

**146th IPU Assembly
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General Debate

**The Roles & Responsibilities of Parliamentarians to Build an Inclusive Society that
Respects Everyone's Right**

*Delivered by Kim Ye-ji
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I am Yeji Kim, a proportional representative member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, representing minorities and people with differences, including those with disabilities.

Today, I will deliver my remarks to garner your support and encourage your action regarding the roles and responsibilities of parliamentarians in creating an inclusive society that upholds everyone's right.

Various data and indicators show that intolerance and discrimination are on the rise globally, while peaceful coexistence and tolerance are declining.

The Internet has become an unrestricted territory where hate speech and discriminatory remarks thrive. Adding to this, the media's pursuit of attention-grabbing content has fueled the propagation of such material without proper scrutiny.

Regrettably, some politicians capitalize on this confusion by criticizing and stigmatizing vulnerable groups instead of adopting a balanced stance to mediate the situation.

In this context, the role of proportional representatives becomes more critical, as they are not constrained by the need to gain votes. However, parliamentarians who cannot be free from votes should still not neglect and must seek solutions to build a society where

no one is left behind.

Today, the world has made significant economic and technological advancements. While rapid changes have brought some benefits, they have also resulted in discrimination, undermined trust in human rights criteria, and restricted rights, thereby exacerbating social division and widening the gap between the privileged and underprivileged.

Additionally, people across the globe are facing hardships, including war, natural disasters, and economic crises, and it is becoming increasingly challenging to show generosity towards others.

In such an atmosphere, the role of parliamentarians who represent the voice of the public is crucial.

It is essential to refrain from misusing words or expressions, since they can further inflame the hatred, stigmatization or discrimination of citizens whose tensions are already high. Changing one's attitude towards others to be positive takes a considerable amount of time and efforts, while it is effortless and immediate to hate and despise those who are not like us.

I understand that it is human nature to feel uncomfortable sharing society's limited resources with vulnerable groups, as the Law of the Jungle reminds us. However, we must go on with education and self-examination to find solutions. Isn't this what sets us apart from wild animals?

The roles of the National Assembly and its members, as an independent constitutional body, must be emphasized in such unfortunate situations.

With our collective efforts, I look forward to a day when we can create an inclusive

world where everyone's rights are respected.

Thank you for your attention.