

“Using modern tools to try to change the world”

During this October, I had the honor and pleasure to participate in a virtual exchange. By “virtual exchange” I am referring to the interaction between two or more persons through the Internet – in this case we used a program called Elluminate. This activity was made between the University of Padova, in Italy and the Rafael Landivar University, in Guatemala. The main topic during the sessions was Human Rights.

I have to say I learned a lot during the four sessions. Sadly, there weren't any more. The first session was just to get to know the program, the other students, etc. The second one was about the disrespect of Human Rights in Guatemala – the main point was about multinationals and mining. The third one was about the violation of Human Rights in Italy – mostly regarding immigration. The final session was about trying to think about campaigns to try to get people aware of this – in Guatemala, in Italy... and maybe the world. In my opinion, the whole activity left something intellectually. The interaction with other Guatemalan students and with the Italian students had an amazing contribution to my Human Rights knowledge, perceptions, ideas, etc.

But working on the title of this article, I am amazed but all of what we could do. First of all, we all had the opportunity to speak up and discuss our ideas as well as other person's ideas. At the same time, we have been able to reach agreement points. More importantly, we were tolerant, perceptive and respectful to different type of ideas and points of view. I also would like to highlight that through these sessions, we learned what others think about our country. At the same time we got in touch with the other countries reality – for example, Europe (in general) is drawn as paradise here, in countries trying to reach development, now we have a different perspective. At the end, what I think is the most important thing of the activity is that youth wants a different world (even if each of us has a particular idea). We all seem to agree on the way to go: to respect everything and everyone. It might sound utopian and unrealistic but particular interests can't be on top of humanity's ideals – love, peace, respect (just to mention a few).

So to finish, I believe that Universities, all over the world, should try to find the way to have this type of activities. We have to exploit the tools on our disposal, like the internet for example. Communication and coexistence will help us go back on the track that will take us to a better world. Let's all try this and we can change the world.