

[Statement for 'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2017']

## **"Let Us Eliminate Racism by the Power of International Solidarity!"**

March 21, 1966 is the day UN declared as 'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination', to pay respects to victims of Sharpeville massacre. In March 21, 1960, 69 people died that day by the shot of the police. Victims stood against the apartheid pass laws, which was segregation policy in the Republic of South Africa.

In spite of exertion, racial discrimination is still in dangerous level worldwide. In South Korea, even the government is inciting racial discrimination. Recently, South Korean government has tightened up crackdown on unregistered immigrant workers and deportation. Government's claims that unregistered immigrant workers are taking local residents' jobs. This is a huge lie. All those unemployment and low pay problem is caused by government itself. They legislated labor policy which made company easier to fire their employee, and made more temporary employee.

South Korean government offers huge benefits to the high quality human resources and investors. On the other hand, they take all the rights from immigrant workers, which does their job at the poorest conditioned places. For example, employment permitted immigrant workers should only stay for 3 years in South Korea, and employer's agreement is needed if employee needs more time to stay. Also, they can't change their workplace on their own.

In 2015, a report submitted to UN human rights council, which recommends government to make sure all the employees to be free to move their workplace. Despite, South Korean government has recently imposed seasonal migrant labor policy, which can't change one's work place, and guaranteeing only 3 to 6 month to stay.

Also, it became more difficult to get permanent residency, since government raised bar for examination standard for immigrants, and those unstable qualifications could cause domestic violence, because most of marriage immigrants are women.

Government's refugee recognition admit rate is quite low, too. Basing on 2014 research, only 4 of OECD country rated lower than South Korea, and the rate is keep getting lower since then. Last year, 28 of Syrian refugee were detained over 6 months at Incheon International Airport.

Government's racial discriminative policies like these incites racial discrimination and hate crimes. It was never a coincidence that a party which imposed discrimination and revulsion towards immigrants and sexual minorities announced candidacy for 20th general election.

South Korean government and 17, 18, 19th National Assembly have been delaying legislation of prohibiting discrimination on the excuse of some of conservatives' and some of Christian's oppose. Even upcoming candidates of presidential election are not paying attention to human rights of minorities, to get more vote from conservatives. In 2012, UN Committee of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination recommended to South Korean government, to legislate law to regulate racial discrimination as a crime, and to punish. Prohibition on discrimination should be established as soon as possible.

Internationally, behavior against racism is growing. In United States, demonstration against president Trump's immigration prohibition order have been taking place throughout the United States. On International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, this year, rallies and marches are taking place in more countries than last year.

We send ourselves back to international joint action against racial discrimination. We will continue to do that in Korea. The candlelight movement that destroyed Park Geun-hye, wants a new, equal world. The movement against racial discrimination is important for creating such a world.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in its first provision that "all human beings are born free and equal, with dignity and rights." Everyone has the responsibility to protect and promote this. We will fight against the racist policies of the Korean government and the racism and hate that has permeated society.

**March 19, 2017**

**Alliance for Migrants' Equality & Human Rights, Joint Committee with Migrants in Korea,  
Vietnam Community in Korea, Solidarity on Legislation for Anti-Discrimination Act**