

I joined online camp of Free the Children!!

What's Online Camp?

We had a group discussion (5 people per group) using **ZOOM**. I could hear their voices and facial expressions in real time, so it felt like we were really meeting. We were also able to communicate via chat, so I felt at ease participating.



Day 1: Child Labor

Even children under the age of five are working to help their parents.

Currently, there are **152 million children** who are exposed to child labor. I also learned that the wages are not fair and that they are forced to live on less than **\$1.90 a day, or less than 200 yen.**



Day 2: Discrimination

On the second day, we actually talked to a black woman and a lesbian. First, we interviewed a black woman. When she was in kindergarten, she tried to use a pale orange crayon to draw her face, but her teacher gave her a brown one saying, "**Your skin is not that white, so use this brown.**" Then, when she was in elementary school, her teacher said, "**Didn't your father tell you anything about the part of history where people were taken from Africa as slaves?**" She said that she loved her father, but she began to envy other children's fathers.

Next, we interviewed a lesbian. When she was in junior high school and high school, she was the only one who was in love with a girl for the first time, and the atmosphere of **not accepting "differences"** made me feel insecure. So, she changed to a different high school where uniforms and school rules were free. In talking with her friends, we talked about who she liked, and when she told them that a girl was her first love, her friends didn't discriminate. She was helped by meeting a friend who **acknowledged** that she was a good person.



Day3: Net Literacy

On the last day, we discussed the problems of social networking sites and how to improve them. Since we can't see each other's faces, we can't understand their emotions and expressions, which makes it easy to get into **trouble**, hard to convey our thoughts, and **difficult to solve problems** when they arise. And even **strangers** are connected to each other.

Participating in the Online Camp

I am very happy to have participated. I was able to **exchange opinions** using what I have learned over the past year. It was a **valuable experience** for me to hear what they actually experienced. Although my activities are limited due to COVID-19, I would like to continue to be active.

