

Japan–Korea Joint Declaration of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities

(October 10, 2024 – World Mental Health Day)

On October 10, 2024, World Mental Health Day, we mark the end of an era in which persons with psychosocial disabilities were treated as objects of segregation and confinement. We aim to build a society in which persons with psychosocial disabilities can live as autonomous actors in their own lives, by advancing innovative mental health policies.

The Korean Alliance of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities and the Association of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities *Porque* in Japan join together with one united voice to declare our full commitment to restoring the rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Article 19 of the CRPD, “Living independently and being included in the community,” requires States Parties to recognize the equal right of all persons with disabilities to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and to take effective and appropriate measures to ensure the full enjoyment of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community.

Current Challenges

However, the current mental health systems in Japan and Korea are characterized by:

- involuntary and long-term psychiatric hospitalization,
- exclusion from housing, employment, and all areas of everyday life,
- approaches overly focused on “rehabilitation” and “treatment” that undermine personal dignity.

As a result, our rights as members of society have been stripped away. We have been deprived of the right to live our own lives.

Our Appeal

We strongly call for an end to this reality.

We demand the immediate abolition of outdated, pre-modern practices of segregation and confinement imposed by state and medical power.

We call for the establishment of comprehensive social and political systems to ensure that persons with psychosocial disabilities can live as the subjects of their own lives and fully restore their dignity.

Persons with psychosocial disabilities in Japan and Korea will unite our voices and strength to resist all forms of violence and oppression, to speak out together, to gather our opinions, and to advance an all-encompassing struggle.

Resolutions

1. Guarantee the right of self-determination for persons with psychosocial disabilities in all areas, including treatment and occupational choice, as a top priority.
2. Expand both the quality and quantity of “user-led, user-centered services” that are directed by persons with psychosocial disabilities themselves.
3. Reform the inhumane mental health and welfare systems in Japan and Korea, and resist all factors that infringe upon the fundamental rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities.

4. Gather the voices of persons with psychosocial disabilities to develop and improve the policies and systems they truly need.
 5. Address regional disparities and promote nationwide cooperation to ensure equal enjoyment of rights.
 6. Establish mechanisms that guarantee the fundamental rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities as members of society, while enhancing the role and pride of peer supporters and other peer staff.
 7. Secure the right to independent living in the community, based on the philosophy of self-determined living, rather than forced treatment and hospitalization.
 8. Improve systems and services so that not only holders of disability certificates, but all persons who have experienced psychosocial disabilities or related difficulties, have their rights guaranteed.
 9. End the practice of involuntary and long-term hospitalization or institutionalization, and promote deinstitutionalization to expand opportunities for independent living.
 10. Transform society so that persons with psychosocial disabilities can live with dignity, inclusion, and harmony within their communities.
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Conclusion

Based on these ten resolutions, the Korean Alliance of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities and the Association of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities *Porque* in Japan unite in declaring our full commitment to the restoration of rights for persons with psychosocial disabilities.

October 10, 2024 (Thursday)

Korean Alliance of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities

Porque, the Organization of Persons with Psychosocial Disabilities (Japan)