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Student Contributions to the Iwate Gender Equality Festival

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Principle 10: Promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the “unlearning” of intolerance, through education

I. Outline of Activities



Students from the Gender studies class of Morioka Junior College collaborated with “Marble”, an LGBTQ+ circle at Iwate Prefectural University to contribute a panel exhibition for the “Iwate Gender Equality festival” which was organized by Iwate prefecture. The project was part of the university’s efforts to empower students to remain actively engaged in promoting understanding and acceptance of gender diversity even under the restrictive impact of COVID-19.



Under the theme of “My Color”, 7 teams representing “Rainbow Pride” collaborated and contributed to the panel exhibition to raise awareness of the gender equality aspects of the SDGs, with the mission focus of “What we can do from now”. The project aimed to inspire collaborators and viewers to respect each individual’s identity or “color”, and use the perspectives of young people to challenge stereotypes surrounding gender and encourage a conceptualization of “self” that isn’t bound to rigid ideas of gender norms.



Specifically, participants created gender-neutral pictograms and symbols, designed and printed original genderless T-shirts, and made handmade pop-up books to deepen understanding and acceptance of LGBTQ+ within the community. With valuable input from the young and passionate students the “My Color” exhibition was an expression of the brilliance of the “now” as an opportunity for growth and understanding for students.

