

Solidarity Message to the Korean Women's Association United

December 26, 2024
New Japan Women's Association



Dear sisters,

The New Japan Women's Association extends a heartfelt message of respect and solidarity to the sisters of Korean Women's Association United and all women in Korea, who have stood to defend democracy against President Yoon Seok-yeol's outrageous martial law edict and boxed him into a corner to face impeachment.

On the night of December 3, we in Japan were greatly shocked at the news of Korea's President Yoon declaring the martial law. At the same time, we were so moved by the images posted one after another on social media of citizens rushing to the National Assembly, and confronting the armed forces in protest at the risk of their lives. It is precisely the power of citizens acting in concert with lawmakers of both ruling and opposition parties, with a resolve to save democracy that revoked the marital law.

We are particularly inspired to see women being at the forefront of the series of urgent actions. The Korean Women's Association United and the New Japan Women's Association have fostered interactions since both organizations took part in the World March of Women in 2000, on various occasions including the events organized by NJWA, the World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs, and NJWA's study tour to learn about the Japanese military "comfort women" issue. In May 2019, the Japan-Korea Forum for Nuclear-free Peaceful East Asia was held in Seoul, and KWAU and NJWA co-organized a joint workshop on women and peace. In October that year, the two organizations issued a Joint Statement of Women in Japan and Korea for Peace in Northeast Asia. Our solidarity has been strengthened over these past years.

Mr. Yoon Seok-yeol won the presidential election in 2022 by putting misogyny in spotlight, and has pushed ahead with policies to set back gender equality, even attempting to abolish the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family. The cancellation of martial law and the passage of the impeachment motion against President Yoon are the victory for women, who have continued to fight persistently against the president who was trying to turn back the clock of history, on peace and democracy as well as on gender equality.

NJWA stands against the government led by Prime Minister Ishiba Shigeru, who refuses to recognize the state responsibility for the colonial rule and war of aggression, which caused grave human rights violation including the Japanese military sexual slavery. NJWA is redoubling its efforts to bring women's grassroots power together to stop the Ishiba's unconstitutional and reckless move to bolster military muscle, which will put both people's lives and democracy in jeopardy. The New Japan Women's Association expresses its determination to act hand in hand with KWAU and all women to achieve a peaceful and gender-equal Northeast and the world, free of war and nuclear weapons.