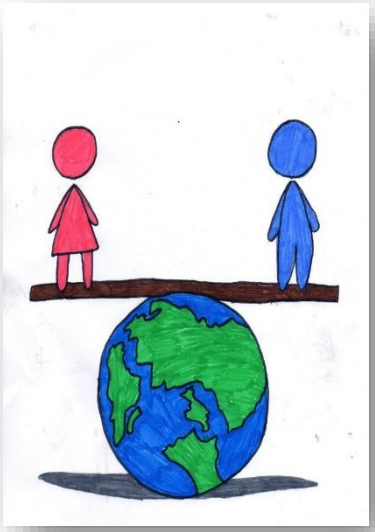
Co-funded by the European Union

EUQUAL YOUNGSTERS

Gender Equality – An Important Topic for Us, the Youth

Maria Ionela Bejenaru, 11th Grade A
Colegiul Tehnic Danubiana Roman
ROMANIA

In recent years, there has been a lot of discussion about gender equality, but sometimes we, as students, do not fully understand what it means. In fact, it is not something complicated: it means that girls and boys should be treated the same and have equal opportunities. It seems like a normal thing to me, yet there are still situations where this is not quite the case.



At school, we can most easily see how things really stand. For example, it is often said that boys are better at computer science or mathematics, while girls excel at foreign languages or artistic activities. However, this is not true. We have classmates—both boys and girls—who perform very well in areas considered to belong to "the other gender." Performance does not depend on gender, but on each person's interest and hard work.

In society, things are more complicated. These differences often appear in career choices. Even though we live in a modern world, there are still disparities in how women and men are perceived. For instance, there are far fewer women in fields such as engineering, and men are sometimes criticized if they choose careers considered "feminine," such as nursing, teaching young children, or cleaning services.

Sometimes we also hear jokes or remarks that put someone in a negative light simply because they are a girl or a boy. Even if they seem small, such things can influence how we

see ourselves. I believe that school should be the place where these prejudices disappear, not where they are reinforced.

Ultimately, I find this unfair, because every person should be able to choose what they like without being judged. This freedom to follow our passions—whether in engineering, medicine, IT, or the arts—is essential for personal development. When a girl is discouraged from pursuing a technical career, or a boy is labeled for choosing a caring profession, society actually loses talent and innovation. Judgment based on gender only creates unnecessary barriers to fulfillment. That is why I strongly believe that a fair society is one in which people are appreciated for what they can do, not for others' ideas about gender. Merit, competence, and dedication should be the only criteria for professional and social recognition. Letting go of stereotypes means ensuring that every member of society can reach their full potential.

What can we, as students, do? We cannot change the world overnight, but we can start with small things: stop using expressions that offend one gender or another; support our classmates regardless of the activities they choose; be open-minded and avoid judging by appearances; and understand that respect is for everyone.

Even if it seems like little, every gesture matters.

Gender equality is not just a concept or a beautiful idea—it is an important step toward a society in which all people feel valued. If we learn to respect one another, regardless of gender, we will live in a more equitable and friendlier world for everyone.

As students, we can contribute to this change through our daily attitudes and behavior, having the power to build an environment based on respect and merit, starting today.