PEYTON KLEIN

Founder of Global Minds Initiative
YOUTHTOPIA Circle of Youth

Peyton Klein is the founder of the Global Minds Initiative and a fearless conversationalist and community builder.

Peyton was a 15-year-old student in Pittsburgh when, in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential election, she witnessed discrimination against immigrant and refugee students at her school. This sparked the creation of the Global Minds Initiative, a movement for and by young people to combat cultural intolerance in schools around the world.

Global Minds operates as an after-school programme that bridges the gap between English as a Second Language (ESL) and Native English Speaking (NES) students. In these inclusive and safe spaces, students can challenge frameworks of oppression and understand systems that threaten human rights. ESL students gain valuable conversational English skills through practice with their native English-speaking peers. This enables more students to contribute important global insights and perspectives on issues such as human rights, diversity, sustainable development and cultural identity. Global Minds has now expanded to 25 schools in 2 countries, impacted over 10,000 students, and raised over $1 million in donations, corporate grants, and sponsorships.

In addition to her role as Executive Director of Global Minds, Peyton studies human biology at Stanford University. She leads youth mental health research at Teach for America's Reinvention Lab, exploring the future of mental health ecosystems in K-12 settings.

Peyton Klein's incredible work has been recognised through numerous awards and accolades. Her accolades include Forbes 30 under 30 2022, Teen Vogue 21 under 21, National Geographic Young Explorer 2020, Bezos Scholar, HERLEAD Fellow, and a Princeton Prize in Race Relation Awardee.

Peyton continues to spread her message as a TEDx speaker. Her work has been featured on the Today Show, Fox News, Teen Vogue and the New York Times.

Topics (Selection):
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- Global Education
- Service Learning
- Mental Health
- Peer Support
- Anti-Semitism
- Youth / Student voice