

Dear friends,

Edogawa child advocacy network is a local NGO engaging in supporting the child. And we want to make our town to the child friendly city where people respect *the* Convention on the rights of child.

Edogawa-ward, with a population of over 680,000 including 120,000 children under 18, lies at the east end of Tokyo. Edogawa-ward has a land area some 49 square kilos-meters, all of which is flat area among rivers and Tokyo Bay.

This January, a 7-year-old boy who lived in our town suffered abuse by his parents and died. Last year, he told a dentist that he was being ill-treated. And the information was reported to the Edogawa Child-family support center which is the office to contact about child abuse. Then teachers, of the school the boy went to, discussed with his parents. But the boy who came to school only a few days in a month after abuse was found out passed away.

Edogawa local government had inspected about this affair and increased the staff of the Child-family support center. And abuse preventive measures were argued in the inspection committee, Edogawa municipal assembly and a special meeting by all schools / areas / administrations in Edogawa-ward. We think that the biggest problem is that the policies and measures engaging in child are made without viewpoint of the children. This case was no exception though it caused the tragedy that voice of a child was not reflected.

Therefore we started a citizen's project, the voice campaign of the child for prevention of child abuse. Youth volunteers from 18 to 23 years old take most of this plan and implementation. They are learning social system and strongly want to change the policy of local government to better community without child abuse. By civic network and cooperation, we have already obtained answers more than 1000 from all over our country. And we found out that many children have many / unique / positive ideas for building better society. They struggled to make questionnaire how small children could understand the meaning of question, and got sense of possibility to contribute for the community.

We are encouraged by the fact that U.K. policy had changed after the Victoria Case. Then we will convey voices of children to people and let them understand that the suggestion of children is necessary for our society. We will make document and have a report meeting until September.

Please send us your message, and if possible ask some children under 18 to complete the questionnaire. Now we want to hear from you and children around the world. Your cooperation and concern will be helpful for our action.

Best Regards.

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