



28th February, 2022

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

We urge the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops and solution through dialogue -YWCA of Japan statement on Russia's invasion of Ukraine-

The YWCA of Japan strongly protests Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the threat of using nuclear weapons by Vladimir Putin, President of Russia.

During the Asia-Pacific War, the YWCA of Japan regrettably followed the path to the war of aggression, without being able to defy the trend of "creating peace by intimidating neighboring countries" that dominated the Japanese society at the time.

After the war, with the determination to reflect deeply on its history and not to repeat the same mistakes, "standing up against nuclear weapons and nuclear energy" has been one of our important activity guidelines. President Putin has stated "Russia is one of the most powerful nuclear powers in the world." The survivors who experienced the Atomic Bomb in Hiroshima are indignant that "it is totally unacceptable to use nuclear weapons as a threatening tool." (Asahi Shimbun, February 26, 2022)

The YWCA of Japan has continued the "Pilgrimage to Hiroshima (a study program for youths)" for 50 years, and deepened our leaning about the damage caused by nuclear weapons as well as Japan's responsibility as a perpetrator of invasion. We take deeply the words of the bomb survivors, saying, "nuclear weapons are the greatest sin that humankind has committed against humankind." The use of nuclear weapons should never be allowed. There have also been reported bombing of kindergartens and children's facilities in Ukraine by Russian troops. Such attacks on civilians, let alone children without weapons, are an act of cruelty. Russia has clearly chosen a path that violates both international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

The YWCA of Japan is working with colleagues from more than 100 countries around the world to create peace that does not rely on force. People all over the world want peace, not war. We



believe that the way to solve the problem is not to attack the other party and create an enemy, but to try to deepen mutual understanding through dialogue. We are in solidarity with the YWCA of Ukraine colleagues and people in Ukraine. We urge the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops and solution by dialogue.

YWCA of Japan
c/o Tokyo YWCA, Rm#302 1-8-11 Kanda Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062, Japan
Tel: +81-3-3292-6121 /6122(fax)
<http://www.ywca.or.jp/english>