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uw kenmerk
ELDW 2011

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onderwerp
European Local Democracy Week

ons kenmerk

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13 September 2011

Dear teacher,

In the framework of the European Local Democracy Week of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, which takes place from 10-17 October in all European countries, many municipalities are undertaking actions in the field of the protection of Human Rights in their cities or communities.

We suggested to also involve the students who – for medical reasons – receive education in hospitals, or through online distance learning because they are recovering long time at home. They particularly feel the impact of the (dis)respect of their rights.

As you are working with long-term recovering students in your school or project, you know how important the rights of these children and young people are. We therefore ask you to support us in building bridges between our pupils and the Mayors of the municipalities they live in.

We wish to set up a project that can be seen as an initiative of the children and young people to which all municipalities can adhere and propose that the pupils become the advisors of the mayors in Europe on the theme of Human Rights.

Concretely we suggest the following assignments for our students:

1. Students 6+ and 9+ can make a new year's drawing for the mayors of their cities or communities with the theme "learning together, playing together" in which we can teach them that they are the "flowers of the Mayors of Europe".
2. Students 12+ and 15+ can be given a writing exercise to advice their mayor what to change and what not to change with regard to human rights and child rights and how their municipality can support them.

Please find enclosed a further detailed description of the assignments.

In order to give the students the time to develop the assignments, we propose to disseminate the assignments in September. The official launching of the initiative in the Netherlands will be done by Mayor Amy Koopmanschap on October 10 in the City of Utrecht. We would appreciate if you could contact your Mayors to ensure that the initiative is being launched in many countries throughout Europe.

At the beginning of 2012 we will make a web-exposition of the results and the new year's wishes and essays will be presented to the Mayor of Diemen, who will address all the children and young people that have written advices to her or to her fellow Mayors from other cities throughout Europe.

We would certainly hope that you can support us in the dissemination of this initiative and are happy to give you any further details that you may require.

On behalf of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Macadam webproject, we thank you very much for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Greet Meesen



Founder Macadam

Amy Koopmanschap



Mayor of Diemen, the
Netherlands

John Warmisham



Councillor of Salford, United
Kingdom
Coordinator of the European
Local Democracy Week