

## PROJECT GREEN CHALLENGE DAY 5: CLIMATE JUSTICE (greenest)

Name: Nurul Farhana binti Nazry

Username: Farhana385

Instagram username: frhn\_air

School: University of Malaya (UM)

### Challenge:

*Pick a receipt from 2021 winners of Brower Youth Awards and draft an article.*

### **INSPIRATION FOR THE MODERN YOUTH: Social Environmental Justice Education for People of Color.**

Alexia Leclercq, a 21 years old girl that battles climate change as crisis that disproportionately affecting the communities colour and focused on bridging the gap between education and action.

Only at 20 years old, this young lady from Austin Texas had a life-changing experience when she co-founded Start:Empowerment (S:E), an environmental justice nonprofit focused on bridging the gap between education and action.

*"Our mission is to use education as a tool to achieve social -environmental justice and liberation for all." - Alexia Leclercq.*

### **LISTEN. CREATE. IMPACT.**

S:E collaborates with activists, educators, and community members to create spaces for environmental justice education and action. The group staunchly supports the principles of abolition, transformative justice, and mutual aid.

### **REACHING OUT AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS**

S:E has worked with 7 schools and over 2500 students to inspire the educational institute. Meanwhile, they have reached over 13 000 people by speaking engagement, workshop and guest lectures.

**START: EMPOWERMENT** have been infusing the elements of environmental justice histories, organizing skills and urban-agro training, and political education frameworks in their mission.

Not only it helps introduces more diverse content, drives student growth, and generates community impact but it also contributes to the building, strengthening, and connecting of various movements in NYC and beyond to the current climate crisis.

**"US education continues to erase the stories of marginalized communities, forcing students to navigate a world that instills shame around their identities."**

**"We've met people who say we don't have to make this all about race but no. The truth is skin color is the number one determinant of how much pollution you live next to so it is important to talk about these conversations that aren't easy, that aren't comfortable."**

**Education needs to give the students the skills tools.**

Leclercq believes that it's important to consider the social and emotional needs of the students and ground the topic in the classroom in the context of real life scenarios happening in the community.

**Her courage is highly inspiring.**

Being a part of the people of color community, I've experienced my rights being denied in which people refused to listen to my voice and what I have to say. However, to see Alexia being very brave to speak against all norms and stereotypes being pushed on us is something that we all need to have. Not to forget that all her goals and missions are achieved despite being at a very young age of 21 years old!

She has connected with thousands of people, thousands of school kids and their teachers, and these numbers are significant! Just imagine how many hearts she has touched, and how many students she has inspired?

Seeing Alexia Leclercq being comfortable in her league, promoting environmental and social justice with a not-for-profit organization made me realize that if you have the goal to do something, then you should pursue it with all our efforts. People may underestimate you and belittle your fight, but if you know your fight is for a good cause, then it is worth fighting for.

Alexia Leclercq is a truly inspiring young woman and I hope everyone will be inspired by her too. Just like her, we need youth to take actions because they are the leaders of tomorrow, the future of our nation.

*Draft of letter to Alexia Leclercq:*

**Greetings.**

Dear Ms. Alexia Leclercq,

My name is Nurul Farhana and I am a student from University Malaya. I am highly inspired from your works with Start:Empowerment and the Brower Youth Award achievement. Reading about your works made me feel the urge to also speak up for the marginalized youth who has been denied their rights in many aspects of life.

So I would like to first thank you for being brave to start and take action in order to help bridging the gap between education and action. I am writing a piece of magazine-like article to share about your works and achievements to the world, and I have a few questions that I will be very honoured if you choose to answer them.

The questions are as below:

1. A lot of people of color is afraid to speak up against the internalized racism they faced in their life as it always comes back to bite them. How do you convince them to be brave and courageous to share their story?
2. Who have always been your biggest supporter throughout your journey from the beginning until now, where the Start:Empowerment has achieved so much and inspired many people out there?
3. Can you share your future goals for Start:Empowerment and how or where do you see your organisation in the next 5 or 10 years?

I look forward to your responses, and I hope you will continue this journey for a long time, and inspire more students, as much as you've inspired me.

Thank you and have a nice day.

*Sending the email:*

— 🗄️ ✕

↩️ Reply ↩️ Reply all ➔ Forward 📁 Archive 🗑️ Delete ⋮

### Questions for Ms Alexia.



**farhananurul385@gmail.com** <farhananurul385@gmail.com>  
20:51



To: info.startempowerment@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Alexia Leclercq,

My name is Nurul Farhana and I am a student from University Malaya. I am highly inspired from your works with Start:Empowerment and the Brower Youth Award achievement. Reading about your works made me feel the urge to also speak up for the marginalized youth who has been denied their rights in many aspects of life.

So I would like to first thank you for being brave to start and take action in order to help bridging the gap between education and action. I am writing a piece of magazine-like article to share about your works and achievements to the world, and I have a few questions that I will be very honoured if you choose to answer them.

The questions are as below:

1. A lot of people of color is afraid to speak up against the internalized racism they faced in their life as it always comes back to bite them. How do you convince them to be brave and courageous to share their story?
2. Who have always been your biggest supporter throughout your journey from the beginning until now, where the Start:Empowerment has achieved so much and inspired many people out there?
3. Can you share your future goals for Start:Empowerment and how or where do you see your organisation in the next 5 or 10 years?

I look forward to your responses, and I hope you will continue this journey for a long time, and inspire more students, as much as you've inspired me.

Thank you and have a nice day.

My graphic:

(Refer next page)



# THE LEAF

B U L L E T I N

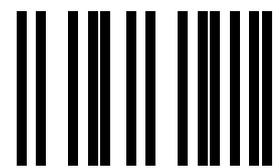
INSPIRATION  
FOR THE  
MODERN  
YOUTHS

2021  
BROWER  
YOUTH  
AWARD  
WINNER

## ALEXIA LECLERCQ

A 21 years old girl that battles climate change as crisis that **DISPROPORTIONATELY** affecting the communities colour and focused on **BRIDGING THE GAP** between education and action

*"Bridging  
THE GAP"*



0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

## SOCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

# EDUCATION

### FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR



Only at 20 years old, this young lady from Austin Texas had a life-changing experience when she co-founded Start:Empowerment (S:E), an environmental justice nonprofit focused on bridging the gap between education and action.

*"Our mission is to use education as a tool to achieve social -environmental justice and liberation for all." - Alexia Leclercq*

### LISTEN. CREATE. IMPACT.

S:E collaborates with activists, educators, and community members to create spaces for environmental justice education and action.

The group staunchly supports the principles of abolition, transformative justice, and mutual aid.

### REACHING OUT AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS

S:E has worked with 7 schools and over 2500 students to inspire the educational institute. Meanwhile, they have reached over 13 000 people by speaking engagement, workshop and guest lectures.



*i wanted other youth to learn from generations of activists who have studied systems of oppression and community organizing as means to enact change."*

# START: EMPOWERMENT

*"They use their grassroots experiences."*



Inspiring

**S**TART: EMPOWERMENT have been infusing the elements of environmental justice histories, organizing skills and urban-agro training, and political education frameworks in their mission.

Not only it helps introduces more diverse content, drives student growth, and generates community impact but it also contributes to the building, strengthening, and connecting of various movements in NYC and beyond to the current climate crisis.

**"US education continues to erase the stories of marginalized communities, forcing students to navigate a world that instills shame around their identities."**

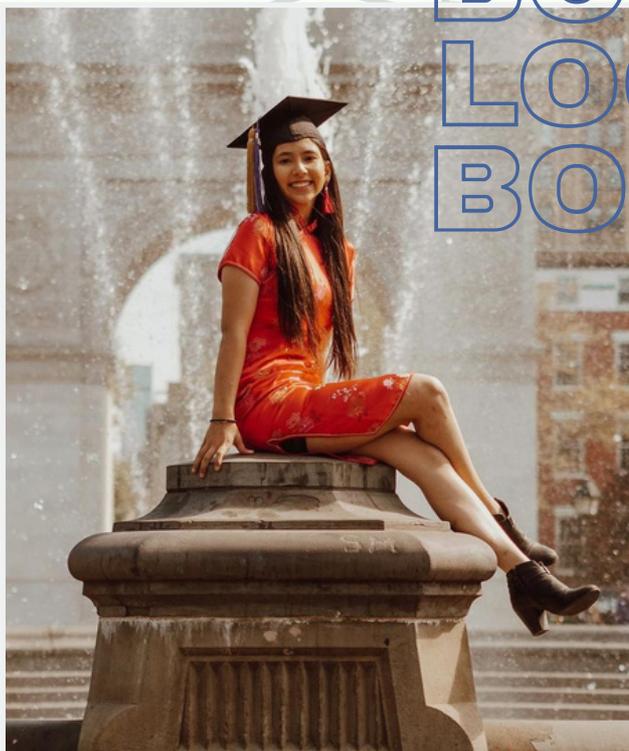
# "THIS JOURNEY HAS DEFINITELY BEEN CHALLENGING"

"we've met people who say we don't have to make this all about race but no. The truth is skin color is the number one determinant of how much pollution you live next to

*so it is important to talk about these conversations that aren't easy, that aren't comfortable."*



LOOK  
BOOK  
LOOK  
BOOK



## **EDUCATION NEEDS TO GIVE THE STUDENTS THE SKILLS TOOLS**

Leclercq believes that it's important to consider the social and emotional needs of the students and ground the topic in the classroom in the context of real life scenarios happening in the community

# BROWER 2021

## "MY EXPERIENCE

with these young people, (they) are really passionate and they want to create change because they're tired of the capitalism, colonialism, oppression and environmental racism."

## "THESE STUDENTS

are taught to attribute their struggles to individual failures they are never taught about the social and environmental injustices that hinder their community

## ALEXIA LECLERCO

"i think we just want to stay true to our radical revolutionary roots and these are big things i hope for land back. i hope for abolition, i hope for a world where we prioritize taking care of each other and the well-being of everyone."

