

DECISIONS ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT OF ALL SCATTERED NATIONAL MINORITY PEOPLE TO NATIONAL EQUALITY

Adopted by the Government Administration Council of the Central People's Government on February 22, 1952

For various historical reasons, many members of certain national minorities in China have lived for many years or even generations scattered in areas, mostly cities and towns, populated by the Han people. For years subjected to national oppression and discrimination under reactionary rule, a good number of them were compelled to hide their national characteristics, conceal or change their nationality, in order to be able to continue their existence. The establishment of the People's Republic of China put an end to national oppression, while national equality was put in its place. In order to safeguard the right of all such scattered members of national minorities to national equality, the following decisions have been made:

1. In accordance with the provisions of Articles 5 and 9 of the Common Programme of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, all scattered members of national minorities shall enjoy the same right to freedom of thought, speech, publication, assembly, association, correspondence, person, domicile, change of domicile, and religious beliefs, as well as the freedom to hold processions and demonstrations, as the Han people in the locality. No one shall be permitted to discriminate against them.
2. All scattered members of national minorities shall, according to law, have the right to elect and to be elected. In localities where their number is comparatively large, the local people's governments may take proper steps to enable their representatives to take part in the organs of state power; shall see to it that proposals and opinions concerning national minorities receive the same attention as other proposals and opinions; and shall fully consult with representatives of a national minority on specific problems concerning it.
3. All scattered members of national minorities shall have the freedom to preserve or change their national ways of life, their religious beliefs, their national customs and habits in social life, in factories, schools, people's organizations, government offices or military units. This freedom shall be respected and given full consideration without interference from any quarter.
4. All scattered members of national minorities shall have the right to join any people's organizations in their locality and to engage in any trade or profession they like. They shall not be refused or discriminated against because of their nationality by any people's organization or in any trade or profession.
5. All scattered members of national minorities who have their own language, spoken or written, may use it in all legal proceedings in the courts.
6. All scattered members of national minorities shall have the right to bring charges before the people's governments against acts of national discrimination, oppression or insult perpetrated against them. The people's governments of all levels shall handle such charges in a responsible manner and mete out punishment in accordance with the law whenever such acts are of a serious nature.
7. All scattered members of national minorities who are faced with insurmountable difficulties in the enjoyment of their right to national equality may ask their local people's government for assistance.
8. The principles of these Decisions apply equally to members of national minorities scattered in autonomous regions of other national minorities and to the Han people scattered in such regions.