

Kokoro-no-Hibiki



Toward a Society Where All People Can Play Their Part


People are different. It is important to accept the many differences of those around us and recognize each other.

By positively accepting people as they are and respecting diversity, all people can play their own part in society.



What Is the Sakai City Human Rights Education Promotion Council (HREPC)?

The Sakai City Human Rights Education Promotion Council is a civic organization established in July 1979, with the aim of eliminating any form of discrimination, including buraku discrimination, and protecting the human rights of all people. With an extensive membership comprising civil groups, businesses and religious corporations, HREPC carries out various activities to educate the public on human rights and contribute to a peaceful and prosperous society where the human rights of all people are respected.

 The HREPC's symbol represents people holding hands, praying for the promotion of human rights and world peace.



Chair KANAMARU Naohiro

Directors of the Council

- Chair:** KANAMARU Naohiro
(Business Members Committee of the Council)
- Vice Chair:** KUBO Teruo
(Federation of Sakai City Residents' Associations)
- Vice Chair:** OMACHI Murako
(Sakai City Women's Association)
- Vice Chair:** KURODA Satoshi
(Sakai City PTA Federation)
- Vice Chair:** SHIRAMOTO Tadashi
(Sakai City Association of Childcare Organizations)
- Vice Chair:** NAKATANI Yoshihiro
(Sakai City Association of Principals of Municipal Schools)
- Vice Chair:** NAKATA Rieko
(Sakai Branch, Osaka Prefectural Federation of the Buraku Liberation League)
- Vice Chair:** YOSHIMURA Seiji
(Religious Groups Committee of the Council)
- Treasurer:** KOYAMA Toshimi
(Sakai City Women's Group for Social Rehabilitation)
- Treasurer:** MORIUCHI Keiko
(District Committee of the Sakai City Human Rights Commissioners' Association)

Member Organizations

The HREPC has 28 member organizations.

- Sakai City Women's Group for Social Rehabilitation
- Sakai City Support Group for Foreign Residents' Education
- Sakai City Social Education Committee
- Sakai City Federation of Private Kindergartens
- Sakai City Liaison Council of Instructors for Youth
- Sakai City Agricultural Cooperative
- Sakai City Association of Childcare Organizations
- NPO Sakai Federation of Private Educational and Childcare Institutions
- Sakai Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Sakai City Federation of Senior Residents' Clubs
- Sakai District Committee of Administrative Counselors
- Sakai City Council of Social Welfare
- Sakai Branch, Osaka Prefectural Headquarters of Liberal Dowa Association
- Semboku Sumai Center, West Japan Branch, UR Community Inc.
- Sakai City Association for Sound Growth of Children
- Federation of Sakai City Residents' Associations
- Sakai City Women's Association
- NPO Sakai Federation of Disabled People's Organizations
- Sakai City Human Rights Education and Research Society
- Sakai City PTA Federation
- Sakai City Welfare Association for Single-Mother Families and Widows
- Sakai City Federation of Child Welfare Commissioners
- Sakai City Association of Principals of Municipal Schools
- District Committee of the Sakai City Human Rights Commissioners' Association
- Sakai City Liaison Council of Probation Officers
- Osaka Prefectural Association of Vocational Schools
- Principals' Association of Osaka Prefectural Schools in the 8th District
- Sakai Branch, Osaka Prefectural Federation of the Buraku Liberation League



Report on Activities in FY2023

General Workshop (August 8, 2023 at Sakai City Industrial Promotion Center; August 23 to September 2023 by online distribution)

Visiting Associate Professor Tatsumi Mariko at the Research Center for the Diversity Research Environment, Osaka Metropolitan University, also representative of Hito-Care Work Lab., gave a lecture on “Fathers’ Parenting and Gender.” Participants learned about the role of gender in parenting that society has created and the historical background of Japan in this regard. The lecture also provided an opportunity to learn about the differences in parenting practices between Japan and other countries and think about the future of parenting in Japan.



Gathering to Protect Human Rights (December 3, 2023 at Sakai City General Welfare Hall)

In the first part, an award ceremony was held to commend 20 winners in the “My Human Rights Message” essay contest, selected from among 2,688 entries. Of them, four award-winners read their essays on stage, leaving a deep impression on the audience.

The second part was a screening of the movie “A Silent Voice.” It is a story of the growth of young people who, while facing themselves and their classmates, learn to accept the many differences of those around them and accept each other. The movie led the audience to think about the importance of respecting diversity, their understanding of people with disabilities, and the issue of bullying.

*Various other projects are undertaken by the HREPC. For details, please visit our website at the URL shown on the front page.



The 44th Essay Contest “My Human Rights Message” Award-winning Entry

A Wall that Obstructs (First-year high school student)

I hope you do not think I am incapable of anything because I have a disability.

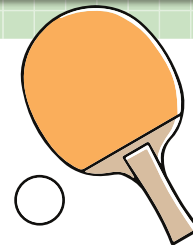
My disability is what makes me unique and allows me to work harder than others.

Since I am hard of hearing, I feel that the world often thinks that I am unable to communicate or understand what is being said. I communicate by reading the lips of the person I am talking with while hearing the voice through my hearing aids. If I can do these two things, I can almost always understand what is being said. However, it is often difficult for me to understand at once what someone who I have never met is saying. I cannot read their lips because I am seeing them for the first time. Whenever this happens, I ask the person to say it again. At that point, people react in many different ways: some mistake my hearing aids for earbuds, while others stop interacting with me, ignore me, or become reluctant to deal with a person with a disability. These are common reactions and I do not mind, but they can cause me some trouble when I play table tennis.

I started practicing table tennis in earnest when I was in the first year of junior high school. When I was in elementary school, I only played table tennis with my grandfather for fun, so I had little trouble in communicating. In time, I wanted to get better at table tennis and practice in earnest, so I began attending table tennis training sessions at the gym of a local elementary school. Since the training was organized by the table tennis federation, I thought that I would be stronger if I practiced there. However, when I tried to get people with normal hearing to be my practice partners, I could not understand what they were saying because they did not make eye contact with me, or the practice session ended without any communication at all. Each time, I wondered if I was being avoided because I was hard of hearing, or if they thought I could not communicate because I could not hear. Eventually, I began to practice in silence, not speaking a word. Since it was like that, of course I could not win the practice matches. The results showed that I was not developing my skills. At one point, I was surprised to find myself thinking, “I want to win against people with normal hearing at any cost.”

I wondered, on second thought, if they were just going along with my practice because I am hard of hearing and they had no choice. If that was the case, I thought I would make efforts so that they would interact with me no differently than they would with a person with normal hearing. I watched and studied many videos to improve my table tennis skills, and I actively talked to them to hear what they were saying as much as possible. I put all my energy into practicing so that they would want to be my practice partner at least once in the gym. Then they started to talk to me. Just by being asked to play together with others, I began to enjoy table tennis very much.

I know that people with normal hearing do not avoid practicing with me because of the difference in table tennis skills. However, actually, there are those who will interact with people who are hard of hearing if they talk to them, but are not quite sure how to interact with them. In many cases, such people seemed to avoid me because they assumed that I, a hard of hearing person, could not communicate with them or they did not know how to practice with me. There is still a lack of understanding of people who are hard of hearing. If that is the case, I would like to think of my own way to show myself and become someone that people would think, “I want to practice with that person.”



20
award-winning
essays
selected from
2,688 entries
available here.

QR code to
access the
collection of
award-winning
essays



<https://www.jinkenkyo.jp/past-message/>

《 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 》

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The SDGs are intended to achieve a better future for the world by finding solutions to various global challenges, such as poverty, inequality, disparity, climate change, depletion of resources and destruction of nature, in a 15-year period from 2016 to 2030.

Sakai City was designated as an SDGs Future City in June 2018 by the Japanese government and has since been working toward the SDGs based on the Sakai City SDGs Future City Plan.



∟ The motto of the SDGs is “Leaving no one behind.” ∟



Focus

About LGBTQ+ (Sexual Minorities)

What is LGBTQ+?

This refers to people who are recognized as a minority in their sexuality, such as those who have romantic feelings for members of the same sex or who are uncomfortable with their physical sex. According to several private surveys conducted in the country in recent years, LGBTQ+ people are estimated to make up approximately 3–8% of the total population.



Act on the Promotion of Public Understanding of Diversity of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity came into effect.

The act was enacted with the aim of contributing to the creation of a society that is tolerant of diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity.

The basic principle is that all citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, are to be respected as irreplaceable individuals who equally enjoy fundamental human rights.



***Sexual orientation**...Orientation regarding sex or gender as the object of romantic or sexual feelings

***Gender identity**...Awareness of the existence or non-existence or degree of identity regarding the perception of the gender to which one belongs

You can access feature articles about peace and human rights below.↓

- Striving for a peaceful society
- Q Search
- Sakai City SDGs Future City
- Q Search
- Sakai City necessity of diversity
- Q Search
- Human rights related to sexual orientation and gender identity
- Q Search



Lending Service of DVDs/ Videos on Human Rights

The Human Rights Promotion Division of the Sakai City Government lends out DVDs and videos on human rights for free.

*The DVDs are in Japanese only, without foreign-language subtitles or dubbing.

List of DVDs/videos available:

堺市人権啓発DVD・
ビデオソフト貸出

Search

[Inquiries] Human Rights Promotion
Division, Sakai City Government

TEL 072-228-7420
FAX 072-228-8070



Human Rights Consultation Hotline

(Human Rights Promotion Division, Sakai City Government)

*Including matters related to LGBTQ+

Consultation is
available for free.



Do not hesitate
to call us.

☎ 072-228-7364

堺市人権相談ダイヤル

Search

[Consultation hours]

・Monday to Friday
(excluding national holidays and New Year holidays)

・ 9:00~12:00,
13:00~16:30

・Approx. 30 min. per call



DVD

Approx.
35 min.

Human rights in business

Ima Kigyo ni Motomerareru Bijinesu to Jinken eno Taio
(Response to human rights in business required of companies)



Companies are now required to respect the human rights of not only their own employees but also all those involved with their business, known as stakeholders. This DVD presents information that will help companies in their efforts to promote human rights in business through drama, CG, and a navigator's explanation.



DVD

Approx.
25 min.

Information ethics

*Sumaho wa Joho Moraru ga Taisetsu I:
Netto Ijime o Shinai! SNS deno Deai ni Ki o Tsukeyo!*
(Information ethics is important in using smartphones I:
No cyber bullying! Be careful of social media dating!)



Two of the issues related to social media—cyber bullying and social media dating—are covered. Each part consists of a drama section and an explanatory section, and viewers can learn the importance of information ethics and careful consideration before using social media by thinking about what they would do in each situation.

Safe City Sakai



堺市 性暴力相談

Search



Sakai City has been promoting the Safe City Sakai Program to create a safe and comfortable living environment for women, children, and all other people.

The program includes support for victims of sexual violence. The city has been improving its consultation and support system to help them recover physically and mentally, and conducting awareness-raising activities to eliminate social prejudice against victims of sexual crimes and promote understanding.

The city will continue its efforts to eradicate violence against women and children.

