HUMAN RIGHTS NOW!

Youth Making a Difference for Human Rights!

Human rights are fundamental rights for living and for normal human existence. They are based on the concept that every human being, irrespective of caste, creed, color, raise and nationality is born or with certain fundamental rights such as, the right to live, speech, freedom, justice and so on. Unfortunately this has remained only a concept. A lot of countries are violating these rights, especially the rights of migrants and refugees. With migration being such a big and controversial issue in Europe and all over the world, the student initiative "International Club – Goethe Uni" decided to take this matter into their own hands by creating a project which helps raise awareness among young people in hopes that they will be the leaders who will make a change.

The project "Human Rights NOW!" took place from 23rd to 31st October 2018 in Mörfelden-Walldorf (Frankfurt). Young participants from six different countries (Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Kosovo, Palestine and Turkey) came together to work on finding a solution regarding this topic. The project was supported by Erasmus+ program of the European Union.

During 10 days participants took part in many diverse interactive activities focused on migration and refugee crisis. Initially, participants got the chance to know each other's culture and background through 'intercultural nights' where they addressed their own experiences on the topic along with sharing their traditional dances, dishes etc. On October the 24th, through one of the activities they got a closer look on the given topic of migration, so participants interviewed random pedestrians on the streets of Walldorf, getting notes and recording videos where they got to know the struggles of migrants and the locals' point of view. On 26th of October the participants visited the Goethe University in Frankfurt where they observed an artistic exhibition with the topic on the Rights of the LGBTI community in Africa and their struggles to practice their rights. During this stay each participant shared the situation of the given topic in their home country, explaining the difficulties this community encounters every day. On the same day they visited Staatskanzlei building in the capital of Hessen, Wiesbaden. On the 28th of October, the group watched a documentary about migrants, how hard their life is and how challenging their journey was to escape from their country. Through activities and debates like this that raise awareness participants saw how real life is and that how desperately the world needs a change.

"International Club – Goethe Uni" is a student initiative of Goethe University Frankfurt, which was founded in 2015. The objectives of the initiative are to connect students from different backgrounds, to learn from each other and to strengthen the cultural dialogue. The initiative has a lot of experience in youth work.

The Erasmus+ program is a program supported by the European Union Commission and the German national agency JUGEND für Europa. Erasmus+ is open to all young people, not just those involved in education or training. With Erasmus+, youngsters can volunteer in Europe or outside of Europe or participate in a youth exchange abroad. Youth exchanges allow groups of young people from different countries to meet and live together for up to 21 days. On a youth exchange, they can expect to participate in activities such as workshops, exercises, debate, role-plays, outdoor activities, etc. The Intercultural Club is very satisfied with the result of the youth exchange and the active participation of the young people. We aim to spread the values of Erasmus+ and to organize further youth exchanges in South Hesse.

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"Human Rights for Better World"