

*Minority youth - Tenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues,
29 November – 1 December 2017*

Dear president and honorable members,

my name is Elia Prelaz, I am 13 years old and I come from Trieste, I am in my third year of middle school.

I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity, I am here before you to express my opinion, hoping that this will be heard and together with the thoughts and proposals given here today by boys and girls, we can make a contribution to our future.

In my city, where I was born and raised, I met a young immigrant boy the same age as me, and I was saddened to see how he was not helped by the adults or institutions of my city to become a part of our society.

If I had to emigrate with my family to a new nation, I would like to be given the opportunity immediatly to have access to an education that would help me learn the language.

I would not like to be sent to a new school without having any possibility to express myself and to make myself understood.

Being able to communicate with my new classmates would give me the opportunity to know their habits and opinions.

Knowing their language would give me the ability to communicate properly so that I can better integrate with them and and let them know who I am.

It would give me the chance to understand new uses and customs, to know what my rights are, but also my duties.

If I am unable to communicate with my class mates, I would feel embarrassed and excluded.

This is my second year at the Minority Forum, I've heard a lot about the rights of the adults, I hope that starting from this Youth Minority Forum, you will begin to talk about our social and cultural rights.

We deserve your respect, because we are the hope and promise for future humanity.

You must understand that young people like me, are the building blocks, and our job is not to create material objects, but to grow into responsible adults of tomorrow, a new and more aware humanity.

We would like to become the future that we would like to see.

We ask you, to help make us, become the change that you would like to see.

Thank you for this opportunity

Elia Prelaz

Associazione Made in Trieste