

Osaka University Harassment Counseling Office

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Harassment Counseling Office Newsletter

Greater Countermeasures against Harassment!

Greater countermeasures against harassment will be implemented in the workplace from June! (Measures to prevent power harassment are the duty of the workplace. Greater measures to prevent sexual harassment and maternity harassment (harassment relating to pre- and post-partum leave and child care leave) will also be implemented.)

If you harass someone you may face criminal charges and disciplinary action such as losing your position, you may be required to pay restitution and bear responsibility for loss of social credibility.

Do not become someone who harasses others.

If you notice potential harassment, notify the Harassment Counselling Office.

Column Message from a counselor

The word harassment came into widespread use in Japan in the late 1980s when a woman working in Fukuoka filed a lawsuit against her company for sexual harassment, and the woman won the case, which attracted national attention.

Successive sexual harassment lawsuits were subsequently filed, and a name was given to the "difficulty in working" faced by a woman because of her gender (a socially and culturally created sense of role). Recognition that sexual harassment is a violation of human rights against women has spread ever since. After that, like sexual harassment, various names such as power harassment, academic harassment, maternity harassment, etc. were given according to individual positions, relationships, and situations.

Viewing the current difficult situation in the framework of harassment can lead to an understanding of pain, fear, isolation, and physical symptoms. That alone cannot change the situation, but it may lead to being able to visualize available options.

The Harassment Counseling Office will listen to the psychological and physical pain a client is feeling, and depending on the details, work with the client in that framework.

The counselor will consider not only the personal relationship with a particular person but also the environmental and structural aspects of the client's situation.

Then, depending on the wishes of the client, future options may be examined.

The word harassment may be of assistance to change the pain and circumstances of the client; however, it can also become a trigger for confrontation. For the benefit of the client, it is important that the word harassment does not take on a life of its own. The counselors always bear in mind building a relationship of trust between the counselor and the client.

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Toyonaka campus06-6850-5029 (sexual, academic and power harassment)06-6850-6006 (sexual, academic and power harassment)Suita campus06-6879-7169 (sexual, academic and power harassment)Minoh campus072-730-5112 (sexual, academic and power harassment)Websitehttp://www.osaka-u.ac.jp/ja/guide/student/prevention_sh

Edited and published by the Administrative Office for Harassment Countermeasures, Department of General Affairs, Osaka University 1-1 Yamadaoka, Suita, Osaka 565-0871 Email: soumu-harassment@office.osaka-u.ac.jp

