

Act on the Promotion of the Elimination of Buraku Discrimination

Adopted by the Diet on 9 December 2016

(Purposes)

Article 1 In the light of the fact that Buraku discrimination still exists even today and that the situation of Buraku discrimination has been changed along with the increased use of information technologies, and given the importance of the challenge to eliminate Buraku discrimination on the basis of the recognition that such discrimination is not acceptable in line with the principles of the Constitution of Japan, which guarantees the enjoyment of fundamental human rights for all citizens, the present Act aims at promoting the elimination of Buraku discrimination, by establishing the basic principle and defining the responsibilities of the State and local governments in relation to the elimination of Buraku discrimination as well as by providing for the consolidation of advisory mechanisms and other measures, thereby realizing a society free from Buraku discrimination.

(Basic principle)

Article 2 The measures concerning the elimination of Buraku discrimination shall be taken with a view to realizing a society free from Buraku discrimination, by seeking to improve the understanding of each and every citizen on the need to eliminate Buraku discrimination, in accordance with the principle that all citizens shall be respected as unique individuals who enjoy fundamental human rights on an equal basis.

(Responsibilities of the State and local governments)

Article 3 (1) In accordance with the basic principle set out in the preceding Article, the State shall be responsible for taking measures concerning the elimination of Buraku discrimination as well as for providing necessary information, guidance and advice for the promotion of such measures by local governments.

(2) In accordance with the basic principle set out in the preceding Article, local governments shall seek to take measures, consistent with their local conditions, concerning the elimination of Buraku discrimination on the basis of appropriate division of roles with the State and in collaboration with the State and other local governments.

(Consolidation of advisory mechanisms)

Article 4 (1) The State shall take measures to consolidate mechanisms to respond to requests for advice and support concerning Buraku discrimination in appropriate ways.

(2) Local governments shall seek to take measures, consistent with their local conditions, to consolidate mechanisms to respond to requests for advice and support concerning Buraku discrimination in appropriate ways, on the basis of appropriate division of roles with the State.

(Education and awareness-raising)

Article 5 (1) The State shall conduct necessary education and awareness-raising in order to eliminate Buraku discrimination.

(2) Local governments shall seek to conduct necessary education and awareness-raising, consistent with their local conditions, in order to eliminate Buraku discrimination, on the basis of appropriate division of roles with the State.

(Surveys on the actual situation of Buraku discrimination)

Article 6 With a view to contributing to the implementation of the measures concerning the elimination of Buraku discrimination, the State shall conduct surveys on the actual situation of Buraku discrimination in collaboration with local governments.

<Supplementary provision>

The present Act shall come into force as from the day of promulgation.

<Supplementary Resolution>

The Government should pay attention to see to it that measures for the elimination of Buraku discrimination under the present Act widely reflect various understanding of the issue existing among different generations and actual conditions of each local community, while making efforts at appropriate and careful operation of the present Act towards the realization of society free from Buraku discrimination to be achieved through the promotion of the elimination of Buraku discrimination as the purpose of the present Act.

Supplementary Resolution

Adopted by the Committee on Judicial Affairs, the House of Councilors,
on 8 December 2016

When the State and local governments implement the measures concerning the elimination of Buraku discrimination on the basis of the present Act, they should pay particular attention to the following considerations, bearing in mind the actual situation of local communities:

1. Measures to realize a society free from Buraku discrimination should be implemented in a comprehensive manner, not only by seeking to improve the understanding of citizens on the need to eliminate Buraku discrimination but also by taking steps against the obstacles to the elimination of Buraku discrimination, given the fact that the excessive words and behavior of private movements in the past and other factors had undermined the elimination of Buraku discrimination.
2. When education and awareness-raising activities are conducted, care should be taken with regard to their contents and methodologies so that they would truly contribute to the elimination of Buraku discrimination, bearing in mind the need to prevent the occurrence of new forms of discrimination as a result of such activities.
3. When the State conducts surveys on the actual situation of Buraku discrimination with a view to contributing to the implementation of the measures concerning the elimination of Buraku discrimination, it should consider their scope, methodologies and other relevant matters with care so that they would truly contribute to the elimination of Buraku discrimination, bearing in mind the need to prevent the occurrence of new forms of discrimination as a result of such surveys.

Be it resolved as the above.

<unofficial translation by IMADR>