

**Human  
Rights**

*Correspondence*  
**SCHOOL**

LESSONS

Series 21

---

**Children's Rights: The  
General Principle of  
Non-Discrimination --  
A Case Study of  
Japanese-Filipino Children**

---

**Summary**

**This lesson addresses the issue of discrimination against children based on birth status, and examines some of the problems faced by Japanese-Filipino children. This is just one particular case study of how some children must suffer due to circumstances beyond their control - when States neglect their duties to protect the rights of the child.**

**Human Rights Correspondence School**

[E-mail: [hchool@hrchk.org](mailto:hchool@hrchk.org) & Web: [www.hchool.org](http://www.hchool.org)]

*A Project of the*



**Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)**

Unit 4, 7 Floor, Mongkok Commercial Centre, 16 Argyle Street  
Kowloon, Hong Kong Tel: +9852) 2698-6339 Fax: +(852) 2698-6367

# Children's Rights: The General Principle of Non-Discrimination

## A Case Study of Japanese-Filipino Children

### Introduction

---

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (“The Convention”) was unanimously adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1989. 191 countries have become State Parties to the Convention, with only two countries that have not: the United States, which has signaled its intention to ratify by formally signing it, and Somalia. This document marked a milestone in human rights terms, because it is the first legally binding code of child rights in history, and acknowledges that children are holders of rights, rather than passive recipients of benefits. It brings together in one treaty all the relevant child rights issues, rather than having them scattered among a number of international treaties. It acknowledges that children are entitled to special protection of their rights, because of their vulnerability. It also sets basic standards for children’s wellbeing at different stages of their development.

The most important principles in this document are the principles of Non-discrimination (Article 2) and Best interests of the child (Article 3). An examination of the situation of many Japanese-Filipino children clearly shows the violation of these two basic principles. Japan ratified the Convention in 1994.

In Japan, there are about 500,000 Filipino migrant workers of which approximately 97% are in the entertainment industry.<sup>1</sup> In these cases, inter-marriages and abandonment have become commonplace. Japanese men abandon their Filipina partners and their children for various reasons: they are previously married; their parents dislike the relationship; they have found another woman; or they are simply not serious about the

relationship. Whatever the reason, the result is always detrimental to the innocent Japanese-Filipino children, who are discriminated upon on the basis of birth status, and denied some of their most basic rights. There are some 100,000 fatherless Japanese-Filipino children estimated to be living in the Philippines.<sup>2</sup>

The issues that surface in this lesson are not necessarily confined to this particular set of circumstances. Children born out of wedlock are being discriminated against in many other countries in Asia, such as Malaysia, where a child born out of wedlock is not entitled to *any* of his/her father's property if the father dies intestate. Children on the borders of Cambodia, Burma and Thailand are being denied their right to a nationality, rendering them stateless and unable to access their basic needs. This case study will hopefully encourage others to reflect on the two most basic principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and consider the situation of children in their own countries.

Lessons:

1. The Right not to be discriminated against on the basis of status
2. The Right to a nationality
3. Further violations of Children's Rights
4. Suggestions for Action

## **Lesson 1: The Right not to be discriminated against on the basis of status**

Although the principle of Non-discrimination is enshrined in the International Bill of Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and all other key human rights instruments, children born out of wedlock are still being discriminated against in many different ways. Japanese-Filipino children are particularly affected by discriminatory laws governing the acquisition of nationality.

### **A. Explanation of Japanese Laws that discriminate on the basis of birth status**

Article 900(4) of the Civil Code

**2**

If the father of the child dies without a will, under this law, the inheritance of a child born out of wedlock is held to be ½ that of a legitimate child. This law was challenged in the Supreme Court in 1995, but the court

held that it is not inconsistent with the Constitution and principle of equality (note that 5 judges dissented).

Articles 13(4) and 49-2(1) of the Family Registration Law

On the birth registration form, a check box indicates whether child is born within a marriage or not. On the family registration form, the child's relationship with the biological parents is indicated differently also.

In Japan, copies of the family register are often required to be submitted on socially important transitions, such as employment applications. This can lead to discrimination against persons born out of wedlock.

*Articles 2 and 3 of the Nationality Law*

The father's recognition is necessary for the child to have Japanese nationality. However, there is no retroactive recognition for a child born out of wedlock. That is, even if the father recognizes his child after birth, the child can only acquire nationality if the parents marry. A 1996 case (Osaka District Court) held that this was not inconsistent with Constitution and not discriminatory.

This law has tremendous impact on the situation of Japanese-Filipino children because it means that a child cannot become a Japanese national, even if entitled to because of parentage, because of the sole reason that he/she was born out of wedlock. Unless the parents of the child marry (to 'legitimate' the child), the child will not have the same privileges as the offspring of Japanese couples.

## **B. International Standards**

Principles embodied in International Treaties:

**The Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 2**

The general principle of Non-discrimination: All rights apply to all children without exception, and the State has an obligation to protect children from any form of discrimination. This includes discrimination based on birth status.

**The International Convention on Civil and Political Rights Articles 2, 24, 26**

Articles 2 and 24 prevent discrimination by birth, and Article 26 guarantees equality under the law.

### **The International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Articles 2 and 10**

Article 2 prevents discrimination by birth. Article 10 requires the State Party to protect all children without any discrimination for reasons of parentage or other conditions.

#### **Guidelines from Treaty-based Monitoring Bodies:**

*Human Rights Committee General Comment 17*

“Reports by State parties should indicate how legislation and practice ensure that measures of protection are aimed at removing all discrimination in every field, including inheritance, particularly as between... legitimate children and children born out of wedlock.”

#### **Human Rights Committee’s response to Japans’ Third Periodic Report**

The Committee recommended that Japan amend its legislation to bring it into line with the ICCPR: “The Committee is particularly concerned at the discriminatory legal provisions concerning children born out of wedlock. In particular, provisions and practices regarding the birth registration forms and family register are contrary to the ICCPR. The discrimination in their right to inherit is not consistent with Article 26.”

#### **Committee on the Rights of the Child’s response to Japan’s Initial Report**

In June 1998, the Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed the same concern as the Human Rights Committee and recommended that legislative measures be introduced to correct this discrimination:

“The Committee is concerned that the general principles of non-discrimination, the best interests of the child... are not being fully integrated into the legislative policies and programmes relevant to children, in particular in relation to children from vulnerable categories such as ... children born out of wedlock. The Committee is concerned that legislation does not protect children from discrimination on all grounds defined by the Convention, especially in relation to birth, language and disability.”

**Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' response to Japan's Second Periodic Report**

In September 2001, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights expressed concern about the persisting legal, social and institutional discrimination against children born out of wedlock, in particular as regards the curtailment of their inheritance and nationality rights. The Committee urged that Japan “remove the concept of “illegitimate children”, which is unacceptable in a modern society, from legislation and practice, urgently to take legislative and administrative measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against children born out of wedlock, and further to restore the Covenant rights of persons so affected (Arts. 2 (2) and 10).”

It is worth noting that most countries in the West have removed all distinctions in their laws between children born within and out of wedlock. Legal reforms directed at equalizing the birth status of children have taken place in New Zealand (1969 Status of Children Act), Ireland (1987 Status of Children Act), many states of the United States (legislation patterned on the Uniform Parentage Act), Britain (The Family Law Reform Act of 1987), and Scotland (1986 Law Reform (Parent and Child) (Scotland) Act). Norway achieved substantial legal equality for children born outside of marriage as early as 1915. The process of reform in these countries has been stimulated by recognition of the rights of children born outside of marriage under the European Convention on the Legal Status of Children Born Out of Wedlock. It provides, in its preamble, that efforts have been or are being made in a large number of member states of the Council of Europe to improve the legal status of children born outside of marriage by reducing the differences between them and children born within marriage that are to their legal or social disadvantage.

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. Are children born out of wedlock treated differently by the law in your country?
2. Discuss the following quote:

“In so far as the system of marriage by law is adopted, in a way it is a logical outcome of this system that a difference in the share of inheritance emerges between legitimate and illegitimate children.” (Supreme Court of Japan, 1995)

## Lesson 2: The right to a nationality

---

The Convention on the Rights of the Child enshrines the child's right to a nationality (Article 7). This does not mean that State Parties must give nationality to all children born within their territory. There are two ways that nationality can be acquired: by birthplace (such as the USA) or by blood (such as Japan). However, when the State Party's legislation makes it difficult, if not impossible, for a child to exercise his/her right to a nationality, then such legislation must be questioned.

### A. Explanation of Japanese Laws regarding nationality

Article 2(1) of the Nationality Law

Japan follows the bilineal *ius sanguinis* principle (Latin for "law of the blood"). A child shall be a Japanese national when, at the time of birth, the father or the mother is a Japanese national. The father then, must acknowledge the child *before* birth.

Japanese laws are such that the father's act of recognition (by submitting to authorities an acknowledgement of paternity) is necessary to gain Japanese nationality. Many of the Japanese men who have sexual relations with foreign women refuse to recognize the children born of these relationships, often because they happen to be married and are not about to risk divorce. As mentioned above however, even if the father does acknowledge the child *after* its birth, it is too late, unless the parents marry.<sup>3</sup>

*Article 12 of the Nationality Law and Article 104 of the Family Registration Law*

If the child of a Japanese national is born outside of Japan, he/she will automatically lose his or her right to Japanese nationality unless a reservation is filed within 3 *months* of birth.

Limiting the time period of registration to three months makes it difficult for the mothers of Japanese-Filipino children to protect their child's right to Japanese nationality. They often are not even aware of this strict rule, and by the time they find out about it, it is too late. The Japan Federation of Bar Associations has recommended the extension of the period of submission of declaration for reservation till at least the age of 20.<sup>4</sup> The NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child has recommended that the laws be revised to extend the time period "in accordance with realities."<sup>5</sup>

## **B. International Standards**

### **Principles embodied in International Treaties:**

*Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 7*

The right to have a name from birth and to be granted a nationality.

*Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 8*

The State's obligation to protect and, if necessary, re-establish the basic aspects of a child's identity (name, nationality and family ties).

### **Guidelines from Treaty-based Monitoring Bodies:**

*The Human Rights Committee General Comment 17*

The Committee stressed the importance of avoiding statelessness.

*The Human Rights Committee's response to Japan's Third Periodic Report*

The Committee recommended that Japan amend its legislation to bring it into line with the ICCPR.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

1. How do children acquire nationality in your country? Is it by blood or by birthplace?
2. How does the system deal with parents of different nationalities?

## **Lesson 3: Further violations of Children's Rights**

---

In the case of the child's mother not having a valid visa, without the father's recognition before birth, the child will be unable to gain medical support or attend public schools. Without this recognition, the child is denied many of his/her basic needs. It is often very hard for the mother to support her child alone.

### **International Standards**

#### *Convention on the Rights of the Child Articles 24-29*

The right to the highest level of health possible and to access health and medical services; The right of children to benefit from social security; The right of children to benefit from an adequate standard of living, the primary responsibility of parents to provide this, and the State's duty to ensure that this responsibility is first fulfillable and then fulfilled, where necessary through the recovery of maintenance; The child's right to education, and the State's duty to ensure that primary education at least is made free and compulsory.

#### *Convention on the Rights of the Child Article 6*

The inherent right to life, and the State's obligation to ensure the child's survival and development.

### **Questions for Discussion:**

1) Consider and discuss the case of Masami:

#### Case of Masami

Tapiru was working as a hostess in Japan where she met Taka, a married man. Taka promised to divorce his wife and marry her, but this never happened. When she fell pregnant, he wanted her to have an abortion, but Tapiru fought to keep the child.

Masami was born with a serious disorder requiring check-ups costing more than US\$100 per visit. Because her father did not recognize her, she is not a Japanese national and thus, not covered by the state health insurance. Tapiru did not have a valid visa and could barely make ends meet with two part-time jobs. She was forced to go to court to force Taka to give monthly support.

Taka offered her \$30,000 to leave Japan, but Tapiru decided to stay and press for Masami's father to recognize his child. "I want Masami's father to fulfill his duty," she said. "It is not the money but the issue of protecting the rights of my child."

(Source: Inter Press Service News, Oct. 1999)

2) Can you think of similar circumstances when children in your country are not receiving proper health care/social security/education because of their nationality?

3) Whose responsibility is it to ensure a child's survival and developmental rights?

#### **4. Suggestions for Action**

The preamble of the Convention stresses the need for international cooperation in achieving the realization of children's rights. Nowhere is this more obvious than when it comes to children on the borders of two countries, whether physically as refugees, or because of parentage. Children placed in such situations are particularly vulnerable and need special care and protection.

DNA testing has allowed for many women to force the fathers to face their responsibilities, but it should not have to come down to this, as it requires a lot of human and financial resources, which are often not available to the mothers.

There are two aspects that should be dealt with in considering strategies:

*First* is the long-term solution – to repeal legislation in violation of the International Bill of Rights and,

especially, the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Discrimination against children born out of wedlock, particularly in regard to the acquisition of nationality, is in violation of one of the most basic rights of all: to be free from all forms of discrimination.

*Second* is the provision of support for mothers and children who have been affected by this unjust situation.

### **A. Lobbying the government to review legislation**

- Raise awareness among the authorities and the public of the discriminatory laws that currently exist; and
- Lobby the Japanese government to repeal its discriminatory laws and demand that they follow the recommendations of the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

#### **Question for Discussion:**

What legislative changes in your country do you see as necessary to protect the rights of the child?

### **B. Support for the women/children**

- Increase monitoring and improve methods of data collection (there is currently no accurate record of the number of JFCs);
- Raise awareness among women on how to protect the rights of their children and who to approach for help;
- Raise awareness in the general public through various media to eliminate the social stigma and discrimination against children born out of wedlock;
- Support women/children in legal actions challenging discriminatory laws;
- Assist in reunions between father and child; and
- Assist mothers in legal actions for recognition of and financial support for the child.

**Case of Zerna**

Zerna went to work as an entertainer in Japan. She entered into a relationship with a Japanese man named Masa, who courted her and later proposed marriage. Zerna became pregnant and informed Masa, who accepted it. Later on, the relationship fell apart and the two lost touch. Zerna gave birth to Mazanaa, and did not give up trying to establish contact with the father of her child. When she finally spoke to him, he promised to send financial support but it never came.

Zerna decided to seek legal help. Masa denied paternity, and although Zerna felt bad about it, armed with the knowledge that Development Action for Women Network (DAWN) was there to support her, Zerna decided to pursue the case and request a DNA test. In May 1999, Zerna clinched a milestone for the cause of migrant women in an unprecedented court decision compelling Masa to provide support for his four-year old child.

(Source: Development Action for Women Network)

**Question for Discussion:**

What can NGOs in your country do to help mothers and children in similar situations?

**End Notes:**

1. 1997 estimate of documented and undocumented entries, reported in Sinag, (April-June 1999), the publication of the Development Action for Women Network.
2. Mainichi Shimbun, Aug. 1999.
3. Note as a basis of comparison the USA, where a father can acknowledge and pass citizenship to his child up until the child reaches the age of 18.
4. Report on the Implementation in Japan of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Japan Federation of Bar Associations, 1997.
5. NGO Report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (Japan), Federation for the Protection of Children's Human Rights, 1997.

## **Appendix 1. Relevant Articles of UN Documents**

### *Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)*

#### *Part I*

##### *Article 2*

1. States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination or punishment on the basis of the status, activities, expressed opinions, or beliefs of the child's parents, legal guardians, or family members.

##### *Article 3*

1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

2. States Parties undertake to ensure the child such protection and care as is necessary for his or her well-being, taking into account the rights and duties of his or her parents, legal guardians, or other individuals legally responsible for him or her, and, to this end, shall take all appropriate legislative and administrative measures.

3. States Parties shall ensure that the institutions, services and facilities responsible for the care or protection of children shall conform with the standards established by competent authorities, particularly in the areas of safety, health, in the number and suitability of their staff, as well as competent supervision.

##### *Article 4*

States Parties shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention. With regard to economic, social and cultural rights, States Parties shall undertake such measures to the maximum extent of their available resources and, where needed, within the framework of international co-operation.

##### *Article 7*

1. The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.

2. States Parties shall ensure the implementation of these rights in accordance with their national law and their

obligations under the relevant international instruments in this field, in particular where the child would otherwise be stateless.

*Article 8*

1. States Parties undertake to respect the right of the child to preserve his or her identity, including nationality, name and family relations as recognized by law without unlawful interference.

2. Where a child is illegally deprived of some or all of the elements of his or her identity, States Parties shall provide appropriate assistance and protection, with a view to re-establishing speedily his or her identity.

*Article 9*

1. States Parties shall ensure that a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child. Such determination may be necessary in a particular case such as one involving abuse or neglect of the child by the parents, or one where the parents are living separately and a decision must be made as to the child's place of residence.

2. In any proceedings pursuant to paragraph 1 of the present article, all interested parties shall be given an opportunity to participate in the proceedings and make their views known.

3. States Parties shall respect the right of the child who is separated from one or both parents to maintain personal relations and direct contact with both parents on a regular basis, except if it is contrary to the child's best interests. 4. Where such separation results from any action initiated by a State Party, such as the detention, imprisonment, exile, deportation or death (including death arising from any cause while the person is in the custody of the State) of one or both parents or of the child, that State Party shall, upon request, provide the parents, the child or, if appropriate, another member of the family with the essential information concerning the whereabouts of the absent member(s) of the family unless the provision of the information would be detrimental to the well-being of the child. States Parties shall further ensure that the submission of such a request shall of itself entail no adverse consequences for the person(s) concerned.

*Article 10*

1. In accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 1, applications by a child or his or her parents to enter or leave a State Party for the purpose of family reunification shall be dealt with by States Parties in a positive, humane and expeditious manner. States Parties shall further ensure that the submission of such a request shall entail no adverse consequences for the applicants and for the members of their family.

2. A child whose parents reside in different States shall have the right to maintain on a regular basis, save in exceptional circumstances personal relations and direct contacts with both parents. Towards that end and in accordance with the obligation of States Parties under article 9, paragraph 1, States Parties shall respect the right of the child and his or her parents to leave any country, including their own and to enter their own country. The right to leave any country shall

be subject only to such restrictions as are prescribed by law and which are necessary to protect the national security, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others and are consistent with the other rights recognized in the present Convention.

*Article 18*

1. States Parties shall use their best efforts to ensure recognition of the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of the child. Parents or, as the case may be, legal guardians, have the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of the child. The best interests of the child will be their basic concern.

2. For the purpose of guaranteeing and promoting the rights set forth in the present Convention, States Parties shall render appropriate assistance to parents and legal guardians in the performance of their child-rearing responsibilities and shall ensure the development of institutions, facilities and services for the care of children.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that children of working parents have the right to benefit from child-care services and facilities for which they are eligible.

*Article 24*

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services.

2. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures:

(a) To diminish infant and child mortality;

(b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care;

(c) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;

(d) To ensure appropriate pre-natal and post-natal health care for mothers;

(e) To ensure that all segments of society, in particular parents and children, are informed, have access to education and are supported in the use of basic knowledge of child health and nutrition, the advantages of breastfeeding, hygiene and environmental sanitation and the prevention of accidents;

(f) To develop preventive health care, guidance for parents and family planning education and services.

3. States Parties shall take all effective and appropriate measures with a view to abolishing traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.

4. States Parties undertake to promote and encourage international co-operation with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right recognized in the present article. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

*Article 26*

1. States Parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with their national law.

2. The benefits should, where appropriate, be granted, taking into account the resources and the circumstances of the child and persons having responsibility for the maintenance of the child, as well as any other consideration relevant to an application for benefits made by or on behalf of the child.

*Article 27*

1. States Parties recognize the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

2. The parent(s) or others responsible for the child have the primary responsibility to secure, within their abilities and financial capacities, the conditions of living necessary for the child's development.

3. States Parties, in accordance with national conditions and within their means, shall take appropriate measures to assist parents and others responsible for the child to implement this right and shall in case of need provide material assistance and support programmes, particularly with regard to nutrition, clothing and housing.

4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to secure the recovery of maintenance for the child from the parents or other persons having financial responsibility for the child, both within the State Party and from abroad. In particular, where the person having financial responsibility for the child lives in a State different from that of the child, States Parties shall promote the accession to international agreements or the conclusion of such agreements, as well as the making of other appropriate arrangements.

*Article 28*

1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to education and with a view to achieving this right progressively and on the basis of equal opportunity, they shall, in particular:

(a) Make primary education compulsory and available free to all;

(b) Encourage the development of different forms of secondary education, including general and vocational education, make them available and accessible to every child and take appropriate measures such as the introduction of free education

and offering financial assistance in case of need;

- (c) Make higher education accessible to all on the basis of capacity by every appropriate means;
- (d) Make educational and vocational information and guidance available and accessible to all children;
- (e) Take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates.

2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that school discipline is administered in a manner consistent with the child's human dignity and in conformity with the present Convention.

3. States Parties shall promote and encourage international cooperation in matters relating to education, in particular with a view to contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods. In this regard, particular account shall be taken of the needs of developing countries.

#### *Article 29*

1. States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to:

- (a) The development of the child's personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to their fullest potential;
- (b) The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations;
- (c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own;
- (d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;
- (e) The development of respect for the natural environment.

2. No part of the present article or article 28 shall be construed so as to interfere with the liberty of individuals and bodies to establish and direct educational institutions, subject always to the observance of the principle set forth in paragraph 1 of the present article and to the requirements that the education given in such institutions shall conform to such minimum standards as may be laid down by the State.

#### *Article 30*

In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities or persons of indigenous origin exist, a child belonging to such a minority or who is indigenous shall not be denied the right, in community with other members of his or her group, to enjoy his or her own culture, to profess and practice his or her own religion, or to use his or her own language.

### **Important Contacts**

Development Action for Women Network (DAWN)  
Room 514 Don Santiago Building  
1344 Taft Avenue, Ermita  
1000 Manila, The Philippines  
Tel: +(63-2) 526 9098  
Fax: +(63-2) 526 9101  
E-mail: dawnphil@i-next.net  
Internet: www.dawnphil.org

DAWNJapan  
5-9-16 Nishiarai Adachi-ku  
Tokyo 123-0841, Japan  
Tele/Fax: +(81-3) 3890-1659  
E-mail: dawnjapan@hotmail.com  
Internet: <http://plaza27.mbn.or.jp/~archinoid/dawn/index.html> (Japanese)

The DAWN Shelter  
2905-18 Imafuku, Kawagoe-shi  
Saitama-ken 850-11 Japan  
Tel: +(81-4) 9246-4666

**Special Mention:** This education module, Lesson Series 21 of the Human Rights Correspondence School was prepared and compiled by Maya ILETO.