



UPR Pre-session on the Republic of Korea

**Delivered by People's Solidarity for Participatory
Democracy(PSPD) on behalf of the 461 CSOs in Republic of Korea**





Issues to Address

01

**The Death
Penalty**



02

**The National
Security Act**



03

Poverty



04

**Business and
Human Rights**



The Death Penalty



Death sentences continue to be imposed

Voted for the first time in favor of Death Execution Moratorium resolution

Submitted to the Constitutional Court an opinion that the death penalty should be maintained

Held an open hearing at the Constitutional Court to examine the unconstitutionality of the death penalty for the third time

Special Act on the Abolition of Death Penalty pending at National Assembly for the 9th time



The Death Penalty



Recommendation

- Should declare a moratorium on executions and reduce all death row prisoners to life imprisonment
- Should ratify, without any reservations, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty



The National Security Act



Used to arbitrarily prosecute innocent individuals, human rights defenders, and labor unions who opposed the government

Used as a form of censorship

Restricted freedom of expression, opinion, thoughts and association, right to privacy, academic freedom and cultural rights

Held an open hearing to examine the unconstitutionality of the Act at the Constitutional Court in September 2022

NSA repeal bill pending at the National Assembly



The National Security Act



Recommendation

- Should abolish the National Security Act so that it complies with international human rights laws and standards



Poverty



Ongoing cases where people suffering from poverty face tragic deaths

Has not abolished the “family obligation rules” for receiving medical benefits, citing financial burden as the reason

The poverty rate of elderly Koreans is the highest among OECD members, about three times higher than the OECD average

The benefit amount of the National Pension is very low and the system still has a wild blind spot



Poverty



Recommendation

- Should immediately abolish the family obligation rules for all benefits to resolve the blind spots in poverty and guarantee the right to health
- Should raise the income replacement of the national pension to the OECD average and take active measures to eliminate the blind spot in the system



Business & Human Rights



Has not developed any initiatives to integrate the UN Guiding Principles in business and human rights into business practices of the private sector and to promote corporate human rights due diligence

No laws requiring human rights and environmental inspections in the supply chain of Korean companies(Not effective nor enforceable)

The Korean NCP also has not come up with any meaningful decisions or recommendations and most cases are simply dismissed in the initial assessment stage



Business & Human Rights



Recommendation

- Should enact the Act on the Mandatory Human Rights and Environmental Due Diligence
- Should prepare comprehensive measures to respond to human rights violations and environmental destruction by Korean companies operating overseas



