

# ADOLESCENTS COMING TOGETHER TO HELP BRIDGE THE DIGITAL GAP

Children advocating, mobilizing, raising awareness, informing and communicating.

Europe and others: United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom, 17-year-old Lella Violet identified growing challenges when it came to online safety and the use of technology. To bridge the digital skills gap, Lella led a series of events, meetups, and industry-enabled collaborations. After engaging with thousands of students worldwide through an online IBM affiliated 'Global Student Hub', reaching over 135 countries, she created a committee of young technologists united by a common desire to create content that is entirely for, with, and by students in which they united industry and the classroom through networking opportunities, live streams and peer-to-peer collaborative learning journeys. This committee is conformed by adolescents from Bahrain, Canada, Ecuador, Hungary, India, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Tunisia, United Kingdom, and the United States.

This gave birth to an IBM-sponsored series titled StudentX: for students, with students & by students that serves as an intergenerational dialogue to ensure that no decision about today's generation of children is made without them.

For Lella, diversity, equity and inclusion are key. Lella actively encourages children and young people to join her youth-led movement, including those with disabilities, and from LGBTIQ communities.

'Bridging the digital skills gaps, demystifying the technology industry, and enabling young people to rise up and become the change makers of tomorrow, using technology and their voices as catalyst for change' Lella Violet.

**Global Student Hub / IBM**

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