

Voices of Human Rights, Peace and Volunteering

Howest RUN-EU Volunteering for Human Rights Learner Exchange (LEX) 2026

37 organisations. 8 students. Countless conversations.



Through volunteering at Wereldkamp and interviews conducted at Feest in 't Park Bruges, students explored how organisations and citizens contribute to:

-  Global Solidarity
-  Human Rights
-  Peace
-  Active Citizenship
-  Sustainability

This collection brings together:

27 Feest in 't Park & 10 Wereldkamp organisation interviews
8 student reflections



About this Project

During the Howest [RUN-EU Volunteering for Human Rights Learning Exchange](#) (LEX) 2026, students engaged with civil society organisations through volunteering, dialogue, and interviews.

Working alongside partner [Broederlijk Delen](#) at [Wereldkamp](#) and conducting interviews with organisations at [Feest in 't Park](#) Bruges, students explored themes including human rights, peace, sustainability, inclusion, global citizenship and active participation.

The resulting interviews capture the perspectives of organisations working locally and internationally on social, environmental, educational and humanitarian issues, while the student reflections highlight the impact of volunteering and intercultural learning.

Feest in 't Park Organisation Interviews

1. Oxfam
2. Nkongolo School Support
3. Avansa
4. Casa Main Vlaanderen
5. Broederlijk Delen
6. Vlaamse Jeugdraad
7. Rode Kruis Opvangcentrum Brugge
8. Hart boven Hard
9. Grootouders voor het Klimaat
10. Vredesactie
11. Taranta
12. Friends in Kovalam
13. Greenpeace Belgium
14. Amnesty International
15. Kalala
16. ADIBA
17. KiYoDeL
18. KITANDA
19. 11.11.11
20. Samen Sterk met Vluchtelingen
21. Wereldhuis West-Vlaanderen
22. Servas
23. Crea Thera International
24. Werkgroep Brugge Plan Internationaal
25. Himalayan Projects
26. Preventie en Samenleven
27. Sora Senegal



Oxfam: <https://www.oxfam.org/>
Cécile Vanhove: Volunteer

Goals:

- Promote fair trade and strengthen sustainable supply chains.
- Support social, agricultural, and community development.
- Ensure producers receive fair prices and fair wages for their work.
- Improve the livelihoods of farmers and local communities through ethical trade practices.
- Raise awareness about global inequality and responsible consumption.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending fair wages, access to education, and the elimination of child labour.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Promoting respect for producers and fair trade principles.
- Supporting cooperatives and communities through responsible purchasing and awareness-raising.
- Recognising that collective action is more powerful than individual effort.

Where does peace come in:

- Fair trade helps reduce conflict and strengthen communities.

Quote:

“Together we are a forest, alone only a single tree.”



Nkongolo School Support: <https://www.feestintpark.be/paadhai-1>

Emily Ide & Zoé Demarbaix: Volunteers

Goals:

- Support students in Nkongolo by improving educational opportunities.
- Contribute to the development of school infrastructure and facilities.
- Help create a safe and healthy learning environment for children.
- Promote access to quality education for all students.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending every child's right to education.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Contributing directly to the wellbeing and opportunities of children.
- Supporting educational development through internships and volunteer engagement.
- Helping people through practical action.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace means creating equal opportunities for all students.

Quote:

“Every child has the right to education.”



Avansa: <https://avansa.be/>
Melanie Clemens: Educational Worker

Goals:

- Promote social inclusion, connection, and community participation.
- Create safe spaces where people feel welcome and belong.
- Support personal development and lifelong learning.
- Strengthen community engagement through educational and social initiatives.
- Foster tolerance and understanding between people.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting participation, inclusion, and the right to meaningful leisure and community life.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Creating environments where people feel safe and connected.
- Recognising the essential role volunteers play in community initiatives.
- Valuing the contribution volunteers make to society.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace comes through inclusion, belonging, and ensuring that everyone has a place within society.

Quote:

“Volunteers play an essential role in community initiatives.”



Casa Main Vlaanderen vzw: <https://casamain.be/>
An Surmont: Volunteer

Goals:

- Support an orphanage home in Bolivia.
- Create opportunities for vulnerable children, particularly girls.
- Improve access to education and future independence.
- Help children affected by poverty, neglect, abuse, or a lack of parental support.
- Contribute to the development of educational facilities.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting solidarity and educational opportunities for vulnerable girls.
- Supporting access to education as a pathway towards independence.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Believing that even small actions can help create a better world.
- Supporting children and communities through solidarity and practical assistance.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is especially important for children who have already experienced difficult circumstances and need a safe home environment.

Quote:

“Every small thing we do contributes to a better world.”



Broederlijk Delen: <https://broederlijkdelen.be/>

Peter Ketels: Volunteer

Goals:

- Support sustainable development and human rights.
- Strengthen local organisations and community initiatives.
- Promote sustainable agriculture and social justice.
- Contribute to a fairer and more equal society.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending the right to education.
- Promoting non-discrimination and equal rights.
- Recognising the dignity and rights of every person.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Believing in the organisation's mission and its value for society.
- Contributing to positive social change while learning from others.
- Giving back to society through active engagement.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace should not be taken for granted and requires continuous effort.
- Building peace means caring for one another and standing up for what is right.

Quote:

“Peace isn't something we can take for granted.”



Vlaamse Jeugdraad: <https://vlaamsejeugdraad.be/>
Vincent Du Jardin: Volunteer

Goals:

- Empower young people and strengthen their participation in society.
- Ensure that the voices and interests of youth are heard in decision-making.
- Encourage active citizenship and democratic engagement among young people.
- Advocate for issues that matter to youth at different levels of society.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending the right to vote and freedom of speech.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Passionate about supporting young people and making their voices heard.
- Believes that those who have the time and opportunity should use it to help others.

Where does peace come in:

- Promoting dialogue and diplomacy as ways to create positive change.

Quote:

“The only way for youth to be heard is if they speak.”



**Het Rode Kruis opvangcentrum Brugge: <https://www.rodekruis.be/>
Evelyne Lemahieu & Elie De Roover: Staff Members**

Goals:

- Support people living in the reception centre in Bruges.
- Provide housing, care, activities, and practical assistance to refugees and asylum seekers.
- Create a safe environment where residents can rebuild their lives and future.
- Offer more than basic necessities by supporting wellbeing and integration.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending the rights to housing, food, healthcare, welfare, and dignity.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Committed to helping people in vulnerable situations.
- Supporting the values and principles of humanitarian assistance and protection.

Where does peace come in:

- Helping people find safety, stability, and peace in their daily lives.

Quote:

“We provide more than bed, bath and bread.”



**Hart boven Hard: <https://hartbovenhard.be/>
Renie Laguyt: Coordination Team**

Goals:

- Connect people around a shared vision for a more just society.
- Promote the values expressed in Hart boven Hard's "Ten Heart Wishes."
- Strengthen democratic participation and civic engagement.
- Encourage citizens to shape society collectively.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting democracy and active participation in society.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Motivated by diversity and personal engagement.
- Believes in keeping power close to the people.

Where does peace come in:

- Advocating against militarisation and supporting peaceful alternatives.

Quote:

"What are you waiting for?"



Grootouders voor het Klimaat: <https://grootoudersvoorhetklimaat.be/>
Riet Blondelle: Volunteer

Goals:

- Work for a sustainable future for current and future generations.
- Raise awareness about climate change and environmental responsibility.
- Advocate for biodiversity protection and equal opportunities for all.
- Encourage people to work together to address environmental challenges.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting equality, biodiversity, and equal opportunities for everyone.
- Highlighting the connection between environmental protection and human wellbeing.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Giving back after benefiting from many opportunities in life.
- Encouraging people to live with less and appreciate that "small is beautiful."
- Believing that people must work together to achieve change.

Where does peace come in:

- Promoting non-violent action and avoiding approaches that contribute to violence.
- Working towards solutions that are peaceful and sustainable.

Quote:

"I had a lot of opportunities in life. I have to give something back."



Vredesactie Brugge: <https://vredesactie.be/>
Christophe Steyaert: Volunteer

Goals:

- Promote peace and disarmament through action, education, and advocacy.
- Raise awareness about weapons and militarisation.
- Work towards a safer and more just world.
- Support peaceful and non-violent alternatives to conflict.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting peace and reducing inequality.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Helping to build a safer and more just society.
- Recognising that volunteers are essential to the organisation's work.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is the organisation's central focus and goal.
- Pursued through action, research, advocacy, and legal initiatives.

Quote:

“Without volunteers, we would not work.”



Taranta vzw: <https://vzwtaranta.wordpress.com/>
Helga Van den Broeck: Board Member

Goals:

- Bring people from different cultures together.
- Foster connection through music, cultural activities, and shared experiences.
- Create safe spaces where everyone feels welcome and valued.
- Encourage intercultural understanding and exchange.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting diversity, equality, and respect for all people.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Supporting an organisation that creates inclusive and welcoming spaces.
- Believing volunteers help make the world a better place.

Where does peace come in:

- Encouraging people not to fear different cultures.
- Building understanding and connection between communities.

Quote:

“There is no need to be afraid of different cultures.”



Friends in Kovalam: <https://www.atheneumbrugge.be/friends-in-kovalam>
Louise Van de Castele: Volunteer

Goals:

- Support NGO SISIP in South India.
- Promote access to education, food, and care.
- Strengthen opportunities for girls and women.
- Support community development and empowerment initiatives.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting girls' education, access to food, and women's empowerment.
- Supporting vulnerable communities through practical assistance.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Motivated by a desire to help others and create opportunities.
- Believes those who are able to help have a responsibility to do so.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is more than the absence of war.
- Education and empowerment contribute to more peaceful communities.

Quote:

"Peace is much more than no war."



Greenpeace Belgium: <https://www.greenpeace.org/belgium/>
Sina Pirmeh: Fundraiser

Goals:

- Protect the environment through non-violent action and advocacy.
- Hold governments and corporations accountable for environmental harm.
- Promote sustainable solutions to environmental challenges.
- Safeguard the planet for current and future generations.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending the right to a clean and liveable planet.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Believes major corporations and governments must be held accountable.
- Recognises that work should not focus solely on profit.

Where does peace come in:

- Non-violence is a core principle guiding Greenpeace's work and actions.

Quote:

“How can I help?”



Amnesty International: <https://www.amnesty.org/>
Kathleen Coën: Chair of Amnesty Flanders

Goals:

- Promote and defend human rights worldwide.
- Raise awareness of human rights violations and advocate for justice.
- Support peace, equality, and the protection of fundamental freedoms.
- Work through local and international networks to advance human rights for all.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending the right to protest and freedom of expression.
- Promoting the right to political and cultural identity and participation.
- Protecting people whose rights and freedoms are under threat.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Motivated by a strong commitment to activism and human rights.
- Sees volunteering as an opportunity to serve communities locally and globally.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is a necessity for everyone and an essential condition for progress and human development.

Quote:

“What is the point of having international human rights when they are not respected?”



Kalala: <https://www.feestintpark.be/kalala-vzw>
Audrey Mbang: President

Goals:

- Promote African cultures and heritage.
- Connect and unite people from different African communities in Bruges.
- Strengthen understanding, cooperation, and community engagement.
- Create spaces where people can celebrate shared identities and experiences.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting the protection of all human rights and freedoms.
- Supporting freedom of expression and mutual respect.
- Encouraging human connection as a foundation for dignity and rights.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

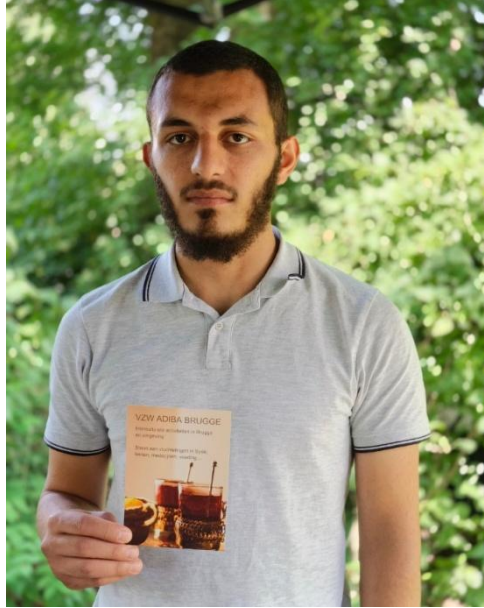
- Values Kalala's role in bringing together people from across African communities.
- Appreciates that the organisation creates unity beyond national identities.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace grows through understanding one another.
- Dialogue helps overcome divisions and find solutions to conflict.

Quote:

"Unity is everything."



Adiba: <https://www.feestintpark.be/adiba-vzw>
Khalil Al Mheimid: Volunteer

Goals:

- Support people in need through the provision of essential goods and assistance.
- Support communities affected by the situation in Syria.
- Promote integration, social inclusion, and community connection through local activities and events.
- Create practical support networks for vulnerable people.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending the right to life, dignity, access to essential services, and education.
- Supporting vulnerable people through basic assistance packages.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Believes local action can have a meaningful impact abroad.
- Values ADIBA's grassroots approach and collaborative culture.
- Appreciates the absence of hierarchy and the focus on collective action.

Where does peace come in:

- Promoting integration and inclusion at the local level.
- Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals as pathways towards peace.

Quote:

“No hierarchy.”



KiYoDeL: <https://kiyodel-uganda.org/>
Cynthia Owembabazi: Founder

Goals:

- Empower underprivileged young people in Uganda.
- Support girls through access to reusable menstrual products and educational opportunities.
- Develop life skills and future perspectives through training and mentorship.
- Reduce barriers that prevent girls from participating fully in education.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting gender equality and the right to education.
- Challenging cultural barriers that limit educational opportunities for girls.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Built on authenticity and a commitment to creating opportunities for others.
- Believes that everyone can contribute to positive change, not only through financial support.
- Sees volunteering as a way to create meaningful impact.

Where does peace come in:

- Education and awareness contribute to more peaceful societies.
- Empowering people to create positive change strengthens communities.

Quote:

“Everyone can do something to change the world.”



Kitanda vzw: <https://kitanda.be/nl/home>
Yvan Verbauwhede: Technical Team

Goals:

- Work with local communities in Bruges, Kenya, and Northern Nigeria.
- Support sustainable development, self-reliance, and long-term change.
- Promote cooperation between local and international partners.
- Strengthen opportunities for communities through education and collaboration.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Supporting the right to education, particularly for girls.
- Promoting social development and equal opportunities.
- Addressing barriers that prevent girls from accessing education.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Motivated by a desire to give back and improve quality of life for others.
- Values cooperation and partnership as drivers of sustainable change.

Where does peace come in:

- Supporting education and regional collaboration in areas affected by conflict.
- Recognising that cooperation and working together are foundations for peace.

Quote:

“Working together is the beginning of peace.”



11.11.11: <https://11.be/>
Sander Houttekier: Member & Assistant

Goals:

- Serve as an umbrella organisation bringing together NGOs and solidarity initiatives.
- Raise funding and awareness for partner organisations worldwide.
- Strengthen solidarity and human connection across communities and countries.
- Support organisations working on global justice and development.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Supporting a broad range of human rights issues through a diverse network of partners.
- Working across different regions and thematic areas rather than focusing on a single right.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Inspired by a lifelong connection to solidarity and civic engagement.
- Believes volunteering helps promote social responsibility and global solidarity.

Where does peace come in:

- Supporting communities affected by conflict and war.
- Advocating for peace and working with partners in conflict-affected areas.
- Recognising that people are often most vulnerable during crises.

Quote:

“Think twice before communicating online. If you cannot say it to someone's face, do not say it online.”



Samen Sterk met Vluchtelingen: <https://www.feestintpark.be/samen-sterk-met-vluchtelingen>
Ben Lierman: President

Goals:

- Support refugees and people in vulnerable situations.
- Promote humanity, dignity, and social inclusion.
- Create opportunities for people to rebuild their lives and participate in society.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting the right to housing and the right to a loving and supportive family environment.
- Defending dignity and equal treatment for all people.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Motivated by a strong sense of justice and solidarity.
- Believes volunteering creates a positive impact and provides a sense of purpose.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is reflected in all aspects of the organisation's work.
- Respect, dignity, and inclusion are essential foundations for peaceful communities.

Quote:

“No second-hand people.”



Wereldhuis West-Vlaanderen: <https://www.west-vlaanderen.be/wereldhuis>
Liesbeth Vandepitte: Public Worker

Goals:

- Support citizens, organisations, and communities working towards global engagement.
- Promote international solidarity and sustainable development.
- Connect people, knowledge, and initiatives across West Flanders.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting all human rights, with a particular focus on sustainability and global responsibility.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Motivated by the desire to help address societal and global challenges.
- Values the contribution volunteers make through the organisation's archive and heritage work.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is considered a core value of the organisation.
- Supporting cooperation and understanding helps build a more sustainable future.

Quote:

“Let's connect without borders.”



Servas (SYLE – Servas Youth Language Experience): <https://servasbelux.org/en/>
Katty Van Gaeveren: Peace Secretary

Goals:

- Promote intercultural exchange and understanding.
- Reduce cultural barriers and bring people together across borders.
- Foster friendship, learning, and dialogue through international encounters.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting freedom and peace.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Motivated by a long-standing commitment to human rights and intercultural understanding.
- Values creating opportunities for people to form new connections and learn from one another.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace grows through personal encounters and dialogue.
- Meeting people face-to-face helps build understanding and overcome differences.

Quote:

“Meeting in person is necessary to achieve peace.”



Crea Thera International: <https://www.creatherainternational.com/>
Thomas Deleu: Project Leader / Music Therapist

Goals:

- Support children, young people, and adults affected by conflict.
- Use creative and therapeutic approaches, including music therapy, to assist people dealing with trauma.
- Promote wellbeing, resilience, and recovery in conflict-affected communities.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting the right to family life and psychosocial wellbeing.
- Supporting people experiencing trauma caused by conflict and displacement.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Driven by a passion for helping people in difficult circumstances.
- Believes creative approaches can help address the long-term effects of conflict and trauma.

Where does peace come in:

- Working directly with people affected by war and conflict.
- Supporting hope, healing, and peace through therapy and community engagement.

Quote:

“They work with people from war and always find hope.”



Werkgroep Brugge Plan Internationaal: <https://www.feestintpark.be/werkgroep-brugge-plan-internationaal>
Emmanuel Van Houtte: Volunteer

Goals:

- Promote gender equality and equal opportunities for all children and young people.
- Advocate for education, protection, and participation.
- Support communities where rights and opportunities remain unequal.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending the right to live free from abuse and discrimination.
- Promoting equal access to education and opportunities.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Motivated by a commitment to gender equality.
- Appreciates the practical activities and impact of the organisation.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace matters to everyone and requires attention where it is most at risk.
- Supporting communities affected by inequality contributes to peace.

Quote:

“It is nice to help people with fewer chances in life.”



Himalayan Projects: <https://himalayan-projects.org>
Paul Vande Moortel: Chairman

Goals:

- Support indigenous communities in the Himalayas.
- Improve access to education, water, and development opportunities.
- Promote sustainable improvements in quality of life for communities in Nepal.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting gender equality and access to education.
- Improving living conditions and opportunities for disadvantaged communities.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Motivated by educational inequalities witnessed in Nepal.
- Believes volunteering is a valuable experience everyone should undertake at least once.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is essential for humanity to move forward.
- Sustainable development and equal opportunities contribute to peaceful societies.

Quote:

“Everybody needs to volunteer at least once in their lives.”



Preventie en Samenleven - Stad Brugge: <https://www.brugge.be/zorg-en-welzijn/veiligheid-en-preventie>
Mia Vanhuffel: Administrator: Volunteer

Goals:

- Support integration, diversity, and community participation.
- Work with active citizens and local communities.
- Promote respectful coexistence within the city of Bruges.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting the right to non-discrimination.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Attracted by the organisation's commitment to inclusion and participation.
- Believes volunteering helps bring people together.

Where does peace come in:

- Working with diverse communities to promote understanding and mutual respect.
- Building peaceful communities through connection and inclusion.

Quote:

"It brings people together."



Sora Senegal: <https://www.sorasenegal.com/>
Marina Verschuere: Volunteer

Goals:

- Improve access to healthcare and medical infrastructure in Senegal.
- Reduce hunger and support the wellbeing of vulnerable communities.
- Facilitate hospital visits and healthcare support initiatives.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending access to healthcare as a fundamental human right.
- Supporting medical infrastructure and healthcare services.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Inspired by the founders and the organisation's mission.
- Believes volunteering is indispensable for creating positive change.

Where does peace come in:

- Encouraging communication between different communities.
- Strengthening understanding and cooperation as pathways to peace.

Quote:

"Without volunteering, nothing will happen in the world."

Student Reflections

After interviewing organisations and volunteering throughout the Howest RUN-EU Volunteering for Human Rights LEX, students reflected on human rights, peace, active citizenship, and the role of volunteering in society.

1. Charlotte
2. Imke
3. Sebastian
4. Dorkas (*a big thank you to Elias for filling in for Dorkas, who was ill, at Feest in 't Park*)
5. Neda
6. Khadijeh
7. Keitesi
8. Paola



Charlotte Lefevere: Howest Student & Volunteer

Goals:

- Broederlijk Delen works to promote global solidarity, equality and sustainable change by supporting communities. Their goal is to challenge inequality and strengthen people's rights through awareness, partnerships and advocacy.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- All human rights are equally important for everyone, everywhere. The organisation raises awareness about gaps in our systems where rights are not respected, and promotes inclusion and solidarity through participation, workshops and educational activities.

Importance of volunteer work:

- I want to gain new insights and perspectives, and as a future social worker I hope to influence both people and systems in a positive way. Volunteering helps me build experience, learn how to apply these values in practice, and connect with organisations and people.
- Active citizenship is essential for a strong society. Volunteering strengthens solidarity, respect and understanding, and shows that not everything needs a reward. When everyone contributes even a little, we can achieve meaningful change together.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is reflected in the organizations focus on justice, equality and dialogue. By promoting solidarity and addressing structural inequalities, they work towards peaceful communities where everyone's rights are respected.

Reflection: Reflecting on what I've learned helps me understand how I can continue contributing to human rights work and apply these insights in my future as a social worker.



Imke Japes: NHL Stenden Student & Volunteer

Goals:

- RUN-EU is a network of regional European universities and this LEX programme is supposed to deepen the students' awareness for the meaning, work and the impact of Volunteering.
- This specifically was a cooperation of the network with the NGO Broederlijk Delen in Belgium and we assisted BD in their execution of their yearly world camp for Human Rights.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- I cannot weigh one human right more than another, however I would say that I - as a student of a RUN-EU programme - especially profit from the human right to receive an education and the freedom to move.
- Moreover, the programme and organisation encourage us to use our freedom of expression and to engage ourselves politically.

Importance of volunteer work:

- I chose to volunteer for the RUN-EU LEX and Broederlijk Delen because I enjoy the exchange of knowledge, ideas and culture with people from different countries.
- I am convinced that a transnational network and international events such as the World Camp have a positive impact on our society as they facilitate such peaceful exchange and cultural understanding. They also may lead to innovative ideas, in this case in the volunteering sector.
- Volunteering is important for the society we live in and beyond as anyone has the power to do something to improve their life and that of others. I am convinced that without volunteers and activists, we would have not been able to push for social change or aid those in need.
- Volunteering allows change to happen closer to the people itself and with their situation and needs in mind, as Volunteering is flexible and can take on many forms.

(continued)

Where does peace come in:

- RUN-EU is an extension of the peaceful cooperation between European countries made possible by the European Union.
- The students, lecturers and other participants themselves profit from the peace created by the European Union and enable its continued existence through an intertwined collaboration and the exchange of culture and knowledge.
- Peace was a persistent topic in this LEX through our participation in the Feest in't Park in Bruges, where this year's theme was Peace, and in the BD World Camp.

Reflection: This LEX enabled me to speak to many different volunteers from different organisations and different countries - in the World Camp and at the Feest 't Park. This showed me the diverse forms of organisations there are, not just on a global level, but also on a more local level. It motivated me to try and find a local volunteering group in my student town and my future place of living to be active in. It also made me appreciate the work of volunteers that goes mostly unseen a lot of times.



Sebastian Amartya Utomo: NHL Stenden Student & Volunteer

Goals:

- RUN-EU is an alliance of 10 different universities of applied sciences spread across Western and Eastern Europe where lecturers and students exchange ideas and work together in projects to foster a united European Identity

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- “Everyone has the right to an education”.

Importance of volunteer work:

- I volunteer for the organisation because it is my duty as a student to spread academic wisdom to my peers and I would like to become a university professor myself, hence participating in the Volunteering for Human Rights LEX will help me understand diverse perspectives of others.
- I went to a Catholic High School operated by the Jesuit Order and their motto is “Men and Women for Others. This value has been ingrained to my life ever since I graduated high in 2020 and volunteering is an appropriate call to action based on the motto.

Where does peace come in:

- In the RUN-EU network, you cannot publish research papers, short exchange programs and double degrees without striving for peace within the organisation

Reflection: How could we encourage more students to be involved in the RUN-EU network? The marketing and exposure of the alliance needs to be more youth friendly.



Dorkas Klooster: NHL Stenden Student & Volunteer

Goals:

- The goal of the RUN-EU LEX Volunteering for Human Rights was to let students experience the impact of volunteering while discussing the meaning and definition of human rights in today's society. The main topics were 'Personal & Social Development', 'Intercultural Experience', 'Civic & Community Engagement' and Professional Skills.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- This RUN-EU program shined the lights on various human rights. In my experience, the main ones discussed were:
 - You have the right to think and voice your opinions freely.
 - You have the right to social security and are entitled to economic, social, and cultural help from your government

Importance of volunteer work:

- I chose to volunteer for this LEX because I was interested in the existence of Human Rights and how they contribute to the improvement of today's world. I had the chance to talk about Global Solidarity, Peace, the division of responsibilities for government/citizens and the impact of our own actions. They kept me motivated and made me learn the most during this programme.
- Volunteering is important to me because I genuinely believe that doing something not merely for your own interest but because you want to serve others is the most beautiful thing you can do. With volunteering, you go out of your way to support the community while having the chance to learn so much about the world and yourself while doing so.

(continued)

Where does peace come in:

- The concept of peace is part of my experience in this LEX because I have had the ability to focus on the theme 'peace' throughout the two weeks. What does a society need to have/be in order to have peace? Which situations play in the world that result in peaceful and unjust situations? What can we as individuals do to contribute to global peace?

Reflection: I have learnt quite some interesting things about myself, the people around me, volunteering, NGO's, Belgium but also global issues, worries and hope.



Neda Maghrebi: HAMK Student & Volunteer

Goals:

- Promoting human rights and global solidarity through education and volunteering.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Equality and human dignity through workshops, discussions, and community engagement.

Importance of volunteer work:

- I volunteer to learn, contribute to society, help others in any way I can, and stand up against injustice by being a voice for those who are not heard.
- How could it not be? Volunteering is about helping others, listening to their stories, and being a voice for those who are not heard. It creates positive change, builds connections, and strengthens communities.

Where does peace come in:

- By encouraging dialogue, mutual respect, and understanding between people from different cultures and nations, while accepting and valuing our differences.

Reflection: It was good to speak with NGOs as I hadn't known a lot of human rights organisations. I saw how engaged they were and became more knowledgeable.



Khadijeh Doozandehjahromi: HAMK Student & Volunteer

Goals:

- The RUN-EU Volunteering for Human Rights LEX brings together students from different countries to learn about human rights, volunteering and social impact. It aims to encourage active citizenship and cooperation across Europe

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- The programme highlights equality, human dignity, inclusion and the rights of vulnerable communities. By meeting NGOs and hearing real-life experiences, participants gain a deeper understanding of the importance of protecting human rights

Importance of volunteer work:

- I wanted to learn more about human rights and meet people from different cultures. It was also a great opportunity to develop my communication and teamwork skills
- Volunteering allows people to make a positive difference in society. It also helps volunteers grow personally and better understand the needs of others.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace begins with understanding, respect and cooperation. The programme encouraged dialogue between people from different backgrounds and promoted mutual understanding.

Reflection: Meeting NGO representatives helped me understand how volunteering and human rights work can make a real difference in people's lives. It inspired me to become active in my own community.



Keitesi Aisha: HOWEST Intern (Mbarara University - Uganda) & Volunteer

Goals:

- The programme creates opportunities for students to volunteer, learn across cultures, and engage with communities. It encourages active citizenship, inclusion, and collaboration through practical experiences.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Through volunteering, I was able to engage with themes of equality, inclusion, participation, freedom of expression, and respect for diversity. The activities encouraged dialogue and showed how these rights can be promoted through everyday actions.

Importance of volunteer work:

- I am passionate about community development and believe volunteering is one of the most practical ways to create positive change. It allows me to learn from others, share my own experiences, and contribute to building more inclusive and peaceful communities.
- Volunteering is an opportunity to serve, learn, and grow. It connects people from different backgrounds, builds empathy, and reminds us that everyone has something valuable to contribute.

Where does peace come in:

- For me, peace begins with understanding and respecting people whose backgrounds, beliefs, and cultures differ from my own. Throughout this experience, I saw that dialogue, collaboration, and inclusion are essential for building peaceful communities.

Reflection: I came to volunteer, but I left with something greater, a deeper understanding that lasting change begins with listening, embracing diversity, and turning what we learn into meaningful action back home.



Paola Portillo Diez: UBU Student & Volunteer

Goals:

- RUN-EU is a European alliance of universities that promotes collaboration, innovation, inclusion, and active citizenship. It brings together students and staff from different countries to learn from one another and work on projects that create a positive social impact.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- RUN-EU promotes equality, inclusion, participation, and the right to education. Through projects like the World Camp, it encourages intercultural dialogue and helps students understand the importance of respecting human rights in diverse communities.

Importance of volunteer work:

- I joined the programme because I wanted to contribute to a meaningful project while learning from people with different cultures and experiences. It was an opportunity to grow personally, develop new skills, and become a more active European citizen.
- Volunteering reminds us that positive change begins with small actions. It helps build stronger communities, encourages empathy, and shows that everyone can make a difference by supporting others.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is promoted through dialogue, respect, and cooperation. By bringing together participants from different countries and backgrounds, RUN-EU creates a space where people learn to understand each other and work together despite their differences.

Reflection: Meeting people with different cultures and backgrounds was one of the most valuable parts of this experience. Discovering new perspectives helps us grow both personally and professionally.

Closing Reflection

The organisations featured in this collection work on very different issues. Some focus on peace, others on education, climate action, social inclusion, international solidarity, healthcare, community building, or human rights advocacy. Yet many of the conversations returned to similar ideas: respect for others, equal opportunities, cooperation, participation, and the belief that people can make a difference when they work together.

For the students, these interviews offered an opportunity to look beyond headlines and meet the people behind organisations and initiatives. Through volunteering, conversations, workshops, and interviews, they encountered different perspectives on human rights, peace, and active citizenship, while also reflecting on their own role in society.

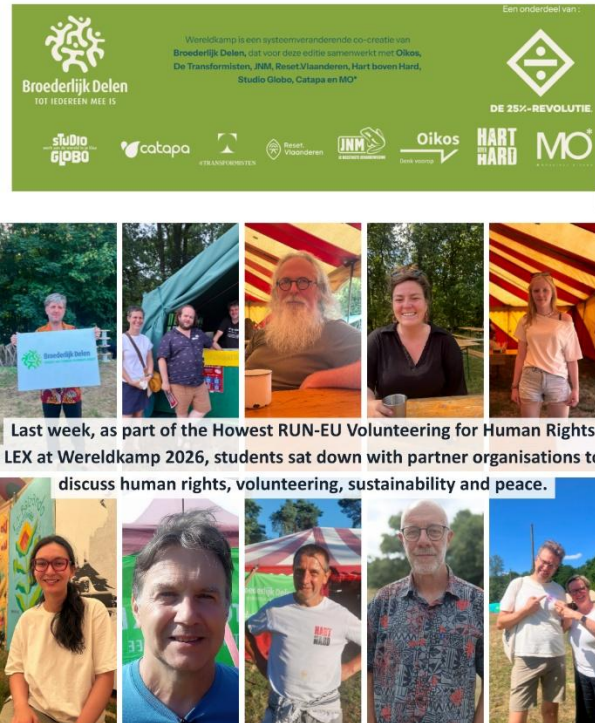
This collection does not present a single answer to today's challenges. Instead, it brings together a range of voices, experiences, and approaches. What they share is a commitment to engagement, dialogue, and action.

A sincere thank you to everyone who contributed their time, experiences, and perspectives to this project.

Howest RUN-EU Volunteering for Human Rights Learning Exchange (LEX) 2026

Appendix

Broederlijk Delen - Wereldkamp Partner Organisation Interviews



The interviews in this appendix were conducted during [Broederlijk Delen's Wereldkamp 2026](#), where students participating in the [Howest RUN-EU Volunteering for Human Rights Learning Exchange \(LEX\)](#) volunteered alongside partner organisations and engaged in conversations about human rights, peace, sustainability, solidarity, active citizenship, and social change.

While the main body of this document focuses on organisations interviewed at Feest in 't Park Bruges, these additional interviews provide further perspectives from organisations that contributed to the students' learning experience during Wereldkamp.

Together, the interviews highlight the variety of ways individuals and organisations work towards a more just, sustainable, and peaceful world.

Wereldkamp Organisation Interviews

1. Reset.Vlaanderen
2. De Transformisten
3. JNM (Jeugdbond voor Natuur en Milieu)
4. CATAPA
5. Oikos
6. Hart boven Hard
7. Broederlijk Delen
8. MO*
9. Studio Globo
10. 25% Revolutie



Reset.Vlaanderen: <https://reset.vlaanderen/>
Luc Maertens: Coordinator

Goals:

- Build a fair, green climate transition that works for everyone.
- Connect climate action with social and economic justice.
- Ensure the costs and benefits of the transition are shared fairly across society.
- Prevent vulnerable people and communities from carrying a disproportionate share of the transition's burdens.
- Bring together people and organisations to accelerate a just transition in Flanders.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Respecting the social foundation (social minimum) of Doughnut Economics through a fair and inclusive climate transition.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Combining various work experience on the practical, theoretical, policy and structural level
- To promote awareness and influence policy.

Where does peace come in:

- When society is organised fairly for everyone, there is less social tension and more peace.

Quote:

“When society is organised fairly for everyone, there is less social tension and more peace.”



De Transformisten: <https://www.detransformisten.be/>
Stefanie De Bock: Policy Officer

Goals:

- Build an economy of enough, where everyone can live well within the limits of people and the planet.
- Strengthen and connect solidarity-based sharing and repair initiatives in Flanders.
- Promote reuse, repair, and sharing as alternatives to overproduction and overconsumption.
- Advocate for a fairer economic system that prioritises the equitable distribution of wellbeing and prosperity.
- Encourage a transition towards a more sustainable, just, and circular society.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Ensuring everyone's basic needs, wellbeing, and access to a good life.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Interest in people uniting in citizen collectives that advocate for shared systems.
- Giving back society and the neighborhood and shaping and making a difference - and taking nothing for granted.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace comes from using fewer raw materials, supporting fair trade, and learning to coexist.

Quote:

"Giving back to society and helping shape it."



JNM, de Jeugdbond voor Natuur en Milieu: <https://jnm.be/nl>
Loeke Vansteenkiste: Volunteer

Goals:

- Connect children and young people with nature through outdoor experiences, learning, and adventure.
- Protect and restore nature through hands-on conservation and environmental stewardship.
- Empower young people to speak up and take action for nature and the environment.
- Build an inclusive community where everyone can learn, participate, and have fun together.
- Foster environmental awareness, nature conservation, and active citizenship.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting equal rights for everyone, respect for others, and the freedom to be yourself.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Working with children and spending time in nature as it's important to take care of the next generation.
- People working together and taking care of the planet.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace comes from collective action to address climate change and protect nature.

Quote:

“People work together and take care of the planet.”



Catapa: <https://catapa.be/>

Diliana Akhmetova: European Solidarity Corps Volunteer

Goals:

- Work towards a world beyond extractive mining, where nature and people can live in harmony.
- Promote alternatives to the extraction of non-renewable resources and support a more sustainable, just economy.
- Raise awareness about the social and ecological impacts of mining and resource exploitation.
- Build global solidarity and support communities defending their rights against exploitation.
- Empower citizens to take action for social and ecological justice.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- the right to self-determination, a clean environment, and peaceful living.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Using skills and learning something new, and being of help in some way when it comes to the effects of mining on local communities.
- helping others by giving one's time and skills without expecting money for it. Making society more caring and raising awareness about important issues.

Where does peace come in:

- the right to live peacefully and safely, and solidarity with communities affected by conflict.

Quote:

"Anyone can help by volunteering, spreading awareness or joining campaigns."



Oikos: <https://oikos.be/>
Dirk Holemans: Coordinator

Goals:

- Drive social-ecological change through research, debate, and knowledge sharing.
- Promote solutions that respect planetary boundaries and global solidarity.
- Connect knowledge, ideas, and practices to support a sustainable future.
- Inspire citizens and initiatives working towards societal change.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- the right to protect nature and address climate change as essential for human survival.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Providing a platform for politicians, youth movements and communities to have a dialogue.
- Volunteering is a meaningful activity and improves communal understanding.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is an important part of the vision for the future.

Quote:

“Peace is an important part of a future vision.”



Hart boven Hard: <https://hartbovenhard.be/>
Stefaan Segart: Political Community Worker

Goals:

- Build an inclusive and sustainable society where people and human rights are valued above profit.
- Promote the dignity, wellbeing, and fundamental rights of all people in society.
- Connect and mobilise citizens across different sectors and social issues around shared concerns and common values.
- Encourage participatory democracy by enabling people to actively shape society and public debate.
- Inspire and support alternative solutions based on solidarity, social justice, and sustainability.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending fundamental rights, including the right to housing, the right to protest, democratic participation, and solidarity with the rights of the Palestinian people.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Background as a witness, in community work, youth homes, and educational work. Experience in various themes. It is very flexible, including weekends. Freedom and autonomy. Variety!
- Do other things, such as: Palestine group, distributing soup... Makes life richer. Get to know different sorts of people.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace comes from supporting peace initiatives and public debate, rather than assuming that more weapons will lead to peace.

Quote:

“Weapons do not bring peace.”



Broederlijk Delen: <https://broederlijkdelen.be/>
Tom Ysewijn: System Change Officer

Goals:

- Build a sustainable world without inequality, where everyone can live a dignified life.
- Promote fair sharing & redistribution of resources, based on the idea there is enough for everyone.
- Support communities in the Global South to realise their own plans for sustainable development and social change.
- Advocate for an alternative economic model based on “enough is good” rather than unlimited growth and consumption.
- Build a broad solidarity movement in Flanders, and worldwide to address root causes of inequality.
- Work towards long-term, sustainable solutions through participation, social justice & global solidarity.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending socio-economic rights, including the rights to education and food, as well as the freedom to speak out and make one's voice heard.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Contributing to the goals and working on important matters while building community.
- Getting people to ask questions about the world and improve the world and to stay critical towards current systems.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is a condition for developing just and sustainable societies, built on mutual understanding and supported by fair laws.

Quote:

"Peace is a condition in which you can develop structures in a just and sustainable way."



MO*: <https://www.mo.be/>
Gie Goris: former Editor in Chief

Goals:

- Provide independent, honest, and high-quality journalism that helps people understand the world around them.
- Report on global issues and show the connections between local and international developments.
- Promote diverse perspectives, voices, and experiences in public debate and media coverage.
- Encourage critical thinking & informed engagement with issues of justice, sustainability, and solidarity.
- Provide in-depth analysis and context beyond daily news cycles through slow journalism and long-form reporting.
- Strengthen public understanding of global challenges and possible alternatives for a more just world.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting and protecting all human rights as a guiding framework for journalism and public debate.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Promoting more inclusive and globally representative journalism, moving beyond colonial narratives to ensure diverse voices are heard.
- The world's most pressing issues require active engagement, meaningful representation, and informed reporting that drives understanding.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace is supported by reporting that helps people understand the roots of conflict and the perspectives involved, without taking sides.

Quote:

“Good reporting starts by understanding where conflict comes from.”



**Studio Globo: <https://www.studioglobo.be/>
Mieke Van Poucke & Hannes Deryckere: Educational Workers**

Goals:

- Promote global citizenship education & help young people better understand the world around them.
- Support teachers in addressing topics such as poverty, climate injustice, migration, diversity, and inequality in a nuanced and hopeful way.
- Foster solidarity, empathy, critical thinking, and intercultural understanding among students.
- Encourage children and young people to recognise that they can make a positive difference in society.
- Create educational experiences that bring different perspectives and lived realities closer to learners.
- Contribute to a more sustainable, inclusive, and just world through education.

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Promoting freedom of expression, equality, and a holistic understanding of human rights and the systems that protect or undermine them.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Working with young people, creating impact on youth development, bringing wisdom from educational background, experience abroad and work in other NGOs
- Having distance from governmental decisions and look at what people really need. Freedom to fight for human rights and the power to make change.

Where does peace come in:

Peace begins with understanding the causes of war and conflict, and raising awareness through education.

Quote:

“Peace begins with understanding the causes of war and conflict.”



Broederlijk Delen – 25% Revolutie: <https://broederlijkdelen.be/>
Arthur Follebaut: Communication Officer (middle – with An Maes & Tom Ysewijn)

Goals:

- Build a society where the wellbeing of people and nature takes precedence over economic growth.
- Promote systemic change to address global challenges such as climate change, inequality, hunger, and human rights violations.
- Encourage sharing and redistribution as pathways towards greater justice and wellbeing for all.
- Inspire citizens to question existing economic models and explore sustainable alternatives.
- Build a local and global movement of people working together for social, environmental, and economic justice.
- Support collective action to create a more equitable and sustainable future

Human Rights in the spotlight:

- Defending the right to food, the right to live in a safe and peaceful society, and the right to say no.

Importance of your work & volunteer work:

- Believing that we do the right thing.
- Connecting with others and practicing democracy.

Where does peace come in:

- Peace comes through supporting peace and justice in regions affected by conflict.

Quote:

“I believe we do the right thing.”

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all organisations, students, volunteers, partners and community members who contributed to the Howest RUN-EU Volunteering for Human Rights Learning Exchange (LEX) 2026.

Howest | RUN-EU | RETOS

Questions or feedback? Contact: sarah.markewich@howest.be



Voices from the LEX

Feest in 't Park Organisations 2026

"Together we are a forest, alone only a single tree."

Oxfam

"Every child has the right to education."

Nkongolo School Support

"Volunteers play an essential role in community initiatives."

Avansa

"Every small thing we do contributes to a better world."

Casa Main Vlaanderen

"Peace isn't something we can take for granted."

Broederlijk Delen (Feest in 't Park)

"The only way for youth to be heard is if they speak."

Vlaamse Jeugdraad

"We provide more than bed, bath and bread."

Rode Kruis Opvangcentrum Brugge

"What are you waiting for?"

Hart boven Hard

"I had a lot of opportunities in life. I have to give something back."

Grootouders voor het Klimaat

"Without volunteers, we would not work."

Vredesactie

"There is no need to be afraid of different cultures."

Taranta

"Peace is much more than no war."

Friends in Kovalam

"How can I help?"

Greenpeace Belgium

"What is the point of having international human rights when they are not respected?"

Amnesty International

"Unity is everything."

Kalala

"No hierarchy."

ADIBA

"Everyone can do something to change the world."

KiYoDeL

"Working together is the beginning of peace."

KITANDA

"Think twice before communicating online. If you cannot say it to someone's face, do not say it online."

11.11.11

"No second-hand people."

Samen Sterk met Vluchtelingen

"Let's connect without borders."

Wereldhuis West-Vlaanderen

"Meeting in person is necessary to achieve peace."

Servas

"They work with people from war and always find hope."

Crea Thera International

"It is nice to help people with fewer chances in life."

Plan International Brugge

"Everybody needs to volunteer at least once in their lives."

Himalayan Projects

"It brings people together."

Preventie en Samenleven

"Without volunteering, nothing will happen in the world."

Sora Senegal

Wereldkamp Partner Organisations

“When society is organised fairly for everyone, there is less social tension and more peace.”

Reset.Vlaanderen

“Peace comes from learning to coexist.”

De Transformisten

“People work together and take care of the planet.”

JNM

“Anyone can help by volunteering, spreading awareness or joining campaigns.”

CATAPA

“Peace is an important part of a future vision.”

Oikos

“Weapons do not bring peace.”

Hart boven Hard

“Peace is a condition for developing just and sustainable societies.”

Broederlijk Delen (Wereldkamp)

“Good reporting starts by understanding where conflict comes from.”

MO*

“Peace begins with understanding the causes of war and conflict.”

Studio Globo

“I believe we do the right thing.”

25% Revolutie

Howest RUN-EU LEX Student Reflections

“When everyone contributes even a little, we can achieve meaningful change together.”

Charlotte Lefevere

“This experience motivated me to become active in a local volunteering group.”

Imke Japes

“RUN-EU should be seen as an opportunity, not a burden.”

Sebastian Amartya Utomo

“Doing something because you want to serve others is one of the most beautiful things you can do.”

Dorkas Klooster

“Volunteering creates positive change, builds connections and strengthens communities.”

Neda Maghrebi

“It inspired me to become more active in my own community.”

Khadijeh Doozandehjahromi

“I came to volunteer, but I left with something greater.”

Keitesi Aisha

“Discovering new perspectives helps us grow both personally and professionally.”

Paola Portillo Diez

37 organisations. 8 students. Countless conversations.

Howest | RUN-EU | RETOS | Volunteering for Human Rights LEX 2026

