

Human Rights Education and Promotion in Korea*

National Human Rights Commission of Korea

AN INDEPENDENT national institution dedicated to human rights issues, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (Commission) was established on November 25, 2001 in accordance with the National Human Rights Commission of Korea Act (hereinafter referred to as the “NHRCK Act”) to uphold the right to and respect for human dignity, and contribute to reinforcing the foundation of democracy by safeguarding and promoting inherent, inviolable human rights.

The Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Paris Principles) were laid out at a time when newly democratized nations were beginning to establish national human rights institutions in the late 1980s. The Paris Principles were adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution (1992/54) in 1992 and the United Nations General Assembly in 1993.

Discussions to establish a national human rights institution in Korea were first sparked when a joint committee of private entities took part in the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, Austria, in June 1993. With human rights and civil society organizations continuously voicing the need for a national institution dedicated to human rights issues, these private entities called for enabling laws of an independent national human rights institution responsible for research, study, education, and promotion of human rights protection and improvement pursuant to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights Resolution (1992/54)¹ and the Paris Principles.² Based on related discussions at home and abroad, presidential candidate Kim Dae-jung included the establishment of a human rights institution in his presidential election pledge in 1997. In April 1999, the Joint Task Force of Private Organizations for the Realization of a National Human Rights Institution was established by seventy-one human rights and civil

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society organizations. After three years of hard work by the task force, on 24 May 2001 and during the Kim Daejung Administration, the NHRCK Act was enacted. Six months later on 25 November 2001, the Commission was established as an independent national institution.

The Commission is a national institution dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of the socially disadvantaged and the minorities as mandated by the Constitution and other laws, and as recognized by international common laws and human rights conventions joined and ratified by Korea. It is an independent institution that is not affiliated with any of the legislative, judicial, or executive branches of the government. The Commission is a quasi-judicial organization whose procedures for investigating and redressing cases of human rights violations and discriminations complement the existing remedial procedures of other judicial agencies. It is also a quasi-international organization in the sense that it implements international human rights standards in the nation and supports the authorities, responsibilities, organizational structure, and operation specified in the Paris Principles.

With a view to protecting and promoting human rights for all, the Commission assumes four key functions, which are policy, investigations and remedies, education and promotion, and cooperation at home and abroad. In the realm of policy, the Commission makes recommendations and presents opinions on matters that warrant study, research, and improvement of human rights related laws and regulations, institutions, policies, and practices. It also submits opinions regarding proceedings that have significant implications on human rights.

The Commission's investigations and remedies target human rights violations and discrimination in national institutions, local governments, schools, public service-related organizations, and detention and protection facilities, as well as discrimination by corporate bodies, organizations, and private persons without justifiable reasons. The human rights education and promotion function is aimed at raising public awareness on human rights, and the exchanges and cooperation function is to cooperate with various human rights and civil society organizations and individuals in Korea, as well as relevant international organizations and human rights institutions abroad.

Human Rights Education and Promotional Activities³

In view of raising and enhancing public awareness of human rights, the Commission carries out human rights education and promotional activities in accordance with subparagraph 5 of Article 19 and Article 26 of the NHRCK Act.

Human rights are values that are not limited to certain times and spaces; they are universal values that must be enjoyed across the society. Education and promotion are essential for spreading the values of human rights. In 2021, the Commission was tasked to make institutional arrangements and shape conditions for increased human rights education, enhance professionalism and competence for human rights education, increase exchanges and cooperation for systematic, specialized human rights education, foster a culture that is conducive to respect for human rights by developing and providing human rights content, increase exchanges and cooperation with human rights and civil society groups, and strengthen safeguards at the local level.

To this end, the Commission focused its efforts on the establishment of the Human Rights Training Institute, improvement of institutions and policies for human rights education, and effective cooperation for human rights education, development and distribution of timely and relevant human rights educational content, development and distribution of easily accessible human rights content, increased cooperation with human rights advocacy entities, laying the foundation to facilitate human rights safeguards at the local level, and effective support of promotional activities by human rights and civil society groups. Amid the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, it strove to provide quality training through diverse training programs and remote learning opportunities.

Human Rights Education

For the purpose of examining and improving laws, regulations, institutions, policies, and practices, the Commission recommended institutional improvements for human rights education of police officers, and conducted a survey of human rights education in the National Assembly, a survey of human rights education of teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools, a survey of human rights education of local government public officials, and a study of parent education to prevent child abuse.

For more specialized human rights education, the Commission developed a guide to human rights education for teachers, human rights learning through playful activities (translation of ‘Play it Fair’ toolkit developed by Equitas), video content to promote human rights practices in schools (six types), human rights in care services, human rights of older persons, human rights educational programs for people working in children welfare facilities, produced video content on combatting hate and discrimination, and distributed several content developed in 2020, including online and offline shared content (fourteen types).

The Commission managed the Special Human Rights Education Committee and the Korea Human Rights Education Forum to promote more systematic human rights education. It also consulted closely with the Local Government Human Rights Education Council, Military Human Rights Education Council, School Human Rights Education Council, and University Human Rights Center Council, and facilitated day-to-day cooperation using a new online communication system.

Despite the spread of COVID-19, the Commission managed its human rights training programs as planned by area and by target audience, including public institutions, schools, and civil society, in contactless form. By developing and distributing a guidebook on online human rights education, it ensured that its online programs are as effective as face-to-face programs in terms of participation and communication.

To secure a space dedicated to systematic and specialized human rights education, the Commission made progress with the establishment of the Human Rights Training Institute. In consultation with the Committee for Establishment of Human Rights Training Institute, it drafted an architectural design, went through the public construction procedures, and completed the basic design. Once construction is complete, the Human Rights Training Institute will be used to service everyone’s right to be trained in human rights and foster personnel specialized in human rights education.

Human Rights Promotion

The Commission continued to use various media and newsletter for online promotion, while looking for new media forms to enhance understanding of and sensitivity to human rights.

It produced “Teaming,” a web drama on human rights issues online, and made it available on YouTube. It produced the video series “Wise Human

Rights Life,” while working with the Byeolbyeol Reporters, a group of on-line supporters, to upload various content on new media forms like Naver’s Together N. It organized the Human Rights Contest in two categories (poster and poem/essay), produced content to change public perception of hate and discrimination speech, and organized a diversity campaign using content on various family compositions.

In 2021, the Commission distributed two hundred fourteen press releases to the press and posted them on its website. Press releases covered factual survey results, policy recommendations and opinions, results of investigations on human rights violations and discrimination, and statements and commentaries on major issues. They helped raise public understanding of human rights issues and shape public consensus.

On the 73rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, the Commission organized the 2021 Human Rights Day to celebrate the significance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, commit to its international obligations, and present the Korea Human Rights Award to ten institutions and persons.

Major Achievements

1. Institutionalizing and Shaping Conditions for Human Rights Education

A. Instituting human rights education

The Commission recommended to the National Police Agency to establish regulations as basis for human rights education, build an integrated education management system and cooperation channels for more systematic and effective human rights training of the police force. This is in light of the police assuming greater responsibility for human rights protection as the partial amendment to the Criminal Procedure Act and the Prosecutors’ Office Act on 4 February 2020 resulted in greater police authorities’ involvement in every aspect of the criminal procedures following adjustment of investigative authorities between the police and the prosecution.

Through a study in 2020, the Commission presented ways to apply human rights perspectives in the school curricula so that human rights can be respected in all school activities. It held discussions on how to promote more systematic human rights education in schools and conducted human rights education for school textbook authors. Moving forward, it will continue to ensure that human rights perspectives are incorporated in the new curri-

cula, including developing human rights-friendly textbooks and supporting the enhancement of teachers' competence in human rights education.

In addition, to get a better sense of human rights education delivered, the Commission carried out a survey of human rights in the National Assembly, a survey of human rights education for local government public officials, a survey of human rights education of teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools, and a study of parent education to prevent child abuse. The findings will be used to inform proposals for improved laws, institutions, policies, and practices related to human rights education.

B. Fostering and appointing human rights instructors

With more human rights education and training becoming available in various sectors of the society, an emphasis was placed on the role of human rights instructors. Since its inception, the Commission managed human rights instructor development program to make human rights education more widely available across the society; since 2015, it managed instructor appointment program. Efforts are made to enhance the competence and capacity of human rights instructors, including capacity-building programs for appointed instructors and an instructor appraisal process where instructors are initially appointed for a year, and then for two years after evaluation.

Applications for instructor development program are received through the Cyber Human Rights Training Center⁴ in early March every year. Candidates are selected based on area-specific demand. In 2021, human



Cyber Human Rights Training Center website

rights instructors were fostered in the areas of child abuse, which was pronounced by the prolonged COVID-19 situation, and migrant rights.

Particularly, the Commission introduced contactless full-day distance education for the first time, and made maximum use of small meeting rooms and online learning tools to ensure continuity of the instructor development program amidst the spread of COVID-19. It also conducted a study on ways to qualitatively improve the human rights instructor development program. The Commission plans to continue study to enhance the competence of human rights instructors.

C. Establishment of the Human Rights Training Institute

The Human Rights Training Institute is an educational space designed to foster instructors and trainers, and guarantee the right to human rights education for all. The Institute will play a key role in ensuring quality human rights education and promoting a culture that is favorable to human rights, by capturing the Commission's expertise and sense of current topics in the curricula.

The Commission was cleared by the Ministry of Economy and Finance to use the old Customs Clearance Center site and building in Yongin, Gyeonggi-do Province. A draft basic design was developed in consultation with the Committee for Establishment of Human Rights Training Institute, and the basic plan was completed based on public building procedures. Once the working design is out, the Commission will work to ensure smooth construction and supervision.

2. Establishing Networks of Cooperation for Education

The Local Government Human Rights Education Council discussed the current state of human rights education and tasks at the local government level, and ways for the Commission and local governments to cooperate on human rights education, and coordination needed for a survey of human rights education of government officials. Further to discussions on building an online communications channel, the Council opened a group chat room to facilitate daily communications with local governments.

The human rights leadership course for local government managers and the capacity-building courses for human rights officers and human rights guards in local governments were designed to be readily applied to human rights education and investigation activities at the local government level.

The scope of participants was also expanded to include primary local government officials, so that human rights education can be facilitated at this level and a network of cooperation can be built among participants.

In May and December, the Commission held the Military Human Rights Education Council with representatives of the Ministry of National Defense, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, to discuss ways to cooperate on human rights education. The Commission and the Ministry of National Defense jointly updated the Human Rights Education Textbook of the ROK Armed Forces, setting a basis for standardized human rights education in the military. It was agreed to expand the Military Human Rights Education Council to include external human rights education experts, so that the lack of expertise in the planning and operation of human rights education can be addressed. Various cooperation tasks were identified to facilitate human rights education in the military, including organizing human rights instructors and leveraging a pool of instructors, and developing human rights educational content.

At the 15th session of the School Human Rights Education Council comprising the Commission, Ministry of Education, and metropolitan and provincial offices of education, the Commission facilitated discussions on ways to promote human rights and human rights education in schools, including sharing the results of a study to promote more systematic human rights education content for schools and incorporate them into the new curricula. It maintained good working relations with schools and supported their human rights capacity-building efforts, including training of principals and vice-principals on human rights leadership and training of teachers on school labor rights.

In October 2019, the Commission established the College Human Rights Center Council with sixty-two colleges to support their capacity-building efforts and help create an environment where human rights are respected. The third council meeting held in 2021 was attended by eighty-five representatives from the Commission, the Ministry of Education, and college human rights centers. Discussions were held on how the Enforcement Decree of the Higher Education Act should be amended prior to developing criteria for establishment and operation of college human rights centers as the latter became mandatory. Also, a Regional College Human Rights Center Council was organized, comprising the Human Rights Education Division and the human rights offices in Busan, Gwangju, Daegu, and Daejeon. The regional

councils are expected to help strengthen regional networks and enable college human rights centers to contribute to the promotion of human rights in local communities.

The 2021 College Human Rights Center Capacity-Building Workshop was attended by sixty-two representatives from the Commission and college human rights centers to discuss the proposed standard regulations for college human rights centers and ways to facilitate human rights education in colleges. The online community established in May 2019 to facilitate sharing of experiences and best practices among staff of college human rights centers now has about two hundred twenty members. It is used for day-to-day communication online, including Q-&As and sharing of useful information.

In cooperation with the Korea Human Resource Development Institute for Health & Welfare, which is responsible for human rights education of personnel working in senior welfare facilities and long-term nursing homes, the Commission offered two capacity-building sessions for instructors appointed by the Center Senior Protection Institute and those appointed by the Commission. To this end, the Commission had a meeting with educational institutions in the first half of the year (May). And in the second half of the year, the capacity-building sessions were held with success thanks to the educational institutions helping to promote the program and increase program attendance.

Organized by the Commission since 2007, the Human Rights Education Forum is designed to find reasonable solutions to pending issues in human rights education and identify new ones.

Held on 7 July, the 2020 forum offered a venue for the Commission to engage with human rights education experts, teachers, and education college students on ways to incorporate human rights perspectives in the revised 2022 curricula and ways to promote human rights education in schools.

Participants made various suggestions, including the need to promote a culture that is conducive to respect for human rights and enables student autonomy and involvement in human rights education, and the need for college students who are trained to become teachers to take human rights classes, as it is important for them to have the appropriate mindset when they get involved in human rights education. The discussion results helped shape the business plan for 2022 and will also inform the mid- to long-term implementation plan.

On 30 November, the Commission held a session of the Human Rights Education Committee to discuss progress made and an architectural design for the Human Rights Training Institute and directions for the Commission’s human rights education portfolio. Various opinions were collected and incorporated in the business plan. The Commission cooperates with the committee on a day-to-day basis to identify tasks, develop business plans, discuss options in response to key emerging issues, and evaluate performance.

3. Expanding Education through Human Rights Education Centers

In response to sustained increased demand for human rights education, the Commission upgraded the Cyber Human Rights Training Center,⁵ established a system for distance learning, and made space available for education in the human rights offices. It also appointed human rights instructors through the instructor development program.

In 2021, amidst the spread of COVID-19, the Commission contributed to raising human rights awareness by introducing contactless remote education and training, and facilitating online learning.

Overall, the Commission organized 4,599 specialized sessions, visiting programs, cyber training, and lectures for as many as 351,463 persons. The number of persons who completed the program was down from the previous year due to a suspension of mandatory human rights training of nursing home operators and staff due to the spread of COVID-19. However, thanks to the Commission’s efforts to expand the use of its educational content, the number of public organizations using the content increased from thirty in 2019 to eighty-seven in 2021, making human rights education and training more accessible.

Table 1. Implementation Status of Human Rights Education in the Last Five Years (in number of sessions and persons)

Classification	Total		Educational course		Visiting education		Cyber education		Special lecture		Government’s e-learning platform	
	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant
Cumulative sum	42,115	3,095,482	4,218	188,783	3,718	79,736	8,224	1,196,535	18,877	1,195,363	7,078	435,065
2021	4,607	351,463	257	6,279	322	4,332	1,677	205,738	1,012	33,669	1,339	101,445
2020	3,443	362,459	150	5,011	163	2,700	1,131	220,392	733	29,846	1,266	104,510
2019	6,282	445,807	330	12,527	556	10,694	1,363	261,505	2,699	107,372	1,334	53,709
2018	5,189	344,562	427	19,957	484	8,542	1,133	166,183	2,116	106,189	1,029	43,691
2017	4,447	249,428	494	28,916	533	10,974	915	79,799	1,968	101,482	537	28,257

* The cumulative sum is the total from 25 November 2001 (the date of the establishment of the Commission), to 31 December 2021.

4. Development and Distribution of Educational and Promotional Content

A. Educational content

Educational content helps communicate the key concept and values of human rights. Education and training can become more effective when highly usable content on on-going issues are made available. Recognizing the importance of human rights educational content from the start, the Commission has remained committed to publishing and distributing content.

So far, the Commission has developed a total of two hundred thirty-two human rights educational content (fifty-two for public organizations, thirty-five for schools, seventy-eight for civil society, and sixty-seven for general use) to meet the varying demands and needs for human rights education, and in line with the changing environment and specific request from educators and trainees. The content is available for immediate use, as it is provided and disseminated to relevant organizations, associations, human rights lecturers and educators, public libraries, and online websites.

In 2021, to ensure more specialized human rights education, the Commission developed a guide to human rights education for teachers, human rights learning through playful activities (translation of 'Play it Fair' toolkit developed by Equitas), video content to promote human rights practices in schools (six types), human rights in care services, human rights of older persons, human rights educational programs for people working in children welfare facilities, developed video content on combatting hate and discrimination, and distributed several content developed in 2020, including online and offline content (fourteen types).

B. Promotional content

1) Web Dramas

The Commission produced web dramas to help viewers better relate themselves to human rights issues, and gain a better understanding of and prevent discrimination in everyday life.

The Commission produced "Calm Down" in 2018, which depicts the day-to-day activities of NHRCK investigators to illustrate the role that the Commission is playing and give viewers food for thought on human rights; "The Secret of Secret" in 2019, which addresses human rights in sports, the rights of multi-cultural families and student rights in a high school setting;

and “Chatagongin” in 2020, which is about prejudices that young people who live in facilities face, gender discrimination in everyday life, and human rights in sports. In 2021, the Commission produced “Teaming,” which depicts online human rights issues under the COVID-19 pandemic situation. A four-part series available on Youtube, “Teaming” deals with information rights, invasion of privacy, and digital piracy.

2) Human Rights Contests

Every year, the Commission organizes several contests to promote to the public that human rights are universal values that must be preserved in every aspect of life.

The themes for the 2021 human rights contest were expanded to include any topics related to human rights, i.e., human rights violation and discrimination in everyday life, hatred, and fostering of culture conducive to respect for human rights. The contest was divided into two categories—the poster category and the poetry and essay category—to increase participation and popular appeal.

By splitting the junior group and the elementary student group, the contest saw a higher rate of participation compared to the previous year, with one hundred forty entries made in the adult group, sixty in the junior group, and six hundred sixty-seven in the elementary student group in the poster category, and two hundred eighty-nine entries in the adult group, seventy-eight in the junior group, and ninety-two in the elementary student group in the poem and essay category. The total of 1,326 entries represented an overall increase of 24 percent from the previous year, of which thirty-six works were selected, covering a wide range of human rights issues such as hatred, migrant rights, and re-married families. The selected works in the poster category were used to design postcards and the 2022 Commission calendar for distribution to the human rights library, human rights offices, and the general public. They were also posted on the Commission’s YouTube channel and other new media for use as educational and promotional materials.

5. Operation of the Human Rights Library

The only library dedicated to human rights in Korea, the Human Rights Library was, based on Article 27 of the NHRCK Act, initially established as the Human Rights Reference Library in 2002, and was renamed Human Rights Library in 2012.

The library facilitates research, collection, analysis, and preservation of human rights-related information and materials; offers reading and loan services; documents, manages, and preserves Commission's publications; and engages in exchange and cooperation with other libraries in Korea and abroad. A variety of human rights information is available on the library's website.

In addition to recommendations from international organizations on the need for a national-level human rights archive for historic and social use of human rights records, some researchers and human rights groups at home and abroad have also raised their views on such a need. In 2021, the Commission commissioned a study for a basic plan to establish a human rights archive, to understand the status of archival records, and study ways to preserve, build and use them from a professional standpoint, and establish the basis to build a human rights archive and use as reference material.

6 Promotional Activities to Raise Public Awareness

A. Promotion through media reports

In 2021, the Commission distributed two hundred fourteen press releases and posted them on its website. Press releases covered factual survey results, policy recommendations and opinions, results of investigations on human rights violations and discriminations, statements and commentaries on major current issues, and other activities at home and abroad. Based on a weekly distribution plan established in consultation with the office of primary responsibility, press releases were disclosed through newspapers, broadcast programs, online portal services, and various other media channels, contributing to raising public understanding of human rights issues and shaping public consensus.

The Commission was active in getting special media coverage on its activities on the occasion of its 20th anniversary. Before and after its anniversary, its staff collaborated with media outlets, and human rights and civil society groups, getting special reports on *Kyunghyang Shinmun* (three series; first page top, sixth page front), *The Hankyoreh* (social issue page, side top), *The Law Times* (social issue page, seven-column article), Yonhap News, and Catholic Peace Broadcasting Company. The Commission extended active support in that process, especially in terms of interviews with petitioners, statistical analysis, and interviews with in-house and external experts.

It also engaged actively with accredited reporters, raising their understanding of activities and policies, and key decisions, and encouraging timely reporting on a range of issues, including hate and discrimination against transgenders, discriminations based on medical history, unlawful use of protective gear in immigration detention centers, and climate crisis and human rights.

The Commission continued to service press coverage and interview requests. Notably, when announcing certain key recommendations (on Naval Academy's prohibiting relationships among cadets, provision of convenience for persons with disabilities, survey of hate speech online, monitoring of hate speech on government promotional materials), it actively sought opportunities for interviews, news articles, or TV news, in consultation with the offices of primary responsibility.

It also engaged closely with the media to address negative reporting on its investigation of a petition related to women-only library.

Also, by engaging regularly with accredited reporters and building rapport with them, the Commission increased their understanding of its roles and activities. It also took the lead in raising awareness among media personnel, by promoting the human rights reporting standards and other programs to enhance human rights sensitivity in the media. The Commission also strengthened internal communication through press monitoring, using news clipping and weekly media trend briefs.

B. Promotion through other forms of media

While continuing online promotional activities using a variety of media and the newsletter, the Commission also explored new media forms to enhance understanding of human rights culture and promote human rights sensitivity.

The Commission sent out the Human Letter, an online monthly newsletter, to 40,000 or so subscribers, informing them of key decisions made and news.

Notably, in 2021, the Commission explored various new avenues to communicate with the public. In addition to running its own media channel, it collaborated with EBS Jisik Channel e Team to produce a video on persons with mental disabilities based on its National Report on Persons with Mental Disabilities. The program was aired on television to raise public awareness.

Given rising incidents of hatred and discrimination, it also produced and distributed videos on hate speech and discrimination for timely broadcasting on the International Transgender Day of Visibility (March 31).

Also, given the increasingly diversified family structures and changes in how family is perceived, with seven out of ten persons viewing that “people are in a family if they share housing and livelihood, even if there are no formal blood or marriage ties,” the Commission produced content on diverse family structures and used it in its Diversity Campaign during the Chuseok holiday in September.

The Commission stepped up its promotional activities on YouTube and other online media.

The production of “A Wise Life of Human Rights” helped shed light on key human rights issues such as bullying in the workplace, human rights of older persons, cultural diversity, democracy in Myanmar, and child rights on YouTube. Working with the Byeolbyeol Reporters, a group of online citizen reporters, it uploaded the content *Who’s Who in Human Rights* (Stories of Rosa Parks, Louis Braille and others), *Recommended Human Rights Film* (The Journals of Musan, etc.), *Persistent Racial Discrimination amid the COVID-19 Crisis*, and *For Alternative Text and Barrier-Free Online Environment* on Internet portal site Naver’s Together N.

C. Human Rights Day Ceremony

On the occasion of the 73rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Commission celebrated the 2021 Human Rights Day on December 10. Organized as a simple gathering due to COVID-19 concerns, the event was broadcast live on the Commission’s YouTube channel and highlighted the meaning of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Korea’s international obligations. Congratulatory remarks were delivered by the Speaker of the National Assembly, President of the Constitutional Court, Prime Minister, former United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, APF Chairperson Rosalind Croucher,⁶ underlining the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The celebratory event was held alongside the 2021 Korea Human Rights Awards. The Order of Service Merit (Red Stripes) went to Choi Young-mi, the President of the Korean Association of Domestic Workers, for her contribution to improving the rights of domestic workers, including establishing an enterprise organization immediately after the 1997 foreign

exchange crisis to help women household heads find caregiver jobs, conducting the nation's first survey on domestic workers in 2006, her work in the Solidarity for Legal Protection of Caregiver Workers in 2010, and her involvement in the legislation of the Act on the Employment Improvement of Domestic Workers in 2021. The ROK President commendation was presented to Rainbow Solidarity for LGBT President Bae Jin-gyo for her contribution to enhancing public awareness about gender minorities, including organizing the first regional Queer Cultural Festival in 2009 and launching the Rainbow Solidarity for LGBT. The NHRCK Chairperson commendations went to Director Roh Kyung-su of the Disabled Persons Independent Living Center in Sasang-gu District, Guide Hong Chun-ho of the Jeju Provincial Government, and Director Sin In-su of the Bomun Disabled Persons Independent Living Center in the individual category. In the group category, awards went to Corporation Duroo, Uljin Social Policy Research Institute, Facebook community 'Information from Army Boot Camp,' Citizen group for a society where educational background does not matter, and Civic Network for Justice in Sport.

D. The Human Rights Magazine

The Commission publishes the bimonthly magazine *Human Rights* to raise human rights awareness and prevent discrimination. The magazine carries prose, photos, illustrations, and cartoons to make human rights stories easy to read, as readers may otherwise find them abstract and distant. The magazine is available in webzine format and some articles are processed as card news or newsletters for digital publication. It is also made into a braille book once a year.

Each publication features a themed topic for in-depth coverage of key human rights issues, and introduces key decisions made by the Commission.

E. Human Rights Reporting Awards

In 2021, to sustain continued media interest in human rights issues and encourage voluntary reporting as the media can play a significant role in protecting and promoting human rights, the Commission developed the Human Rights Reporting Standards and organized the Human Rights Reporting Awards together with the Journalists Association of Korea.

The jury for the 10th Human Rights Reporting Awards in 2021 comprised of nine members, including six external members (from academia,

media, and civil society) and three internal members (Director of the Public Relations Division, Chief of the Human Rights Counseling Coordination Center, and Chief of the Gender Discrimination Remedy Team). Thanks to active promotion in the media, media human rights groups, and academia, a total of eighty entries were received (thirty-two in 2020, and eighty in 2021), including thirty-one daily news articles, twenty-five television programs, two news agency articles, nineteen Internet reports, and two magazine articles. Six winning entries were selected following two rounds of screening.

E. Videos introducing Key Decisions

Since 2014, the Commission produced and distributed videos on key decisions taken with respect to petitions that led to recommendations or opinions expressed. The videos are designed to communicate to the public how the decisions were made and their significance. From 2020, video production moved away from the format of series based on true events to a dialogue format, with a focused theme of ‘crossing the line.’ In 2021, two videos were made, which are ‘persons with mental disabilities,’ and ‘children and youths, their freedom of privacy.’ The videos are uploaded on YouTube and other online sites, and are also available in CD format for distribution to schools, welfare facilities, and public organizations.

Regional Human Rights Offices⁷

The Commission operates six regional human rights offices in Busan, Gwangju, Daegu, Daejeon, Gangwon, and Jeju to enhance and protect the human rights of local residents and facilitate prompt remedies. Starting with the launching of the Busan and Gwangju offices in October 2005, the Daegu office opened in July 2007, followed by the Daejeon office in October 2014, the Gangwon office in June 2017, and the Jeju office in October 2019.

Human Rights Education

The regional offices organized human rights instructor training courses, human rights sensitivity training courses, visiting education, and special human rights lectures at their education centers.

In 2021, the regional offices organized a total of 1,197 human rights education sessions for 29,955 persons, which is four hundred sixty-three more sessions (63.1 percent) and 5,262 more beneficiaries (21.3 percent) compared

to the previous year. By type, thirty-one sessions (five hundred nine persons) were for human rights instructor training, one hundred three sessions (2,996 persons) for human rights sensitivity training, three hundred twenty-two sessions (4,332 persons) for visiting education, and seven hundred forty-one sessions (22,128 persons) for special lectures.⁶ The largest number of education and training was in the form of special lectures.

Table 2. Human Rights Education Conducted by Human Rights Offices in 2021
(in number of sessions and persons)

Regional Human Rights Offices	Total		Instructor cultivation		Sensitivity improvement		Mandatory education		Visiting education	
	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant	Session	Participant
Total	1,197	29,955	31	509	103	2,996	322	4,332	741	22,128
Busan	463	12,538	6	125	40	1,259	19	371	398	10,783
Gwangju	155	3,980	7	116	16	665	69	1,189	63	2,020
Daegu	183	4,316	6	83	15	359	65	888	97	2,986
Daejeon	250	4,905	5	79	15	248	113	1,195	117	3,383
Gangwon	98	2,090	4	65	14	318	51	639	29	1,068
Jeju	48	2,126	3	41	3	147	5	50	37	1,888

Endnotes

1 United Nations Commission on Human Rights, National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, 3 March 1992, E/CN.4/RES/1992/54, full text of this document and the Paris Principles are available at: www.refworld.org/docid/3boof22a70.html.

2 Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles), United Nations General Assembly resolution 48/134, 20 December 1993.

3 This and the other sections are taken from Chapter 3 of the Annual Report 2021.

4 Cyber Human Rights Training Center, <http://edu.humanrights.go.kr>.

5 Cyber Human Rights Training Center, *ibid*.

6 APF refers to the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.

7 This section is taken from Chapter 5 of the Annual Report 2021.

8 Editor's note: The numbers in sessions and participants for Mandatory education and Visiting Education in the text and in Table 2 are different, likely an error on either text or table.