



New Japan Women's  
Association

# Japanese Women Today

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Second Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (Nov.27-Dec.1, 2023, New York)

## *TPNW Is the Way to Achieve A Gender-equal and Sustainable World without Nuclear Weapons*

### **The World Should Know Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons Hibakusha's Stories Tell You What Would Happen If They Are Used**

To achieve a world without nuclear weapons, the New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin) has been active in collecting signatures calling on the Japanese government to become party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), which will give a big push to the global efforts to ban and eliminate these weapons of mass destruction. Shinfujin has also worked to make the truth about the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki known widely, by organizing gatherings with the Hibakusha, atomic bomb survivors, to listen to their stories, and exhibitions of a-bomb photos. Recently it focuses its effort on displaying the paintings created by the students of Hiroshima Motomahi High School based on the stories they hear from the Hibakusha. The paintings are so powerful to convince those who see them that nuclear weapons must be abolished. Our members display the paintings on the streets, at schools and many other public spaces.



**Working paper submitted by the New Japan Women's Association  
Second Meeting of State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons  
New York, 27 November -1 December 2023**

**Reject War, Reject Nuclear Weapons  
Now Is the Time for the International Community to Act in Solidarity**

Founded in 1962, the New Japan Women's Association is a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Its members are working all over the country to promote peace and the elimination of nuclear weapons, as well as women's rights and gender equality.

**Uphold the Charter of the United Nations and International Law to Resolve the Crisis**

Following the threats of use of nuclear weapons by Russia in its ongoing invasion of Ukraine, Israeli minister said that dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza was "one of the possible options." The statement goes against Article 1 of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons banning the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, and that is a violation of international law. While at the same time, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a nuclear military alliance, and the military alliances depending on the nuclear deterrence such as the one between Japan and the United States are reinforcing their military capabilities, deepening global divisions. The risk of war escalating into a nuclear war is growing as never before.

Failure to curb global warming has resulted in extreme heatwaves, wildfire, droughts, floods and other catastrophic weather events hitting all over the world. Climate crisis is imminent, and the very survival of humanity and the planet is at stake. This is not the time to waste money on war and arms buildup. We call on governments not to instigate division and confrontation by strengthening military blocs, but instead to be united in solidarity under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, so that the world can find a way to end wars, resolve the crisis and get back on track toward a sustainable future. In this regard, we sincerely hope that Japan, as the country having contacts with Israel and Arab nations, trusted by both sides because of Article 9 of the country's Constitution stipulating the renunciation of war and the denial of the right of belligerency, to play a vital role in resolving the crisis through peace diplomacy.

**Grassroots Activism Breaking Nuclear Deterrence**

The New Japan Women's Association welcomes the number of the signatories to the Treaty on the



Hiroshima citizens, including Shinfujin members, gathered in front of the A-bomb dome to urge the Japanese government to attend the 2MSP as an observer. They also carry the banner saying: "Don't kill citizens! Don't kill children" in protest against Israeli attacks on Gaza - November 23, 2023

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons reaching nearly half of the number of the Member States of the United Nations, and the number of state parties increasing steadily. Now that the treaty has begun to function as international law, the Association is pressing the Japanese government with the signatures in support of the petition for Japan, the only country that have suffered the war-time use of atomic bombs, to join the treaty. The New Japan Women's Association values the principles: "together with the Hibakusha" and "passing on to the next generations" in its activities, and works in every community to make the facts of atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki widely known. Our work includes holding gatherings to listen to the Hibakusha's testimonies and atomic bomb photo exhibitions, as well as making booklets and picture-story show about atomic bombing experiences. A few years back the Association started to focus its efforts on the showing of the paintings of the atomic bombing created by high school students in Hiroshima as not just summer time events but as year-round activities, and we have been able to display the paintings in public spaces including schools and libraries. Children and those who saw the paintings expressed how they felt, saying that nuclear weapons must be eliminated. Requesting temples and churches to ring peace bells are taking roots in communities as well. All these efforts have contributed to nurturing new forms of collaborations at local level for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and we feel confident grassroots activism has the power to break nuclear deterrence.

The government of Japan, chair of the Group of Seven this year, declared in the G7 summit meeting held in the atomic bombed city of Hiroshima last May that nuclear weapons should serve defensive purposes, which brought sharp criticism and voices of anger from the Hibakusha and citizens nationally and globally. It even rejects to attend as observer this Second Meeting of the State Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We will continue to press our government to change its attitude, by making the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons known to the public, and by collecting signatures for the petition calling on the government to join the treaty. The New Japan Women's Association, as a non-governmental organization holding the consultative status at the United Nations, is resolved to do its utmost, including using every opportunity such as the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, to urge all governments to become parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons so that we can achieve a world without nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date.

NJWA's working paper is available at the 2MSP official website:

[https://docs-library.unoda.org/Treaty\\_on\\_the\\_Prohibition\\_of\\_Nuclear\\_Weapons\\_-\\_SecondMeeting\\_of\\_States\\_Parties\\_\(2023\)/TPNW.MSP\\_.2023.NGO\\_.7.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Treaty_on_the_Prohibition_of_Nuclear_Weapons_-_SecondMeeting_of_States_Parties_(2023)/TPNW.MSP_.2023.NGO_.7.pdf)



About 50 young members of Shinfujin filled the stage of the closing plenary of 2023 World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs in Nagasaki. Their resolve to carry on the torch in the movement to abolish nuclear weapons and to stop the attempt to make Japan a war-nation inspired the participants. Their call, "Together, we can make a difference" resonated with all.

## Women Reject War - Say "No! to Killing, "No!" to Nuclear Threats

We are appalled and devastated by the images of women, children, the elderly and all those citizens of Gaza being killed en masse, while others desperately seeking shelters with nowhere else to run. We condemn the Hamas's attack on Israel, killing and taking civilians hostages, which is a clear violation of international law. Yet what Israel has been doing; bombing even schools, hospitals and refugee camps and blocking food, water, medical aid and electricity going into Gaza, also goes against international law, particularly humanitarian law.



Shinfujin members at once took to street, calling on both sides to lay down their weapons. We have also urged the Japanese government to play active role to bring about ceasefire, taking advantage of the country's unique position having ties both with Israel and Arab nations, trusted as a peace nation having war-renouncing Article 9 of the Constitution. However, always watching out for what the U.S. says, Prime Minister Kishida Fumio does not even regard Israel's acts as breach of humanitarian law. Shinfujin continues to act nationwide with calls, "Cease Fire Now!," "Free Gaza!" and "Japan, Don't Be Complicit in Genocide!"



Writing postcards to PM Kishida, and to Israeli and US Embassies



The New Japan Women's Association (NJWA or Shinfujin) was founded on October 19, 1962. About 115,000 members are organized in some 8,000 groups in workplaces and communities all over the country. Shinfujin has a head office that unites chapters working in all the 47 prefectures and branches in 800 municipalities.

Under the five objectives, Shinfujin works to realize all kinds of women's demands concerning such issues as women's rights, equality with men, better working and living conditions, measures to support child-care, education, environmental protection, peace and abolition of nuclear weapons. The five objectives are:

- Protect the lives of women and children from the danger of nuclear war
- Oppose the adverse revision of the Constitution and the resurgence of militarism
- Work together for better living conditions, extended women's rights and children's well-being
- Win genuine national independence, democracy and emancipation of women
- Join hands with women around the world for building lasting peace

Shinfujin is opened to all women who agree with the above five objectives, irrespective of their thought, creed or political background. It publishes a weekly paper "Shinfujin Shimbun" with 174,000 readers.

Shinfujin is a member of the Japan Federation of Women's Organizations (Fudanren) and the International Women's Year Liaison Group (comprising 33 major Japanese women's organizations.) It holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

NJWA Leadership (elected at the 31st National Convention)

President: YONEYAMA Atsuko  
Vice Presidents: ISHIHARA Kazu, NISHIKAWA Kyoko, HIRANO Emiko, TAKASUGI Shun  
Secretary General: YUIGAHAMA Naoko  
Deputy Secretary General: MAKI Yuko, WATANABE Satsuki

