

Human Rights Activists Workshop

Racial Discrimination in Korea Seen in the Islamophobic Incidents, and Solidarity of Human Rights Activists

Oct 7, 2023 (Sat) 13:00-15:30

Organizer: Human Rights Activists Network for Local Human Rights Protection System

Background

Since the Yemeni refugee crisis in Jeju Island in 2018, the tendency toward racism and hatred against foreigners, especially against Islamic culture, has become increasingly visible in Korean society. Even in 2021 when the government's decision to bring in Afghan special contributors to Korea, racism and hatred of Islam continued to emerge. The xenophobia that emerged during the COVID-19 almost became a factor to fundamentally neutralize the right to health of everyone living in Korea. The conflict over the construction of a new mosque in Daehyeon-dong, Daegu, which has been in process since 2020, has shown the most extreme hatred and discrimination against foreign and Islamic cultures in Korean society. This also has further spread hatred and discrimination in various areas in our society. Against this backdrop, local activists across the country would share their thoughts on how to respond to such discrimination and hatred, and how to carry out solidarity activities, and discuss possible resistance activities. Furthermore, they would more actively seek a method of solidarity against hatred.



Objectives

1. Sharing racial discrimination and hatred (toward foreigner/Muslim culture) cases by region or field.
2. Introducing and sharing response to racial discrimination and hatred (toward foreigner/Muslim culture) by region or field.
3. Sharing local activists' concerns and suggestions regarding solidarity activities to have further discussion.
4. Exploring practical solidarity methods and practices on racial discrimination and hatred (toward foreigner/Muslim culture).

Main Agenda

1. Xenophobia/Islamophobia and the derived problems related to the construction of a new mosque in Daehyeon-dong, Daegu
2. Human rights status in the Immigration Processing Center and response (group activities in Yeosu, Jeolla-do Province or other regions)
3. Hatred and discrimination toward foreign students (international students) and response
4. Adaptation of Afghan refugee children in Ulsan and current status
5. Yemeni refugee crisis in Jeju Island, and their life afterward
6. Discussion on the method to share concerns and build solidarity among human rights activists in each region

