

## Inequality Experienced by North Korean Defectors

### Cities' Response and Improvements to Address the Inequality Experienced by North Korean Defectors

Date & Time: October 7, 13:00-15:00 KST / 6:00-8:00 CEST

Organizer: University Students' Association for Unification (USAU)

#### Background

According to a survey by the Ministry of Unification, as of June 2022, the number of North Korean defectors in South Korea is about 30,000. Due to the systemic and social, economic, and cultural differences between the two Koreas, North Korean defectors, like refugees and multicultural families, are experiencing many difficulties in settling down and adapting to South Korean society. What will cities look like after they leave North Korea and arrive in South Korea? In order to solve the problem of stable settlement and spatial acceptance of North Korean defectors at the city level, it is necessary to first understand the mutual relationship between their residential environment, resident activities, and the local community. Nevertheless, most cities neglect North Korean defectors without much consideration. In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 70th anniversary of the declaration of the end of the Korean War, we would like to reveal many problems that North Korean defectors are experiencing in South Korean cities and introduce cities that are responding to them. It is an opportunity for young people to candidly talk about their problems and have time to discuss concrete solutions.

College students from South and North Korea and college students from the U.S. take turns as speakers, showing that young people from various backgrounds are working hard to improve awareness of North Korean defectors and their adaptation to society. Regardless of politics or religion, they convey the stories they felt in their lives to the audience more plainly than anyone else, making them aware of the problem of discrimination against North Korean defectors. It informs about the poverty and inequality that North Korean defectors face, and introduces the activities of human rights cities in response to their difficulties. Based on the unique ideas that started from the thoughts of 'young people', not anyone else, cities that should respond to poverty and inequality will devise strategies to be used in the future.



## Objectives

1. Unification that came first, inequality experienced by North Korean defectors
2. How the cities respond to the difficulties of North Korean defectors
3. The human rights cities in the future that will change for North Korean defectors
4. Improving awareness of inequality among North Korean defectors through solidarity among human rights cities

