

Create a livable society for all

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Someone says “We separate people into two genders.” This is wrong. We have gender expressions such as biological sex, gender identity, hairstyle, clothes, and speaking style. There are different sexual orientations, and the combinations are so diverse that you can’t judge people by their appearance. Such various people are already living together in the same society, so thinking about how everyone can make their own way will lead to the forming of a stronger society.

We grow and live in an environment surrounded by values, information, and knowledge. For example, our society is full of prejudice. Our prejudice that "romance is for a man and a woman" deprives many people of their freedom. If two people love each other, you don't have the right to interfere in their lives.

The term LGBT has become widely known, but do you know the term SOGI? SOGI is Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, and expresses the sexuality that everyone has. My elementary school teacher told me, "LGBT and SOGI people are as common as left-handed people." I don't think left-handed people are special, so I don't think LGBT and SOGI people are special either. However, in reality, there are many people who have a hard time because they are sexual minorities. Many of them just want to be themselves by coming out with their sexual orientation and gender identity. However, some people can't come out because they are worried that they may get a negative reaction from their friends and colleagues. Coming out is also a process of accepting your sexuality and is one of the means to living your own way. So, it is important to create an environment where sexual minorities can easily come out. It's not just big movements that change society. If you see any discriminatory behavior about sexual minorities, disagree and oppose it. That action could save someone around you.

Think about and imagine the next story on your own. A transgender woman participated for the first time in the Tokyo Olympics. Some argue that a transgender woman may have an advantage. What do you think? I think the people who insist on it are wrong. We are playing sports in the face of various injustices, but we think of them as if they were fair, for example, in basketball and volleyball, taller people have an advantage. In developed countries, there are a lot of facilities and equipment, but you don't say “That’s unfair”. We miss a lot of injustices. I wonder why people are so particular about gender. I want various people to be active, not only in sports but also in other fields. Everyone is different, everyone is special. Let's create a society where everyone can be active beyond gender barriers.

I think that the ideal society is one in which each person's individuality is recognized rather than being accepted as "ordinary" because of the large number. Words are still uncertain and don't need to be applied to anything. You can make it yourself and have your own gender. If there are 100 people, there are 100 different genders, and you can decide yourself from various genders. I give a speech as one of the gender, not as a third party. If you are given the opportunity to come across a situation where you doubt yourself, I hope this word will help you,

“If not me, who? If not now, when?” because, in reality, it is said that it will take 135.6 years to bridge the gender gap.

What kind of society do you imagine where everyone can live comfortably? Ask yourself. If not you, who? If not now, when?