

Action4Rights by NGO KIYO: empowering students to stand up for their rights

Belgium

www.kiyo-ngo.be

DESCRIPTION

Action4Rights is a project by the NGO KIYO, aimed at empowering youth so they can stand up for their rights and take social action. Through this initiative, students learn to **address rights violations and make a positive change in their school context.** For example, within this project, at [Stedelijk Lyceum Eilandje](#) (a STEM school) in Antwerp), students work on different topics such as **privacy, poverty, identity, discrimination, and participation.** KIYO also strives for **structural changes**, and put students in close contact with teachers, **enabling sustainable change (e.g., strengthening student participation through a student council, establishing a “global day” at school...).** The program consists of 7 sessions, each lasting 100 minutes.

Furthermore, through Action4Rights, KIYO **virtually connects youth from Belgium and other partner countries**, allowing them to **know each other’s contexts, reflect on rights challenges** they face in their everyday lives, and **support each other in coming up with their positive social actions.** For example, the students in Antwerp were connected with peers in Brazil and the Philippines, exchanging experiences and inspiring each other on how to stand up for their rights.

Since 2019, **three groups of 40 students in Antwerp** have participated in this project. An [article](#) (in Dutch) with an interview of a teacher at Stedelijk Lyceum Eilandje explains the impact of the project.