



Gwangju Metropolitan City

Mayor's Office

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Dear Ms. Meena Ramkaun,

April 10, 2014

First of all, representing Gwangju City and Gwangju citizens, I want to sincerely thank you for the tremendous efforts of the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights to promote peace and human rights around the world.

Gwangju is the birthplace of the May 18th Gwangju Democratization Movement that has inspired democratization movements in Asia. We are proud of our efforts to take leading roles in promoting human rights in Korea. Gwangju is the first one among Korean cities that has enacted a human rights ordinance, created a separate office devoted to promoting human rights, declared the Human Rights Charter, developed human rights indicators focused on human rights-based administration, and implemented the Human Rights Ombudsman.

Moreover, since 2011, our city has hosted the World Human Rights Cities Forum to promote universal values of human rights such as freedom, equality, solidarity, justice, and peace and to stimulate cooperation and solidarity among human rights cities around the world.

We are determined to step up our efforts at the local government level to strengthen human rights, through our pursuit of being a human rights city (by making human rights the focal point of city administration and strengthening citizens' sensitivity to human rights) and solidifying multilayered cooperation with other cities in Korea and abroad as well as international agencies like United Nations Human Rights Council and central government.

We hope that contents of local governments' role to promote human rights discussed in the United Nations Human Rights Council will be further expanded and detailed so that values of human rights will be appreciated around the world.

Thank you very much for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Kang Un-tae The signature of Kang Un-tae, Mayor of Gwangju, written in Korean characters.
Mayor of Gwangju Metropolitan City, the Republic of Korea