



New Japan Women's Association

Japanese Women Today

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At a Crossroads in History, Women Stand Up to Act for Peace and Justice

U.S. Continues Lawless Actions, Japan's Takaichi Administration Remains Subservient to U.S.

Following the invasion of Venezuela early January, the United States, together with Israel, launched a preemptive strike against Iran. With these outrageous acts undermining the postwar international order, both Japan and the world now stand at a critical crossroads.

Against this backdrop, Japan's Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae did not protest a word to U.S. President Donald Trump for his illegal attack on Iran, which violates the UN Charter and international law. Instead, she displayed a humiliatingly subservient attitude, while multiple U.S. allies were announcing refusal to cooperate. Opinion polls show that 82% of the Japanese public oppose the attack on Iran.

Many citizens are increasingly alarmed that Japan would be dragged into the war initiated by the U.S. and Israel, and they are deeply concerned that soaring oil prices would cause further inflation and severe damage to the Japanese economy.

After securing more than the two-thirds majority of seats required to propose a constitutional amendment in the House of Representatives election this past February, the Takaichi administration, under the thumb of President Trump, now seeks to alter the Peace Constitution and transform Japan into a war-capable nation. It aims to lift the ban on lethal weapons exports, enact an anti-espionage law, and revise the three key national security documents. It even intends to change the long-standing national policy of the "Three Non-Nuclear Principles," to allow the introduction of U.S. nuclear weapons into Japan.



Shinfujin members holding signs: Stop Bombing Gaza!, Defend Our Livelihood!" – Niigata Prefecture



36,000 people flooded the street before the Diet, April 19

In the fiscal year 2026 budget, military spending exceeds a record 9 trillion yen, and the government forced through a "tax hike to fund military buildup". This year marks the fifteenth year from the March 11 Great East Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant severe accident, whose impact still affect the local residents and communities in various ways. Although the Fukushima nuclear disaster is far from over, the administration is accelerating the restart of nuclear reactors as well as the construction of new and additional nuclear power plants. Furthermore, it aims to ease work hour regulations, and obstruct gender equality by opposing the introduction of selective surname system for married couples.

The Takaichi administration's heavy-handed way to push her political agenda, disregarding the Constitution, democracy and human rights, will conflict more deeply with the wish of women and citizens for peace and livelihood.

Towards a Society Free of Nuclear Weapons and War

Alarmed women and citizens are taking actions, saying that they "can't sit still anymore".

Coinciding with the March 8 International Women's Day, the Japanese version of "Women's Day Off" action campaign was organized. Various



Women's Day Off action - writing down the messages

actions of women wearing red, both individual and collective, spread out throughout Japan with the catchword #IfITookADayOff,” an everywhere, women raised their voice against the attack on Iran. This groundbreaking initiative highlighted the lag in gender equality in Japanese society and the immense energy of women.



Women Speaking Out

Day by day, more and more women come forward to join the protest actions before the National Diet Building in Tokyo and across the country, holding penlights and chanting, “No Constitutional Revision!” and “Stop the Attack on Iran”. On April 19, 36,000 people filled the sidewalks in front of the National Diet Building, and rallies were held at over 200 locations nationwide. Along with protest actions, the signature drives are growing rapidly to oppose the constitutional revision and to protect Article 9, which declares Japan forever renounces war as a sovereign right of the nation.

For years, the New Japan Women’s Association (Shinfujin) has organized gatherings to listen to and read Hibakusha’s testimonies, and held exhibitions of atomic bomb photos and paintings made by high school students at public facilities, libraries and schools in each community. Members have collected 600,000 signatures out of a total of 3.44 million in support of the appeal calling



Collecting signatures calling on the Japanese government to become party to TPNW

on the Japanese government to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and 15,428 signatures out of a total of 129,430 for an urgent petition demanding that the Three Non-Nuclear Principles be upheld and implemented. After commemorating the eighty years from the end of World War II and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Shinfujin remains committed to stopping war and defending the Constitution, as well as to eliminating nuclear weapons. Welcoming new members, Shinfujin carries forward its grassroots activities to achieve a peaceful, just and sustainable society free of nuclear weapons and war.



Local people looking at A-bomb paintings drawn by high school students

No to War! No to Nuclear Weapons! Women Change the World!



Link to The New Japan Women’s Association website



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 110,000 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. It holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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”.

NJWA Leadership (elected at the 32nd National Convention)

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



**We Call on the Governments of the Five Nuclear Weapon States
to Make Every Effort to Reach a Consensus at the 11th NPT Review Conference,
and to Fulfill the “Unequivocal Undertaking to Accomplish the Total Elimination
of Their Nuclear Arsenals”**

April 22, 2026

YONEYAMA Atsuko

President of the New Japan Women’s Association

The New Japan Women’s Association is a women’s NGO with consultative status to the United Nations that has been working for 64 years since its founding to promote better livelihoods and peace, well-being of children, and the advancement of women’s rights and status. In particular, we have been working alongside the Hibakusha to campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons across the country.

From April 27 to May 22, the 11th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. As outrageous acts, particularly by some states possessing nuclear weapons, continue in defiance of the UN Charter and international law, the risk of nuclear use has increased to its highest level in decades. Against this backdrop, the Hibakusha and civil society around the world are closely watching the outcome of this Review Conference.

Now is the time to fulfill the obligation imposed on States Parties by NPT’s Article VI to pursue “negotiations on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament,” as well as the “unequivocal undertaking by nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals” agreed upon at the 2000 Review Conference. The NPT Review Conference has failed to adopt a final document for two consecutive sessions. We sincerely request nuclear weapon states to promote dialogues among States Parties to reach an agreement that charts a path toward a “world without nuclear weapons,” so that we can overcome the nuclear crisis through solidarity and cooperation.

The Hibakusha, atomic bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, have shared their painful experiences and advocated that “humanity and nuclear weapons cannot coexist.” Their testimonies, combined with the persistent efforts of civil society, led to the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). What is needed to achieve a world without nuclear weapons is not “non-proliferation,” but the “elimination” of nuclear weapons.

TPNW complements and reinforces the NPT. As a women’s organization from the only country to have suffered atomic bombings in war, we call on all nations to join the TPNW and request nuclear weapon states to take the following actions:

1. Express the resolve to implement Article VI of the NPT and the undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals, and strive to build a consensus at the 11th NPT Review Conference.
1. Cease all military attacks and comply with the United Nations Charter and international law.
1. Become Party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Letter of Request to the Government of Japan

Ms. TAKAICHI Sanae
Prime Minister of Japan

Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu
Minister of Foreign Affairs

We urge the Japanese Government to Play Its Rightful Role as a Nation to Have Suffered Atomic Bombings at the NPT Review Conference

April 17, 2026

YONEYAMA Atsuko

President of the New Japan Women's Association

The New Japan Women's Association is a women's NGO with consultative status to the United Nations that has been working for 64 years since its founding to promote better livelihoods and peace, well-being of children, and the advancement of women's rights and status. In particular, we have been working alongside the Hibakusha to campaign for the abolition of nuclear weapons across the country.

The 11th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from April 27 to May 22. Civil society around the world is paying close attention to this Review Conference, which is taking place amid growing risks of nuclear weapon use, including the military attacks on Iran by the United States and Israel and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Furthermore, as seen in the case of Iran, significant contradictions and limitation of the NPT regime, which allows certain major powers to continue to possess nuclear weapons but denies other nations to do so, have clearly been revealed. What is needed to achieve a world without nuclear weapons is not "non-proliferation," but the "elimination" of nuclear weapons.

As the only nation to have suffered atomic bombings in wartime and to uphold a peace constitution, Japan must urge the nuclear-armed states to fulfill their obligation under Article VI of the NPT to negotiate to achieve nuclear disarmament, and to implement the unequivocal undertaking to "accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals," as repeatedly reaffirmed at past Review Conferences.

We hope to see Japan immediately sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, adopted by the United Nations in 2017. And we urge the Government of Japan to uphold the Three Non-Nuclear Principles.

More than 200,000 people were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the U.S. atomic bombings. Many civilians, including children and women forced to engage in building demolition, were "burnt like fallen leaves" without leaving a trace of their lives, and they continue to rest in the soil of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even today, many Hibakusha suffer from aftereffects and are deeply concerned about the continued existence of nuclear weapons. The earnest desire of the Hibakusha is to ensure that "no one in any country should go through the same experience ever again." Calling on the Japanese government to convey the inhumanity of nuclear weapons to the world and to take the lead in resolving conflicts through dialogue, we hereby request the following:

1. To urge the United States and Russia, the two nuclear superpowers, to immediately cease military attacks and comply with the United Nations Charter and international law.
1. At the forthcoming NPT Review Conference, to urge the nuclear weapon states to comply with Article VI of the NPT, which obligates the state parties to negotiate for nuclear disarmament, and to implement their undertaking to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
1. To sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to firmly uphold the Three Non-Nuclear Principles.