



GIN WASPS Final Report for GSL

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We are part of the British School of Brussel's Global Issues Network group and our project is called Women's Aid in sanitary products (WASPs).

Our aim: We are a global non-registered initiative that aims to raise the awareness of sanitary poverty and teach women how to make their own reusable sanitary products.

What is the problem?

The need for affordable, accessible sanitary products, as well as the treatment of women during their period in certain parts of the world, is often overlooked when poverty and women's empowerment is brought up.

In Nepal, the tradition of Chhaupadi, where menstruating women are banished from their homes, is still widespread in remote and poorer parts of the country, despite Gender Equality being the UN's 5th Sustainable Development Goal.

In many other parts of the world the UN's 6th SDG, access to clean water and sanitation is not being met. Women have difficulty accessing sanitary products and as a result, their wellbeing, education, and professional lives are hugely disrupted. In their lifetimes, women will spend on average \$24,000 on sanitary products, making life a significant challenge for those unable to afford them.

SDGs our campaign addresses:



3. Good health and well-being: providing women in Brussels with a clean and easy way to deal with their menstruation through the sanitary bags we created and put together and the donations we made to our local charity Bruzelle & also for the charity Tampons pour Toutes, who support women in Senegal.



4. Quality Education: We have produced a video educating to educate women how they can make their own reusable sanitary pads. We are hoping to send this and fabric donations to a women's group in Rwanda.



5. Gender equality: raising awareness through school assemblies, the school newsletter, having an information stall at our Christmas market, showing the Netflix film ' Padman' and by undertaking surveys & sharing the results with our local community.



6. Clean water and sanitation: Creating a video and holding workshops on how you can make reusable sanitary pads is ensures a cleaner safe option for girls on their period.



12. Responsible production and consumption: Creating reusable and environmentally friendly sanitary pads cuts down on waste..



13. Partnerships for the goals: To achieve our goals we have developed partnerships with our own local community, by developing links with local charities e.g. Bruzelle. We have also contacted Marie-Christine Nibagwire from SAFEREFUGERWANDA to help create a link with a women's group in Rwanda, where we can send our video and fabric donations.

Outcomes & Impacts of our project:

- We have designed & created our own reusable sanitary pads
- We have also created a video to show people how they can make their own reusable sanitary pads. This will be sent to the women's group in Rwanda, to our local charities and also will be shared with our school community.
- We held an awareness stall at the school's Christmas market, where we displayed our sanitary pads, surveyed the community and collected donations of products and



money. In total we raised close to 600 euros for local charities, as well as a huge box of sanitary pad donations.

- With the support the textile department, we got our teachers involved. They made 38 sanitary bags for local charity Bruzelle on their professional learning days in February.
- More recently with carried a new survey with just under 200 students, to find out what they already knew about period poverty. The results were then shared in our assemblies. We discovered 72% of people feel boys don't know enough about periods. 76% felt sanitary products should be free and 46% didn't know where to find free sanitary products in school.
- We delivered x5 assemblies to 500+ secondary students to raise awareness of the issues.
- We showed Netflix's Bollywood film ' Pad Man' at lunch and hosted a bake sale, which raised a further 80 euros.



Fund/donations we secured:

- **Funds donated by the school tuck shop** – We needed some initial money to purchase a small amount of fabric (Minky and Zorb) to make some sanitary pad samples for the Christmas market stall.
- **Donations of fabric** - The textiles department donated spare fabric to make the pads look attractive.
- **We raised 600 euros at our Christmas Market awareness stall / cake stall.**
- **We received a huge amount of sanitary pad donations from parents.**
- **We raised 80 euros at our bake sale/ film showing of 'Padman'.**
- Funds raised would cover the costs of purchasing more Minky and Zorb fabric for our workshops & also to send a fabric donation to Rwanda with our video.
- Cash donations to be made to our two local charities.



Highlights from our experiences so far:

- The teachers getting in involved and giving up their time to support our project.
- The interest and support received from the wider community at our Christmas market stall and during our campaign week.
- Making links with our local and wider community.
- Sharing the knowledge we had gained with our peers through our assemblies.

Skills and learning gained through the project:

- How to sew and create an effective tutorial video.
- How to research effectively, which was needed at the start of the campaign.
- Team work and communication skills.
- How to market our campaign effectively on social media and within our school community.
- Organisation and time management, as we needed to balance our school work and meet project deadlines.

Tips: Research the charities you are supporting carefully and ensure you are collecting appropriate donations. A lot of tampons were donated, but due to hygiene and safety neither local charities accept tampon donations.

Check out how many people can take part in free online survey platforms, as we set one up to find out only 100 people could take part.

Future plans:

- When we return to school, we aim to run lunch time workshops for students, where they can make reusable pads, which can be donated to saferefugerwanda.
- We also aim to invite in our parental community and run workshops for them.

