

STOP!! HARASSMENT

February 2022



Message from Deputy Chief Counsellor Harassment Counseling Office

There are many different types of harassment. There is power harassment in the workplace that occurs in the context of superior and inferior relationships, academic harassment that happens when there is a dominant power relationship in research and education contexts, sexual harassment that involves sexual comments and behavior without consent, and there is harassment related to pregnancy, childbirth, and childcare leave etc. Because it comes in many forms and because the values held by the perpetrator and the victim are diverse, it is frequently difficult to share understanding on issues what may be referred to as harassment.

However, all of these diverse incidences of harassment have something in common. If we put it into the context of the constitution it comes under Article 13: Respect for the Individual. In other words, harassment is a lack of respect for the individual.

So, how do we respect the individual? This is a difficult question both in a legal sense and in a philosophical sense. It is almost impossible to define it in a positive way. Even so, that does not imply that the concept of respect for the individual is meaningless. This is because as time goes on and historical experience accumulates, the types of actions that do not respect the individual and also threaten and violate the individual become increasingly clear, and respecting the individual becomes negatively apparent. Like the negative of a black and white photograph, the features become clear.

For harassment also, it is important to form a common understanding through continuing to seriously and delicately consider when an individual is being harmed. This is, quite simply, the road that the members of Osaka University must continue to walk to create a place where everyone is respected as individuals.

We at Osaka University do not overlook or allow harassment and will take steps to deal with harassment strictly.

We ask for everyone's cooperation.

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If you want to talk to someone, please contact us.

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