



NCC 日本キリスト教協議会

〒169-0051 東京都新宿区西早稲田 2-3-18-24 振替 00180-4-75788
TEL : 03-6302-1919 FAX : 03-6302-1920
E-mail : general@ncc-j.org <http://ncc-j.org>

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN JAPAN

JAPAN CHRISTIAN CENTER 24, 2-3-18 Nishiwaseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169-0051 JAPAN
Phone : 81-3-6302-1919 Fax : 81-3-6302-1920
E-mail : general@ncc-j.org <http://ncc-j.org>

総会議長
吉高 叶
総幹事
大嶋果織

Rev. Kano YOSHITAKA
Moderator
Rev. Kaori OSHIMA
General Secretary

NCC Message of Peace

- Commemorating 80 Years Since Japan's Defeat and the Liberation from Colonial Rule -

*⁸He has told you, O mortal, what is good
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8 (NRSV)*

In 2025, marking 80 years since Japan's defeat and the end of colonial rule in the Asia-Pacific region, the National Christian Council in Japan wish to once again affirm our commitment to the path of peace rooted in remembrance—by squarely facing the historical responsibility for Japan's colonial domination and wartime aggression.

Confronting the History of Aggression

Japan colonized Taiwan and Korea, and further carried out military occupation and indirect rule in mainland China—including northeastern China—the South Sea Islands, and Southeast Asian countries, depriving many people of their lives and dignity. All of these actions were part of the broader structure of colonial domination and must be remembered. At the same time, we must also face the fact that many Japanese Christians of the time were complicit in colonial rule and the waging of war in the name of God. In particular, the endorsement and support of the emperor system and State Shinto—which undergirded the war effort—as well as the abandonment of fellow believers who did not conform, are matters that must be critically reflected upon and repented before God.

Ongoing Wars and Rising Militarism

Wars and occupations continue around the world, trampling on human lives with brutal disregard. In particular, in Myanmar—a neighboring country in Asia—countless people have lost their lives since the 2021 military coup due to crackdowns on civilians, village burnings, and airstrikes carried out by the military. Amidst this, Japan is expanding its defense budget, developing capabilities to strike enemy bases, and advancing the militarization of Okinawa and the southwestern islands. These developments threaten the very foundation of Japan's Peace Constitution, and we raise our voices to say “No” to this course of action.

Resisting the Denial of History and the Logic of Exclusion

Efforts to deny war responsibility and distort history are accelerating. References to the Japanese military's sex slavery and colonial rule are being erased from school textbooks. Ethnic Korean schools (*Chosen Gakko*) are being excluded from public support. Politicians make disparaging remarks about the history of Okinawa. Hate speech and hate crimes targeting foreigners and refugees are spreading, and slogans like “Japanese First” are being shouted without shame. Such exclusionary nationalism fosters division and mistrust, undermines the foundations of a society built on coexistence, and draws people toward the path of war. We stand in resistance to historical distortion and xenophobia, working toward a society in which all people can live with dignity.



NCC 日本キリスト教協議会

〒169-0051 東京都新宿区西早稲田 2-3-18-24 振替 00180-4-75788
TEL : 03-6302-1919 FAX : 03-6302-1920
E-mail : general@ncc-j.org <http://ncc-j.org>

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN JAPAN

JAPAN CHRISTIAN CENTER 24, 2-3-18 Nishiwaseda, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 169-0051 JAPAN
Phone : 81-3-6302-1919 Fax : 81-3-6302-1920
E-mail : general@ncc-j.org <http://ncc-j.org>

総会議長
吉高 叶
総幹事
大嶋果織

Rev. Kano YOSHITAKA
Moderator
Rev. Kaori OSHIMA
General Secretary

Resisting Discrimination Rooted in Patriarchy and Heteronormativity

The history of war and colonial domination is inseparably linked to male-centered and heteronormative power structures. The military as an institution, sexual violence in wartime, and the enforced silence and subjugation of women and sexual minorities within families and the nation were all part of this structure. The church, too, has participated in this legacy—both past and present—by upholding patriarchal values and heteronormativity, causing harm and exclusion to many. As we examine our own ways of being, we commit ourselves to building a church and society in which everyone is respected just as they are.

Amid Widening Economic Disparities

An economic structure is spreading in which the rich grow richer while the poor become poorer. In this context, life becomes increasingly difficult for children, single-parent households, the elderly, and people living with disabilities or chronic illnesses. The structures of war and discrimination further threaten the lives and dignity of those in vulnerable positions. Following Jesus, who placed a child at the center, we seek to expand relationships that center on the “least among us” and uphold their inherent worth.

In the Face of Environmental Destruction and Climate Change

A value system that prioritizes “wealth” has led to deforestation, the pollution of land and sea, the destruction of ecosystems, and the exploitation of the Earth itself. Now, as we face severe environmental degradation and the climate crisis, we are finally beginning to recognize the depth of our own responsibility.

Drawn to “power”—military might before the war and economic strength after—we failed to become true “servants” of this beautiful world created by God. In repentance, we commit ourselves to transforming our way of life, working toward the restoration and preservation of creation, while also pursuing denuclearization and a society free from nuclear power.

As Peacemakers

We have been encouraged by the voices of those who have experienced colonial rule and war, by the testimonies of atomic bomb survivors, and by the witness of those who rise up in pursuit of justice. Peace is nurtured through the passing on of memory; it is built and protected by the courage to resist discrimination and exploitation, and by the daily accumulation of small acts rooted in everyday life. We, too, return to the memory of Japan’s responsibility for past harm and commit ourselves to sincerely uncovering and confronting facts that remain unexamined. We will continue to walk the path of repentance. We will reflect a stance of rejecting not only war but all forms of violence in our daily lives. We will resist any values or systems that create power imbalances among people, and we will persistently move toward a future of mutual support and shared living. For we believe this is what it means to respond to the call: “Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.”

August 2025

Rev. Kano Yoshitaka, Moderator

Rev. Kaori Oshima, General Secretary

(Approved by the 6th Executive Committee Meeting held online on July 17, 2025)