# Harmless ?

**“Harmless?” – An Awareness Campaign by the Art Students of EEB1**

The art students of the European School of Brussels I (EEB1) created an awareness campaign entitled **“Harmless?”**, inspired by the Icelandic project **“Meinlaust?”** launched by *Jafnréttisstofa*, the Directorate for Equality in Iceland.

The campaign explores the power of language and the deep impact that words can have on others. Its title — marked by a question mark — is essential: it invites us to pause and reflect. When we make a comment, tell a joke, or use a familiar expression, do we truly consider how it might be received? Are our words as harmless as we think they are? The question remains open, encouraging everyone to examine how daily language can shape attitudes and influence the way we see and treat one another.

Thanks to the wonderful opportunities offered by our **Erasmus+ exchange project with Iceland**, this idea was shared across borders and brought to life within our own school. During our collaboration with Icelandic students and teachers, we discovered the **“Meinlaust?”** campaign and were deeply moved by its simplicity and strength. Its central question resonated with our students, who decided to reinterpret it creatively — transforming it into **“Harmless?”**, an artistic project reflecting our community’s diversity and shared commitment to equality.

Through visual art, the students expressed empathy, awareness, and critical thinking. Using posters, illustrations, photography, and mixed-media artworks, they gave form to complex emotions and social realities. Each piece challenges stereotypes and asks the viewer to reconsider the “small” things we often ignore — the jokes, labels, or assumptions that can unintentionally hurt others.

The **“Harmless?”** campaign addresses a wide range of issues, including **sexism, homophobia, transphobia, racism, body shaming, ageism, ableism,** and other forms of discrimination. It reminds us that these problems do not exist only in institutions or the media, but also in the micro-interactions of everyday life — in our classrooms, corridors, and conversations.

By turning reflection into art, the students of EEB1 show that inclusion and respect begin with awareness. Their work invites dialogue and empathy, encouraging every member of the school community to think before speaking, to listen with compassion, and to recognise the value of every voice. The campaign stands as a vivid example of how **creativity, education, and international cooperation** can inspire meaningful change — proving that something as simple as a question mark can open a powerful conversation about humanity and respect.