

ARTIST'S STATEMENT



It's Not Yours to Decide!

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Self-determination means declaring it is not yours to decide.

Ryuko Kurita, *Umeki kara hajimaru (Starting with a Moan)*, Shinkyō Shuppansha, 2022.

When we assert our "right to self-determination," especially our sexual and reproductive rights, we are often told: "But you can't just insist on your rights" or "You should fulfil your obligations too" or "Think about others". They say "the best way is to humbly explain and have people understand and reach a consensus beforehand". But we are all born with equal rights. It is not something that is granted or endowed by others, nor is it a barter with self-responsibility or obligation. And of course, it has nothing to do with religion or morality.

Chu-pi-ren as a prophet

Chu-pi-ren, established in 1972, was ostracized by the media and other feminists alike as "radical" and "ridiculous" for its direct action and assertion of the right to self-determination. But their claims are still very relevant today; they insisted on women's reproductive rights, demanded compensation for domestic violence toward women in the home (this was before the term "domestic violence" was known), established a women's party to bring women into national politics, and requested more women in full-time official government positions. Although Chu-pi-ren's methods were frowned upon as sensationalist, the members' actions clearly targeting authority are commendable today. Perhaps they raised these issues 50 years too early.

Resurrecting the Chu-pi-ren

For the following 50 years since the foundation of Chu-pi-ren, we have been continually told that "loudly asserting your rights" and "taking radical action" was "bad". Thanks to that (?) it took more than 40 years for the legalization of the birth control pill, gender equality has not progressed, and hate crimes remain rampant. We are fed up with seeking understanding and sympathy as "victims." We should fight for and win our rights. Chu-pi-ren embodied such a fighting attitude and spirit, and now is the time to resurrect the spirit of Chu-pi-ren in order to radically change the slave mindset that we have been tamed into adaption for 50 years. We are all born with equal rights. It is not something that is granted or endowed by anyone, nor is it a barter with self-responsibility or obligation. Of course, it has nothing to do with religion or morality.