

## Right to Housing

### *Jjokbangchon* and Rights to Live with Dignity

Oct 5, 2023 (Thu) 9:00-11:30

Organizers: Gwangju Social Innovators Network, Gwangju Stand-Again General Support Center

#### Background

The rights to housing hold the meaning of “Everyone’s rights to enjoy adequate housing”, “Rights to enjoy adequate housing conditions fitted for human dignity”, “Guaranteeing the minimum living standards for the people’s rights to housing” and suggest that everyone has the rights to lead their lives in an adequate housing environment. In Korea, there are around 8,768 *Jjokbangs*. *Jjokbangchon* is a Korean word referring to a poverty area with concentrated small-spaced houses of more or less 6㎡. They are widespread in 10 regions in 5 major cities with 5,212 people residing in across the nation.

Residents in the areas pay high rental fees compared to narrow spaces of the houses, however, they are not properly managed at all, which leads to a plenty of critical safety issues. In reality, the houses in the *Jjokbangchon* do have a very restricted space even not allowable to put or store commodities except a sleeping space. Most of them do not have windows and the aisle between the buildings are too narrow to get the houses enough natural lights. Also, the houses are poorly ventilated, which could cause health problems for the residents as well. In this regard, this session was designed to guarantee a dignified life for the *Jjokbangchon* residents by addressing overall issues of the residents including their physical and mental health.



## Objectives

1. To share the cases of movements waged in *Jjokbangchons* in Seoul and its surrounding areas to build ‘our’ adequate houses beyond the “rights to live in a healthy and pleasant environment” stipulated in the Constitution
2. To review the direction of public housing initiatives carried out by the government and private funds
3. To identify a sustainable housing welfare model of Gwangju by understanding the pending issues and current status of *Jjokbangchon* in Dong-gu, Gwangju, drawing social consensus on means and roles and responsibilities of each entity, and proposing alternatives to address the issues

## Main Agenda

1. The history and current status of urban poverty areas (*Jjokbangchon*)
2. The government public housing initiatives to address *Jjokbangchon* issues
3. Researches on *Jjokbangchon* in Dong-gu, Gwangju
4. Alternatives and policies to address *Jjokbangchon* issues in Gwangju

