

**Network Session
UNESCO APCAD Annual Session**

UNESCO Master Class Gwangju Series

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UNESCO launched the Master Class Series on Racism and Discrimination in November 2019 with the aim to shed light on the growing significance of racial prejudice and the spread of racial discrimination and intolerance and raise the visibility of their consequences. The ultimate goal is to empower the young participants to become agents of change and trainers in their schools and communities.

Inspired by the Master Class Series against Racism and Discrimination, Gwangju Metropolitan City, as the lead city of the Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities Against Discrimination (APCAD), developed the UNESCO Master Class Gwangju series in August 2022 as a localised extension of the Master Class Series in liaison with UNESCO, Gwangju International Center, and Gwangju Metropolitan Office of Education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lifestyles as we have grown to use online means of communication more so than ever before. Unfortunately, this exponential growth of online communication has brought with it an increasing propagation of hate speech, which is used as means to justify hatred, violence, and discrimination toward minorities with misguided information. In order to tackle online hate, the Gwangju series was launched to train youth leaders to fight against online discrimination with the theme 'Youth Actions in Response to Online Discriminations'. Particularly, the Gwangju series was designed as a long-term project to arm young leaders with the tools to dissect the mechanisms of discrimination and of online hatred in order to ultimately overcome such issues by partaking in collaborative projects with local communities. Findings from the Gwangju series will be shared with global youth leaders at UNESCO Global Master Class in November 2022 to build upon a global network for anti-racism and discrimination. The Gwangju series is expected to expand its scope to the Asian-pacific region so that more variety of youths benefit from the Master Class.

In this session, I will explain the UNESCO Masterclass Gwangju series and share the progress and outcomes of the program. The section will include the following:

- Background and objectives of the program
- Program details
- Review of the outcomes of the program
- Progress and limitations of the program