



New Japan Women's
Association

Japanese Women Today

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#WeThePeopleAreSovereign #WeProtestThisMessed-up Politics

No War! Defend the Constitution! Protect People's Livelihoods! With the Power of Sisterhood, We Will Stop the Takaichi Administration's Reckless Policies

On July 25, the extraordinary session of the Diet—which had been extended to 158 days in order to force through the “Second Capital” bill—came to a close. The Takaichi-led coalition government of Liberal Democratic Party and the “Nippon Ishin no Kai” Party, puffed up by its majority in the Diet, has enacted one unconstitutional, harmful law after another, making it the most authoritarian regime since the end of World War II. The Prime Minister has been evading questions in the Diet to cover up a series of scandals, including her involvement in the defamatory video incident and with the virtual currency *Sanae Token*. The Cabinet's approval ratings have plummeted across the board, and some public opinion polls now show disapproval exceeding approval. Ms. Takaichi is no longer fit to serve as Prime Minister.



Tokyo: July 10, at the big protest rally held in front of the National Diet, nearly 28,000 participants chanted slogans such as “The naphtha shortage is the result of political folly,” “Let's stop war-mongering politics that wants war,” and “I will never go to war.”

It has become common to the recent demonstrations and rallies that protesters, many of whom are women and youth including high school students, read out the preamble, war-renouncing Article 9 and other human rights provisions stipulated in the Japanese Constitution. They are refusing to accept the current government's war-mongering policies undermining their livelihood, depriving hope for future and increasing the risk of Japan involved in war.

The Takaichi administration is doing the exact opposite of what voters and the public want, which is to improve their standard of living. It has swept the consumption tax cut under the rug, drastically cut social security including raising the out-of-pocket maximum for high-cost medical expenses, and has taken no measures to address rising prices. Yet it treats military spending as sacrosanct, increasing it to 1.7 times the FY22 level, exceeding 9 trillion yen for the first time. It even passed a law raising taxes to fund military expansion. Although a supplementary budget was drafted, it failed to protect people's livelihoods and businesses from the severe shortages and soaring prices of crude oil and raw materials caused by the war in Iran and the weak yen, and it includes no measures to address the climate crisis. The administration also passed amendments to the

Health Insurance Act to increase health insurance copayments for over-the-counter (OTC) equivalent drugs, as well as to the Staple Food Act, which abandons the government's responsibility for rice leaving it to market forces.

On the other hand, the Takashi administration is pushing forward with nothing but policies that pose risks of human rights violations and war. It has forcibly enacted legislation to completely lift the national ban on arms exports, aims to even revise the Three Non-Nuclear Principles, and has pushed through a law to reorganize the Ground Self-Defense Force in anticipation of Okinawa becoming a battlefield, as well as a law to reorganize the Air and Space Self-Defense Force for space-scale military expansion, and a special law to expand the pool of reserve Self-Defense Force personnel among civil servants. They are pushing ahead with the dangerous attempt to remake Japan a war-waging nation, by watering down the Personal Information Protection Act to eliminate the

requirement for the individual's consent; establishing the National Intelligence Council as the first step toward creating anti-espionage legislation modeled after the pre-war Public Order Maintenance Act; and gutting the amendments to the Retrial Act intended to eliminate wrongful convictions.

Under Prime Minister Takaichi's call to "propose a constitutional amendment in the Diet," the government repeatedly sought to establish a "Committee for Drafting Constitutional Provisions" in the House of Representatives and House of Councillors Constitutional Review Committees. However, it was unable to do so, having been surrounded by citizens' cries of "Hands off the Constitution."

We cannot allow the National Flag Desecration Act, which infringes on freedom of thought, conscience, and expression; the revision of the Imperial House Law, which excludes women and female-line emperors and directly led to a drop in the Cabinet's approval rating; or the "Second Capital" bill only to serve the partisan interest of "Ishin" to remain as they are. Furthermore, we must ensure that the proposal to cut the number of proportional representation seats in the House of Representatives by 45 is definitely scrapped in the next Diet session. We must also decisively halt constitutional amendments that the people do not want.

The conflict is rapidly intensifying between the Takaichi-led coalition government of LDP and "Ishin" attempting to destroy people's livelihoods, amend the Constitution, and build a war-waging nation," far-right forces such as the Nippon Kaigi, which seek a return to the pre-war era with constitutional revision, and the many "opposition parties" that aid them, on one side, and women and citizens who desire improved living standards, peace, and human rights, on the other. Let us work to oust the Takaichi administration as soon as possible.

Standing at a crossroads in history, a new wave of action, featuring protests in front of the main gate of the National Diet, led by young women holding up penlights and chanting "Stop the War" and "Protect the Constitution," along with corresponding rallies across the country drawing tens of thousands of participants, is truly a source of hope. As comrades in this struggle, the New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin) is calling for "Red Action," whether in small groups, issue-based circles, or as individuals. We are determined to further strengthen our collaboration with women, citizens, and organizations by promoting penlight rallies in all 1,700-plus municipalities, grassroots atomic bomb exhibitions, Constitution Cafés, and petition drives, while welcoming a growing number of peace advocates into our ranks.



Shiga: June 10, At Ishiyama station. At the call of Shinfujin Shiga Chapter, a group of 20 people gathered in the protest against chaotic politics. A high school student, who found the protest in the demonstration calendar posted on X, came to join the action and took the microphone to speak.



Chiba: June 30, Shinfujin Kashiwa Bbranch, Chiba Chapter, held its first street action to promote the Article 9 petition at Kashiwa Station. 7 people who had seen the demonstration calendar joined in, bringing the total number of participants to 32. They collected 83 signatures.



Yamanashi: Following the success of last year's atomic bomb exhibition, Shinfujin Kofu Branch expanded the number of venues this year and will be holding the exhibition at 10 locations, including City Hall, community centers, libraries, and schools.



Niigata: July 15, Shinfujin Niigata chapter held a "Red Action" protesting against the revision of the Imperial House Law, which exclude women and perpetuates male chauvinism. They chanted, "Why can't a woman be Emperor?" and "It's a human rights issue!"

Statement

NPT Review Conference Concludes
Now is the time to achieve the elimination of nuclear weapons
with the power of grassroots movements and solidarity

May 29, 2026

Central Executive Committee

New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin)



The 11th Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference started on April 22, amid the risk of nuclear weapons use reaching to its highest level in decades due to the ongoing outrageous acts committed by nuclear weapon states such as the United States and Russia in defiance of the UN Charter and international law. The Conference concluded on May 22.

Ahead of the NPT Review Conference, the New Japan Women's Association called on the five nuclear weapon states to reach a consensus and fulfill their undertaking. It also requested the Japanese government to, as the only nation to have suffered atomic bombings in wartime and to uphold a peace constitution, urge the nuclear weapon states to comply with their obligations under the Treaty. The Association sent its representatives to the Review Conference and, together with the hibakusha and civil society groups from around the world, took action to end war and eliminate nuclear weapons.

For the third consecutive time following 2015 and 2022, the NPT Review Conference failed to adopt a "final document." The failure of the conference is attributed to the five nuclear-weapon states, namely the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China, and the U.S. allies, who continue to cling to the "nuclear deterrence" doctrine, turning their backs on their nuclear disarmament obligations under Article VI of the treaty. Japan, meanwhile, made no mention whatsoever of Article VI obligations or call for the implementation of previous agreements. Its responsibility as a nation that has suffered atomic bombings is now being questioned.

On the other hand, government representatives and NGOs from various countries urged the nuclear weapon states one after another to fulfill their NPT Article VI obligations, called for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East, and appealed to the states to join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Clearly, the global trend is toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and that the existence of nuclear weapons is the threat to world peace and security.

Civil society movements are more important than ever to defeat the "nuclear deterrence" doctrine and realize a "world without nuclear weapons." As an organization whose primary goal is the abolition of nuclear weapons, the New Japan Women's Association will redouble its grassroots efforts. We will continue to raise awareness of the realities of the atomic bombings through exhibitions of photos and paintings, and collect signatures for the petition to urge the Japanese government to join the TPNW. Let us strengthen our solidarity with women and citizens both in Japan and abroad, and ensure the success of the World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs in August through widespread participation.



Women's Meeting in NY hosted by New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin)

April 29 at the City University of New York School of Labor and Urban Studies

Shinfujin national office staff and members from different parts of Japan gathered with New York State Peace Action's women leaders to show solidarity and sisterhood to achieve a peaceful, just and gender-equal world without nuclear weapons and war

The Constitution of Japan

We, the Japanese people, acting through our duly elected representatives in the National Diet, determined that we shall secure for ourselves and our posterity the fruits of peaceful cooperation with all nations and the blessings of liberty throughout this land, and resolved that never again shall we be visited with the horrors of war through the action of government, do proclaim that sovereign power resides with the people and do firmly establish this Constitution. Government is a sacred trust of the people, the authority for which is derived from the people, the powers of which are exercised by the representatives of the people, and the benefits of which are enjoyed by the people. This is a universal principle of mankind upon which this Constitution is founded. We reject and revoke all constitutions, laws, ordinances, and rescripts in conflict herewith.

We, the Japanese people, desire peace for all time and are deeply conscious of the high ideals controlling human relationship, and we have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world. We desire to occupy an honored place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace, and the banishment of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance for all time from the earth. We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.

We believe that no nation is responsible to itself alone, but that laws of political morality are universal; and that obedience to such laws is incumbent upon all nations who would sustain their own sovereignty and justify their sovereign relationship with other nations.

We, the Japanese people, pledge our national honor to accomplish these high ideals and purposes with all our resources.

Article 9 RENUNCIATION OF WAR

Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.



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 Shimibun".

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

