

Rainbow Teen Safe Space Project Proposal

- 'Supporting At-risk Rainbow Teens' Project -

1. Vision Statement

Our vision is to provide a safe space and to be a resource for at-risk LGBTQ youth in South Korea.

2. Mission Statement

To assist, care for and empower LGBTQ Korean youth in at-risk situations, and to offer resources for their continued healthy self-development.

- Crisis counseling and intervention
- Peer counseling, parental counseling, spiritual counseling, etc.
- Programs to enhance self-esteem and recovery from trauma, stress, depression, and anger
- Education programs: academic support, education on human rights
- Shelter for LGBTQ youth

3. Target

- LGBTQ youth who suffer or are bullied in their homes and schools
- LGBTQ youth who are homeless, living in the streets
- LGBTQ youth who are conflicted because of their religious beliefs

4. Why We Need the Rainbow Teen Safe Space

- **Many Koreans deny the existence of LGBTQ Korean youth.**

- LGBTQ Korean youth cannot reveal themselves because of malicious publicity and news reports saying that homosexuality is harmful and can have a bad influence on teenagers. In research done in 2007 by the National (South Korea) Youth Policy Institute, 5.8% of 6,160 students responded that they have a homosexual orientation.

- Student Rights Ordinance, prohibiting discrimination based on one's sexual orientation and gender identity, was legislated in Seoul, Gyeonggi Province, and other local governments. In reality, fact-finding surveys and education programs have not been carried out in order to implement the ordinance. Moreover, the LGBTQ youth's right to receive education is denied.

- LGBTQ youth drop-outs and runaway LGBTQ youth have never been researched and it is not certain what kind of difficulties they face and why they drop out of school or run away from

home. Data released by Statistics Korea in 2012 shows that 12.2% of Korean students in middle school and high school have run away from home at least once and 61.3% of them said it was because of family discord. Nevertheless, the life of LGBTQ youth in South Korea is uncertain and unknown.

- LGBTQ youth are very likely to be discriminated against due to less recognition than their straight peers.

- According to *A Study of Human Rights Awareness of the Citizens of Seoul*(2012), sexual minorities receive the same amount of low respect(33.7%) as that of detainees(32.7%) and female sex workers(30.9%).

- According to the *Final Report of the Fact-finding Study of Human Rights of Children in Seoul*(2012), 43% of children and teenage respondents were willing to make friends with minority peers but only 28.8% of the respondents were willing to be a peer of sexual minorities. In the case of parents, 51.2% showed positive attitudes toward minority students but only 15.1% for sexual minority students.

- **LGBTQ youth are exposed to bullying and violence at school.**

- 51.5% of LGBTQ youth responded that they were insulted verbally, and 20% have been threatened with physical violence or have had their possessions ruined. 13.8% were spat on, 18.5% had stuff thrown at them, 10.8% were sexually abused, and more than 10% have been assaulted by punching, kicking, or even weapons. (National Youth Policy Institute, *A Study of the Lives of Sexual Minority Youths*, 2006)

- 134 LGBTQ youths, which is 53.8% of the respondents, reported that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is serious in schools. 16.1% of them responded that it is very serious and 44% have experienced insults and bullying in school. It has been reported that homosexuality was frequently regarded as a mental disease and spoken of in derogatory terms, ending up with assaults. LGBTQ youth who participated in the survey wrote: "I seriously wanted to die every time my classmates treated me as a germ and verbally abused me," "My teacher, who promised to keep my secret, mocked me sexually instead, so I was even more shunned by my classmates." (Ivanschool from Rainbow Action against Sexual-Minority Discrimination. 2012. *Survey on Sexual Minority Students' Human Rights in Seoul*)

- **LGBTQ youth are exposed to a mentally unhealthy environment.**

- In a survey conducted by the National Youth Policy Institute in 2007 on 1,386 teenage students, LGBTQ youth had lower self-esteem(27.68) than the average level(29.67). Their depression

level(1.30) was higher than the average level(0.97).

- 77.4% of LGBTQ youth have considered committing suicide and 47.4% have actually attempted it. This figure is almost five-times larger than the percentage (10%) of straight teens who have attempted self-harm or suicide. (National Youth Policy Institute of Korea. 2006. *A Study of the Lives of Sexual Minority Youths*)

- 76.6% of LGBTQ youth have considered committing suicide and 58.5% have actually attempted it. (Ivanschool from Rainbow Action against Sexual-Minority Discrimination. 2012. *Survey on Sexual Minority Students' Human Rights in Seoul*)

- A 16-year-old boy who was a freshman in a high school in Busan ended up committing suicide after he had suffered from homophobic bullying in school and ran away from home. The victim's family is currently in litigation with the school and the teacher.

Considering the results of previous studies as shown above, LGBTQ youth are highly exposed to verbal and physical violence in homophobic social environments and they face socio-psychological suffering such as a high risk of committing suicide, depression and anger accompanied by low self-esteem. Therefore, we urgently need to prepare a multi-dimensional support system for LGBTQ youth to provide crisis intervention, help them recover from psychological pain and trauma, help enhance self-esteem and restore relationships with their parents or peers.

5. Rainbow Teen Safe Space Action Plan

Stage 1: Street Counseling of LGBTQ Youth

- Street counseling (peer counseling, parental counseling, etc.)
- Fact-finding research
- Provision of snacks
- Hand out supplies (e.g. socks, underwear)
- Network with other LGBTQ-friendly teenage shelters and institutions
- Share office space with Solidarity for LGBT Human Rights of Korea (DonginRyun)

Stage 2: 24-Hour Hotline for At-risk LGBTQ Youth

- Network with suicide prevention centers and other shelters (e.g. suicide prevention center, youth crisis support center, youth shelters, etc)
- Establish 24-hour hotline: via telephone, SNS, e-mail
- Run regular human rights education programs and counselor development programs
- Create an independent office space for counseling and education for LGBTQ youths

Stage 3: Short-term Shelter

- Provide food, clothing, and lodging
- Resolve problems through teen counseling and parental counseling
- Run programs to enhance self-esteem, recovery from trauma, depression, and suicide attempts
- Run programs on academic support & human rights

Stage 4: Long-term Shelter

- Same as Stage 3, but on a long-term basis

Stage 5: Road to independence in cooperation with parents

- Run talent development & job search programs and provide career counseling

6. Establishing a Sustainable Rainbow Teen Safe Space

- Promote the Rainbow Teen Safe Space as a governmental project and implement it in policy-making
- Arrange human resource pool of activists, experts, and volunteers
- Establish financial resource through domestic and global fund-raising
- Collect statistics through fact-finding surveys and counseling

7. Budget

- **Stage 1: Street counseling and sharing office space with Dong-In-Ryun**
- **Fundraising target: 30,000,000 KRW**

Category		Amount (in KRW)	Details	
Management Cost	Personnel	Salary	14,400,000	* 1 person*1,200,000 KRW*12 months
	Expenses	Bonus	1,000,000	* 1 person*1,000,000 KRW
	Operational Expenses		2,400,000	* 200,000 KRW*12 months (expenses for sharing Dong-In-Ryun office)
Sub-total		17,800,000		
Project Expenses	PR Expenses		3,000,000	* brochures, fliers, website to promote street counseling
	Supplies Cost	Office Supplies	1,000,000	* computer, desks, chairs, telephones, etc
		Outdoor Supplies	1,000,000	* tent, portable desks, easels, etc

		Snacks	2,400,000	* twice a month*for 20 people*5,000 KRW per person*12 months
	Street Counseling Expenses	Crisis Support Aid	2,400,000	* twice a month*for 2 people(10%)*50,000 KRW per person*12 months
		Survey Expenses	2,400,000	* research designing, statistical analyses
Sub-total			12,200,000	
Total			30,000,000	

- Personnel expenses were estimated on the basis of the financial report of Dong-In-Ryun: 1,000,000 KRW for basic wage + 200,000 KRW for meals and transportation
- We are planning to hold street counseling twice a month for 20 beneficiaries each time. We estimate 10% of the beneficiaries to receive crisis counseling.
- **Stage 2: Create a 24-hour hot-line and an independent office space for counseling and education**
- **Fundraising target: 80,000,000 KRW**

Category		Amount (in KRW)	Details	
Management Cost	Rent and Utilities	Deposit	20,000,000	* office + counseling room + seminar room + kitchen + bathroom
		Monthly Rent	6,000,000	* 500,000 KRW*12 months
		Utilities	2,400,000	* 200,000 KRW*12 months (electricity, gas, water)
	Operational Expenses	Hot-line Expense	2,400,000	* 200,000 KRW*12 months (operating hot-line, managing the website)
		Other Expenses	1,200,000	* 100,000 KRW*12 months (office supplies)
	Personnel Expenses	Salaries	26,400,000	* 2 people*1,200,000 KRW*12 months (one staff member added)
		Bonuses	2,000,000	* 2 people*1,000,000 KRW
Sub-total		60,400,000		
Project Expenses	PR Expenses		3,000,000	* leaflets and fliers to advertise hot-line
	Office Supplies		1,000,000	* computer, desk, chair (one staff member added)
				1,000,000

	Street Counseling Expenses	Snacks	2,400,000	* twice a month*20 people*5,000 KRW per person*12 months
		Crisis Support Aid	2,400,000	* twice a month*2 people(10%)*50,000 KRW per person*12 months
		Survey Expenses	2,400,000	* research designing, statistical analyses
	Hot-line Expenses	Establishment Expenses	1,000,000	* SNS, e-mail, emergency telephone line
		Counseling Expenses	3,600,000	* 10 cases per month*30,000 KRW*12 months
		Medical Aid	1,200,000	* 100,000 KRW per month*12 months
		Transportation Aid	600,000	* 50,000 KRW per month*12 months
Reserve Fund		1,000,000		
Sub-total		19,600,000		
Total		80,000,000		

- **Stage 3, 4, 5: Build LGBTQ youth shelter**
- **Funding target: 125,000,000 KRW**

Category		Amount (in KRW)	Details	
Management Cost	Rent and Utilities	Deposit	30,000,000	* additional moving expense
		Rent	7,200,000	* 600,000 KRW*12 months
		Utilities	3,000,000	* 250,000 KRW*12 months (electricity, gas, water)
	Operational Expenses	Hot-line Expenses	2,400,000	* 200,000 KRW*12 months (operating hot-line, managing the website)
		Others	2,400,000	* 200,000 KRW*12 months (office supplies)
	Personnel Expenses	Salaries	72,000,000	* 4 people*1,500,000 KRW*12 months (2 staff members added) * We will need more staff members if the shelter runs 24 hours.
		Bonuses	8,000,000	* 4 people*2,000,000 KRW
Total		125,000,000		

- Shelter will be established with the deposit from Stage 2 and the funds for Stage 3.
- The number of staff members has to be increased to manage a 24-hour shelter. In case of personnel increase, funding target will increase accordingly.

- **The projects will proceed when we reach the funding targets for each stage.**

Fundraising for the next stage will commence after a final report is released.

8. Organizations participating in this project

Solidarity for LGBT Human Rights of Korea (Dong-In-Ryun) : Coordinator

Christian Solidarity for a World Without Discrimination

Open Doors Community Church

Sumdol Presbyterian Church

9. References

National Youth Policy Institute. 2006. *A Study of the Lives of Sexual Minority Youths*.

The Seoul Institute. 2012. A Study of Human Rights Awareness of the Citizens of Seoul

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National Center for Social Research & Stonewall Housing (2013). *Meeting the needs of homeless lesbian and gay youth*. Retrieved October 12, 2013, from <http://www.stonewallhousing.org/files/Meeting%20The%20Needs.pdf>