn't know that so many shops in the Netherlands sell clothes which are made by children.

I am interested in geography, history and politics. I wanted to write this letter for several reasons. Of course, I am obligated to write this letter for school, but I am also very interested in this problem. If I could, I would like to help solve this problem, or at least think about the solution.

Secondly, I would like to tell you the things that I have learnt in my lessons the last couple of weeks. Many people and organisations have been working on the solution to solve child suffering all over the world to this day, and defend the rights of those who need it the most: the children. It is great that so many people and organisations like UNICEF try to help these children, because they can't do it themselves.

However, despite all this efforts child suffering is a problem that likely will never be solved, because of the inequality, wars and governments that simply do not have enough money to help children in need. There will always be people who own everything, and people who own nothing. The only thing we can do is to make this difference smaller, and make sure that everybody who needs it gets enough money to live.

In the second challenge, we have been researching which shops in the Netherlands sell clothes which are made by children. This was a real eye opener because I didn't know that there are so many shops that sell clothes which are made by children. I think that people must think twice before they buy very cheap clothes which are made by children. After we did these two challenges, I think much more about children who live in poverty. They have a horrible childhood and I think we should do something about it!

During the learning circles process I have, of course, learned many things about children's rights. Also, I have learned how it is to live in poor countries like Ethiopia. It is very hard to live there, because most people do not have enough money to have a normal life. But I also learnt, that if you believe in yourself, you can become anyone you want to be.