

Human Rights in the 21st Century

Because We Are All Precious

This exhibition was planned in support of the United Nations' worldwide program for human rights education for children.

In addition to explanations of human rights issues, this exhibition features displays of precious materials and works of art from around the world that are related to human rights.

This exhibition is supported by the United Nations Information Centre, the UNICEF Japan Office and the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan.

Entry is free.

<Highlights>

1. First-class skills and beautiful spirits

Come and see a collection of first-class art that is full of an infinite passion for living and a will to overcome disability and prejudice. This display features works by the blind illustrator Emu Namae, Ainu embroidery by Chikappu Mieko, and the handwritten manuscript of Wayne Shorter's song "Aung San Suu Kyi".

2. Inspirational stories

Passion for peace, love for fellow human beings, pride in being human... the powerful energy behind such feelings has on many occasions changed the course of history. This display includes a draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as precious books and handwritten documents by world famous proponents of human rights such as Martin Luther, Janusz Korczak, Ghandi, Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., Helen Keller, etc.

3. Expressions of eternal hope

This display includes a picture drawn on newspaper by a Liberian girl, and sandals made from old tires by people living in a refugee camp.

4. Brief introductions to human rights issues around the world

This display deals with problems surrounding gender equality, children, indigenous peoples, birthplace, foreigners, the disabled, the aged, homosexuality, poverty, starvation, medical treatment, HIV Aids, environmental issues, the homeless, suicide, military conflict, refugees, landmines and terrorism.

5. Please also pay a visit to the "Heartwarming Stories Corner", where you can experience 400 picture books including one from Iran that can be enjoyed by the visually impaired.

P01

Introduction

The stars of this exhibition are all those who have gathered here today.

When we look through the filter of human rights, we start to see all sorts of things.

It gives us an opportunity to think about ourselves honestly,
About loving family and strong friendships,
And about the way countries and the world ought to be.

Sometimes reality makes us cry,
But those who are sure of their human rights are truly invincible.
They have nothing to fear.
Because with human rights comes a light of hope.

I would like to open this exhibition with the following words:
“The person who suffers the most has the right to the greatest happiness.”

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Prologue Exhibits

The 23 page draft of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was to become a core document for human rights, was a gift to SGI President Ikeda from the document's principal author, Canadian Dr. Humphrey.

Also featured in this display is a 50-inch touch panel devoted to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which has been translated into 321 languages and is officially recognized in the Guinness Book of Records. The panel displays a map marked with different languages and when a language is touched, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is beautifully displayed in that language and script.

Other exhibits include religious reformer Martin Luther's banned texts of 1521, letters written from prison by the Indian pacifist crusader

Gandhi, and *The Last Day of a Condemned Man*, written by French literary giant and opponent of the death penalty, Victor Hugo. These crusaders for human rights changed the course of history. Come and sense their passion.

Also on display is the handwritten manuscript of a piece of music that world-renowned Jazz musician Wayne Shorter wrote for Aung San Suu Kyi, who fights against the military regime in Myanmar.

The exhibit also features an article criticizing the Japanese Military Government, which was written by rebel journalist Kiryu Yuyu and published in the Shinano Mainichi Shimbun newspaper. Kiryu incurred the wrath of the military authorities for writing this article and nearly lost his position at the newspaper.

In 1942, the some 1200 daily newspapers that were in circulation before the war had been unified into a mere 55 companies. Amid this worsening censorship, Kiryu continued to take up his pen against the military authorities.

P03 Human Rights Are Always Close at Hand

This section features an easy-to-understand summary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Peace for everyone! Discrimination will not be tolerated!

We have a right to live!

Nobody should be a slave!

We shouldn't have to endure cruel punishment!

We have a right to a trial!

No arbitrary arrest or exile!

We have a right to a fair criminal trial!

Our privacy and honor should be protected!

We should be free to choose where we live!

We should be free to seek asylum or

return home!

We have a right to citizenship!

We should be free to marry and divorce!

We have a right to own property!

We should be free to think and choose our religion!

We should have freedom of expression!

We should be free to gather peacefully and form groups!

We have a right to participate in politics through a representative!

We have the right to an equal opportunity of becoming a public officer!

We should be free to choose our profession!

We have a right to protection against unemployment!

We have a right to rest and leisure!

We have a right to receive education!

We have a right to appreciate art and receive the benefits of science!

Writers have a right to have their earnings protected!

People should only bear responsibility in a society that treats humans well!

P11

Exhibit on Women

Eleanor Roosevelt was passionate about women's rights and coauthored the Universal Declaration of Human Rights during her tenure as the head of the United Nations Human Rights Commission. On display here is a heartwarming handwritten letter and signed copy of the first edition of the Declaration that Eleanor Roosevelt gave her son. Also featured are items connected with Kate Sheppard, the woman who was instrumental in gaining full voting rights for women in the 19th century in New Zealand, the first country to grant suffrage to women.

The display also includes a typed draft of the Japanese Constitution containing women's rights that were incorporated by Beate Sirota Gordon, who was twenty-two at the time.

Beate, who lived in Japan, wanted to see Japanese women play a significant role in society and referred to the constitutions of many other countries before drafting the new Japanese Constitution. Come and see how women changed history through their own efforts.

This exhibit also includes dolls dressed in traditional Lisu and Hmong attire made by women belonging to Thailand's hill tribes. Lisu means "noble", and the Lisu people are considered the most flamboyant of Thailand's minority ethnic groups. The Hmong people are said to be quick-witted and keen to try anything.

Also on display are items that convey the powerful human will to stand up and fight for life in any circumstance. These include knick-knacks made by female victims of human trafficking as part of their rehabilitation.

P12
Gender

Only One Power

What does it mean to be masculine?
What does it mean to be feminine?
What does it mean to be motherly or fatherly?
What does it mean to be childlike?
What does it mean to be a typical teacher?
What does it mean to be a typical student?
What does it mean to be individual?
What does it mean to be human?

From an early age we are placed in category after category.

These categories can sometimes protect us,
They can also sometimes confine us.
If we identified each of these categories,
And removed them one by one,

What would we be left with?
Would we be left with our true selves?

From "Kokoro no Kotoba 4" (*Words of the Heart 4*), by Konno Hitomi

<Gender Equality>

When we talk about gender we often refer to traits that have for some reason or another been associated with masculinity or femininity. Gender equality is increasingly becoming a global standard for treating individuals as unique beings and allowing them an equal chance to explore their possibilities, rather than forcing on them traits such as masculinity or femininity.

<Sexual Discrimination>

Because there is a strongly held belief that raising children is "women's work", women are often expected to retire from their jobs when they get pregnant. Just because you are a woman, you find yourself in a situation where it is difficult to achieve financial independence and where your life depends on the man you married. Women's human rights are clearly not being protected. Men are also feeling cramped in their predetermined roles.

<Beauty Is Born of Difference>

There is an old saying in Japan that says "Cherry, Plum, Peach, Apricot". Just as the blossoms of cherry, plum, peach and apricot trees are each beautiful in their own right, people too are beautiful because we are all different. In order to help you show your true colors, in order to help you walk your own path through life with your head held high, empowerment movements are picking up momentum all over the world.

<What Is "Empowerment Movements"??>

Each and every person's life treated as something precious.
The ability to show your true colors and be fairly rewarded for what you do.
The ability to hold hopes for the future.
An environment which provides opportunities to test yourself.

In order that women may live with self-confidence, countless groups and individuals are devoting their time to teaching people how to read and write, how to live safely and in good health, and how to maintain financial independence.

P13
Women and Employment

Here come the neo-heroines,
The goddesses of our generation!

Women are forever fighting for change.
Flexibly, strongly, and
Surely, they are forging a new age.

One woman asked her director why she was being promoted more slowly than her male peers.

The director said, "It's because of the six months child-care leave you took." She replied:

"That time off is approved by the government. It isn't something I just decided to do."

Six months later, she was promoted. Before too long she will be the president of a corporate giant.

Another woman had a baby. "When are you going to retire?" her superiors and colleagues asked.

"There is no reason for me to retire. I intend to keep on working hard."

Cold looks from all around. There were times it seemed it would go to court.

But she kept performing her duties impeccably,
And she became an indispensable resource to the company.

Transferred in her twelfth year – to a division with no work for her.

Nevertheless, she studied more than anyone else.

She said to her superior:
"Give me a job you would give to a man."

Her superior looked surprised and said:

"What are you so upset about? The

best thing about you coming here
Is that you serve our visitors tea.”
She got up the courage to tell the
director.
“There is no place for me in my
current division.”
A few months later, she was
transferred to the central planning
division.

<Female Leaders – Still Too Few>

According to the Gender
Empowerment Index, an
international measure of the level of
female participation in society, Japan
is ranked 44th in the world. Every
year we are overtaken by other
countries. Progress is being prevented
by indirect discrimination from
people who claim that “women are not
suited to managerial positions” or
that “they are going to marry and
retire sooner or later anyway, so they
cannot be given jobs with
responsibility.”

<Gone Are the Days of “A Woman’s Place Is in the Home”>

Nowadays, in international society,
the extent to which women’s rights
are protected is considered an
important measure of a country’s
level of maturity. Japan too marked
the establishment of a gender-equal
society as the most important issue
for the 21st century. The government
has begun to prepare solutions, but
society is proving slow to adopt them.
Prejudice and discrimination against
women who don’t have children or
marry is one cause of sexual
harassment, and is blocking the path
for women to success in society.

P14

Violence against Women

To you who are trapped in a maze of
sadness

She was trapped.

As she woke up in the morning she
thought:

Maybe it will be different today,

But nothing ever changed.

It was like she was always being
controlled by somebody.

The storm of abuse raining down over
her head,

The small tornado of an upward
thrust fist,

She no longer felt physical pain.

“No, putting up with this will change
nothing,”

She realized.

If I go on like this I will vanish.

Her hand came across a single
postcard.

“I’ll draw a picture.”

For the first time in ages she made a
decision by herself.

The sense of being alive she felt all
the way to her fingertips

Was wonderful.

She decided to make a point of

Following her own decisions.

She found people to support her.

“Take courage, it’s not your fault.”

She began to regain a little
confidence.

“There are reasons to go on living,”

She thought.

Her husband being escorted away by
the police:

“What’s wrong with beating my own
wife?”

They were the last words she heard
him say.

<Stealing – A Violation of Human Rights>

Violence against women is a violation
of human rights that robs victims of
dreams, hopes and future. The cause
can be found in the fact that
something that should be called
“violence-affirming culture” has found
a home within the psyches of many
men and women. This “culture”
condones statements like these: “If
she doesn’t understand what you’re
saying, beat her until she does,” and
“A woman should be silent and obey
her husband.”

<It Is Still Happening!>

Violence against women around the
world includes sexual violence and
human trafficking. The majority of
women who are traded become
victims of abuse and torture. Women
who fall into a number of often
discriminated against groups are
much more likely to fall victim to
these crimes. These groups include
indigenous peoples, refugees,
immigrants, residents of rural and
poor areas, the disabled, the aged and
those living in areas affected by
military strife.

<Women’s Rights – The Biggest Challenge Yet>

The world only began to recognize
that violence against women was a
human rights issue in the 1990s. The
challenge we face now is fighting the
harmful cultural and traditional
customs that are still violating
women’s rights.

<The World Is Taking Up the Fight>

The United Nations treats “violence
against women” as a human rights
issue of the highest priority, and is
calling for countries to treat these
acts as crimes and strengthen related
laws. In 2001, Japan enacted the
Domestic Violence Protection Law.
Victims can report cases to the police.
Counseling centers and temporary
shelters have been established
throughout the country to help
women gain independence.

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Global Facts about Women

<“World Firsts” By Women>

1. In 1883 in New Zealand, a
grass-roots movement led by
Kate Sheppard gave women full
suffrage.
2. In 1999 in Sweden, the number of
female cabinet ministers was
more than 59% of the entire
cabinet.
3. Beate Sirota Gordon, a social
clerk at General Headquarters
who was only 22 years old at the

time, played a part in the drafting of the Japanese constitution and successfully fought for the inclusion of Articles 14 and 24, which protect women's rights.

<The Trade in Women and Children>

Every year between 600 thousand and 800 thousand people are bought and sold around the world. 80% of victims are women and children, and 50% are women from identified minority groups. These women are often "officially" hired as waitresses or maids, and then made to work as prostitutes.

< Still Too Few Japanese Female Leaders!>

The Gender Empowerment Index is a numerical measure of the extent to which women are making decisions in government, economics and society as a whole. Japan is ranked 44th in the world based on the ratio of positions in parliament, professional positions, technology related positions and managerial positions filled by women.

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Exhibit on Children

The first person in the world to give children the right to express their opinions was Janusz Korczak. On display here is a first-edition copy of his book *King Matt the First*, which was published in America in 1945. At the time, Korczak's book was banned in his own country, Poland, because he was Jewish. The book is very precious. A story about a boy ruling over a country, it was translated and published with illustrations in America in 1945, during the turmoil of the Second World War. During his life Korczak established an orphanage which he let the children run by themselves, and even created within it a court where they acted as judges. When the Nazis came to lead his Jewish orphans away to the gas chambers, he comforted them by saying they were going "for a picnic"

and died alongside them.

Also featured here are handwritten letters and precious books belonging to Pestalozzi, a Swiss man known as the father of education, whom Korczak held in the highest regard.

This display also includes a large collection of pictures painted by children from around the world. Among the artists are children who were forced to work as soldiers, street children and children who lost their parents to AIDS.

P22

Reality for Children around the World

Song of the earth

On this great earth, many children are dreaming, about Music, art, soccer, baseball, owning a business, space...

But, there are also many children who are shedding tears.

Children are bearing the brunt of so many problems:

Sometimes they have poor parents,

Other times,

Their naivety is taken advantage of.

One child lost her parents to war.

Caught by a soldier as she fled from the village,

At twelve, she bore the child of a nameless soldier.

With her tiny baby on her back she was handed a gun,

And sent off to the battlefield.

One child was told by his parents:

"Don't come back until you earn some money."

He lived on the edge of the road,

A single blanket his only possession.

He picked up rubbish and sold it for small change.

He couldn't go to school.

He didn't even know what school was.

One child's parents were sick and unable to work.

To survive, she started working at a carpet factory,

Before she even entered primary school.

Her boss said "They work better on an empty stomach,"

And only fed her once a day.

Overwhelmed by the misery that is reality,

Unable to understand what is happening to them,

All they can do is shed tears of pain.

Children shake off their pain with the smallest joys, and carry on living.

They pick a yellow flower by the road and place it in their mud-caked hair.

From a mountain of rubbish they find a picture book, and search it for words they can read.

They make a lump of cardboard,

And kick it around like a soccer ball.

There is no "now" for these children. Nor can they draw dreams of the future.

Tired again today, they curl up their small bodies and sleep.

Like these children dreaming a happy dream,

The earth turned slowly on its axis.

<Children Who Cannot Go to School>

At present, it is thought that there are more than 121 million children around the world who cannot go to school, even though they want to. The reasons are many: Because they were discriminated against or bashed at school, because they are girls, because they have to help at home, because they don't even know schools exist, because the school is too far away, because there are no teachers, because there are no textbooks or learning materials. The list goes on.

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Global Facts about Children

In 2005, there are 2.2 billion children aged under 18 in the world. 1 billion of these children live in poverty, 640 million of these children do not have proper housing, and more than 121 million of these children cannot attend school.

At the 2002 United Nations Special Session on Children, children told the world's leaders what their hopes were. Those hopes were for an end to poverty, abuse, exploitation and war, and for the provision of education and a chance to participate in society.

Exact numbers are unknown, but confirmed information alone indicates that there are some 300 thousand child soldiers, and that child soldiers have fought in at least 36 armed conflicts.

According to data from 2001, over 50% of children under 14 in Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Swaziland, Kenya, Lesotho and Uganda have lost either one or both parents to AIDS.

P24
Bullying

There is a future.

The whole class ignores me.
It's like everyone is laughing at me,
and I'm scared.
Maybe the problem is with me?

School is hell.
I didn't go to school for half a year.
Treated like an animal, I didn't have
a single friend,
Pain, so much pain I even considered
death.

But I didn't give up,
Because there were people who
accepted me...
And it made me happy.
For the people who believed in me,
And for myself I swore not to give up,
Ever.

<Bullying Society – Japan>
Not only does bullying rob children of
a place in society by keeping them
away from school, forcing them to
switch schools or drop out, but it
sometimes even leads to the death of
those children being bullied.

Countries other than Japan also have
problems with bullying, but in no
other country is bullying so typical
at home and at school, and in no other
country are so many suicides due to
bullying.

<Eight Thoughts about Bullying>

1. The bullies are 100%, no 1000%
to blame.
2. There are absolutely no excuses
for bullying.
3. When people bully someone, their
heart is dead.
4. When in trouble, it's OK to
trouble your parents.
5. It is wrong to say that the bullied
are also at fault.
6. There are some words that
should never be uttered in any
situation.
7. Even "ignoring" is a form of
"violence" that hurts people.
8. Strength perceived in violence is
an illusion.

<Nonattendance on the Rise>

The number of children who stop
attending school because they fall
victim to bullying or feel
uncomfortable at school is rising. At
primary and junior high schools,
public and private, more than 1 in 10
students are not attending school. It
is up to those around these children
to take away their anxiety and fear.

P25
Child Abuse

My tears were always cold like ice.
Hit and kicked by my father, I curled
myself into a tight ball.
"Useless" he always called me.
Pretending to go out shopping, I sat
by the road and cried quietly.
The more I cried the colder my heart
felt.
Somewhere along the line, I had
begun to withhold happiness and
sadness.

One day, after many talks with
someone called a "counselor", they
said:

"It's not your fault.
Nobody should be hit or kicked."
I heard those words every time we
met.

They said the same thing to me again
today:
"It's not your fault. I'm going to tell
you 100 times
Until you really believe it."
Tears began to overflow and I couldn't
stop them.
So some tears are warm... I thought.
My heart felt like a spring day.
"It's OK to live."
This is what I knew at that moment.

<When the System Called "Family"
Fails>

Child abuse is an unforgivable act.
Children are suffering serious
long-term psychological damage
because they are being abused at
home, a place which should be safe
and protecting. When children are
abused by somebody they want to
trust, they become confused and often
blame themselves. However, the
parents doing the abusing also have
issues. There are many cases where
parents who didn't grow up in a
supportive environment themselves,
or who are enduring an unstable
marriage, take their own stress out
on their children. In addition to
protecting the children, it is also
necessary to treat the parents.

<What Is Child Abuse?>

1. Physical abuse (violence).
2. Sexual abuse.
3. Neglect. Not caring for ones
children. Examples include not
taking a child to the doctor and
not feeding a child properly.
4. Psychological abuse. Examples
include inflicting verbal abuse
like saying "I wish you were
dead" or "You're useless",
ignoring or rejecting, and
comparisons to siblings.

P26
Children's Opinions

The great wishes and passions of children are beginning to change the world.

The 400 children who gathered as representatives from around the globe for the

United Nations Special Session on Children made the following pledge:

“We vow to fight as one to make the world a better place for all people.”

African representative Yvonne is 13 years old.

She is working to support the education of street children in Kenya.

“I would like to see the world become a place where children are recognized.”

Craig from Canada became fixated on the following newspaper headline:

“Boy Who Fought Against Child Labor Killed”

The next day he went to school and called his classmates together.

“I think children like us should do something to help children in need.”

He and his friends established an NGO run wholly by children, which now has chapters in over 45 countries.

Craig says:

“A voice telling me to act drives me on and on.”

“Change starts from within each one of us.”

“The power to make change is inside us.”

Children are beginning to feel this.

<Child Participation and the Right of Expression>

The “Convention on the Rights of the Child”, created by the United Nations in 1989, says that a children have “the right to grow while freely expressing their thoughts and wishes.” It also states that adults have “the responsibility to listen seriously to the wishes and thoughts of children.” There is a growing global awareness that child participation is the most important way of protecting children’s rights. In order to give

children a chance to express their opinions at a national level, child parliaments are being created across Europe, in Afghanistan, Jordan, Thailand and other countries around the world. NGOs that work with children are also growing in number.

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Exhibit on Discrimination

On display here is a signed, first-edition copy of *Optimism*, the first book written by Helen Keller, the American woman known for overcoming blindness and deafness. Her signature is written in beautiful, even block letters. Helen Keller wrote this book in her university days, and was awarded two degrees from universities in America and England for her ideas full of hope and light.

In addition, this display features a collection of works by leading contemporary artists.

The Ainu are the indigenous people of Japan. Mieko Chikappu, a creator of contemporary Ainu embroidery, has created a vivid yet soothing expression of natural beauty, using flowers and lines.

Blind illustrator Emu Namae has contributed heartwarming illustrations featuring animals. “Ippon no Nagai Mafura” (One Long Scarf) is a picture to warm both body and soul, depicting a dog, cat, mouse and other animals sharing a long scarf. “Starlight Home” depicts a whale with wings on its back flying gracefully through the starry night. Visitors fill feel calmed and kinder after seeing his works.

The potter Sabuli was the first Iranian to study at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. His works, including decorated plates featuring patterns based on Iranian calligraphy (at which he excels) and vases and ornaments sculptured after animals, are receiving high praise around the world.

Takuya Sasaki, who makes autism seem like no more than a part of his

character, has created a collection of sculptures that are sometimes strong, sometimes cute and sometimes like prayers.

Other varied items on display include bright and colorful Okinawan fabrics dyed using the Ryukyu Bingata method, samba instruments and paintings by Brazilian residents, and taiko drums made in Naniwa-ku, Osaka, which was previously a Buraku area (discriminated communities), et. You are free to touch the instruments.

P32

Discrimination from Birth

Towards a chain of happiness

The 17 year old girl couldn’t marry the man she loved,

He ended up marrying a woman from his own caste.

All she was left with was the child they had conceived together -

A child without a father and without citizenship.

The girl was a “Badi”, and she worked as a prostitute.

In a society bound by caste,

There were no other jobs she could do.

But, thanks to support from an NGO, she started a greengrocery.

Now a young girl, her daughter says:

“When I finish high school, I want to live with my mother,

My mother has had a very hard life.

In the future I want to become a nurse and help people.

I also want to help my mother.”

The mother says:

“What we Badi women need are skills, a chance to work and human dignity.”

Real human society is a society where everyone is accepted as equals.

The fight continues for this mother and daughter.

<Discrimination from Birth>

Discrimination from Birth refers to both racial discrimination, where

people are discriminated against because of the color of their skin, and caste-based discrimination, which is a product of social systems where occupation and status are automatically decided at birth. Caste-based discrimination in particular is still occurring in India, Nepal, Asia, Africa and even in Japan, where it is called Buraku Discrimination. Approximately 250 million people worldwide are currently being discriminated against in this way. They suffer inequality when interacting with people, when using public facilities, when receiving education and even when receiving aid after natural disasters. Marriage between people belonging to different castes is despised due to prejudiced beliefs that "dirtiness" is contagious, and "offenders" are sometime publicly executed in order to make an example. Other people are forced to work as slaves for their whole lives in order to pay debts.

P33 Indigenous Peoples

All legends have their origin here!

In an age when the earth was not marked by "national borders", People lived in harmony with the sun, the forests and the rivers.

In a world where all was cradled by the word "life", Humans received the "power of life" from nature.

That's it! The "will to live" contained in us,
That is what we share with all life on earth.

Aren't you forgetting?
The world is an island of mystery.

The people of the Pacific islands floating on the deep blue sea
Travel over 500 km at sea without map or compass;

The Inuit who live under the seven-colored aurora
Can draw almost perfect maps from memory;

The Amazon indigenous people,
Who own over half the forests on earth and live with countless different species,
Can use 6500 kinds of plants as medicine.

Even now there are people who remember these precious things,
People who fight to protect these precious things.

"In our language, "living" is the same as "breathing".

The whole universe is breathing.
We share this act of breathing with the whole universe."

<Living Before the Birth of Nations>
Indigenous people are people who have lived in the same place since before the formation of countries. They live in harmony with nature and exhibit astounding diversity. With 5000 different groups being recognized based on linguistic differences, cultural differences and geographical location, it is said that there are some 370 million indigenous people living in seventy countries around the world.

<Obtaining Rights for Indigenous Peoples>
Currently, indigenous peoples throughout the world are uniting to fight for their rights at the United Nations and in international society. The mistreatment indigenous peoples have suffered has come to be recognized by the international community, and in 1995 a declaration relating to indigenous peoples' rights was drafted. The period from 2005 to 2014 was proclaimed the 2nd International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples, and negotiations are currently being staged between indigenous leaders and the governments of invading countries, with the aim of drafting conventions

on indigenous rights.

<The Common Problem>
Indigenous peoples share a common problem. Their land is invaded and taken by the governing countries in order to raise profits. In some cases, land is taken by force. For indigenous peoples, land is something that is passed down through the generations from their ancestors. It holds special meaning in relation to religious beliefs, mythology, rituals, language and other aspects of human society. When their land is taken they not only lose a place to live, but they also lose their roots, and gradually become integrated into the invading country's social structure.

<Japan, a Multiethnic Country>
Japan is home to the Ainu and the people of Okinawa (Ryukyu). The Ainu, Japan's indigenous people, mainly live in Hokkaido. Even now, people sometimes suffer discrimination because they openly declare their Ainu roots. At the other end of Japan, ever since Ryukyu was invaded by the Satsuma Clan in the 17th century, it has been forbidden to use the Ryukyu language at school. During the war, Okinawa was the only part of Japan where ground battles were fought, and people who spoke the Ryukyu language were treated as spies, tortured and massacred by the Japanese army. At present, 75% of Japan's American bases are located in Okinawa, and the islanders are facing many problems including noise pollution and environmental destruction.

P34 Foreigners

A girl who was born in Brazil,
Came to Japan – her parents' home country.
She was told she couldn't go to high school because she wasn't the right age.
Unable to understand Japanese, everyday was a battle.

She began to take part in volunteer activities with a kind Japanese friend, and

One day, after about six months had passed, she suddenly got the hang of the language.

She worked as a translator in Japanese society.

Four years later her boss became very understanding of Brazilian residents in Japan.

“I want to make this place an easy place to live for people from all countries,” she said.

Her dream continues to grow.

“I learnt another new kanji today,” said a young boy smiling proudly.

He is studying kanji very hard to help his mother, whose Japanese is poor.

His parents came from Thailand to work, and married in Japan.

However, his father was deported, leaving his mother with their tiny son.

He entered primary school with the help of volunteers, and

Everyday he reads to his mother from Japanese books.

There was a woman who was studying at a Japanese university as a resident Korean.

In junior high school, she burned with anger when she learned of the atrocities the Korean people had suffered at the hands of the Japanese,

But, attracted to the university's founding motto, “A Fortress of Peace”, she decided to enter.

On the other hand, she suffered doubts and wondered if assimilating into Japan wasn't an act of betrayal.

At one such moment, she received some encouragement from a teacher she respected:

“The important thing is thinking about how you can live to make the future a happy place for everyone.”

She made a decision: This is the land of my awakening as a human being;

The sky I see here when I look up is connected to the homeland that I remember so fondly.

She decided to live everyday with her

head held high, looking up.

<Newcomers>

At present there are 1 million 970 thousand non-Japanese from 188 different countries living in Japan.

With the exception of resident Koreans, these foreigners are referred to as *newcomers*. Because there are no laws banning discrimination towards foreigners in Japan, migrant workers and their families are being subjected to discrimination. The language barrier makes it difficult for their children to receive education here. Illegal workers are subjected to even more severe discrimination, often suffering blatant inhumane treatment such as verbal abuse, unfair dismissal and non-payment of debts.

<Resident Koreans (North/South Korea)>

Approximately 600 thousand resident Koreans live in Japan. The first generation arrived during the period beginning in 1910, when the Japanese army invaded the Korean Peninsula, and ending in 1945 with the end of the war. Some came in search of a living, while others were brought to Japan by force and made to work in the munitions industry or as comfort women. The descendants of this first generation are also called resident Koreans. The majority were born in Japan, grew up in Japan and speak Japanese. Approximately 90% of resident Koreans go by Japanese names, a practice that began with a colonial policy of giving Japanese names. The fact that this practice is still adhered to indicates that these people feel unable to use their real names for fear of being subjected to prejudice and discrimination. Also, following the end of the Second World War, these people lost their Japanese citizenship and were treated as foreigners. They were subjected to compulsory fingerprinting and various restrictions relating to the pension, education, employment and suffrage, a number of which still remain in place today.

P35

Disabled People

My Heart Soars

I have dug deep to find the strength to keep on living.

At times it takes all the power I have just to walk, eat, clap or laugh.

“Go with the flow” is not something I can afford to say.

That is why each and every day feels so precious.

“Disabled people are really not weak, but strong!”

He says, brimming with confidence.

While job hunting, he was immediately removed from contention because of a hearing impairment.

His father encouraged him, saying “Whatever happens, don't give up,”

And finally a company employed him. It was the 48th company he applied to.

Stricken with infantile paralysis, I was physically disabled from birth.

I couldn't see a reason for living.

At 27, my eyes were opened by something my doctor said:

“You have a mission to overcome hardship and offer encouragement to those in the same situation.”

“This body of mine is a treasure!” I began to believe that from the bottom of my heart.

People used to scorn me, saying, “Only weak people become mentally ill.”

A voice that only I could hear frightened me, and I couldn't sleep at night.

“Even when everyone in the whole world is your enemy, I will be your friend.”

It was like a spear of light in the darkness.

The path may be rough, but there is no substitute for the distance walked.

<Removing the Framework of

Prejudice>

There are many situations where people cannot do what they want to because of a disability. These situations include limitations in movement, education, housing and employment; differences in wages; insufficient access to information necessary for daily life; isolation and abuse in institutions; contact with people and discrimination in relation to romance and marriage. These are problems that could be solved if other people cooperated and if the social environment was ready to accept the disabled. Unfortunately however, progress is being hampered by prejudice born of ignorance and a lack of understanding about disabilities.

<"Old Age", a Similar Problem>

The number of senior citizens in Japan aged 65 and over is approaching 25 million 660 thousand (20% of the population). After passing retirement age, they are discriminated against when seeking work because of their age, regardless of the experience, know-how and skills they may possess. This and other related problems are preventing senior citizens from participating fully in society, and they are losing a sense of purpose in their lives. Also, because they lose physical capabilities and acquire new disabilities as they get older, many of the problems experienced by senior citizens are shared with the disabled. Senior citizens are suffering physical and mental abuse, particularly at care facilities where they are treated like children and placed under unnecessary restrictions.

P36

Sexual Minorities

The joy of living true to myself

I could not bear it,
Bear to hide my true self any longer.
I didn't know what people would say,
But I decided to make a new start.
I wanted to breathe with a free body

and mind.

"The person I love is a man."

"I have a man's body, but a woman's heart."

"I don't have a sex drive. I don't understand romantic attachment at all."

"I thought my body was female until I was 30, but then it changed into a man's body."

One by one I gradually told people the truth.

Every time I peel a layer from my heart, I feel my true self awaken.

Somebody says with pride:

I was born a woman, but I know for certain. I am a man.

When I became comfortable with this, when I began to tell others, I began to feel more positive about life.

"I want to live true to myself. Not as a man or a woman, but as a human being."

This resolve is more beautiful and strong than anything.

You cannot treat others well until you treat your true self well.

You cannot respect others' differences until you admit to your own.

Shining also were the warm people who surrounded the person coming out and clapped their approval.

<Homosexuality and Sexual Orientation>

When feelings of sexual desire are directed towards members of the same sex it is called homosexuality.

When directed towards the opposite sex it is called heterosexuality; toward both sexes, bisexuality and toward neither, asexuality. This directionality is called sexual orientation and it cannot be changed by force of will or by the efforts of others. The World Health Organization declares that "homosexuality should in no way be considered a disability."

<Gender Identity Disorder>

Gender Identity Disorder is the name given to a condition where one's inner sexuality is opposite to their physical sex, or where one has doubts about their sexuality. The condition is completely unrelated to homosexuality; if a person sees herself as a woman and is sexually oriented toward men, she is heterosexual, regardless of her anatomical sex. In 2004 Japan introduced the Law Concerning Special Cases in Handling Gender for People with Gender Identity Disorder (GID), and people aged 20 or above who have undergone sex-change surgery are now able to have their new sex recognized on their family register, so long as they are not already married and do not have any children. They are also able to receive appropriate treatment at hospitals.

P41

Exhibit on Structural Violence

Featured here are toy elephants, giraffes and rhinoceroses made out of banana skins by people from the African nation of Rwanda. In Rwanda, bananas are an indispensable part of life. The fruit of the banana tree forms the staple diet, while its resin and leaves are dried and used to make a variety of crafts such as leaf cards, bags, coasters, wallets, dolls and sandals. These crafts are sold at markets in exchange for money to buy food.

Also on display are tablecloths made by HIV-infected women in cooperation with a civic group that provides support for central Africans living with HIV and children who have lost their parents to the disease. These children are called AIDS orphans. Children and women are receiving training in sewing and various other occupations, through which they are gaining the power of independence.

Other exhibits include illustrated poems by a poet who continued to question the meaning of life while

living on the street, and a work of calligraphy called “Spring Is Not Far Away”, by a calligrapher who recovered from attempted suicide. There are also other items on display that convey the joy of living and the kindness for others.

P42

Poverty

In Search of Treasure

“The word *impossible* only exists in the heart that judges something so.”

There was once a young man who started something all alone.

Friends collapsing as skin and bone, expressionless children hunched over. “It’s impossible!”

That is what everyone said, but he didn’t give up.

Before long, 70 million people were saved from starvation by miraculous harvest increases.

The world calls him, Dr. Swaminathan, the father of India, of the “Green Revolution”.

There is a Kenyan woman who fought against poverty and food shortage.

She began a greening movement by planting saplings.

People scorned her, saying “What can a woman do?”

But many women followed her.

With every sapling the women planted, “self-confidence” sprouted within them, accompanied by the power to live.

The trees planted by Maathai and her followers are spreading across Africa.

“I will fight the terrible poverty that besets millions of people including my family,”

Decided a 15 year old Senegalese boy named Malal, and he started to act.

As a member of a group fighting absolute poverty,

He participated in UN meetings where he spoke of the poverty situation.

Calling on the younger generations to stand up against poverty,

Malal’s fight is only just beginning.

Maathai says:

“Serving others is an invaluable experience. You are rewarded with a special happiness.”

Treasure is found in the hearts of those who don’t give up their hopes.

<What Are Starvation and Extreme Poverty?>

Starvation is being constantly undernourished from a lack of food.

Extreme poverty refers to not having access to not only food, but the bare essentials necessary to sustain human life, including education and employment, medicine, water , energy, etc.

<The Causes>

Starvation is caused by natural disasters, spreading poverty and low agricultural yields, while extreme poverty is caused by environmental factors such as climate, geography and geology, as well as low economic growth. These factors combine in complex ways with military strife, incapacitation of governing institutions and inadequate infrastructure to form a vicious circle.

<Global Inequality>

There is in fact enough food produced in the world to keep everyone fed. However, because the distribution system is unequal, there are people who don’t receive nearly enough. The same thing can be said in relation to water, energy and medicine. There are poor people in rich countries, and rich people in poor countries.

<The International Community Acts>

The United Nations Millennium Declaration, born out of the United Nations Millennium Summit held in 2000, contains a pledge to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of the world’s people whose income is less than one dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

P43

Global Poverty Data

One child is dying every five seconds from starvation related causes.

Every year 2 million 300 thousand people lose their lives to illnesses that can be prevented by vaccinations.

The poorest regions are suffering most from the effects of global warming and natural disasters.

<People around the World Suffering from Starvation and Extreme Poverty>

Between 1990 and 2001, the number of people living in extreme poverty in Asia fell from 936 million to 703 million, but conversely, the number in Africa rose from 227 million to 313 million. The number of people starving continues to rise in both Asia and Africa.

<Economic Disparity>

Whether talking about nations or individuals, the reality is that a wealthy few possess over half of the entire available wealth. The wealthiest 20% of the human race consume 84% of the world’s resources, while the poorest 20% share a mere 1.4%.

<Unfair Trade>

Developing countries that adopt economically open policies towards the international community are gradually overcoming poverty. However developed nations are causing developing countries big losses by applying high tariffs in areas such as agriculture that developing countries excel at.

<Education in Developing Countries>

Education in developing countries is not the academic education that is taught in developed countries, but rather education that teaches knowledge essential for everyday life. For example children are taught that eating food with dirty hands will make you sick and that it is not good to swim in dirty rivers or seas. They

are taught how to grow crops, and how to achieve a balanced diet.

P44
HIV/AIDS

The Beautiful Union Continues the Fight

Good and evil are fighting inside me.
Today again the blood in my body keeps flowing, urging me to live.
That is why I couldn't give in to fear,
Why I couldn't stay silent.
With treatment it is possible to live with this virus.

Everything vanished in an instant.
The thing that frightened me most was prejudice towards the disease.
People are quick to stamp the "devil's brand".

"We will fight HIV/AIDS. We will fight the invisible devil,"
The good spirits united.
"Let's fight together." "It's OK, you're not alone!"
The network of victims spanned the globe in the blink of an eye,
Strangely, it leaped over borders and barriers of culture, religion and language.
A sense of unity and friendship breathed new life into each victim.
Those who were just waiting for fate, They shared each other's hardships and pain, they gave each other hopes, and they grew into leaders.

Ms. Nasreen from Bangladesh says:
"If we lift the veil of silence, group together and stand at the top of society, we can stop prejudice and discrimination towards victims of HIV around the world."
The beautiful union continues to fight the virus, fight prejudice and discrimination,
And fight despair.

<Poverty and Discrimination are Causing HIV to Spread>
The number of people infected with HIV has risen above 39 million 400

thousand. More than 30 million people have already died from the disease, more than the total number of war casualties from the past 20 years. Sub-Saharan Africa is the worst affected area, but in recent years the problem has been escalating rapidly in Asia. In general, infection rates are decreasing in developed countries, with Japan, where infection rates are rising, being the only exception. The spread of AIDS is being caused by widespread poverty, by a lack of measures being taken in countries and regions experiencing population growth, and by discrimination and prejudice that comes from a lack of knowledge about the disease.

Drugs that can delay the onset of AIDS in HIV patients have been developed, but their widespread use is still a long way off. Many victims are suffering from violations of their human rights. They are unable to receive treatment, and are being prevented from working, receiving education and participating in society in other ways. There are also vast numbers of people who keep their infection secret for fear of being ostracized by their families and society.

<What Does It Mean to "Develop" AIDS>

When somebody becomes infected with HIV, they do not yet have AIDS. Depending on the patient it takes from between several years to several decades before the disease develops into AIDS. It is known that you can only contract HIV through transfusions of infected blood, mother-to-child transmission, sexual activities and needle sharing.

P45
Illness

It is all a "treasure for life"

In 1931, people in a certain village began to collapse with high fevers. The next day, those people

disappeared from their homes.

Boys who dreamed of becoming pro baseball players, women who were about to start a new life in the city, Without warning, they left and never came back.

The disease was called "Hansen's disease". At the time, that name shook the nation.

People didn't know. Actually, people weren't told, that

Hansen's disease is not very contagious, that it sometimes heals itself, and that

It is called "the poor disease" because health people do not contract it.

In order to regain their "dignity as human beings",

The patients took up the fight together.

It was a long fight, but they didn't give up.

In 2001, the government admitted to its past mistakes.

It was a victory. Now, to the next stage:

People continue to fight for a complete win.

Those precious people speak:

"The scars left by the disease on my arms and legs show how I have lived with all my strength.

I am proud of my damaged limbs and body. I am not ashamed.

All people have strengths and weaknesses.

It is all a "treasure for life."

"Everything about me, including all my problems, is a treasure for life."

It was a message to the children who will lead us in the 21st century.

<Other Diseases Caused By Structural Violence>

Examples of diseases that are caused by the structure of society include pollution-related illnesses like Minamata disease, virus-related diseases, and modern-day illnesses such as depression from stress experienced at work, school or in the home.

<Discrimination Based On

Appearance>

People who have a unique physical appearance because of genes, disease, burns and other causes are called “unique faces”, and they may or may not suffer functional problems. These people find society a difficult place to live because of problems relating to social occasions, employment, love, marriage and teasing at school. When passing people on the street they are showered with words like “yuck” or “that’s gross”, and are sometimes even spat on.

<Minamata disease, a Human-Induced Violation of Human Rights>

In 1956, an unknown disease was identified in Minamata City, Kumamoto Prefecture. It was found to be caused by mercury contained in the wastewater from a particular company’s factory, but the company ignored the problem and the problem escalated. For years the victims battled with the company, Kumamoto Prefecture and the Nation in court. Finally, in 2004, the Kansai lawsuit was awarded to the victims. Responsibility for the spread of Minamata disease was at last attributed to both the company and the government.

P46
Homeless

Living for People

His sparkling black pupils were remarkable.

His gnarled and rugged hands were burnt black by the sun.

I wonder how many backs those hands have massaged...

His often-smiling face is also blackened, and coursed with deep wrinkles.

The depth of those wrinkles tells more about his life than anything else.

“Meeting people, that is a real education. Living for people – there is

no greater fulfillment to be gained.”

He says he has met over 3000 homeless people.

The morning after he shares a warm meal with an old man, the old man is found frozen to death.

That was hard.

“Homeless people are humans like the rest of us. Some are good, some are bad.

It is not what is on the surface, but whether there is inner beauty or not.

There ought to be over a hundred things more important than money.”

A terrible drama of life and death is being played out in the corners of our towns.

Their very existence negated, these people experience untold loneliness and fear.

“I devote half a year to psychological care, half a year to physical treatment, and then a year to work. I think you need to give at least two years if there is to be hope of independence.”

Tomorrow he will be sitting beside somebody else in a corner of the town.

He went back to his “house”, which has no address.

He is homeless himself.

<Homeless People Are Created By Society>

There are over 25 thousand homeless people living in Japan. The vast majority are men, and the biggest cause is unemployment. Many people lost their jobs when the bubble burst, and were forced out onto the streets. Life on the streets is fraught with constant danger. Life during winter is especially tough, and a significant number of people starve or freeze to death.

<Give Light to All Created By Society!>

The only current law in place to help get homeless people off the streets is the Daily Life Security Law. Homeless people aged over 65 are

entitled to apply for assistance, but the majority of homeless people are not able to receive this assistance because they lack residency certificates, or because they are below retirement age. However, an increasing number of community groups are constructing privately run shelters, providing mediation with government offices, helping people search for apartments and acting as guarantors.

P47
Suicide

The Space between Darkness and Light

I was desperately trying to grab hold of something, but

It was like no matter how hard I gripped, I just kept slipping down.

Anxiety, fear, despair, nothingness... layer after layer wound around my heart.

The sun no longer reached me.

“Why? Me?”

My head was full only of these questions.

I pictured time after time,

How I would die...

Then I came across the following words:

“As long as you can still do even a tiny bit of good,

You must never give up on life.”

Stop counting.

The things that you couldn’t do,

All the happiness that slipped from your hands.

There are still things you can do.

Try thinking only of those things instead.

<The Growing Suicide Rate>

In Japan, the number of people who take their own life every year has exceeded 30 thousand for seven years running. That number is said to increase five to tenfold when attempted suicides are included in the count. Japan is ranked number 10

in the world and number 1 among developed countries. Recently, suicide has become a serious problem among groups of young people referred to as NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training), freeters (job-hoppers) and parasites (young unmarried people living off their parents). However, the group with the highest number of suicides is the group of men in their 50s and 60s. Responsible factors include feelings of hopelessness and despair that arise from downsizing, unemployment and bankruptcy associated with the depressed economy, and the problem has come to be seen as a social one rather than a personal one. Many doctors now claim that "suicide is not a product of one's own free will". "Right until the last moment, the victim is torn between a desire to live and a desire to die." However, suicide is often treated as a personal problem, and it has a bad image which often leads to prejudice and discrimination against victims and their families. There is currently a lack of social, financial and psychological support for the families of victims.

P51

Exhibit on War

The contemporary art produced through collaboration between photographer Tanaka Masaru, whose father lived through the Hiroshima atomic bomb, and artist Betsie, whose father worked on the development of the bomb, is truly a symbol of peace. The work "In Your Hands" depicts a hand holding out a paper crane like an offering over a submarine sinking into the ocean. The submarine is the USS Arizona, photographed by Tanaka in Pearl Harbor, and the hand and paper crane were painted by Betsie. The model for the crane was an enormous paper crane made by children from America and Hiroshima and covered with messages of peace. This work of art embodies the children's, Tanaka's and Betsie's wishes for peace.

A display of roof tiles burnt black in the Nagasaki blast, and glass bottles melted by the heat flash that swept through Hiroshima convey the terrible power of an atomic bomb. The heat flash reached 3000-4000 degrees and turned the town into a sea of fire in an instant. You are free to touch the tiles and bottles with your own hands.

A display of personal items belonging to people who lived through the blasts conveys the hopes that they clung to even under such horrendous circumstances.

The exhibit also features rubber sandals made from old tires by people living in a refugee camp in Sudan. People who escape to refugee camps arrive with nothing, and are forced to innovate to make do with the limited resources that are available. You are free to touch these items.

From a refugee camp in Nepal are plates made by stitching leaves together, and from a refugee camp in Congo are toys made with empty cans, and carved wooden animals.

Also on display are items that convey the tragedy and cruelty of war, including models of land mines and a nonfunctioning Kalashnikov rifle of the type often used by child soldiers. You are also free to handle a bulletproof vest that was used by the American army. Worn to prevent bullets reaching the body, it contains steel plates and is very heavy.

P52

Nuclear Weapons and Terrorism

You cannot take this energy, these innocent souls

"God save us!"

When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima,

These are the words that Chan Bokusun heard her mother cry.

Discrimination because we are resident Korean, poverty, and now an atomic bomb?

What did we do wrong? Why do we have to get half roasted?

Her body was eaten away at by the radiation from the explosion.

Layer upon layer of discrimination cast a dark shadow over her life.

Tears would flood from her eyes. "I can't take any more," she thought time and time again.

Then the word "phoenix" flashed through her mind.

An energy surging up from within her pushed her forward.

"I want to tell people about the tragedy of war, the terror of atomic bombs and the ugliness of discrimination that I have experienced.

To overcome my weakness, I will make myself strong! To improve my knowledge, I will study!"

She spent her 50s going to night classes to complete first junior high school, then high school, and at 62 she graduated from university.

Her mission, a pair of golden wings, shone brightly and flapped strongly.

Now she is busy teaching at high school and working for literacy education.

Her dreams are being taken up by youth all over the world who are participating in grass-roots activities for peace.

<Choosing Hope over Hatred>

"War" today is giving way to "terrorism", the act of indiscriminately taking the lives of innocent people whose names and faces you do not know.

"I believe that the only way to give my child happiness is to first become happy myself. Then he will grow into a person who chooses hope over hatred."

These are the words of Mariane Pearl, the wife of Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter who was abducted and murdered in Pakistan. She recalls times when she was shaken by a desire to take revenge. But she came to her senses with the realization that "the proper way to respond to inhumane terrorism is with the human characteristics of love, mercy and kindness". Today, she

continues her fight to build a happy home with her son Adam, who was born after the murder of his father.

<Atomic Bombs>

By December 1945, a total of over 210 thousand people (140-150 thousand in Hiroshima and 74 thousand in Nagasaki) had died from the atomic bombs dropped on those cities. Radiation from the explosions damaged genes in the bodies of survivors, causing illnesses that continue to claim the lives of many. To make matters worse, people who lived through the bombings were subjected to discrimination relating to marriage and employment, and even their families suffered discrimination. Among the victims were tens of thousands of Koreans, Chinese and American prisoners of war.

P53

Military Conflict and Landmines

Don't Give Up

"If I only had a prosthetic leg, I could run."

"I want to use my running to send a message to the whole world."

"Don't give in to what you think are your limits. Pushing your limits is fantastic; it changes you and the world you live in into a place full of possibilities." – Chris Moon, *One Step Beyond*.

Chris Moon ran as a torchbearer at the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano. While clearing landmines in Cambodia he stepped on a mine which blew off parts of his right arm and right leg. Shaking off the shock of the accident with his characteristic humor, he made the decision to keep moving forward.

<They Can Only Take>

"Brother and sister both stepped on landmines. "They had bad luck" you say, but it is not luck, but the people who make and use landmines who are

bad." – Fujiwara Ken, *Antipersonnel Landmines Cambodia*.

"They are not meant to kill, but to injure,"

Say the people who plant landmines.

Once buried, landmines do not surface until they explode or are disposed of. They cause the most damage after wars end, when there should be peace. One person is injured by a landmine every 22 minutes somewhere in the world.

<Network of Good Changing the World>

In 1992, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines was launched by non-governmental organizations from around the globe, with the aim of "ridding the earth from every single one of the 100 million landmines that litter its surface". The movement gained momentum, and with assistance from the Canadian Government, the Mine Ban Treaty was established. It is a treaty filled with a strong resolve to abolish landmines. As of July 2005, the treaty had been approved by 145 countries around the globe, including antigovernment forces.

<Creation of the International Criminal Court>

The International Criminal Court is a permanent international court where individuals can be tried for war crimes. During battle, women and children are raped, massacred and disappeared (abducted). However, until recently there has not been an international court where people who commit these crimes could be tried. That was changed with the formation of the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court, a coalition of over 1000 non-governmental organizations from around the world. Their proposal was ratified by over 60 countries, and the International Criminal Court was put into effect in 2002.

<Enforced Disappearance/Abduction>

Enforced disappearance is suddenly being seized and taken away against

your own will. It happens during civil war and in times of political instability, when governments and political organizations forcefully arrest, abduct and imprison their opponents. The majority of victims of enforced disappearance/abduction are innocent citizens. "Enforced disappearance of persons" is now recognized by the International Criminal Court as a crime against humanity.

P54

Global Facts about Nuclear Weapons, Landmines and Other Weapons

<Nuclear Weapons on Earth>

There are currently 30 thousand nuclear weapons in existence. Russia is in possession of 16,000, America 10,310, China 390, France 350, and Britain 200. All of these weapons combined have enough power to kill the entire population of the world many times over. Ever since the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, development of nuclear weapons has continued unabated around the globe, and over 2000 nuclear tests have been carried out as part of this development.

<Problems behind the Manufacture of Nuclear Weapons>

The essential ingredient in the manufacture of nuclear weapons is uranium. While rich countries develop their nuclear weapons, the people being made to mine the uranium are the poorest people from the poorest countries. It goes without saying that these people are the biggest victims of the effects of environmental contamination by radiation. Nuclear weapons, whose only function is to kill people, are being made at the expense of the happiness of others.

<Landmines>

16 million landmines are buried in Iran, 15 million in Angola, 10 million in Afghanistan, 8 million in

Cambodia, 3 million in Bosnia Herzegovina, 2 million in Mozambique, 2 million in Croatia, 1 million in Sudan, 1 million in Somalia and 500 thousand in Ethiopia. They are also buried in Kuwait, on the Korean Peninsula, in China and in Vietnam.

<Cluster Bombs>

Cluster bombs are large bombs that contain about 200 “bomblets” that are approximately the same size as a can of soft drink. When dropped, the bomblets are dispersed over a wide area. The shape and color of unexploded “duds” lying on the ground attracts the attention of children, causing secondary casualties. Duds from cluster bombs are presenting a new problem similar to that posed by landmines.

<Depleted Uranium Bombs>

Depleted uranium bombs contain radioactive uranium and are powerful enough to penetrate a tank. Although their claimed use is against tanks, depleted uranium bombs are causing damage by exposing people to radiation. In recent years, the effects of this irradiation are being seen in increasing numbers of cancers and deformities in people living in areas where the weapons were used. In addition, the radioactive material contained in depleted uranium weapons permeates easily into the ground, polluting soil and water, and is said to remain radioactive for several hundred million years.

<AK47>

The AK47 is a rifle used by child soldiers in many areas where military conflict is occurring. It is an automatic rifle that was made by Mikhail Kalashnikov in the former Soviet Union. Named after its creator, the Kalashnikov rifle (also called the AK47) is light at four kilograms and, having only eight parts, can be carried and assembled by children.

P55

War and Refugees

The Strength to Live Again

The land, dyed red by the blazing sun, looks as if it is burning.

In the unbelievable 50-degree heat, a belt of black follows the sun baked red road, as far as the eye can see.

Look closely and you realize that the oddly curved black line is a line of people.

Those people moving silently forward are called “refugees”.

The place they arrive at is no place to build a safe home,

Yet today they live with all their might, to regain the strength to live.

“I wish I could save this person...”

Former doctors and nurses treat fellow refugees.

“I’m going to raise this child on my own...” A child-mother makes and sells clothes to buy milk.

“You can live with us forever...” In some areas local residents are living in harmony with refugees.

There are times when you can’t make it alone.

Hopes are born through the help of many people.

A young Afghan man who has experienced countless air-raids and evacuations says:

“Once I grab hold of a dream I won’t let go. A heart that won’t give in to circumstances is what supports me.”

The school he works at has no age limit.

Young boys and girls and old people study together with sparkling eyes.

Even after standing on the brink of despair many times, the heart that holds onto its dreams regains the strength to live.

<Refugees of Military Conflict>

Even today, many countries around the world continue to be afflicted with civil wars, military strife and persecution. Nearly 80% of refugees are people in weak social positions: women, children and old people who

have lost their husbands and children to war. Among them are child-mothers, 12-13 year old girls who endure unwanted pregnancies after being raped or sexually abused during evacuation by men who practice ethnic cleansing. Awaiting the survivors is an uncomfortable life in camps without enough food or water. There they fight against starvation and spreading disease.

<Japan’s Refugees>

There are people living as refugees in Japan. People who want to live in a peaceful country with freedom of speech... This is what they come looking for. In these days of improved communications and transportation, the number of people seeking safe refuge is increasing around the world. According to the Ministry of Justice, in the years between 1982 and 2003, 3118 people sought refugee status in Japan, of which 315 were granted it. Japan is the second highest financial contributor to the UNHCR, but little progress is being made in the intake of refugees.

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Global Facts about Military Conflict and Refugees

Military conflict is raging now, at this instant.

<Recent Military Conflict and Terrorism>

The Islamic fundamentalist movement in Algeria, the Sikh separatist movement, the London terrorist bombings, the Western Sahara war, the Sierra Leone civil war, the Liberian civil war, the Niger Delta conflict, the civil war in Chad, the Sudan civil war, the Ethiopia-Eritrea border dispute, the Somali civil war, the Rwandan civil war, the Burundi civil war, the civil war in Congo (previously Zaire), the Angolan civil war, the Kashmir conflict, the Hindu supremacist movement, the ethnic war in Sri Lanka, independence movements by

ethnic minorities in Myanmar, the Uighur independence movement, the Tibetan independence movement, the China-Taiwan conflict, the Korean Peninsula dispute, the Spratly Islands territorial dispute, the Mindanao conflict, the Aceh independence movement, ethnic conflict in Kalimantan, religious conflict in Maluku, the independence movement in Irian Jaya, the independence movement in New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands civil war, ethnic conflict in Fiji, the 9/11 terrorist attacks in America, the national liberation movement in Mexico, the antigovernment movement in Colombia, the antigovernment movement in Peru, the Northern Ireland conflict, the Basque independence movement, the Kosovo conflict, the Macedonia conflict, the Dniester conflict, conflict in Georgia, the Chechen war, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the Tajikistan civil war, the Afghan Civil War, the Kurdish independence movement, the war on Iraq, the Cyprus conflict, the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Islamic fundamentalist movement in Egypt.

<Refugees>

At present, there are approximately 40 million refugees in the world.

Of course there are different types of refugees:

Refugees – people who crossed national borders and escaped to other countries: 11.9 million.

Resettlement refugees – people who do not wish to or cannot return home because of continuing persecution in their country: 83,700.

Asylum seekers – people who have escaped from their own country and are waiting to be legally granted refugee status in the country where they seek protection: 839,200.

Internally displaced persons – people who have escaped to a safe place within their own country: 23.6 million.

Returnees – refugees who have returned home but who require assistance to rebuild their lives:

1,494,500.

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Exhibit on the International Protection of Human Rights

On display here is a first edition copy, published in 1795, of Kant's *Perpetual Peace*, which was the first work to advocate the formation of an international union of states. Containing only nine Articles and two Supplements, this document condenses the author's wishes for eternal peace.

Another book on display here is an early copy of Jhering's *The Struggle for Law*, which is a classic text about rights.

The exhibit also features a collection of commemorative stamps issued by the United Nations Postal Administration. UN stamps are very unique stamps that can only be used to post letters and parcels from the UN Headquarters in New York, or the UN's European offices in Geneva and Vienna.

Also on display is an INF Treaty Commemorative Disarmament Medal. These medals were made from fragments of the nuclear missiles that were eliminated under the INF Treaty, and were presented to individuals who campaigned for the end of the Cold War. This particular medal bears the serial number 49, and was awarded to SGI President Ikeda.

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International Rules for Peace

In order to protect the human rights of all people, herein lies a message of hope for the future.

International protection of human rights – a culmination of the suffering, sacrifice, wisdom and elation of the countless individuals who have fought for human rights through the ages.

Progress is continuing at this very moment.

<The Rise of New Actors>

Much importance is being placed on the role that NGOs play in working to have the opinions of individuals reflected more directly at the United Nations and in the international community as a whole, while partnerships for the implementation of human rights are being further strengthened. In recent years multinational corporations have been gaining increasing global influence and "corporate social responsibility" is gathering attention as a tool for ensuring that they observe human rights. The Global Compact, an initiative of the United Nations and companies, is also gaining support as a way of addressing problems relating to human rights and environmental protection. In addition, great hopes are being placed upon unique programs being implemented by local governments in countries around the world, and the promotion of human rights by domestic human rights organizations such as human rights committees and ombudspersons.

<New Human Rights Issues>

Moving into the 21st century, the international community faces some new human rights issues that have accompanied the widening economic gap caused by economic globalization, and scientific developments in areas such as information technology and biotechnology. Examples of these issues include problems related to privacy protection and surveillance society, and ethical questions surrounding cloning. On the other hand, there are existing issues such as the death penalty, discriminatory language and freedom of expression that demand further consideration.

<World Programme for Human Rights Education>

The development and promotion of human rights education is an important task in the international protection of human rights. In order to establish a universal culture of human rights, in 2005 the United

Nations launched the World Programme for Human Rights Education, a global initiative that follows on from the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, which began in 1995. The program is not only designed to deal with human rights violations, but places importance on the personal development of each and every student. The first stage (2005-2007) will focus on human rights education at the primary and secondary levels.

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Farewell

How did you enjoy “Human Rights in the 21st Century”?

If there were parts that you did not like or found difficult to understand, please let us know by using the questionnaire or telling the staff directly. We will take all opinions into consideration, and use them to build this exhibition into something even better. Of course positive comments are always very welcome as well.

Preparation for this exhibition took approximately one year, and it was made possible with the cooperation of the people whose stories are told here, the supporting organizations and the people who took on the time-consuming task of conducting interviews. All of those interviewed were living in undeniably desperate circumstances, but the words they spoke were not of hate or grievance, but “poems of hope”. Their stories were an invaluable inspiration to the creators of this exhibition.

Finally, we would like to close by saying a heartfelt “THANK YOU!” to everyone who gave their time to make this exhibition possible, and to everyone who took the time to come and experience it.

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Display of Picture Books

The Heartwarming Stories Display can be enjoyed by adults and small children alike. Here you can touch and read 400 picture books, including books that convey how precious you, your friends and the earth are, and barrier-free tactile picture books from countries such as Iran and Sweden that can be enjoyed by many different people.

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About the Sponsor

Soka Gakkai and Human Rights

The mother of peace is human rights, and human rights are built by education.

Soka Gakkai International (SGI), along with its 12 million members from 190 countries and territories around the world, promotes peace, culture and education based on Buddhist humanist principles. In 1983, SGI was registered as a non-governmental organization with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and in 1981, Soka Gakkai Japan was registered as a non-governmental organization with the United Nations Information Centre and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Soka Gakkai was founded on November 18, 1930, by Makiguchi Tsunesaburo (the first president) and Toda Josei (the second president). In July 1943, President Makiguchi and General Director Toda were imprisoned on a charge of lese-majesty for strongly opposing the military powers that practiced thought control for the Shinto State. The organization’s journal was also forced to cease publication. Even while in prison, President Makiguchi steadfastly maintained that the war was not a crusade, but a catastrophe for the citizens of Japan, and on November 18 of the following year he died in prison at the age of 73.

In 1945, after the war ended and Toda was released, he resolved to rebuild the ruined Soka Gakkai. On September 8, 1957, at a meeting of 50,000 young people, Toda declared that the use of nuclear weapons should be permanently banned. This declaration became the foundation for Soka Gakkai’s peace movement.

In 1960, Ikeda Daisaku was appointed as the organization’s third president. He has continued to work for the establishment of stable peace, by initiating thorough dialogue and action. While working as a leader of a grass-roots movement, he was indicted on a charge of fabrication and held for two weeks. The case continued for four and a half years, after which he was finally judged innocent. Ikeda has personally visited over fifty countries and spoken with world leaders and cultural figures on more than 1600 occasions. Every year since 1983, he has presented to the international community “Peace Proposals” covering a wide range of topics. He is also an advocate of the United Nations’ World Programme for Human Rights Education, which was launched this year.

In response to SGI President Ikeda’s peace movement, the Soka Gakkai Youth Division has held “Human Rights in Today’s World” exhibitions in forty cities in eight countries around the world, which have drawn a total of 500 thousand visitors. They continue to send a message of peace through other exhibitions, lectures and publications. In addition, the Women’s Peace Committee created the “Children’s Human Rights” exhibition which has been shown in 55 venues around the country.