

Abstract

A Study on Minorities in Seoul

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In this study, we first define the terms used in the National Human Rights Plan and Human Rights of Seoul City, and the problems and issues faced by minorities. Secondly, we analyze social receptivity and the legal system for human rights and discrimination against ten groups including women, physically challenged, children, elderly, migrant workers, immigrant wives, refugees (excluding North Koreans), North Korean refugees, sexual minorities, and conscientious objectors.

The research results suggest a need to revise the definition of minorities in the third National Human Rights Plan, which aims to develop a human rights policy based on international human rights. We accordingly discuss a proposed mechanism to incorporate definitions of minorities based on international human rights law.

In addition, the Seoul City government is developing a Seoul Human Rights Index to monitor several types of human rights issues among its vulnerable citizens. Current human rights indices for vulnerable people could be extended to Seoul's human rights policies and its priority establishment. Some of the issues to be included are the forbiddance of discrimination and the protection of human rights. Since the level of social acceptance is based on the minority type, this factor requires consideration under different legislative law conditions. Finally, we propose the publication of a Seoul Human Rights Index report every two years.

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