



6th April 2022

Mr. Fumio Kishida, Prime Minister,
Mr. Yoshimasa Hayashi, Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Mr. Hiroyuki Hosoda, President, House of Representatives,
Ms. Akiko Yamahigashi, President, House of Councilors,
Government of Japan,

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

**We strongly urge the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops and solution by 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 once again. We would like to make a strong request that the international community should put pressure on Russia in order to achieve a cease-fire through dialogue, while applying tolerance to the people of Russia, Ukraine, and other countries concerned, who are experiencing hardships today.

Since February 24, the Russian government has been invading Ukraine and attacking various parts of the country. The people in Ukraine are in a great crisis, their lives and livelihoods are threatened. These actions by the Russian government are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and will not be tolerated for any reason. We call for the international community to take action to work with Russian government in order to comply with international law, stop and withdraw from attacks on Ukraine. At the same time, we are deeply concerned about the dangers of nuclear weapons being used, as well as the danger that this situation could lead to a catastrophe such as attacks on nuclear power plants. If nuclear weapons are used, it would bring a catastrophic consequence on a global scale. We have seen from the experiences of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and learned how disastrous nuclear weapons can be. Today, the Russian government is threatening Ukraine and its neighbors by suggesting the use of nuclear weapons. Such "threats with nuclear weapons" are prohibited under the Nuclear Weapons Convention. This must not be tolerated as a member of the international community.

This invasion of Ukraine by the Russian government has caused suffering not only to Ukrainian citizens, but to Russian citizens as well. They are in financial and social unrest, and

unable to express their opposition to the government's actions, without basic freedoms of expression. We, as members of the international community, must stand beside the pain of the citizens of Ukraine, Russia, and other countries involved in the conflict, and do everything we can to achieve a ceasefire.

The YWCA of Japan is committed to supporting all those who are suffering as a result of this invasion of Ukraine by the Russian government. We strongly urge the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops and solution by dialogue, and strongly request that the Government of Japan should "occupy a place of honor in an international society that strives to maintain peace and to remove tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance from the earth for all time. (Preamble to the Constitution of Japan, Paragraph 2).

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