

Urgent Statement regarding the Ukrainian Crisis

The Kansai NGO Council (NPO) makes the following statement together with the high school students and other youth involved in the One World Festival for Youth 2021 regarding the current crisis in the Ukraine.

In armed conflict, the ones who bear the majority of injuries are non-military citizens of the affected country and regions. And those who tend to be most affected by military conflict are the ones who lack a voice the most; women, the elderly, those living with illnesses or disabilities, and also the children who are our future.

Peace is not something that can be achieved by using force. And it is regular citizens who are most affected by economic sanctions. We have seen throughout history that among those affected, children in particular inherit and carry on the suffering and sadness caused by war and armed conflict. 80% of refugees are women and children.

The high school students and youth involved in the Kansai NGO Council and the One World Festival, stand up as citizens who will be most affected in the future in strong opposition to the violence as a solution to the current problems by force, strongly hope for solution through dialogue. And in the process of achieving peace, we wish to emphasize the importance of inclusivity, including people from all ages, genders, nationalities, religions, ethnicities, etc., and ensuring that no one is left behind.

1 March, 2022

Kansai NGO Council
One World Festival for Youth 2021
Youth Advocacy Section-from all volunteers
Program operation section and all volunteers
Event operation section and all volunteers
OV Group*
Executive Committee

OV Group: OV is an abbreviation for Old Volunteer, i.e., alumni. This group supports the operation of the One World Festival executive and is mostly made up of university student who were volunteers during their high school years. This group is also a cooperative partner in the One World Festival for Youth.

Disability: Used in relation to the role of the individual in society rather than the individual.

Program operation section and all volunteers and Event operation section and all volunteers were added on March 8, 2022.

Enquiries regarding this statement

One Word Festival for Youth Administrative Office
(NPO) Kansai NGO Council (Takahashi / Kurita)