



Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter

Questions about the Harassment Counselling Office

Q1 When I consult the Harassment Counselling Office will they make a decision as to whether the treatment I received was harassment?

A1 The role of the counselling office is to act as an advisor and facilitator in order to improve the circumstances for people who consult because they feel like they are being harassed,. The counsellors will not decide as to whether the actions are harassment or not.

Q2 I would like to seek advice anonymously, is it possible to consult via email?

A2 The Harassment Counselling Office does not do counselling via email. We recommend that you telephone the office first. When you call, inform the counsellor that you wish to remain anonymous.

Column Message from a counselor

Recently, it is common to see international students working in convenience stores and restaurants. There are also many staff from different countries.

Have you ever heard of racial harassment? The word racial comes from the word human race. However, it is now used to refer to the color of people's skin, ethnic roots, religion and nationality. Racial harassment is discrimination against others due to the above or looking down on others because of their skin, religion or nationality etc. Japan is a nation that was originally made up of people from many different backgrounds and ethnic roots. Despite this, there are frequent opportunities to see discrimination against other countries and bashing, particularly of neighboring countries, on the television and in magazines which then trigger seemingly endless rants and abuse by users of Twitter and Facebook. This behavior is considered to be racial harassment by authorities and people showing this behavior may be arrested. A recent example is a University of Tokyo faculty member who wrote that citizens of a particular country would not be hired by the company he had established. He was dismissed from his university position for "A discriminatory post against nationality or ethnicity". Awareness of harassment and the need to take measures against it is rising year-on-year. The excuse that it was a private company and not connected with the university is not acceptable. It is not easy to eliminate prejudice. However, if you feel that 'people from that country are no good' and 'people who believe in that religion are stupid' then you may be influenced by the prejudice you see online and perhaps you should ask yourself if you really feel that way and why.

The Osaka University Charter states "Osaka University will support fundamental human rights, rejecting intolerance in all aspects and activities, including discrimination regarding race, ethnicity, religion, beliefs, financial situation, social status, gender, or disabilities". University is an educational institution; it is the responsibility of all members to create an environment and form a society together in which no one's rights are infringed, and young people are prepared for life in global society.

Osaka University Harassment Counseling Office

Toyonaka campus 06-6850-5029 (sexual, academic and power harassment)

06-6850-6006 (sexual, academic and power harassment)

Suita campus 06-6879-7169 (sexual, academic and power harassment)

Minoh campus 072-730-5112 (sexual, academic and power harassment)

Website http://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/ja/guide/student/prevention_sh

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