



5th February, 2021

Mr. Yoshiro Mori, President of the Tokyo Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
Ms. Seiko Hashimoto, Minister of State for Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, Government of Japan

Satoko Fujitani, President,
Yumiko Ozaki, General Secretary,
YWCA of Japan

Statement of protest against the disparaging remarks by Yoshiro Mori,
President of the Tokyo Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games

The series of remarks made by Yoshiro Mori, President of the Tokyo Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Japanese Olympic Committee (JOC) on February 3, 2021, are an unambiguously discriminatory statement based on misogyny and prejudice that fundamentally contradicts the Constitution of Japan as well as international human rights standards, including the Olympic Charter and multiple international human rights treaties ratified by Japan, which must not be overlooked.

While Mr. Mori apologized and retracted this statement on February 4th, he refused to resign from his position. If such a blatant gender-based discrimination by a highly public figure is granted impunity, it would directly connect to society's unspoken but clear acceptance of gender-based oppression and misogyny. In addition, Mr. Mori continues to hold public positions despite having also been accused of serious discriminatory remarks in the past.

In a society where misogyny and prejudice continue to be tolerated, gender bias gets inculcated and reproduced at every stage of life since early childhood.

The comments made at the JOC Board of Trustees meeting and the fact that they were "greeted with laughter" threaten to deprive women of their voices and dignity, not only in the present but far into the future.

Japan has yet to implement a large number of recommendations regarding gender equality from multiple international human rights treaty committees, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), with many recommendations repeated multiple times. Japan's "gender gap" index ranks 121st out of 153 countries. There is an imminent need to stop the proliferation of misogyny and to change this society.

The YWCA of Japan has been making a number of statements, including submitting input to the Japanese Government's 5th Basic Plan for Gender Equality, with the mission of "empowering young women and promoting social change together". As an NGO working for a society where young women are able to exercise their inherent rights and fully pursue their potential, we strongly protest this statement and call for the resignation of Yoshiro Mori as President of the Tokyo Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.