

Proposals from the Civic Society of the G7 Ise-Shima Summit Host Region

All the countries in the world have a common goal with regard to the realization of the rights for children as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Children. This goal states that we strive to create a peaceful society that has the best interest for children and that allows children to grow up with peace of mind and hope, regardless of abilities, race, gender or origin. To achieve this, we call on the governments of the G7 member states, to listen to the voices of the world's children in order to create specific policies for children based on the recommendations below.

In Japan, the accident at the Tokyo Electric Power Company's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant has threatened the survival and development of children. To protect children from food contamination and worsening living environment, we call on the Japanese government to implement appropriate policies.

1. We call for advocacy and awareness-raising regarding children's rights.
 - (1) Opportunities must be provided for children themselves to learn about children's rights.
 - (2) Opportunities must be provided for all adults to understand about children's rights.

2. We call for guarantee of children's opportunities to participate in society.
 - (1) Children are members of society and thus must be considered as partners in decision-making.
 - (2) Ensure children have opportunities to express their opinions in all fields.
 - (3) Educate human resources capable of listening and understanding toddlers' and children's voices and ensure such professionals have a role as facilitators and advocates for children.
 - (4) Make it mandatory to listen to children's opinions on policies and plans regarding children.
 - (5) Listen to deprived children, especially those facing difficulties, and reflect their voices in policy making.
 - (6) Support activities carried out by children themselves.
 - (7) Train supporters to promote proactive participation by children
 - (8) Listen to children's voices during emergencies and disasters and guarantee their participation.

3. We call for improvement in children's physical and social living environments including the following elements.
 - (1) Safe environments where children can move around freely.
 - (2) Parks and facilities where children can play actively.
 - (3) Areas close to home where children can interact with nature.
 - (4) Appropriate sexual education teaching children how to protect themselves and others, as well as to appreciate the value of life.
 - (5) Food education for all ages, rooted in awareness that food is a basic element for children's healthy spiritual and physical development.
 - (6) A society which lets us appreciate the blessings of nature and our own country's cultures while building rich relations with others.
 - (7) Respect for each child's unique personality as a basis for self-affirmation .
 - (8) School system must be reformed so that schools become part of the social welfare system.

4. We call for guarantee of children's rights to play

- (1) Playing is an intrinsic desire of children and must be acknowledged as an essential right to life.
- (2) The act of playing serves an important role for the development of the brain, development of social nature and creativity, imagination, self-confidence and self worth, strong body and mind, and the dexterity of the body. Therefore, right to play must be included in child policies.
- (3) Make policies to regulate the use of expensive games and toys, high-tech and commercialized leisure since these activities inhibit children's proactive play.
- (4) Distinguish between adult-organized play for educational purposes and children's spontaneous play. Provide all adults involved with children opportunities to learn about children's play.
- (5) Improve environments for children to play (both indoor and outdoor venues, enough time, and people to watch children, etc. must be secured.)
- (6) Train and deploy play-workers capable of organizing environments for children to play freely.
- (7) For children, playing promotes psychological healing. Therefore, children's right to play must be guaranteed even at times of disaster and conflict.
- (8) Recognize General Comment 17 of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child* in legal and policy matters and take measures to improve the situation.

* General comment related to Article 31 of the Rights of the Child, which stipulates the rights to rest and leisure, to engage in age-appropriate play and recreational activities, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.

5. Prevent all types of violence against children

- (1) Prohibit abuse, corporal punishment, and psychological violence.
- (2) Implement laws that protect children from all types of violence.
- (3) Prohibit dangerous forms of child labor.
- (4) Develop and promote non-violent methods of child rearing and discipline.
- (5) Prevent inappropriate child rearing practices, and educate and support parents and carers so they can rear children appropriately.
- (6) Support and strengthen local networks for child protection.
- (7) Implement education against violence to raise awareness that violence is a violation of human rights.

6. Elimination of poverty and income disparity among children

- (1) Make all educational expenses free of charge to the family, and ensure equal access to education from pre-school age.
- (2) Ensure adequate budgets for children's health and social welfare.
- (3) Each country must conduct baseline surveys and set targets for reducing poverty.
- (4) Create safe nurturing environments where children are praised, needed and appreciated, especially for children with low self-esteem due to social isolation and marginalization.
- (5) Eliminate child prostitution, child pornography and JK(Joshi Kosei = high school girls)

Business

- (6) Educate the general public and train personnel to support children in poverty.
- (7) Provide seamless support for children in poverty, from pregnancy.
- (8) In Japan, since single legal custody is a factor in child poverty in single parent families, achieve shared parental custody and child rearing.

7. Eliminate violations of the children's rights by nuclear power plants.

- (1) Nuclear power plants violate children's rights. Therefore, do not build new nuclear power plants, do not recommence operation at existing plants, and stop operations at active plants.
- (2) Ensure education to obtain accurate information about radioactivity.
- (3) In Japan, recognize the right to relocate to escape high levels of radiation, and take concrete steps to implement the Law to Support Child Victims of Disaster (2012), to ensure that children can live in safe environments.
- (4) In Japan, set radiation safety standards for children, as they are particularly susceptible to effects of radiation.
- (5) In Japan, with a clear recognition of the health risks from the accident at the Fukushima Number One Nuclear Power Station, implement ongoing health surveys, and ensure support for victims' health in the future.

■ respectfully

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- Specified Non-Profit Organization Shigotokobo Popolo
- Kasamatu town for Children
- Children's Human Rights Network, Gifu
- Children's Forum
- Tempaku Play Park Association
- Empowerment Mie
- Specified Non-Profit Organization, Gifu, NPO Center
- Specified Non-Profit Organization Child Support NPO Mamekko
- Specified Non-Profit Organization Children and Town Network
- Specified Non-Profit Organization Network for the Child Abuse Prevention, Aichi
- Specified Non-Profit Organization National Children's Welfare Center
- Specified Non-Profit Organization Lotus Root village of exciting network
- UniversalDesign·Step
- NPO) Japan First Aid Society
- conpeitou
- kodomo NPO
- Kasamatsu-Kodomonomachi
- Civic Institute for Civil Society
- MIE NPO Network Center
- yosami-playpark by littlehouse
- aichi forest kindergerten network
- INTEGRATION ACADEMY
- specified nonprofit corporationShimin Forum 21 NPO Centre
- Association of Yokkaichi NPOs
- Universal Working Center
- CHILDLINE-AICHI Specified Nonprofit Corporation
- CHILDLINE MIE Network
- Mie Children NPO Support Center
- Children Support Suzuka
- Yokkaichi Middle Children Station
- Experience Plaza★Children Space Yokkaichi
- Baby teeth Save Network
- Lilio Environmental Forum
- gifukidsna(kizuna)siensitu
- Asian Health Institute
- Democratic School Manje
- Africa Japan Forum
- Work Style Design
- Children First
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