

NGO Thematic Alternative Report on Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse(#School_MeToo) to the Committee on the Rights of the Child

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I. Introduction of the Organization(Feminism for Youth) and Background of the Report

1. Feminism for Youth was organized on May 2016 after the Gangnam murder case, which was a hate crime against women, by female adolescents. To inform the public on discrimination and violence against female adolescents, Feminism for Youth has hosted numerous events such as 'I want to learn about Gender Equality Now' for Teacher's Day celebration, Feminism project for daughters, and adolescents reporters on feminism. Recently, Feminism for Youth also organized 'No School for Girls', a School MeToo protests. The organization consists of approximately 30 members and 23 of them are children.
2. The objective of this report is to inform the present situation of the '#School_Me Too' movement in South Korea which started in 2018. This report was drafted directly by the young people themselves who are involved in the '#School_MeToo' movement in Korea. The children who drafted this report wish to inform the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child of the young people's damages from sexual violence in schools in Korea.



- ▲ The picture was taken in the rally, “No School for Female Students,” which was held on 4 November 2018. One of the participants was distributing the pickets, The word written in the picket was “NO SCHOOL FOR GIRLS”

II. Current Wave of 'School Me Too' in Republic of Korea

3. The 'School Me Too' movement in Korea has been developing since around March 2018. Issues regarding sexual violence in schools which were unseen in Korean society were unveiled through social media.¹⁾ Then in April 2018, students and graduates of a girls' high school in Seoul accused their teachers' sexual crimes, and the picture of the students' post-it notes on school windows with 'Me Too' and 'With You' written on them in support of the movement gained huge public attention and interest through social media. Through such incidents, 'School Me Too' movement started to come under the social spotlight.²⁾
4. After the 'Window Me Too' incident in April 2018, 'School Me Too' movement took place in over 69 schools. Young people themselves were actively involved and reported incidents. Sexual crimes in schools that were revealed through 'School Me Too' movement were very shocking. School teachers' sexual violence including rape, verbal and physical sexual harassments were found as the youth disclosed their experiences and damages. There are more than 1,300,000 mentions on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and other social media channels regarding accusation and revelation of such incidents.



- ▲ The picture of "Window #Metoo", The students put Post-it notes on the window of the school to show their solidarity with victims of sexual crimes in the schools.

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- 1) March 5, 2018, The Telegraph News, <South Korea's rapid MeToo movement spreads to schools as pupils accuse teachers>
(Source: <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/03/05/south-koreas-rapid-metoo-movement-spreads-schools-pupils-accuse/>)
 - 2) April 10, 2018, k<'Window Me' What happened in a girl's high school?>
(Source: http://news.khan.co.kr/kh_news/khan_art_view.html?artid=201804101713001&code=940100)

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▲ Students who participated in the 'School Metoo' movement put Post-it notes on the teachers' office wall.

5. "Your bodies will become field to bear great seeds. So eat good food", "Take off your clothes publicly if you are to take off your clothes", "Pee if you think you will be raped", "You will get a perfect score on performance test if you seat on my lap", "Women are baby-making machines", "You will be raped if you wear sexy clothes." All the comments above were made by teachers in classrooms to students at schools.³⁾ There were cases in which teachers ordered a student to hand-wash his underwear, requested students to pick on his ears or to attend to them while drinking alcohol.⁴⁾ Cases above are only a few examples and much more cases were reported through 'School Me Too' movement regarding various types of sexual violence, sexual harassment and sexual/gender discrimination.

6. Despite of such exposures by the youth and demands for solution to the issue, however, there has not been appropriate or necessary measures taken by the government. According to the National Assembly Member KIM Hae-young(Democratic Party of Korea)'s mention during the inspection of government administration on 11 October 2018, only 27 schools were under investigation out of 65 schools in which 'School Me Too' movement publicly accused possible crimes (as of 11 October 2018). Also, according to National Assembly Member PARK Yong-jin(Democratic Party of Korea), severe penalties were imposed on all cases reported to the police while lighter penalties were imposed on cases reported directly to the school and in which school self-investigated the matter. In other words, when reported to the schools,

3) October 16, 2018, Hankyoreh, <The Children who charged the teachers "Teachers who have assaulted are not teachers">

(Source: <http://www.hani.co.kr/arti/society/schooling/865966.html>)

4) March 25, 2018, Seoul journal, <"Lying with his head on a female student's lap and force a female student to make drink service" Additional disclosure of 'School Metoo'>

(Source: http://www.seoul.co.kr/news/newsView.php?id=20180326010008&wlog_tag3=naver)

the schools only tried to practically conceal or minimise the incidents.⁵⁾

7. Further, of the teachers who have been disciplined for their sex offenses for the past three years, forty percent of them are still working as teachers at the school. Of 267 sex offense cases that were reviewed, 121 were sentenced demotion or suspension, mild disciplinary measures considering the degree of offense, and even those 15 offenders, who originally were dismissed, were reinstated by filing a cancellation suit. As shown above, punishment for sex offenders is insufficient.⁶⁾
8. Moreover, secondary victimization often took place when the youth reported his or her damages of sexual violence. Teachers or classmates would denigrate or mock the 'School Me Too' victims or, when exposed the incident through a hand-written poster anonymously, the accused teacher would require the victim to come out in real name.⁷⁾ Furthermore the schools tried to track down the initiator, or required closing of social network account operated to get reports from students.⁸⁾ No protection measures were taken by the government regarding such second victimization.
9. It has been a little more than 200 days since the 'School Me Too' movement became publicly known in Korean society. As stated above, neither measures to prevent recurrence nor protection of the victims were taken despite of the accusations placed in 69 schools through the movement. On 4 November 2018, the 'Students' Day', 35 civil society organizations including Feminism for Youth and Preservice Teacher in Action held a rally, "No School for Female Students." The youth and people of that rally proposed 5 demands regarding the issue: ▲ Implementation of periodic training on feminism to every member of the school ▲ Stop second victimization ▲ Conduct nationwide investigation on sexual crimes in schools and strengthen punishments ▲ No discrimination of students based on gender dichotomy ▲ Revision of Private School Act and enact Student Human Rights Act to

5) October 11, 2018, Kyung Hyang journal, <[2018 inspection of state administration] School Metoo, "When you report to police, severe penalties to the teacher, but when you report to the school, only weak penalties to the teacher">
(Source: http://news.khan.co.kr/kh_news/khan_art_view.html?artid=201810111153001&code=940401)

6) November 6, 2017, Joongang Ilbo, <There are 276 teachers who have committed sexual crimes at schools 4 of 10 are still in schools and the expelled teachers also can come back to schools even though >
(Source: <https://news.joins.com/article/22086552>)

7) September 12, 2018, Kyung Hyang journal, <Schoo Metoo, Secondary Victimization also done by students>
(Source: http://news.khan.co.kr/kh_news/khan_art_view.html?artid=201809122134005&code=940100)

8) September 13, 2018, Kyung Hyang journal, <The School answers "Track down the leaders" to Schoo Metoo. The school also arouse conflicts between students>
(Source: http://news.khan.co.kr/kh_news/khan_art_view.html?artid=201809131532001&code=940100)

foster horizontal and democratic school environment.⁹⁾



▲ The picture was taken in the rally, “No School for Female Students,” which was held on 4 November 2018. The youth gathered together and marched along the street, and shouted the slogan, “Me too” and “With You.”

* The following speeches are from #School_MeToo protests. All of the students voluntarily consented to be quoted in this report.

1. #MeToo Speech from Middle School A

“The teacher told us to get it over with. We can’t understand why we should get this over with when we can’t seem to forget it.” This was a statement written on the post-it during A Middle School’s School MeToo protest. We were sexually harassed frequently by our ‘Ethics’ teacher for several years for various reasons in many forms. We asked for help many times as the teacher harassed us, but no teacher bothered to care. “Your skirt would look better if it were shorter”, “I will give extra credit for pretty students if they would sit at my lap”, “Girls would fight to give me a massage if I asked”, “I often went to Karaoke room with my female students”, “Girls should have voluptuous bodies as Aphrodite.” When his actions received media’s attention, we were constantly threatened and suffered from secondary victimization.

We are students. Our safety should be guaranteed at schools by the teachers, but

9) November 5 2018, Kookmin Ilbo <‘NO SCHOOL FOR GIRL’ ‘School Metoo’ Students who had to be self conscious>

(Source: <http://news.kmib.co.kr/article/view.asp?arcid=0012814286&code=61121111&cp=nv>)

we were molested by our supposed protectors. But we are not the only ones. There are still many students that are in the dark, suffering from sexual harassments at school.

I remember a quote from a movie I once saw. "This is bicycle from the past and this is car of present. And bicycle is the students of the past, and the car is the students of today." This movie criticizes that school has remained idle since the past. The society is the same. While we have evolved into automobiles, the school and the society still considers us as bicycles.

From this moment, we will no longer condone teachers touching and harassing us as compliments. From now on, we are going to be tough. We are going to say no. And we will keep on fighting until we no longer have to say no to avoid harassment and we will be fighting until we can advocate our rights.

2. Speech from Bukil High School MeToo

I screamed in front of all the students. "Why should we be called sluts?" The auditorium was filled with cries of the students.

At the international department of Bukil High School, ninety students spend most of their time together for three years. We were not aware of what other students talked about us as we parted into our dormitories. However, we knew that even at this small a society, we were a cast of their perverted stories and that we were constantly evaluated.

At the start of this year, a brave friend of us told what was happening at the male dormitory. We were casts of their sexual fantasies. Our actions during physical education classes were transformed into sexual fantasies that would please their nights. Our body parts were ranked and we were thought of as monkeys with breasts. As we were considered animals, they had secret contests on touching our bodies. This horrific story that hurt us was just another fun school myth that was shared among the boys.

We were deeply hurt by their cruel actions. We now avoid meeting new people because we fear that they may be talking about us and now we are conscientious of our littlest actions that they may attract others' attention. Tears of shame filled up whenever we thought of their remarks.

However, it is more frightening that the students knowingly disregarded the situation out of fear. Our scars have been overlooked over and over because pointing out the

wrongfulness of the situation made us misfits of this small society where we had to see each other everyday.

On April 4th, girls from Bukil high school international department began to voice our opinions. The victims one by one, climbed up the stage to describe their pains. The school and our teachers thankfully listened to our stories. Our tears did not stop, representing our long lasted pain. On that day, we realized that countless victims have been silencing their pains.

We were able to stand up to the perpetrators who forced us into fears with the our courage and the help of our school However, the Bukil high school MeToo that spread like wildfire, that we so hoped to bring change is now an event from the past. Everything is now back to normal.

People now tell us again that "Kids those age often do that", "It was a special circumstance", "He did not mean it to hurt you", "There are worse people", "Is it even true that they were hurt?" Again, we were fighting with their cold stares.

Here, we want our voices to be heard gain. We were hurt over and over until we were able to take this stand. To fight for the truth, we had to relive the horrible nightmares that hurt us deeply. However, their guilt is fading, and our story is again neglected by this society. I want to ask, why do we always have to prove our pain even though we are still suffering? Why does no one believe us?

School MeToo should not be left as another incident. We have to keep shouting for our friends who are still in despair from sudden memories.

We hope that the wave of voices can bring out the change in society. I, along with my friends, have spoken up, and I believe that change starts right here where we stand together.

3. Speech from Activist advocating for School MeToo at Daegu

'Teachers sneaked in at empty classrooms, went over our bags and through away our belongings.'

'When I raised the issue of gender discrimination, I was disciplined because they thought I infringed upon teachers' rights, and when I claimed that it was unfair, they told us that it was school tradition.'

These shocking stories were actual stories from School MeToo chat recently held.

I urge the schools to stop claiming that they did what they did because 'they wanted to protect the students' and because 'they love the students.' It is also abuse of power to freely claim that they love us.

I urge them to listen to their students. School should be a place where students can be themselves, not a place where students should conform to an image crafted by adults.

School should be a place where different ideas may be accepted and feminism is allowed. School should be a place where no one is discriminated because of their identity, and it should not be a place where teachers state the words 'equality' while not appreciating its virtue.

When we asked for a student human rights ordinance to create a fairer school culture, official from Daegu Department of Education flatly stated that 'school culture does not change overnight.' We should be activists to change the schools and not become spectators.

4. Speech from Chungbuk Middle School MeToo

It has already been seven weeks ever since this movement happened in Chungbuk Middle School. When the discussion was made into case, few teachers who were accused within were dismissed. We installed a comments box in school and received promises from teachers. But that was it. The teachers are still the center of schools, no discussion has been made on the fundamental problems, such as hierarchy between school and teachers, violation of student's right to speak and sexual objectification of women.

At school we are considered misfits because feminism is considered a movement led by few people. In addition, the lack of gender education has caused the school to consider LGBT+ communities as group of abnormals. Our school, where we learn and live, has now turned into a plaza of abomination where hate speech is the language.

'Our' movement shall serve stepping stone for all schools to avoid further sex offenses. We will not be silenced for the third year students who will soon graduate, for first and second year students who will stay at school, for many of Korean women who will be attending schools. For our seniors and juniors who had the courage to report, we need to change the school that caused them this pain. We will not fall.

Finally we hope for a day when students can be free from fear of social stigmatization and secondary victimization. Thank you.

III. Suggested Recommendations

We request the Committee on the Rights of the Child to recommend the following to the government of the Republic of Korea on sexual exploitation and sexual abuse(art 34).

- The government of the Republic of Korea shall identify and train the counselors who are qualified to counsel students on gender rights violation and hate speech and station them in each school. These counselors should have basic legal knowledge on sexual harassment and sexual violence to offer appropriate counseling to victims.
- The government of the Republic of Korea shall conduct an in-depth investigation on the cases reported as 'School MeToo' immediately The government of the Republic of Korea shall report results of the above investigation to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- The government of the Republic of Korea shall regularly conduct feminism and human rights education to the school members to prevent further sexual offenses.
- The government of the Republic of Korea shall take legislative and administrative measures, such as amending the Private School Act and enacting the Student Human Rights Act, to prevent the sex crimes in schools.
- The government of the Republic of Korea shall ensure rightful punishment to the offenders(including secondary victimization), provide remedy for the victims, and ensure the right to truth and justice and the right to rehabilitation of the victims are recognized. The government of the Republic of Korea shall put the best interests of students and victims at first when ensuring the right to truth and justice and the right to remedy of the victims.