

Gwangju Declaration
2013 Conference of Institutions Holding Human Rights Records on
UNESCO's Memory of the World International Register

Gwangju, Republic of Korea
15 to 18 May 2013

Mindful of the considerable achievements to date by UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme in assuring recognition of the value and significance of human rights records,

Concerned that even at this moment in time many people face human rights violations due to discrimination and oppression by states, individuals or other parties,

The participants in the meeting, which was held from 15 to 18 May in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, declare the following:

1. We express our appreciation to UNESCO, Gwangju Metropolitan City and the Committee for the Establishment of 5.18 Archive for jointly organizing the meeting of institutions holding human rights records on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.
2. We urge those holding human rights records on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register to share and promote access by all to the records.
3. We encourage the use of human rights records for the development of resources for the education of all. To this end, we commit to cooperation with other institutions to share human rights records on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register for research and the production of educational materials.
4. We believe that the experiences gained through the preservation of human rights records held by each institution will help future generations to understand the value of these records and their role in promoting democracy.
5. We will strive to make human rights records accessible to all people in the world. We support the creation of exhibitions and will make all efforts to organize exhibitions as means and circumstances permit.
6. We support the establishment of a network among institutions, which works with existing associations to continue our collaboration to preserve, share, encourage research, raise awareness of and identify other human rights records.
7. We recognize the need to organize a second meeting in Gwangju City within the next 12 months to continue actions, assess progress and explore relevant issues.
8. We request UNESCO, under the auspices of the Memory of the World Programme, to further explore the issues dealt with in the meeting: preservation, promotion, utilization, acquisition and registration of human rights records. We will endeavour in our own way to achieve this goal.