



NCC 日本キリスト教協議会

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NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL IN JAPAN

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October 5, 2026

His Excellency Takashi Yamashita, Minister of Justice

Mr. Takuji Nishiyama, Commissioner of the Immigration Services Agency

We Protest Against the Drastic Increase in Residence Permit Fees and the Tightening of the Permanent Residence System, and Request for Reconsideration

From October 1, 2026, the fees for changing status of residence, extending the period of stay, and obtaining permanent residence for foreign residents were substantially increased. On the same day, the "Guidelines on Permission for Permanent Residence" were revised, and the "Guidelines on Revocation of Permanent Resident Status" were established.

The 30 churches and organizations affiliated with the National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ) are communities where people of diverse nationalities and ethnic backgrounds gather to worship and work together. Among us are missionaries and clergy who were sent to Japan from overseas churches and have served Japanese churches and society for many years. Among our members of foreign nationality and their families, some were born and raised in Japan, while others have worked here, raised children, and lived for many years as members of their local communities.

This institutional change places a direct and heavy burden on the lives of these people. The burden becomes even greater when multiple members of a family need renewals, not just one individual.

For Christian churches, welcoming missionaries sent from overseas churches and sharing in ministry together is the very embodiment of the partnership with churches around the world that Japanese churches have cultivated over many years. However, for small churches and Christian organizations, this drastic fee increase makes it difficult to invite missionaries and to continue supporting their residence. We cannot overlook the fact that imposing such high costs for residence economically constrains even the question of whom churches may invite and with whom they may work.

For foreign church members, residence status is not an abstract qualification. It is bound up with daily life itself: whether they can continue to work, whether they can live together with their families, and whether they can continue to raise their children in Japan. Permanent residence is an important foundation for building one's future in the country where one has lived for many years. Imposing a high fee of 200,000 yen (or USD1,300) on such an application, twenty times the previous amount, and further tightening the requirements for permanent residence, threatens the stable lives of people who have lived in Japan for a long time and narrows their path to continuing to live in this society.

This institutional change further intensifies the control and exclusion of foreign residents that has been repeated time and again. We strongly protest it. We cannot accept an institutional change that imposes excessive burdens for the sake of residing in Japan on people who have lived, worked, and built society together with us here, and that narrows their path to a stable life. We therefore make the following demands:

1. Withdraw or reconsider the drastic increases in fees for changing or renewing status of residence and for permanent residence permission.
2. Review the tightening of the requirements for granting and revoking permanent residence.
3. Hold a renewed forum to hear the opinions of the foreign residents directly affected by this institutional change, as well as the churches, citizens' groups, and others who support their lives and activities.

Rev. Kano Yoshitaka, Moderator

Rev. Kaori Oshima, General Secretary

Rev. Akio Lee, Chair, The Committee on Human Rights of Foreign Residents