

Asian Breeze

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Purple Ribbon Campaign

Preventing violence against women

White Ribbon Campaign

Men calling on men to pledge to stop violence against women

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Women Today

“Violence against women will only cease when men speak out and challenge the violence of men.”

In the UK, there are 3.29 million assaults each year against women. An alternative way of phrasing this is “Every six seconds a woman cries - Every three days a woman dies.”

► **What prevents us living in a world without violence against women?**

A culture which permits violence against women, tradition, history, men’s behavior and men’s beliefs.

► **What do we need to do to create a world where there is no violence against women?**

Educate young men; develop a culture of respectful, healthy relationships between men and women; and change men’s attitudes. This is why there is a need for a campaign to involve men in speaking out about violence and challenging negative gender stereotypes which reinforce abuse.

The White Ribbon Campaign (WRC) started in 1991 in Canada and spread all over the world. The White Ribbon Campaign operates in over 50 countries. It exists to mobilize men to prevent violence against women—to make those men who do not listen to women change, unblock their ears, and open their eyes.

There is growing support for this global movement at the moment. And it is worth remembering that “There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come.”

► **Why should men be involved in ending violence against women?**

First, men need to organize themselves as part of their responsibility to reduce violence against women—men commit the vast majority of domestic abuse. Ninety percent of the recidivism rate for domestic violence in the UK is committed by men against women.

Second, women want men to also challenge violence against women. Around the world, women’s organizations welcome the involvement of men in preventing violence. Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the Director of UN Women, wrote in *Asian Breeze* No. 64, “Men of all ages and walks of life—from political and economic leaders to fathers, teachers, policemen, judges, doctors, friends, artists and celebrities—are part of the solution.”

Third, men can act as role models for other men in mobilizing against the violence. The military, business, faith groups, sports, the arts and politics have men in the most senior positions. These men can act as role models to encourage other men to take the issues seriously and join the campaign. Men as fathers also play a key role in showing a positive example of respectful



Executive Director
White Ribbon Campaign UK

Chris GREEN

relationships to their sons.

The new Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women is a very powerful agreement which will provide greater protection and services, has now been signed by 20 European states. Prevention is also a priority for this document. In Article 12 of the Convention, for example, it specifically calls for “the encouragement of all members of society especially men and boys to contribute actively to preventing all forms of violence.”

Men will get involved as it is in our interests to live in a more safe, equal, and respectful world. No man wants his son to grow up to be a perpetrator, or his daughter a victim, of violence.

► **The White Ribbon promise is a pledge never to commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women.**

In the UK, the White Ribbon Campaign involves municipalities and schools which apply for white ribbon awards. This ensures that activities to engage men to take more responsibility in challenging violence are run in large cities as well as small towns across the UK. In education, it involves students, staff and the wider school community working to involve boys and men.

The White Ribbon Campaign collaborates with sports personalities and musicians to spread messages to encourage men to become active in challenging violence across the world.

As one of our 10,000 supporters wrote when making his pledge—“*Silence is not an option. Silence colludes with all the violence against women. Because you care about a woman in your life, join the White Ribbon Campaign and speak out to prevent violence against women.*”

Profile of Chris GREEN

Chris Green has worked as the Director of White Ribbon Campaign UK since 2006. He has conducted trainings for Oxfam, the British Council, and the European Union. For four years, he was a member of the Council of Europe Task Force to End Violence against Women. He was the Chair of the Coalition of Men and Boys, and sits on the National Institute for Clinical Excellence Programme Group on Domestic Abuse, as well as End Violence against Women Coalition. In 2007, he was awarded Ultimate Man of the Year by Cosmopolitan, and in 2012, ran with the Olympic Torch in London. He also took part in The 23rd Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women in November 2012 as a keynote speaker.

In November 2012, he was appointed as a member of the UN Network of Men Leaders to combat violence against women by Ban Ki-moon.

Women's Human Rights in Media Coverage

Part 3

Crime Reporting and Women's Human Rights – Trends and New Problems in Recent Years –



Associate Professor, Miyazaki Municipal University
Yumi SHIKATA

Shikata, who specializes in research on "Gender and Media," is a member of the Gender and Communication Network (GCN). In 2009, she joined the IWMF (International Women's Media Foundation) Global Report on the Status of Women in the News Media. In FY2010, she served as a KFAW visiting researcher.

As previously covered in this Current Issues Series, gender bias can be observed in media coverage. This is not an exception even with crime reporting. "Women and crime," which is perhaps a topic that can attract a lot of attention from readers and viewers, tends to be reported in a much more sensational way than other stories. The media coverage of women victims and women suspects sometimes leads to the violation of human rights.

However, in recent years, more consideration is beginning to be given to the human rights of victims and suspects. In principle, the media keeps the identity of sexual crimes secret and does not reveal the victim's personal information. Additionally, media coverage of female suspects increasingly place blame not only on the suspects but regard such criminal cases as a larger problem relating to communities and social systems, such as poverty and lack of social support. It seems that behind this trend is progress in support for victims, which has been spurred by the establishment of the National Association of Crime Victims and Surviving Families (2000), as well as by the enactment (2004) and enforcement (2006) of the Basic Act on Crime Victims. Moreover, some people are beginning to discuss the necessity of providing support even for suspects (or perpetrators) and their families.

Although it can be said that this change is favorable from the aspect of women's human rights, it also causes new problems. For example, information which may be disadvantageous to the victim can end up being disseminated to readers and viewers. Moreover, if a report on a child abuse incident puts too much emphasis on society and community rather than the abusive parent, it can lead readers and viewers to pay excessive attention to family problems in a local community. This can foster a tendency in which mothers are placed under control and surveillance to ensure that they will not abuse their children. In addition, there are increasing cases where a counseling organization is blamed for not having solved a child abuse problem, or where the relevant suspect (or perpetrator) is blamed for her failure to access a counseling organization.

On the other hand, the overflow of information through the Internet makes the violation of human rights from crime reporting even more serious. There is no end to the number of the cases where information that is closed to the public by newspapers or TV programs is leaked out on the Internet. Particularly, there is a trend in which the privacy of victims and perpetrators of criminal cases and their families is

leaked out and spread at an accelerated pace. Their names and addresses are often revealed and go viral. On a social media site where users can post messages anonymously, some people slander such victims and suspects without hesitation. Recently, a popular female TV personality reported to the police after some of her site readers posted messages implying that they were going to kill her. Even though she was a victim, some people bashed her, saying that it did not make sense for her to go to the police or that she was the very cause of the trouble. On the Internet, there are still many cases where victims are blamed. The spread of the Internet has enabled literally anyone to disseminate information. At the same time, however, this has generated situations where people exchange unreliable information irresponsibly. The establishment of ethics among Internet users is required.

There are also cases where information placed on the Internet by victims of criminal cases is covered by the media. In August this year, a Japanese woman was killed near an airport after she arrived at Bucharest, the capital of Romania. There was much media coverage on what she had written in her Facebook and Twitter before her death, leading some TV news programs to focus on the victim's faults (such as her defenselessness and her outfits). As is indicated by this, in recent years, there are increasing numbers of cases where the media reports what a victim wrote on his/her blog and other social media sites, on the grounds that such information was released by the victim herself. However, quoting without the victim's explicit permission is problematic because the victim did not write on the premise that her words would be covered by the media. It is necessary for the media as an information disseminator to establish and follow appropriate rules regarding how to deal with such information.

Since media coverage has a large impact on society, today's situation where the violation of women's human rights is observed on a daily basis is an issue. To improve this situation, it is important for each of us, as information receivers, to acquire media literacy, express what we value in media coverage, and challenge what is covered by media, if necessary. Enhancing society's awareness of human rights and eradicating gender discrimination will lead to the cessation of violations of women's human rights in media coverage.

The 23rd Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women

On November 10 (Sat.), 2012, the 23rd Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women was held at the Kitakyushu Municipal Gender Equality Center, MOVE, with the title "Get United - To Eliminate Violence against Women and Girls."

The keynote speech was delivered by the Executive Director of White Ribbon Campaign U.K., an organization that calls on men around the world to eliminate violence against women. This was followed by a panel discussion which featured experts from Korea and Japan. Participants discussed international trends, efforts being promoted in Europe, Korea and Japan regarding violence against women, what is behind violence, and many other topics, thereby identifying problems to be solved and what should be done to achieve a society free from violence.

Keynote Speech

"Violence against women will only cease when men speak out and challenge the violence of men."

Mr. Chris GREEN

(Executive Director, White Ribbon Campaign U.K.)

Mr. Chris GREEN spoke about the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention), an international organization in Europe with a focus on human rights and democracy, as well as about the White Ribbon Campaign, a movement currently gaining international momentum.

He first explained that the Istanbul Convention of the Council of Europe covers all forms of violence, such as domestic violence (DV), sexual violence, psychological violence, and stalking, and that the convention provides legally binding standards which are comprehensive in their coverage of violence against women. The convention's parties will be obliged to take necessary measures in order to protect all victims from any further acts of violence.



Keynote speech

Next, he gave an outline of the White Ribbon Campaign, in which men call on other men to prevent violence against women. This campaign is currently underway in the U.K. as well as more than 50 other countries around the world. He then explored why it is necessary to organize men in order to eliminate violence against women and said that when motivating men to engage in the campaign, it is important to emphasize to men that such engagement would be in their interest. He also explained that it is effective to approach men by identifying their relational interests and personal

wellbeing. Moreover, he presented the campaign's specific, effective strategies to get men engaged: while establishing close cooperation with local governments, companies, and schools, the White Ribbon Campaign has received endorsement from prominent male sports players and musicians.

Panel Discussion

Panelists

Mr. Chris GREEN

(Executive Director, White Ribbon Campaign U.K.)

Ms. PARK, Inn hea

(Director, Incheon Women's Hot Line, Korea)

Ms. Muneko ISHIMOTO

(Counseling Coordinator / Social Welfare Worker, Kurume Municipal Gender Equality Promotion Center, Japan)

Panelist and coordinator

Ms. Yukiko TSUNODA (Lawyer)

At the panel discussion following the keynote speech, Ms. TSUNODA, the coordinator of the discussion, first spoke about efforts made by the U.N. and Japan to combat violence against women and girls. She explained the U.N.'s view that it is necessary to recognize that violence against women is a problem related to a social mechanism by which women are placed under the control of men and forced into a subordinate position, and that in order to improve the status of women, it is also necessary to eliminate violence against women and achieve gender equality. In addition, she emphasized that in a bid to eradicate violence against women, legislation is essential and that Japan lags far behind the international



Panelists

Mr. Chris Green's essay is available in Women Today (p.1).

standard in terms of such legislation. Moreover, Japan lacks awareness that violence against women is a form of discrimination based on gender bias, even though it is already well understood in international society.

Next, Ms. PARK, a Korean authority in the field of the prevention of sexual violence and the protection of human rights, spoke about the actual situation in Korea on violence against women and children and activities promoted in the country to eliminate such violence. She said that in Korea there are more than 20 one-stop centers where victims of sexual violence receive comprehensive support. She also explained that such organizations receive full financial support from the government. Her statements made the Japanese audience realize that Korea has a much more improved support system than Japan does.

Ms. PARK's presentation was followed by Ms. ISHIMOTO, who reported on the current situation of violence against women and girls from the viewpoint of a counselor. She explained that Kurume City, one of Japan's most advanced cities in terms of the provision of systematic support for victims of domestic violence, has a well-organized



Interaction event

administrative support system for victims of violence seeking counseling. Many victims blame themselves, which can result in a feeling of isolation. As a result, the violence becomes insidious, repeating and worsening over a long period of time. Moreover, with regard to the negative influence that children experience when growing up in an environment where they observe DV all around them, she spoke about the cycle of violence in which these children learn to solve problems by using violence.

These presentations were followed by exchanges of opinion among all the speakers. A particularly impressive discussion was on the fact that when DV occurs in Japan, it is not the perpetrators who leave home, but the victims. This means that the main trend of countermeasures against DV in Japan shows that in order to ensure safety, DV victims are forced to abandon all they have built up and run away. This point was regarded as problematic by everyone in the audience.

Finally, Ms. TSUNODA indicated that there was a possibility to find some clues for solving Japan's problems not only by focusing on the country's efforts, but also by attending the 23rd Kitakyushu Conference on Asian Women and learning about measures being taken in other parts of the world.

The program concluded with her suggesting that the audience take the opportunity presented by the conference to unite in eliminating violence against women and girls.

After the end of the program, with the cooperation of the Council of Women's Groups of Kitakyushu, an event with the panelists and seminar participants was held on the 1st floor of MOVE to deepen interaction and further discussion.

For more details, please visit our website. <http://www.kfaw.or.jp/report/cat82/index.html.en>

23rd Seminar on KFAW Research Activities

Date: December 8 (Sat.), 2012, 13:30 – 16:00

Venue: Kitakyushu Municipal Gender Equality Center, MOVE

The Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) conducts surveys and research on a wide variety of issues related to gender and women around the world, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. At the 23rd Seminar on KFAW Research, KFAW researchers and visiting researchers presented the results of their research carried out in fiscal 2011 and fiscal 2012, and exchanged various opinions with the seminar participants.

“Comparative Research on Effective Child-Raising Support Measures to Deal with Declining Birthrates in Japan and Korea”

Masami SHINOZAKI, Chief Researcher, KFAW
BAE Hae-Sun, Professor, Graduate School of Human Sciences,
Faculty of Literature / Faculty of Human Sciences,
Chikushi Jogakuen University

“Examining Education Trajectories and Views on Employment and Marriage: A Case of Female Students in Higher Education in Trivandrum, India and Kitakyushu, Japan”

Masako OTA, Senior Researcher, KFAW

“Research Analysis and Network Development to Support Businesses of Rural Female Entrepreneurs”

FY2011/12 KFAW Visiting Researcher and Co-researcher

Kayo OKABE, Adjunct Lecturer, Hosei University
Mayumi DAN, Adjunct Lecturer, Keisen University

“A Study on Women Marriage Migration from Transition Countries in Asian Region to Japan: Case Studies from Indo—Chinese Refugee Families and Chinese Families in Japan”

FY2011/12 KFAW Visiting Researcher

Mika HASEBE, Lecturer at the Center for Multilingual Multicultural Education and Research, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies



KFAW Consulate Series

First Lecture:

“Young Chinese Today”

Date: August 18 (Sat.), 2012

Lecturer: LI Tian Ran, Consul General, Consulate-General of the People’s Republic of China in Fukuoka



Mr. LI gave an easy-to-understand explanation on employment, marriage and families in China. Against the backdrop of the one-child policy, achievement of rapid economic development, and the transition from a planned economy to a market economy, the way young people in China think has changed considerably.

At the end of the seminar, Mr. LI delivered a sincere message: “Although there are still many problems between Japan and China, I believe that if we can consider various things from a broader perspective, the relationship between the countries will become much brighter. I look forward to watching the young people of both Japan and China, who will lead the next generation, engage in friendly cooperation and demonstrate their capabilities to international society.”

Second Lecture

“American Work Styles”

Date: November 30 (Fri.), 2012

Lecturer: Michael CHADWICK, Consul for Public Affairs, Consulate of the United States in Fukuoka

Presenting some comparisons between the U.S. and Japan, Mr. CHADWICK spoke about the working style of people in the U.S. and work-life balance. He referred to the growing rate of women in the workforce in the U.S. and the increase in the time spent by men on housework. He said that as a multi-ethnic country, the U.S. has many problems but that there are many opportunities to create new ideas when people with different backgrounds in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, and other aspects work together in one place. He continued by saying that this holds true for Japan, and that the creation of a diverse workplace where the young and old, men and women work together will lead to the generation of profits for the whole of society.



Gender Mainstreaming in the Balkans

The Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) has organised the Training Seminar on Gender Mainstreaming Policies for Government Officers since 1991 under contract with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). A visit to three Balkan countries was made by a KFAW researcher and the JICA Kyushu International Center as a part of the follow-up survey on this training seminar between November 5th and 17th in 2012 to find how the training seminar has contributed to gender mainstreaming in these countries.

We met seven government officers who had participated in the training seminar

(two in Albania, three in Bosnia and Herzegovina and two in Kosovo), as well as their colleagues. We also held seminars which featured presentations on the initiatives taken by the Japanese government, JICA and KFAW and in the respective countries we visited, followed by discussions on effective approaches to mainstreaming gender. Although political, economic and social contexts were different, we found common challenges, such as violence against women, economic empowerment of women, women’s participation in decision-making, and institutional arrangements for advancement of women.



Meeting at a restaurant in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The country visits confirm not only that that the participants of the JICA training seminar have utilized the knowledge and skills obtained in Japan in their work, but also that they have widely shared their experiences in Japan with people inside and outside the government bodies to which they belong. Furthermore, the participants have collaborated with each other to mainstream gender in their respective countries. We were pleased to know that the training seminar was highly regarded in these Balkan countries. On the basis of the results of this follow-up survey, we will further improve the training seminar, which we hope will contribute to gender mainstreaming in various countries.

Masako OTA, Senior Researcher, Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women



Seminar held in Albania



Meeting at a government office in Kosovo

Breaking the Shackles of Child Labor

Swapna MAJUMDAR (India)

Gandla Malleshwari often saw other girls her age walking to school while she grazed cattle. Her parents had never sent her to school, and after her mother's death in 1999, when her father abandoned them, Malleshwari and her five siblings were taken to live with their mother's brother in a small village in the Ranga Reddy district in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

Here, too, her uncle did not consider education important and did not bother sending her to school. In fact, her uncle made her responsible for looking after his cows. It was herding the cattle that she would watch schoolgirls going to study. But the 11-year-old could only yearn to be like them. Little did she know that her life was about to change.

Around this time in 1999, volunteers of MV Foundation, a non-governmental organization based in Hyderabad, the capital of the city of Andhra Pradesh, that works to bring children back to school, were mapping out-of-school children in Ranga Reddy district. During this exercise they heard about Malleshwari.

When they went to meet her and found that Malleshwari was interested in studying, they persuaded her uncle to allow her to join their residential bridge course camp (RBC) so that she could be mainstreamed into an age-appropriate class in a government school. After a year of studying in the RBC, Malleshwari was mainstreamed into Class 7 in a nearby government school.

Since then, there has been no looking back. Hard work, determination and talent made 2010 a watershed year for Malleshwari. Not only did she complete her college graduation, she was also hired as a camerawoman by HMTV, a Hyderabad-based vernacular TV news channel. She was the first woman to be chosen as a camerawoman in the entire state.

For a poor girl rescued from child labor, this was a big moment in her life. "I used to herd goats and cows. I never thought I would be able to study. But once I was given the opportunity, I was determined to make the best of it. I wanted to show that I was no less than others," she pointed out.

Having become economically independent, Malleshwari was able to support the education of her younger siblings.

Profile

Ms. MAJUMDAR is a Delhi-based independent journalist, focusing on research-based articles on development issues and the role of women as agents of social change. In her writings, she has focused on India's development policy and its impact on people, and women in particular.

She has received several awards and fellowships for her writings on health care, HIV/AIDS, nutrition, livelihoods, sanitation, education, environment and gender.



But she wanted to help other children like herself who were forced to work because of poverty and lack of opportunities to study. She facilitated a program on child labor while working in HMTV. This program prompted the MV Foundation to start a helpline for children in difficult circumstances. After its launch, the helpline led to the rescue of a number of children forced into child labor. Malleshwari has helped their cause by highlighting their cases in her coverage of the news and ensured that the rescued children were admitted to RBCs.

Malleshwari has become an icon for many children rescued from child labor. Her own story has also been published in regional newspapers published from Andhra Pradesh. However, 23-year-old Malleshwari, who earns a monthly salary of Rs 16,000, (USD 320), is not resting on her laurels.

She is focusing more on social issues in her work with Telangana News Network, a local TV channel based in Hyderabad. She is also raising awareness on child labor through songs. A good singer, Malleshwari has recorded 11 albums on child-related issues as well as devotional songs. She also speaks at public platforms about how her life changed because of education. "I know what life is like without education," she says. "I want to help as many children as possible who are deprived of education, and for that, I am ready to use whichever medium I can to achieve this goal."



Ms. Gandla Malleshwari

Information

KFAW to Attend CSW57!

As an organization with NGO Special Consultative Status to the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), KFAW attends the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held every year at the UN Headquarters in New York. At this year's CSW57 (March 4-15, 2013), KFAW will disseminate information to international society on its activities in training and developing facilitators to prevent dating domestic violence and the outcomes of KFAW's classes on preventing such domestic violence.

1st Seminar: “New Developments for Aung San Suu Kyi and the Myanmar Government”

Date & Time August 31 (Fri.), 2012, 18:30 - 20:30

Lecturer Kenji INO, Dean, School of Regional Development, the University of Kitakyushu

In Myanmar, the National League for Democracy (NLD), led by Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi, swept the country’s parliamentary by-elections, and she also won a seat, attracting attention from around the globe. Now that Myanmar has taken a large step forward towards democracy, it is expected that the country will also move forward with economic development. Dean Kenji Ino of the School of Regional Development at the University of Kitakyushu was invited to this seminar. Having worked as an expert researcher at the Myanmar Embassy of Japan in the latter half of the 1980s, he is renowned in the research community as an authority on Myanmar. He showed an invaluable film to explain the actual situation he himself had witnessed in the country, and also talked about Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi.



2nd Seminar: “Rio+20: Gender and Kitakyushu’s Involvement”

Date & Time October 4 (Thu.), 2012, 18:30 - 20:00

Twenty years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, Rio+20 (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) was held in the same city, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from June 13 to 22, 2012. The event drew approximately 45,000 participants, including 105 high-level government officials from 191 countries and regions. Of the nine people from civic groups in Kitakyushu who participated in Rio+20, three gave presentations about the conference.

- (1) “Rio+20: Gender and Kitakyushu’s Involvement”
Yoshiko MISUMI, President, Kitakyushu Institute on Sustainability, and Vice-Representative, Kitakyushu ESD Council
- (2) “Rio+20 Seen from Photographs” and “Outline, Outcome Documents and Major Group, Women of Rio+20”
Yukiko ODA, Chief Researcher, Kitakyushu Institute on Sustainability, and Vice-Representative, Japan Women’s Watch
- (3) “Rio+20: From the Perspectives of Development Goals and Citizens’ Participation”
Masako OTA, Director, Kitakyushu Institute on Sustainability

For more details, please visit our website. <http://www.kfaw.or.jp/report/cat85-1/index.html.en>

Report on the Visit to Incheon Metropolitan City, Korea (August 29-30, 2012)

We visited the Incheon Development Institute (IDI) in Incheon Metropolitan City, Korea, a survey and research organization that works on formulating local policies for Incheon Metropolitan City and solving the city’s various problems.

Korea is now experiencing a decline in the country’s birth rate, the speed of which is faster than that in Japan. A childcare policy to overcome this decline is the largest political problem that the country is now facing.

[Visit to the One-Stop Support Center]

One-Stop Support Center was founded under a three-way agreement between the Incheon medical institute, Incheon Metropolitan City, and Incheon local police, in order to promptly respond to domestic violence, sexual violence, and school violence. A doctor, a female police officer, and a counselor are stationed at the center to provide victims with necessary services including medical, counseling, investigation, legal, and other services on a round-the-clock basis. This year marks the sixth anniversary of the establishment of the center, which now has 12 full-time staff members.



Care room-sand box

[Visit to the Sunflower Child Center]

Sunflower Child Center provides medical and legal services for young victims of sexual abuse and their families. The center offers a wide variety of legal support services, including those related to reporting to the police, promoting trials, and testifying on behalf of victims, as well as financial support for trials. This year, the center has launched a legal support system in which lawyers serve as a proxy for victims’ parents.

Since the center is a facility for children, it employs therapies using sand boxes, dolls, musical instruments, and other items.

For more details, please visit our website. <http://www.kfaw.or.jp/report/cat143/201282930.html.en>



Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women

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KFAW

The Kitakyushu Forum on Asian Women (KFAW) was established in October of 1990 with a special government fund for revitalization projects. Subsequently, in 1993, the KFAW was recognized as a foundation by the Ministry of Labour (the present Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare). The purpose of the KFAW is to promote the improvement of women’s status through various projects as well as their mutual understanding and cooperation in Asia.