

## City Ordinance Regarding the Elimination of Discrimination against Foreign Nationals, and the Establishment of a Multicultural Society in the City of Kobe

The establishment of a multicultural society is vital to the peace and prosperity of all mankind and as such, it is the responsibility of every person to stop and prevent all kinds of behavior promoting and encouraging discrimination based on nationality, ethnicity, culture, religion and other factors.

The citizens of Kobe have already experienced the positive effects of multiculturalism. After our port opened to foreign trade in 1868, people from various countries started coming to Kobe and we all worked together to build our city, develop our economy and create a unique way of life that incorporated different cultures. Therefore, it would not be an exaggeration to say that without the exchanges we had with the people from other countries, Kobe would not have become the city it is today.

In recent years, our country has experienced an increase in the number of inbound tourists and international students, particularly from rapidly developing Asian countries, which is greatly contributing to the further development of the Japanese economy. Additionally, now that labor shortages are becoming increasingly severe in numerous industries, our country is placing high hopes on foreign labor as one of the solutions aimed to alleviate this problem.

Considering all of the above, it becomes apparent that unless we ensure that foreign nationals can safely visit and live in Japan, not only our city but Japanese society as a whole will be unable to maintain itself.

In March 2016, our city formulated the Kobe 2020 Vision, which aims to establish a diverse and inclusive society that would respect everyone's individual characteristics, enabling all its members to make use of their strong suits and support each other.

Our city prides itself on being open to the world, and as such it strives to eliminate all kinds of discriminatory speech and conduct, as well as all other forms

of discrimination. Moreover, we strongly believe that developing an inclusive society respectful of different cultures is crucial for the further growth of our city's economy, as well as the improvement of citizen welfare. Therefore, the City Assembly hereby enacts this City Ordinance in order to promote the development of such an inclusive society.

*(Purpose)*

**Article 1.** In compliance with the Constitution of Japan that guarantees the freedom of speech, as well as other freedoms and rights, this City Ordinance intends to create and promote the basic framework of measures aimed to eliminate discrimination against foreign nationals, and establish a multicultural society respectful of all cultures.

*(Definition)*

**Article 2.** Within this City Ordinance, the term “foreign national” refers to foreign nationals as defined in Article 2, Paragraph 2 of the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act (No. 319, 1951), who have legal reasons to reside in Japan.

*(Duties of the Citizens)*

**Article 3.** All citizens shall strive to eliminate discrimination towards foreign nationals, and establish a society that respects everyone's dignity.

*(Development of Consultation Framework)*

**Article 4.** The City Government shall accurately respond to all inquiries regarding discrimination towards foreign nationals. Furthermore, the city shall also cooperate with the Government of Japan and other relevant organizations to ensure the appropriate expansion of its consultation framework.

*(Educational Activities)*

**Article 5.** The City Government shall cooperate with the Government of Japan and other relevant organizations to facilitate educational activities aimed to eliminate all kinds of discrimination towards foreign nationals, and create a framework necessary for such educational activities.

*(Public Awareness Activities)*

**Article 6.**

1. The City Government shall cooperate with the Government of Japan and other relevant organizations to inform the citizens about the necessity to eliminate all kinds of discrimination towards foreign nationals, and carry out various public relations and other public awareness activities aimed to deepen the understanding of said necessity. Furthermore, the city shall also undertake all appropriate efforts to facilitate such activities.
2. The City Government firmly supports the establishment of a multicultural society in which all people accept each other's differences, regardless of their citizenship or ethnicity. Therefore, the city shall make every effort to promote human rights awareness, which is crucial to establishing a multicultural society.

*(Provision of Information)*

**Article 7.** The City Government shall make every effort to accurately provide foreign nationals with all information necessary to participate in social life in Japan.

*(Financial Measures)*

**Article 8.** The City Government shall make every effort to implement appropriate financial measures to ensure that the goals of this City Ordinance are met.

*(Reporting to the City Assembly)*

**Article 9.** The Mayor of Kobe shall report to the Kobe City Assembly regarding the implementation of measures related to this City Ordinance every fiscal year.

**Supplementary Provisions**

This City Ordinance shall go into effect on April 1, 2020.