



Overview of Programs 2020-2021

GEM brings the world into the classroom in three focused areas:

- *Bringing youth together across cultures for real-world experiential learning*
- *Using history to understand living in an interdependent world*
- *Supporting awareness and action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*

Conferences and Events - Emphasizing human rights, human development, and environmental sustainability, GEM programs are designed to create substantive experiences for students and teachers to work across cultures to better understand their world. A major objective of GEM is to move students and educators into action related to the important global issues of our time.

The United Nations – GEM has had formal relationships with the UN for 33 years. GEM is accredited with the UN Department of Global Communications and has consulting status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). ECOSOC is one of the six main organs of the UN.

Bringing the United Nations into the classroom has always been a priority of GEM. For 40 years GEM has provided students in grades 8-12 the opportunity to learn more about the work of the United Nations in our interdependent world, particularly in the area of human rights, and now the important Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Using videoconferencing applications and developing UN student conferences (see below), is a powerful way to make young people aware of the UN and its important role in their lives.

Student Congress on the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate Change (SCoPA) is for youth ages 14-19. It looks at their country's commitment to mitigating climate change (SDG 13). It moves them from awareness to action to be part of the solution. Using the reports of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and other relevant research and work, students move from awareness to empowerment through cross cultural interactions that build a global perspective on the seriousness of mitigating climate change. Current Emphasis is on COP26 and the binding agreement facing member states. Youth work via *Stepping Stones* to have a voice in COP26 decisions.

Page 2

Student Leadership Conference on Development at the UN (SLCD@UN) - This year's conference will continue to focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The 17 SDG's will work to help end extreme poverty in the world by 2030. This year's theme is *COVID-19 and its effect on the SDGs*.

The vision of SLCD@UN is for youth (ages 14-19) to be empowered to be part of the solution to achieve the SDGs by 2030. Students participating in the SLCD@UN will select one of three subthemes and work closely with other students from around the world who are a part of the same subtheme. They will research, discuss, and analyze cross culturally, at school and on-line, to decide on the most attainable and sustainable solutions to their specific global issue. Student leaders will meet on-line and draft a Plan of Action that will be developed for their discussion and completion in a UN conference. At the end of the conference, the students will vote to approve their Plan of Action. SLCD@UN is a live webcast with students participating from around the world. After final editing by the youth leadership team, the Plan of Action is formally presented to the Office of the UN Envoy on Youth at the United Nations.

SCoPA: COP26 – GEM's climate change work centers on SCoPA: COP 26 and its focus in support of the work of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It is an attempt to give youth a voice in the binding agreement of COP: 26 to help mitigate climate change. This work is from September to February and moves youth from awareness to action from a country perspective to a global understanding of the impact of climate change. It includes virtual and real world youth programs. It will include a UN youth conference and continue annually through 2030.

Global Solutions Lab - Developed by GEM with BigPictureSmallWorld Inc., university students, professionals, and educators (ages 19 and up) gather at Chestnut Hill College from around the world to participate in an intensive eight day Lab. Participants will have the opportunity to learn from diverse UN representatives related to the annual theme and to develop comprehensive and provable strategies for addressing some of the world's most critical problems. On the final day of the Lab, students present their work at the UN to a panel from different parts of the UN. Participants will learn a powerful strategic design and planning methodology, as well as leadership, group processes, and problem solving skills. All participants will also have their work published. The 2021 Lab will take place in late June with a focus on the eradication of extreme poverty by 2030.

Video Conferences - Communication exchanges across cultures have always been central to GEM's work. From an "Around the World" 24-hour videoconference for a high school in NJ, to selected global topics, this is an important area of work for GEM. .

Topics include: The UN: Myth vs. Reality, The United Nations in Your World, The Sustainable Development Goals, Globalization 101, Climate Change, From Independence to Interdependence, Building Peace by Ending Poverty, and The Lost Boys of South Sudan.

A virtual and real world selection of youth programs on climate change are offered globally in a September – February time frame. It is used related to SCoPA: COP-26

