



New Japan Women's  
Association

# Japanese Women Today

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## *80 Years from the End of World War II and the Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*

### *Let Us Move Forward towards a Nuclear -Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World*



2025 marks the 80th year of the end of World War II and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It also commemorates the 50th anniversary of the International Women's Year, declared by the United Nations with the theme of "Equality, Development and Peace". The New Japan Women's Association has been actively raising its voice for peace, gender equality, and the livelihood, calling on women to join the effort to change the politics through elections.

#### **Statement**

On the Result of the House of Councillors Election  
Resisting Discrimination and Division, Let Us Fight to Defend Our Livelihoods and Democracy  
Together with New Colleagues

July 23, 2025  
New Japan Women's Association  
Central Executive Committee

In the House of Councillors election held on July 20, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner Komei Party lost their majority in the Upper House, following their setback in last fall's Lower House Election. New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin) has been taking actions based on women's earnest demands for an end to LDP politics and a new politics to replace it. Many victories achieved in single-seat constituencies where the opposition parties united are a source of confidence, and the success in defending the "All Okinawa" seat in the Okinawa constituency was of great significance for future struggles.

At the same time, it is grave that the National Democratic Party, which has shown itself to be a complementary force to the ruling party, as well as Sanseito, a party that inflames misogyny, discrimination against foreigners and various kinds of division among citizens by spreading falsehoods, increased their votes and seats in the Diet. In the election, an abnormal situation unfolded. Public attention was distracted from the critical issues such as consumption tax rate cut, surging prices of commodities and rice, as well as the record 8.7 trillion-yen military spending which destroys our lives. Furthermore, statements such as "nuclear armament is the cheapest option" and reference to "conscription," along with discriminatory and xenophobic hate speeches have spread out from the political arena. Although the pro-constitutional amendment forces had held two-thirds of the seats in the Upper House in the past, we cannot overlook the fact that more conservative forces, including far-right, secured seats in this election.

The New Japan Women's Association members together with many women from all over the country have carried out urgent protest actions against the remarks by Sanseito leader Kamiya Souhei to push motherhood above all. Holding signs such as "I decide how I live" and "Discrimination and division lead to war," women organized protests at more than 200 locations in 47 prefectures. Younger generation and many other people came forward to join the protests and we were able to welcome new members into our association. The New Japan Women's Association strongly urges the media to report these actions and conduct thorough fact-checking of falsehoods.

Japanese politics is now at a major historical crossroads. At the root of this exclusionism is the increase of non-regular employment, the impoverishment of people's lives, and a sense of stagnation with no clear future in sight. In order to end the long-standing LDP politics that prioritize big businesses' interests and its subordination to the United States, and realize politics in which the Constitution is fully implemented, New Japan Women's Association will expand its actions and broad-based collaboration in response to earnest and varied demands. In so doing, we will welcome many more new members. Most of all, we express our determination to exert all our strength in the elimination of nuclear weapons, opposition to the Constitutional revision and prevention of the revival of militarism, and for achieving gender equality, which constitute the starting point of our founding.

## Women Rally Around to Say "My Body, My Choice"

In the Upper House election, the far-right Sanseito leader Kamiya Sohei came under fire for his disturbing remarks to blame women for the declining birthrate. He said that promoting gender equality had been wrong, called for a societal shift that encourages more women to stay home and raise children, rather than pursue full-time careers. Family policy is a central plank of Sanseito's election platform, and the party sets childbirth and parenting as "core national priorities."

Women of all ages were upset and hurt. Shinfujin together with women of different background called for urgent protest actions across the country, and Shinfujin members organized protests at more than 200 locations in all 47 prefectures. Women took Kamiya's words as attack on the hard-won gains for gender equality, particularly on sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. Sanseito exploited people's discontent and anxiety for future to win big gains in the election with "Japanese-first" agenda. Misogyny and xenophobia are spreading throughout the Japanese society. Women continue to stand up against the attempt to bring division among people.



Shinfujin members in Wakayama Prefecture appealing to the public



In Aomori, the northern region of Japan, 2 male high school students jumped in the protest.



Younger members of Chiyoda Branch, Tokyo holding signs "We don't vote for discrimination".

## **80 Years – It is the Time to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons Let Us Spread the Message of Hibakusha All Over the World, Urge Our Governments to Join TPNW**

80 years ago, the international community rose from the ruins of devastation and came together under the Charter of the United Nations to create a peaceful world without war. With the active involvement of NGOs and civil society, many gains have been achieved, but our world today faces multiple crisis that could lead to catastrophe.

The world and Japan are now at a crossroad of war or peace. The danger of the use of nuclear weapons is increasing, as outrageous acts resorting to force have been perpetrated in different places in violation of the UN Charter around the world. We see no signs of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and Israel's genocide in Gaza and its attempt to expand war in the Middle East supported by the United States. NATO members, under pressure from Trump, agreed to increase their military spending which inevitably will undermine the people's livelihoods and human rights.

In Japan, missiles and bases are being deployed across the country, and Japan and US are jointly accelerating the making Japan a "war-waging nation". The government surrenders to the outrageous demand of the Trump administration to pay more for US military presence in Japan and to purchase more missile and other arms from the US, and Japan's military budget continues to rises to new record high every year.

We are witnessing how militarization and human rights violation are interconnected. Those who are fueling exclusionism and division, led by Sanseito, have no shame to disregard or deny the Japanese Constitution, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), and other legal norms and democracy that have been established up to now by the collective effort of international community. Instead, they promote a massive military buildup and even call for Japan to go nuclear.

On the other hand, with the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to Nihon Hidankyo as a prelude to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, more and more people both in Japan and the world over are willing to listen to their testimonies. In the survey conducted by Asahi Shimbun last May, 73% of the respondent said Japan should become party to TPNW.

Shinfujin members across the country congratulated Nihon Hidankyo for winning the Nobel Prize, which inspired them to work more to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons. They are gearing up the effort to collect signatures for the petition to urge Japan to join TPNW, organize gatherings to hear the stories of Hibakusha and "A-bomb exhibitions" in every corner of the country. Seizing the momentum of 80<sup>th</sup> year, they request local municipalities to hold commemorative events and support Shinfujin A-bomb exhibitions. Our members also visit schools in their communities to provide opportunities for children and young students to learn what nuclear weapons can cause to humans and the environment. Young members of Shinfujin have started to take their own initiative to conduct field work to learn what happened during the war in their communities and what the Japanese military did to other Asian nations. The signatures our members have collected so far total more than 573,000.



No Women, No Peace. No Equality, No Peace. Shinfujin continues to work to achieve a nuclear-weapon-free, peaceful, just and sustainable society, joining hands with all women in Japan and around the world. Sisterhood is powerful!



Young Shinfujin members of Saitama Prefecture expressing their resolve to receive the torch at the Peace March Start Rally in front of the Fifth Lucky Dragon Museum



Link to the special page of the New Japan Women's Association website where the texts (Japanese and English) and audio-recording of Hibakusha testimonies are posted

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".

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

