

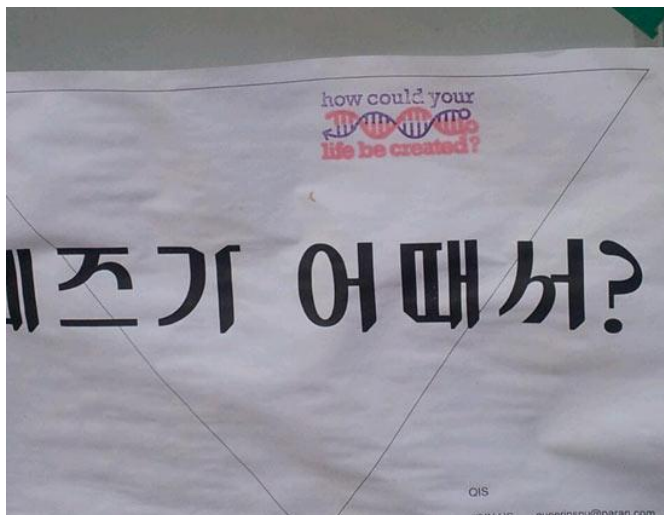
WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! - QUEER STUDENTS FROM SOUTH KOREA

Dear our friends,

Hi. We are Queer In SNU (QIS), an LGBT student group at Seoul National University. We were Korea's first queer student alliance officially approved in college. Starting late 1990s, QIS has been leading Korean queer movements and has become an emotional shelter for queers inside and outside.

Today, we would like to let the world know about the recent and ongoing terrorism against homosexuals at SNU and the faculty who encouraged, provoked, and legitimized the behavior.

The “pro-heterosexual & anti-homosexual” campaign, especially targeted at attacking QIS, began in October 2011. Among the anti-gay campaigns was the performance of letting people throw a blue-colored ball into a red-colored hole, which symbolized sex act between men and women. This happened right next to the exhibition booth hosted by QIS during the Queer Week of SNU. It couldn't be stopped as we couldn't risk revealing our identity. Another was stamping our gay rights posters distributed over the campus. Each piece of the posters was stamped with an image of DNA strand, which illustrated a man and a woman in the “missionary position” (See photo below). Under the image was the question “How could your life be created?” implying that homosexuality is to be condemned.



This series of homophobic violence was known to be prepared by one Christian art major student as a final year degree project in place of an undergraduate thesis. The campaign was carefully planned in consultation with a professor for almost a year, without confronting any objection by the advisor or other faculties who knew it was aimed at homophobic activities and severe defamation of queers. The project received full approval from the dissertation committee by the College of Fine Art at SNU. It is being publicly displayed in graduation exhibition on campus.

The student makes it clear that he attempted “sanctifying man-woman monogamy” and “protesting against homosexuality” through his campaign. The professor insists that the campaign is what was rightfully intended by his class teachings and thus has no problem. The College of Fine Art does not respond to our request to recognize it as a hate crime and remove the work from exhibition. We, as part of SNU and our society, feel extremely devastated by the reaffirmed fact that our university is not only an unwelcoming place to LGBT members but also a very threatening environment to all social minority groups.

South Korea is one of the world's most culturally homogeneous and conservative countries. Many still firmly believe gays and lesbians are with a mental disorder. Although this incident happened at a college, we do not think it is confined to SNU, but should be addressed as a nationwide, international issue. That's why we officially ask for your help. We are faced with a very serious situation, where no voice is heard, no justice practiced, no expressions reached out.

Show your support and solidarity. Tell the world that you are with us. Help us continue our act against and stop terrorism.

Our Requests to the College of Fine Art, Seoul National University are as follows:

1. We want the project titled "pro-heterosexual & anti-homosexual campaign" to be removed from this year's graduation exhibition.

1. We want Seoul National University to withhold the permission to graduate and a Bachelor of Arts degree that were to be granted to this project titled "pro-heterosexual & anti-homosexual campaign."

1. We want the student, the advising professor, and the Dean of the College of Fine Art to make public statements and apologize to queers in SNU.

Please add your voice by publicizing statements, sending fax to the university (numbers below), or simply mentioning us to as many sources as possible. Spread the news. We are limited in time until graduation exhibition ends on December 11th although we'll take further actions thereafter.

Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
Queer In SNU (QIS) from Seoul

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