

## **Major Activities of the NHRCK**

Pursuant to the UN Human Rights Council Resolution 39/7 and the request of the UN OHCHR, the NHRCK hereby submits the summary of its cooperation and activities with local governing bodies.

Among the four categories designated by the UN OHCHR, the NHRCK presents its submission for three categories except for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the New Urban Agenda.

1. Law, policies and programmes that have been explicitly developed by local authorities to promote and protect human rights
  - In 2012, the NHRCK recommended to the head of local governing bodies to enact or amend human rights decrees based on the basic human rights decree draft proposed by the NHRCK. As of April 2017, among 243 regional and basic local governing bodies, 98 bodies have enacted human rights decrees.
  - The NHRCK, to strengthen and practically implement human rights decrees, expressed its opinion in 2017 to the head of local governing bodies to enact human rights decree and support and cooperate with basic local governing bodies under their jurisdiction.
  - In May 2018, in order to help public officials in charge of human rights education in regional·basic local governing bodies and office of education to plan and implement human rights education program, the NHRCK operated two-day capacity building program where officials from 14 primary·municipal local governing bodies and 3 office of education of local governing bodies have attended.
  - The NHRCK also operated two day workshop in October 2018 where officials from regional·basic local governing bodies and office of education to strengthen their capacity to investigate, write investigation report and conduct case studies
  - It also established a human rights training course for public officials at Human Resources Development Center in Gangwon Province.
  
2. Effective methods to foster cooperation between local government and local stakeholders for the promotion and protection of human rights
  - The NHRCK hosted 2018 Human Rights Defenders Congress for three days from 12 to 14 December in 2018 in Jeju Island. At the event, 140 people including public officials from

local governing bodies, human rights commissioners(human rights defenders) and regional human rights organizations and activists were gathered together to discuss diverse issues including establishment and strengthening of regional regime for human rights. Public officials from 14 local governing bodies and human rights commissioners(defenders) of 10 regional bodies attended the event, greatly contributing to strengthening human rights system for local governing bodies through broad participation

- The National Human Rights Commission of Korea operates five human rights offices in Busan, Gwangju, Daegu, Daejeon and Gangwon. Each regional office, with an aim to enhance human rights awareness of the region and support the work of human rights-related administration, carries out the following tasks: host meetings with relevant ministries of local governing bodies to discuss pressing human rights issues; host presentation to explain systematization of human rights for local governing bodies; operate workshop to devise measures to enhance effectiveness of human rights decree; carry out workshop to identify implementation measures of human rights policies of local governing bodies; and operate programs to enhance capacity of personnel in charge of human rights issues in local governing bodies.

※ Please refer to the ‘Appendix’ for detailed activities.

3. Ways in which local governments are connected with the United Nations human rights system, for example participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the work of the human rights treaty bodies and Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, and the implementation of their recommendations

- In February 2018, the council of South Chungcheong province approved the proposal to abolish the South Chungcheong human rights decree and the NHRCK on 13 March 2018 sent an email to the UN Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity requesting for a country visit and investigation. When the abolition of the decree was decided on April 3 2018, the Independent Expert released its communication to the Korean government on the webpage of the UN OHCHR, requesting for the response of the government. The Independent Expert notified and request for help of the NHRCK. The NHRCK urged for the response of the government and delivered the message to the council of South Chungcheong province, working as a bridge.

## Appendix

### Human Rights Offices Activities

(Based on 2017 Annual Report)

#### Section 1. Overview

The Commission operates five human rights offices—Busan, Gwangju, Daegu, Daejeon, and Gangwon—to enhance and protect the human rights of local people and ensure prompt remedies. The first office was opened in Busan and Gwangju in October 2005, followed by the office in Daegu in July 2007, the office in Daejeon in October 2014, and the office in Gangwon on 1 June 2017.

[Table 1] Location and Jurisdiction of Human Rights Offices

Name	Location	Jurisdiction
Busan Human Rights Office	Busan	Busan Metropolitan City, Ulsan Metropolitan City, Gyeongsangnam-do Province
Gwangju Human Rights Office	Gwangju	Gwangju Metropolitan City, Jeollanam-do Province, Jeollabuk-do Province, Jeju Special Self-governing Province
Daegu Human Rights Office	Daegu	Daegu Metropolitan City, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province
Daejeon Human Rights Office	Daejeon	Daejeon Metropolitan City, Sejong Special Self-governing City, Chungcheongnam-do Province, Chungcheongbuk-do Province
Gangwon Human Rights Office	Wonju in Gangwon-do	Gangwon-do Province

In the areas under their jurisdiction, human rights offices are responsible for human rights counseling; investigation of and remedies for human rights infringements and discriminations in detention facilities, mental care facilities, local governments, public service-related organizations, schools, and other state organizations; human rights education and training; exchanges and cooperation with human rights-related groups and institutions, and promotional activities; and operation of the Human Rights Experience Center. The tasks of the human rights offices are tailored to specific local needs.

## Section 2. Major Activities

### 1. Complaints, Counseling, and Inquiries

In 2017, 2,430 complaints, 9,577 counseling, and 6,235 inquiries were received by the human rights offices. Compared to the previous year, this represents an increase of 110 (4.7%) and 1,163 (13.8%) for complaints and counseling, respectively. This increase is likely attributable to the opening of the Gangwon Human Rights Office on 1 June and a rise in counseling requests received by the Gwangju Human Rights Office.

**[Table 2] Statistics of Complaints, Counseling, and Inquiries Received by Human Rights Offices in the Last Two Years**

(Unit: number of cases)

Human Rights Office	Year	Complaint	Counseling	Civil petition / Inquiry	Total
Busan	2017	529	2,425	1,343	4,297
	2016	553	2,173	1,403	4,129
Gwangju	2017	625	2,786	2,024	5,435
	2016	654	2,129	2,471	5,254
Daegu	2017	498	2,125	1,367	3,990
	2016	527	2,146	1,669	4,342
Daejeon	2017	518	2,146	1,497	4,161
	2016	586	1,966	1,875	4,427
Gangwon*	2017	260	95	4	359
<b>Total</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>8,414</b>	<b>7,418</b>	<b>18,152</b>
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2,430</b>	<b>9,577</b>	<b>6,235</b>	<b>18,242</b>

\* The figures for the Gangwon office are based on the period from its launch date (1 June 2017) to 31 December 2017.

### 2. Face-to-Face Complaints Applied for and Handled

In 2017, the human rights offices received 1,997 applications for face-to-face complaints and closed 2,041 cases. Of those closed, 458 (22.4%) were formally moved to complaints, 1,008 (49.4%) resolved through counseling, and 575 (28.2%) dropped by the applicant.

Compared to 2016, face-to-face complaint applications increased by 153 (8.3%), and closed cases by 301 (17.3%). This increase is likely attributable to increased activities at the Busan Human Rights Office and the Gwangju Human Rights Office.

**[Table3] Statistics of Face-to-Face Complaint Applications and Cases Closed at Human Rights Offices in the Last Two Years**

(Unit: number of cases and percentage)

Human Rights Office	Year	Carried forward	Applied for	Case closed						
				Sub-total	Withdrawn		Complaint Received		Closed by Counseling	
Busan	2017	30	676	669	198	29.6%	146	21.8%	325	48.6%
	2016	14	566	541	213	39.4%	115	21.3%	213	39.4%
Gwangju	2017	26	427	446	147	33.0%	112	25.1%	187	41.9%
	2016	24	374	357	170	47.6%	83	23.2%	104	29.1%
Daegu	2017	26	571	595	145	24.4%	102	17.1%	348	58.5%
	2016	28	589	550	203	36.9%	97	17.6%	250	45.5%
Daejeon	2017	17	270	277	74	26.7%	74	26.7%	129	46.6%
	2016	25	315	296	119	40.2%	48	16.2%	129	43.6%
Gangwon*	2017	-	37	36	10	27.8%	15	41.7%	11	30.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1,981</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>28.4%</b>	<b>449</b>	<b>22.2%</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>49.4%</b>
	<b>2016</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>1,844</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>39.9%</b>

\* The figures for the Gangwon office are based on the period from its launch date (1 June 2017) to 31 December 2017.

### 3. Complaints Handled

In 2017, 4,038 complaints were assigned to the human rights offices and 3,816 handled. A total of 420 cases were remedied, with one charged or investigation requested, 116 resulting in a recommendation, one mediated, 20 settled by agreement, and 282 resolved during investigation.

Compared to the previous year, 619 (18.1%) more complaints were received and 329 (9.4%) more handled, which is likely attributable to the opening of the Gangwon Human Rights Office on 1 June and an increase in complaints received in all human rights offices.

**[Table 4] Statistics of Complaints Handled by Human Rights Offices in the Last Two Years**

(Unit: number of cases)

Human Rights Office	Year	Assigned	Handled	Remedies						Rejected	Transferred	Dismissed	Investigation suspended
				Sub-total	Charged or investigation requested	Recommendations, etc.	Mediation	Closed by settlement	Resolved during investigation				
Busan	2017	889	876	86	-	25	-	2	59	527	13	250	-
	2016	859	862	83	-	12	-	8	63	503	9	266	1

Gwangju	2017	953	908	101	-	35	-	8	58	514	13	280	-
	2016	888	926	91	5	17	-	8	61	502	9	323	1
Daegu	2017	949	940	141	1	31	1	6	102	481	11	307	-
	2016	806	804	109	3	16	1	24	65	514	2	179	-
Daejeon	2017	987	983	85	-	21	-	4	60	647	18	233	-
	2016	866	895	81	3	19	-	27	32	522	16	276	-
Gangwon	2017	260	109	7	-	4	-	-	3	74	-	28	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>3,816</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>2,243</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1098</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>2016</b>	<b>3,419</b>	<b>3,487</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>2,041</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1044</b>	<b>2</b>

※ Recommendations, etc.: The sum of recommendations made for a settlement, remedial action, disciplinary action, or emergency relief action that, under the NHRC Act, the recommended institutions have the obligation to confirm whether or not they would accommodate them

※ Resolved during investigation: Of cases rejected or dismissed, those that were resolved smoothly or did not require separate remedial measures thanks to the efforts of or mediation by the investigator

\* The figures for the Gangwon office are based on the period from its launch date (1 June 2017) to 31 December 2017.

#### 4. Human Rights Education and Training

By operating a human rights education center, the human rights offices organized instructor fostering programs, human rights sensitivity classes, mandatory human rights education and training for mental health care centers and facilities for the homeless, and special human rights lectures.

In 2017, the human rights offices organized 1,999 human rights education sessions (88,884 persons), of which 43 sessions (1,270 persons) were instructor fostering programs, 53 (1,583 persons) human rights sensitivity classes, 87 (3,826 persons) mandatory education, 484 (1,0081 persons) visiting education, and 1,332 (72,124 persons) special human rights lectures. This shows that the most number of human rights education was through special lectures.

[Table 5] Human Rights Education and Training Organized by Human Rights Offices in 2017

(Unit: number of sessions and persons)

Human Rights Office	Total		Fostering program		Sensibility enhancement program		Mandatory program		Visiting program		Special lecture	
	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant
Busan	589	26,758	11	282	14	545	21	999	62	1,354	481	23,578
Gwangju	370	17,216	5	234	3	104	18	737	124	3,421	220	12,720
Daegu	520	21,717	10	226	19	597	28	1,324	159	2,476	304	17,094
Daejeon	505	21,755	14	452	17	337	20	766	139	2,830	315	17,370

Gangwon*	15	1,438	3	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	1,362
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>88,884</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>1,583</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>3,826</b>	<b>484</b>	<b>10,081</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>72,124</b>

\* The figures for the Gangwon office are based on the period from its launch date (1 June 2017) to 31 December 2017.

The human rights offices conduct human rights education and training for institutions, schools, and groups in various domains to raise public awareness in local communities and target a larger audience. In 2017, they offered 339 sessions (29,417 persons) for the public sector, 1,083 (34,022 persons) for schools, and 577 (25,445 persons) for citizens. The most number of human rights education and training occurred in schools.

**[Table 6] Human Rights Education and Training by Audience in 2017**

(Unit: number of sessions and participants)

Human Rights Office	Total		Public		School		Citizens	
	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant
Busan	589	26,758	91	8,861	429	12,591	69	5,306
Gwangju	370	17,216	63	5,892	168	4,832	139	6,492
Daegu	520	21,717	98	6,778	240	8,137	182	6,802
Daejeon	505	21,755	81	6,810	242	8,262	182	6,683
Gangwon*	15	1,438	6	1,076	4	200	5	162
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,999</b>	<b>88,884</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>29,417</b>	<b>1,083</b>	<b>34,022</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>25,445</b>

\* The figures for the Gangwon office are based on the period from its launch date (1 June 2017) to 31 December 2017.

Notably, the Busan Human Rights Office had a sudden increase in demand from the police after the new administration came in. This was roughly a five-fold increase from 2016 (10 sessions for 648 persons in 2016; 24 sessions for 3,514 persons in 2017). The Gwangju Human Rights Office increased its outreach to schools in island areas.