

[Summary]

**The Second Yao City Human Rights Education and
Awareness-Raising Plan (Revised Edition)
—Creating a city that is kind to its citizens and whose
citizens are kind—**

March 2021

Yao City

■ What are basic human rights?

Basic human rights are considered to be the rights that everyone is born with, as expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,” and in the Constitution of Japan, which guarantees that people all enjoy fundamental human rights and that they are equal under the law. The Basic Plan on Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising, formulated by the national government, states that human rights are the inherent rights everyone possesses based on human dignity and are indispensable to all constituents of society for ensuring their lives and freedom as individuals and leading a happy life in society.

■ What is human rights education and awareness-raising?

Human rights education and awareness-raising should be offered not only in school education but also to citizens of all ages, from children to adults, to help them understand that everyone, including themselves as well as others, is important and to teach them throughout their lives how to realize a society where human dignity is protected. It also indicates collaborative activities between the citizens and the local government, facilitating them to establish an attitude and take actions instead of simply having knowledge about human rights, to create a society where human rights are respected through efforts emphasizing practical methods.

■ The standpoint of the plan

This plan was laid down based on Article 5 of the Act on the Promotion of Human Rights Education and Human Rights Awareness-Raising. It will be promoted based on the Sixth Yao City General Plan, and the city will also make comprehensive efforts to promote human rights education and awareness-raising through individual plans on the well-being of women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, ostracized communities, and foreign residents, alongside this plan.

■ The target year of the plan

The target year of this plan is fiscal 2025.

■ **Human rights for various parties**

- Women
- Children
- The elderly
- People with disabilities
- Ostracized communities
- Foreign residents
- Internet users
- Patients with certain illnesses
- LGBTQ
- Former prisoners
- Crime victims
- Problems regarding human rights

■ **The aim of this plan (Fundamental principles)**

**Creating a city that is kind to its citizens and
whose citizens are kind**

Creating a city which values human dignity, with culture that
values human rights

People do not live alone but in social groups, including the family, community, school, and workplace. A good society will not be created if discrimination and prejudice exist. Let us improve our city, education activities in the community, and workplace environments with human rights education and awareness-raising as their foundation.

■ Ideas to value

Below are the nine ideas to value in order to promote human rights education and awareness-raising in slogans with an intimate and approachable style.

Idea 1 Tell others about the rights everyone has

Human rights refer to all the rights that are indispensable for living as a human being. If you do not know about those rights, you may not only be put at a disadvantage but also disregard the wishes of other people. Therefore, in human rights education and awareness-raising, we will explain the rights that everyone has and use them as the "power" to realize each person's wishes.

Idea 2 Human rights in our daily lives, anytime, anywhere

People need to continue to learn about human rights and raise their awareness throughout their lives. To that end, we need a system that allows everyone, from children to the elderly, to receive human rights education in the most familiar places in their daily lives.

Idea 3 Value our differences

People have various differences, such as gender, age, physical characteristics, race and ethnicity, birthplace and nationality, and thoughts and beliefs. In human rights education and awareness-raising, we will focus on the importance of aiming for a society where people can live together based on respect for each person's individuality so that such "differences" do not lead to "discrimination."

Idea 4 Learn and reflect the voices of the victims

It can be said that human rights were born from the voices for humanity. Therefore, in human rights education and awareness-raising, we will focus on learning from the experiences and wishes of the parties involved in human rights issues, foster solidarity from empathy, fully utilize the empowerment of the parties involved in human rights issues, and aim for self-reliance.

Idea 5 Learn through experience and collaboration

Learning human rights is meaningless unless it is utilized in our daily lives. Moreover,

a society that respects human rights will be realized through the attention, approaches, and efforts of many people. Therefore, in human rights education, we will promote learning methods based on participation, experience, and collaboration, with learners taking the lead.

Idea 6 Everyone's right to learn is guaranteed

Everyone has the right to learn. Anyone who cannot read or write, whether children or adults, will not only be unable to obtain information on their daily lives but also have difficulty identifying and exercising their rights. Human rights education is also about learning the culture of your origin so that you can be proud of yourself.

Idea 7 Children's participation is important

A child is an individual person just like an adult is and is able to exercise his or her rights. Therefore, it is important to tell children about their rights, listen to their thoughts, and ensure their participation and involvement in their education.

Idea 8 Value the importance of sharing the plan

Sharing this plan to each and every citizen is a part of human rights education and awareness-raising. In addition, sharing information on learning opportunities as well as on counseling institutions so that you do not have to worry alone is another part of human rights education and awareness-raising.

Idea 9 Citizens should proactively promote human rights

We will share ideas and work with the citizens on the implementation of this plan. We will also support citizens' voluntary human rights education and awareness-raising activities and consider a mechanism for citizens to play an active role.

■ Promotion of human rights education and awareness-raising in different places

[Actions in schools]

(1) Promotion of human rights education before school age

For preschoolers attending centers for early childhood education and care (certified *kodomoen*) or similar facilities, it is important to learn rules and manners in society, including self-esteem, consideration for others, and respect for diversity. Such facilities will make efforts to teach children to value their friends and understand the preciousness of life.

(2) Promotion of human rights education at schools

By fostering understanding about human rights through educational activities, schools will promote human rights education that enables children to develop their ability to solve problems, use their knowledge to take actions, and follow their dreams.

(3) Promotion of prevention of children's bullying

The entire society, including the city, the board of education, schools, homes, local residents, and other parties concerned, will collaborate to comprehensively and effectively promote measures against bullying.

(4) Promotion of human rights training of employees of day care centers and other educational institutions

Centers for early childhood education and care (certified *kodomoen*) and all other preschooler facilities will improve the staff's knowledge and understanding about human rights through training sessions and other means and increase their awareness about human rights to enhance their capability. Schools will provide the staff with training sessions on human rights to foster their specialized knowledge and pragmatic teaching abilities as well as their enhanced sensitivity to human rights and feelings, thereby improving their own capability.

[Actions at workplaces]

(1) Promotion of human rights awareness-raising in companies and other workplaces

The city will consider measures to facilitate corporate activities based on respect for diversity and human rights in procedures, including fair selection in employment, correction of gender disparities in wages and work promotions, promotion of employment of people with disabilities, and prevention of all forms of harassment. The city will also provide support for collecting and sharing information.

(2) Promotion of human rights awareness-raising among employees of certain occupations

The city will improve training sessions for city employees by including various kinds of human rights training in the training curriculum. We will also enhance human rights training of employees in welfare, healthcare, and fire-fighting services, who have a good chance of finding abuse and domestic violence.

[Actions in communities]

(1) Promotion of human rights education and awareness-raising based on the customs of each community

The city will promote human rights education and awareness-raising centered in the local organizations by utilizing community- and school-based activities. We will also promote a system to enhance cooperation of the community, home, schools, and preschooler facilities, such as the centers for early childhood education and care (certified *kodomoen*), and promote human rights education and awareness-raising for both children and adults in communities. Furthermore, in order to ensure vigilance against bullying of children, we will make efforts to promote appropriate actions for children, including reporting bullying to schools.

(2) Support for human rights education and awareness-raising at home

To enhance support systems for guardians of children and provide them with opportunities to seek consultation and receive advice without hesitation, the city will make efforts to further improve consultation desks and enhance the quality of centers for early childhood education and care (certified *kodomoen*) and other preschooler facilities as providers of consultation.

We will also provide guardians with opportunities to raise their awareness and deepen their understanding of human rights and make efforts to provide education and awareness-raising to prevent child abuse and bullying.

(3) Promotion of mutual understanding and interaction

The city will offer support to find resolutions to human rights issues by promoting mutual support and care in communities and promote human rights education and awareness-raising to enable diverse people to play an active role and interact with one another.

We will also support human rights education as a right which each citizen has and make efforts to foster understanding of diversity and a multicultural symbiotic society with regard to “Valuing our differences” in order to create a society where individual differences, including race, nationality, gender, and age, are respected.

(4) Promotion of actions by citizens’ organizations and research institutions

The city will support activities by citizens’ organizations on human rights in various fields and promote citizen-centered human rights education and awareness-raising in collaboration with them.

■ **To promote human rights education and awareness-raising**

[To enhance a more comprehensive and effective promotion]

(1) Promotion of comprehensive information sharing

The city will act as an information hub of human rights awareness-raising through activities, such as events, distribution of human rights awareness-raising documents, and issuance of local papers, to effectively provide information to the citizens.

(2) Human rights education and awareness-raising accessible to citizens

The city will investigate concrete methods to conduct human rights education and awareness-raising more effectively, including introduction of active learning and other new learning methods, provision of easy-to-use learning materials, and development of a highly participative environment.

(3) Education of instructors

The city will reinforce cooperation and collaboration not only with citizens' organizations, such as the Yao City Human Rights Association and NPOs, and local governments, such as Osaka Prefecture, but also with universities and other research institutions to develop human resources that will play an important role in various places, including schools, workplaces, and communities.

(4) Collaboration with the citizens

The city will promote human rights education and awareness-raising in cooperation with citizens, allowing anyone to participate anytime in an easily accessible environment.

(5) Collaboration with various organizations

The city will promote all-out efforts by reinforcing support to and collaboration with voluntary activities conducted by various organizations.

(6) Cooperation with the national, prefectural, and municipal governments

The city will reinforce cooperation and collaboration with the national, prefectural, and municipal governments through the Osaka Human Rights Administrative Promotion Conference and other meetings and projects.

(7) Promotion system enhancement in the municipal government

The Yao City Promotion of Human Rights Measures Headquarters will function as the operational center to promote comprehensive administration in implementing various policies with regard to the concept of respecting human rights.

[Enforcement of progress control and evaluation]

(1) Enforcement of regular effect assessment

Concrete initiatives based on this plan will go through an effect assessment regularly.

(2) Enhancement of progress control and evaluation

The city will develop a system to evaluate the initiatives not only by recognizing the results but also by analyzing the positive effects and problems.

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Promotion Section**

1-1-1 Honmachi, Yao City 581-0003

Phone: 072-924-3830

Fax: 072-924-0175

Email: jinkenseisaku@city.yao.osaka.jp

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