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## Thematic Session [LGBTQI]

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# Human Rights of LGBTQI People in the Climate Crisis and the Role of Human Rights Cities

Oct 11, 2022 (Tue) 9:30-12:00

Organizers: Gwangju Human Rights Advocate Group, Rainbow Project,  
Gwangju Network to Fight Against Hate Culture

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## Background

Together with COVID-19, now the monkeypox virus is spreading. Both COVID-19 and monkeypox are zoonotic infections, originating from non-human species that have lost their habitat due to natural destruction caused by the climate crisis. These two are also similar considering the social stigma against citizens of certain regions where the virus breaks out and the unfavorable eyes on certain groups where the virus spreads. The virus is more threatening to minority groups, including the LGBT population, whose socioeconomic foundation is vulnerable.

In 2012, the Gwangju Human Rights Charter was declared for the first time in Asia. The charter, consisting of 5 chapters and 18 articles, specifies the rights of various minorities and the basic rights of life, namely right to work, right to health, and right to enjoy adequate residence. Then, what role does the Gwangju Human Rights Charter play in the midst of climate crisis?

At the peak of the global pandemic, sexual minorities were overly criticized under a false accusation caused by reckless media coverage. Those who face double discrimination, such as juvenile sexual minorities, are put in a more dangerous situation. However, the existing social assistance designed for adolescents, not for the LGBT population, discriminates and excludes juvenile sexual minorities. The pandemic is threatening to everyone, but the size of the threat is never equal. A social assistance system based on a specific identity discriminates and excludes social minorities including LGBT, and even threatens their livelihoods.



Against this back drop, the thematic session on LGBTQI of 2022 World Human Rights Cities Forum will be an opportunity to make a diagnosis of the reality - whether the rights of Gwangju citizens, as specified in the Gwangju Human Rights Charter, are also fully enjoyed by sexual minorities in Gwangju. The panel of the session, which consists of activists who have engaged in LGBTQ Youth Crisis Support Center, Survey on the Needs of Youth LGBT, and interviews and analysis of sexual minorities in the Gwangju area, will discuss what should be done by the government of Gwangju-si to ensure that the rights of all citizens by the Gwangju Human Rights Charter are guaranteed to the LGBT citizens as well.

## Objective

1. During the session, it will be reviewed how the pandemic and other threats triggered by climate change affect the LGBT population.
2. Discriminations caused by a number of policies that didn't consider LGBT will be identified, and the panel's experiences of alternative activities will be shared.
3. Also, in this session, policies and action plans will be come up with to make sure that the rights by the Gwangju Human Rights Charter are guaranteed to the LGBT citizens.

## Main agenda

1. What is the correlation between climate change and human rights activities for LGBT?
2. What are LGBT's experiences of the pandemic in a heterosexual society?
3. In order to deal with climate crisis and discrimination in a heterosexual society, what kind of human rights activities for sexual minorities should be made?
4. In order to fulfill each provision of the Gwangju Human Rights Charter for the LGBT citizens, what kind of efforts should the government of Gwangju-si make?



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