

National Statement - DPRK

By article 67 of the constitution, every North Korean citizen is guaranteed freedom of speech. During the third cycle of the UPR period the state broadened this right and enabled its citizens to exert it. The government only requires registration of any demonstration three days before it is held with local security organizations to assure safety of demonstrators.

To ensure the diversity of the information, the state is making efforts to broaden the access to the nationwide intranet allowing citizens to access it for education, and communication. The state has made further efforts to allow access to the global internet by its citizens despite the on-going hacking attacks on its online infrastructure.

Acknowledging the importance of education in improving the freedom of expression, the state replaced 11-year education system to 12-year system to improve education. Furthermore, by adhering to the ideas of Jomtien Declaration and the Dakar Framework, the state improved education in accordance to the international norm.

The freedom of press is guaranteed under article 67. Numerous publishing houses are releasing increasing number of publications every year. Every citizen has the right to submit texts and photographs, journals to newspapers, ensuring full participation. The Law on Broadcasting was adopted in 2015 allows creation of new broadcasting stations across the country.

All citizens' right to complaints and petition is ensured under article 69 of the constitution. The Law on Complaints and Petitions was last amended in 2010. This enables them to freely express their opinion on any government policy. To assure the accurate handling of complaints on human rights violations, the Supreme People's Assembly deal with these cases directly.

The freedom of religion is protected by article 68. As a member state of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights, DPRK adheres to the belief stated on article 18 and 21 of the covenant. There are multiple religious facilities to freely hold religious gatherings and spread religious educations. The state is separated from the religion and encourages every religion to share its knowledge. Unfortunately, some religious organizations perpetrate illegal activities of crossing the borders and kidnapping the citizens. The DPRK rejects any testimonies from the illegal defectors.

In child education, the DPRK constructed institutions such as school, hospitals to ensure a safe environment. The DPRK constructed these institutions mostly on rural areas to ensure equal access to education. One of a good example would be the Okryu Child Hospital. In 2016 Okryu Child Hospital developed solutions to cure "congenital heart disease", developing skills for preventive health opening a new era of public health increasing welfare children. However, there are still challenges as there are shortage of medicine, vaccines due to sanctions. The government

expresses its deepest concern especially as the Global Fund who should act with humanitarian standards are cutting funds pressured by several states supporting sanctions. These actions are critically affecting child rights inside of DPRK since 2017. In 2017 to ensure a healthy, clean environment to children DPRK developed <Kumsugangsan 3.1> to measure air pollution to insure children health establishing Additionally, accepting monitors accompanying UNICEF staffs to monitor its support in crop fields in North Hwanghae Province. The DPRK is cooperating with various independent CSOs to enhance the rights of children. This includes independently operated Institute of Child Nutrition, Korean Family Planning & maternally, DPRK Red Cross Society. Leading to these developments the DPRK supported establishment of Chosen Children Sponsoring Association an independent non-profit organization in 2013. The organization actively started their programs from 2014.

The DPRK has strengthened its national efforts to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including through human rights education and training for law enforcement officials. Firstly, slavery is an affront to human dignity and is not tolerated in DPRK. Enslaving another is a hostile expression of power and is punishable by law. In addition, the DPRK is committed to the advancement of its people through Juche-centred socialism for the most effective way to ensure DPRK citizens highest standards of living free from social and political uncertainty. Regardless, the DPRK is not responsible for the exploitation of its citizens that pay smugglers to illegally cross DPRK borders.

The DPRK has accepted 17 recommendations by the DPRK on gender equality, women's rights and violence against vulnerable groups such as women and children. The DPRK established a legal mechanism to promote women's rights which aligns with the international standards; the CEDAW in 2001. On top, the DPRK ensures the women's political rights in the texts of the socialist constitution and the law on the protection and promotion of the rights of women. To carry out these efforts, six recommendations demand legal measures and efforts to protect women against violence. The DPRK is trying its best to further strengthen national institutions to promote women's rights