



Ms. A, a Korean-Chinese, was married to a Korean guy, but became an undocumented immigrant when her husband went missing for several years. She filed a divorce suit because she could not keep her marriage after all the years that her husband had not taken care of the family. Due to her illegal immigrant status, she was faced with a compulsory eviction order, but filed a complaint to the NHRCK in May 2004. Fortunately, the court granted Ms. A a divorce from her husband for his irresponsible behavior immediately following the filing of the complaint. The NHRCK recommended to the Ministry of Justice that it was unfair for her to be unable to become naturalized as a Korean citizen because of her husband's fault.



Mr. B, an Ethiopian, filed a complaint to the NHRCK when he was denied to enter a restaurant in Itaewon because of his race. Despite the relative rarity of such discrimination and the fact that it was due to an unavoidable circumstance to protect the safety and rights of a large number of other customers, the NHRCK saw it as an act of racial discrimination in using commercial facilities. The NHRCK recommended that the restaurant rectify such discriminatory practice, classifying the case as a violation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

For Counseling and Filing a Complaint

By Phone : **Just dial 1331** No area code necessary

Postal Mail / Visit :

서울 Seoul	044551 서울시 중구 삼일대로 340 나라키움 저동빌딩 11층 Narakium Jeo-dong Bldg., 340, Samil-daero, Jung-gu, Seoul, Korea, 04551 *Translation services are provided
부산 Busan	47606 부산광역시 연제구 중앙대로 1000 국민연금회관 7층 1000 Jungangdae-ro, Yeonje-gu, Busan, Korea 47606 Tel: 082-51-710-9710
광주 Gwangju	61476 광주광역시 동구 금남로 154-1 아모레퍼시픽 5층 514-1 Geumnam-ro, Dong-gu, Gwangju, Korea 61476 Tel: 082-62-710-9710
대구 Daegu	41939 대구광역시 중구 국채보상로 648 호수빌딩 16층 16th 648 Gukchaebosang-ro, Jung-gu, Daegu, Korea 41939 Tel: 082-53-212-7000
대전 Daejeon	35262 대전광역시 서구 문정로 48번길 30 KT탄방타워 13층 48-gil Munjeong-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon, Korea 35263 Tel: 082-42-472-9037

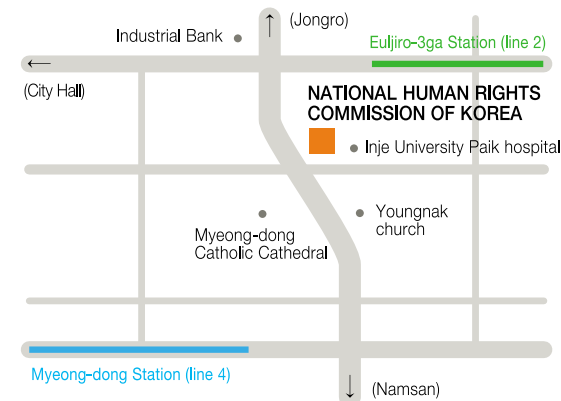
Webpage : www.humanrights.go.kr

Fax : 02) 2125-9811~2

E-mail : hoso@humanrights.go.kr

※ For those who are in a detention or protective facility, please use the NHRCK complaint box placed in each facility. Complaints of person-to-person can be requested through the facility's staffs. Investigators from the Commission will visit the facility to receive complaints directly.

Map



Different, But Equal

We all have the same human rights
despite our different looks.

All human beings are born free and equal
in dignity and rights.



National Human Rights Commission of Korea

A factory owner, Mr. C, witnessed several cases of unwarranted assaults on migrant workers. Mr. Kim submitted a complaint to the National Human Rights Commission of Korea(NHRCK), hoping to prevent future unlawful assaults. In December 2005, the Commission accepted Mr. Kim's claims and recommended that the Ministry of Justice establish legal standards to prevent the recurrence of such cases.



A Russian migrant worker, Mr. D, was to be compulsorily evicted from Korea, but filed a complaint to the NHRCK. The NHRCK reviewed his complaint in September 2002 and recommended that his case be emergently relieved.

"I tried to stop a drunken Korean guy who grabbed my wife's wrist and was instantly involved in fighting with him. Although I was injured to take three months to heal completely, I was ordered an eviction from Korea because of my status as an undocumented migrant worker. A priest filed a complaint to the NHRCK for me and I was able to keep working in Korea after the NHRCK issued a recommendation for an emergent relief."



THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF KOREA IS :

- **A readily accessible way to protect your rights**

The Commission serves those who have experienced or witnessed a violation of human rights. We aim to provide a convenient way for communication and direct and immediate action to enhance the quality of life in Korea.

- **An investment in our community's future**

The Commission does not charge for any of its services whether it be case-handling, petitioning or counseling.

WHAT RIGHTS DOES THE COMMISSION PROTECT?

- **Relieve and protect against human rights infringements**

If you have been a victim of a human rights infringement, report your case to the Commission. The Commission has the authority to investigate the governmental organizations, private organizations, business entities, the military, the prosecutor's office, schools, detention centers and protective facilities.

- **Report cases of discrimination to the Commission**

The Commission investigates cases of unreasonable treatments or discriminations based on sex, age, educational background, race, marital status, medical records, and so on. The Commission also handles a large number of sexual harassment cases.

THE COMMISSION WILL COME TO AID YOU

The Commission regularly visits detention facilities and protection centers to monitor the human rights conditions of those in custody. We also provide legal counsel for those in detention centers and protective facilities.

RECEIVE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE

The Commission can take emergency relief measures in the course of investigation or even without receiving a complaint, if the case indicates a serious and repeated violation of human rights. In such a case, the Commission provides food, clothing and medical services for those in need, transfers those in detention facilities or protection centers to alternative locations, or takes measures to exclude offenders from civil service.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

The Commission issues recommendations for improvement of legal systems on protecting the rights of foreigners living in Korea, which include: the foreign workers work permit system, immigration law and procedures, refugee determination system, and international marriage brokerage regulations. In order to achieve these, the Commission investigates the human rights situations of migrant workers, marriage migrants, children of migrants, refugees, etc., and holds a number of forums with experts.

MULTICULTURAL HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

To promote human rights of foreigners living in Korea, it is imperative to raise social and cultural awareness. The Commission has been continuously conducting human rights education for public officials working for the immigrant control and multicultural families, as well as for employers hiring migrant workers. Also, the Commission makes human rights films such as "If you were me" to address discriminatory practices.

The Commission also cooperates with the UN human rights bodies, governmental bodies, civil society organizations and other national human rights institutions to promote the human rights of migrants both domestically and internationally.

