



At the reception hosted by YWCA of USA



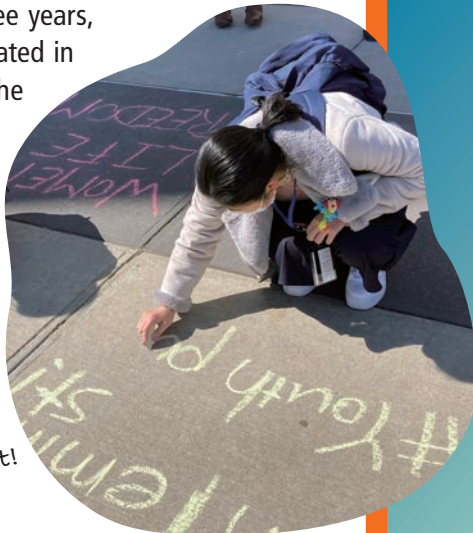
# Annual Report 2022

## Feature Report

### Young Women Join CSW67

For the first time in three years, youth members participated in CSW (Commission on the Status of Women) onsite in New York City. With the encouragement from our supporters, they expressed the voices of the youth in Japan.

Writing a message at UN Headquarters on IWD: "I'm Feminist! #YouthPower"



Participating in an event hosted by the Finnish Government

## Profile

YWCA (Young Women's Christian Association) is an international NGO where, upon a Christian foundation, women from around the world exceed the barriers of language and cultures and work together to encourage women's participation in society and to realize a peaceful world where human rights, health and environment is protected. The movement began in Great Britain in 1855, and nowadays, it works in more than 100 countries throughout the world.

The YWCA of Japan works with 24 local YWCAs and 37 junior and senior high-school YWCAs, in order to empower women, children and older people, who are put in vulnerable situations, as well as to train and nurture leaders stipulated in our vision. It holds ECOSOC consultative status since 2019.

## Vision

A society where women exercise leadership, and where human rights, peace and environment is valued.

## Mission

Empowering young women and working together for social change.

## Values

### 1. Christian basis

Trusting that all people are equal before God, we will act in the footsteps of Jesus Christ who always stood on the side of the vulnerable.

### 2. Peace and environment

We treasure and uphold the Constitution of Japan, which was created upon the regret and lessons from the Asia Pacific War.

We deny all nuclear weapons and energy, and strive for a just and sustainable society without all forms of violence including military bases.

### 3. Human rights

We respect diversity in all regards including race, nationality, religion and age, and strive for a society where everyone can live as themselves with gender equality.

### 4. Safe Space

Our programs are driven by volunteers, and all our work will be managed on a democratic and multi-generational manner.

We consistently create a safe space for all people, where everyone is empowered.

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## 67th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67)

From the perspective of youth - "I want to convey more in my own words"

As an international organization with UN consultative status, the YWCA of Japan creates an opportunity for youth to participate in the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held annually in March in New York, U.S.A. This year, participants joined on-site for the first time in three years.

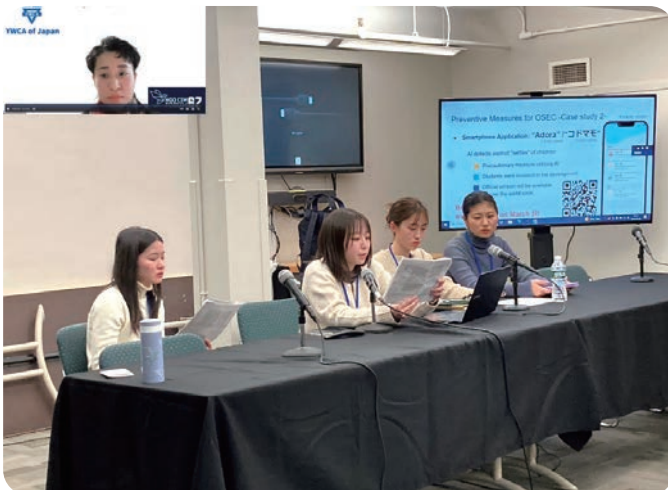
From March 4-11, 2023, five youth (including one online participant) were sent to New York City to attend CSW, and on the third day, hosted a hybrid event.

During the event by the theme of "Social Media and Sexual Exploitation," the youths presented the current situation of gender issues in Japanese mass media and online sexual exploitation of children, as well as their proposals in responding to these issues. After the presentation, 40 participants at the venue and 60 participants online joined an activity to think about practical actions regarding these issues.

After the event, the youths commented: "At first I was anxious because the presentation had to use a variety of online tools, but am glad that the hybrid method was successful"; "It was a valuable experience to meet a diverse group of people"; and "I felt that I want to convey and communicate more in my own words". These comments conveyed a sense of fulfillment that the careful preparation had borne fruit.



Arriving at the UN Headquarters



Parallel event by YWCA of Japan

The rest of the days also brought a lot of great learning to youths, including meeting YWCA sisters around the world, observing the CSW meetings at UN, and participating in various government and organization-sponsored events.



\*Young women's participation to CSW is supported by donations to Peacemakers Fund.



# Leadership Training for Young Women

## Junior and Senior High School YWCA National Conference 2022

August 2 -August 3, 2022

@online

Participants: 201

With the topic "Connecting to the World: The Power of Life", this was the first online version of this triannual Conference. The event included an online dialogue with World YWCA youth leaders. 9 of the 12 workshops during the Conference were led by youths from local YWCAs, where they demonstrated their facilitation skills and knowledge they have cultivated over the years. For the junior and senior high school YWCA students, it was an opportunity to take a new step forward to learn that others close to their age are working on social issues.



Workshop organized by the Youth-Gender Subcommittee of the YWCA of Japan

## Local YWCAs Activity Exchange on Gender

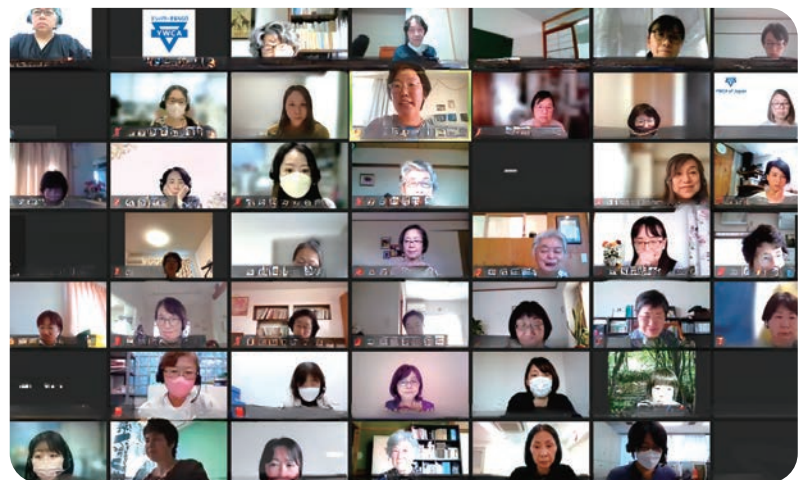
May 28, 2022

@online

Participants: 80

This workshop was held online in the occasion of the annual "Central Committee Meeting of Affiliated YWCAs".

Members working in the 24 local YWCAs across Japan introduced their gender-related activities to each other. They began by introducing themselves in their local dialects, then shared their experiences and held breakout sessions on six different themes. By putting their daily confusion into words and reconsidering gender equality and feminism, the participants were able to gain inspiration for their further activities and collaboration beyond their own communities.



Participants gathering online



## Activities for a Peaceful World

### Pilgrimage to Hiroshima 2023: "Why Want Nuclear Weapons?"

March 25 - March 27, 2023

Venue: Hiroshima City, Participants: 42

The YWCA of Japan organizes a program to visit "Hiroshima" and learn about peace and nuclear weapons by visiting survivors and historical sites that tell the stories of the atomic bombings. The program was held from March 25 to 27 with participation of 42 people. Through the fieldwork, participants were able to learn about the history leading up to the atomic bombings and what happened by the atomic bomb, with a sense of realization.



Group photo of the Pilgrimage to Hiroshima 2023

A second-year junior high school participant said, "I was able to learn about what really happened in this city because I visited the site. I hope that this kind of learning opportunity will continue."

Participants also listened to a lecture by an activist working for the abolition of nuclear weapons, and had a chance to think about what actions we should take in the future.

### Modern History Lecture - Japan and Korea

June 25, 2022: Korean and Japanese Interaction in the Pre-Modern Era / July 16: Modernization of East Asia and Korea / August 20: The North-South Divide, From Military Regime to Democracy

Lecturer: Yuko Ozawa (President, Osaka YWCA), Participants: 45 including 26 youths

This is an online study session for beginners, targeting youths who want to participate in international programs such as the Japan-Korea Youth Conference to learn about the history of the Korean Peninsula. Many participants commented that the content of each session was intensive, and they have learned some side stories about Korean culture and sports which further deepened their interest in the subject matter.

### Lecture on Okinawa by Yoko Uema, Author of *I'll Give You the Sea*

May 21, 2022, Venue: Ginowan Seminar House/ On-line, Lecturer: Yoko Uema (Professor, University of the Ryukyus), Participant: 208

Prof. Yoko Uema, as a specialist in social research, listens to the real voices of girls who work at night in Okinawa and is also the co-chairperson of the shelter "Oniwa". Even under difficult circumstances, Ms. Yoko Uema is someone who never gives up. Her talk session with YWCA members active in elementary schools, mother-child support facilities, and women's support centers gave participants a heartfelt and meaningful time.



Flyer for the lecture

# Support Activities for Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake

The YWCA of Japan's support activities for the survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake are planned and operated with the determination to continue supporting children born on the day of the disaster, until they become 20 years old. In 2022, while affected by the outbreak of COVID-19, we continued to provide support to face and lean on two issues buried in our daily lives: the earthquake disaster and the Coronavirus disaster.

## YWCA Activity Space "Caro Fukushima"

Total number of users: 480

Caro Fukushima, which operates in Fukushima City, as a hub for YWCA operations to support the survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake, relieving their anxieties and stress of life after the earthquake and about radiation exposure. "Study in Caro", a study support program for elementary and junior high school students, was held one to two times a month, which also led to new collaborations such as supporting activities to create a safe space for youths. "Talking Sessions" which are broadcasted online to all over Japan were held 3 times. The event featured multiple themes, such as inviting Ms. Natsuko Katayama (Tokyo Newspaper reporter) to talk about Fukushima today.



Participants of the Study Fun Day at Caro in the Fall of 2022.

## "Refresh" Recuperation Program: Striving for Future Safety

Number of programs implemented: 1

The "Refresh" recuperation programs, organized by local YWCAs around Japan, are a program for children, who are mainly residents of Fukushima Prefecture, enabling them to refresh their minds and bodies by staying in safe and secure places outside areas affected by radiation. In 2022, the program was held in Kumamoto YWCA in March with the participation of 45 people. Tokyo YWCA held a photo exhibition in March as a related program, to report on the daily life in Fukushima.

## Second House Program: Another Home for Families to Relax

Number of programs implemented: 2

The Second House Program is a recuperation program for families, groups, and single women living in Fukushima Prefecture and areas with high radiation levels, offering free stays for them to relax. In 2022, we welcomed two families. Thanks to the generous cooperation of our sponsors and supporters.





# Network and Training Programs within Japan

YWCA of Japan holds events to strengthen the connections among the 24 local YWCAs in Japan and empower every member involved in the YWCA.

## Hybrid Gathering at YWCA Festa!

**November 26, 2022**

**Venue: Tokyo YWCA Building / Online  
Participants: 97 in person, 38 online**

YWCA Festa was held for the first time in four years, bringing together members from all over Japan under the theme of "Meet, Connect, Change society together". A total of 135 people gathered both in-person and online to enjoy a reunion after a long absence. A total of 15 groups, including local YWCAs, held workshops, under the theme of "Meeting" in the morning and "Connecting" in the afternoon. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other across generations, to realize the power that comes from solidarity, and to take a step forward with the possibility of changing society together with those who share the same aspirations. It was a moment to take the first step toward that goal.



Group photo of YWCA Festa 2022

## Virtual Visits to Local YWCAs

Online visits to local YWCAs started from 2021. This year, we visited 16 local YWCAs. Each local YWCA introduced their history and activities with photos, and videos. Each "visit" included a greeting in the respective local dialect, which gave a fresh feeling.

Scan here to see the photos



QR Code Virtual Local Visit

## Youth Gathering

**November 27, 2022, Venue: Ochanomizu WATERRAS, Participants: 21**

The gathering was held as a training opportunity to build network among YWCA youth members across Japan. It was a lively and critical time for the participants to interact and get to know themselves.

## Training Course for Supporters of Young Women

In addition to its 2021 version, a total of two online sessions of the Training Course for Supporters of Young Women were held online. About 15 people have participated.

## Experience Safe Space! Lecture on "Expressing Yourself Comfortably"

**January 29, 2023**

**Venue: Osaka Gender Equality Center (Dawn Center), Participants: 12**

As a course for youth, participants shared their communication problems in various situations of daily life, and deepened their learning on how to communicate in a way that protects themselves.

# International Solidarity and Advocacy

YWCA is active in more than 100 countries and regions, and in year 2022, online co-operation has become even more active.

## International Day of Peace Online Event

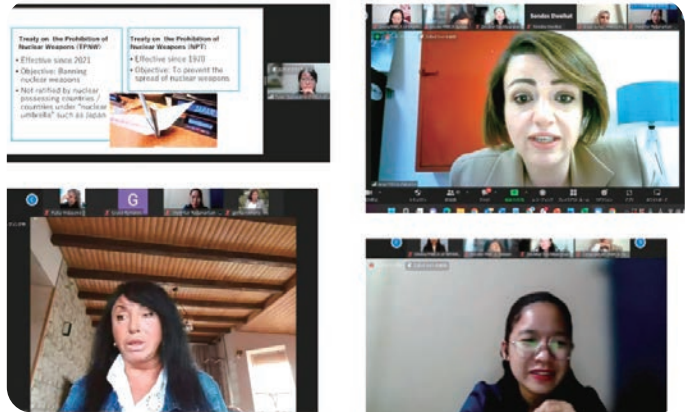
On peace, the voice of each of us,  
beyond national level

September 21, 2022

@Online

Participants: 33

International Day of Peace online event titled "#herstory" was organized by the YWCA of Japan. Participants came from 10 countries and regions, including Ukraine and Palestine. The program was held as an interactive way where each person participated not as a representative of their organization but as an individual, to deepen a connection with other individuals through discussion. It was a valuable time for each participant to share their experiences and thoughts on peace, conflict and justice, with other participants from different communities.



Online Event on a Screen

## World YWCA Dialogue

During the reporting period, member of the YWCA of Japan participated in three sessions of World YWCA Dialogue, a series of online discussion sessions organized by the World YWCA, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, to discuss the prospects for global action.

## Asia Regional YWCA Conference "Women, Peace and Security"

June 10, 2022 @Online

"Asia Regional YWCA Conference" was held online, where a total of 11 national YWCAs representatives participated. YWCA of Japan reported on its peacebuilding efforts over the years.

## "Women Peace Forum" hosted by YWCA Korea

July 6, 2022 @Online

YWCA Women Peace Forum 2022 was held to commemorate the 100th anniversary of YWCA of Korea. A YWCA of Japan representative gave a presentation on the background and activities to protect the Peace Constitution.

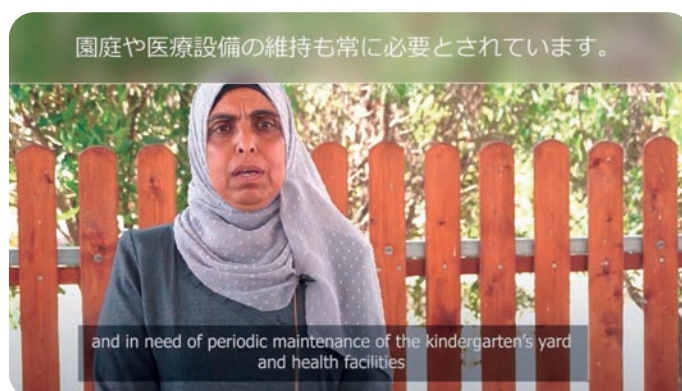


## Statements and Endorsements

- Statement on Russia's invasion of Ukraine: "We strongly urge the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops and solution by dialogue" (April 6)
- Statement: "We strongly oppose the 'national funeral' of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe" (August 3)
- Endorsed a joint letter from Japanese NGO groups, "Toward the Continuation of the Israel-Gaza Cease-fire" (August 23)
- Written Statement of Protest Against the Cabinet Decision on the "Three Security Documents" (December 23)
- Submission of the letter of protest (endorsed by 27 organizations) to the Cabinet decision on the "Three Security Documents" (January 10, 2023)
- Endorsed joint statement on "Opposition to the 'Three Security Documents' that even permit providing arms aid to other countries, rendering Japan a country capable of war" (January 11, 2023)

## Solidarity & Support for Palestine: Supporting Children's Mental and Physical Health

In Palestine, children continue to be in need of physical and mental support in a situation that has been unstable for decades. The YWCA of Palestine, which began its kindergarten program in refugee camps in 1950, has created a place where children living under military occupation can learn creatively, grow up healthily, and develop their self-confidence. In 2022, the YWCA of Japan launched a call for donations to support kindergarten projects facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and held an online event in May.



Video reporting about YWCA of Palestine Kindergarten

We also support the "Olive Tree Campaign" where participants from around the world plant olives on the land in Palestine threatened by the Israeli military and settlers. 148 olive trees were donated in 2022.

## Support for Ukraine: Responding to Women's needs during difficulties of War

Since the beginning of the Russian invasion in February 2022, YWCA of Japan has been providing support to Ukraine in cooperation with local YWCAs across Japan.

In year 2022, donations were delivered to both YWCA of Ukraine and YMCA of Japan for the following activities:

- Support to local women through YWCA of Ukraine
- Support activities by the YMCA of Japan for refugees from Ukraine

From March 2023, the above support will be focused towards the YWCA of Ukraine.

In response to the needs of the women affected by the war, the YWCA of Ukraine is distributing food, medical supplies, building materials, and other basic necessities of life, as well as providing support for institutions supporting children and elderly persons. A psychological rehabilitation program is also planned for traumatized women.



Photo report from the recipients

## Behind "Pilgrimage to Hiroshima": Voices from committee members!

The program "Pilgrimage to Hiroshima" is run by a committee formed of volunteers, youth leaders, and staff members, which spent a year planning, preparing, and running the entire event. In this column, two members who participated respectively as a volunteer leader and a staff member share their experiences and impressions.

### "More like something about myself" (University student, Volunteer Leader)

“ Although I have had opportunities to think about war and the atomic bombing through school lessons, manga, movies, and other materials, I used to think of it as something that happened to other people. However, after actually visiting the place and hearing the stories, I felt more like it was something about myself and began to gather information actively. It was also excellent that the participants had the opportunity to not only reflect alone, but also to share their impressions and opinions with each other, so we could learn from each other's thoughts and experiences, which allowed me to output rather than only gain input. ”



Students participating in "Pilgrimage to Hiroshima"



### "First time participation as staff" (Staff member, YWCA of Japan)

“ I joined for the first time as a part of staff team managing this program. It was very difficult at first, with a lot of online meetings. However, the committee members and many others warmly accepted and encouraged me to go forward. This was a journey joined by a diverse group of people from all over Japan, especially youth. Directly experiencing the core value of the YWCA's commitment with inter-generational cooperation, we had strong assistance from many resource persons as well. I am sure that the three days spent in Hiroshima, showering in the cherry blossoms, was an invaluable experience for each and every one of the participants. ”



Walking in Ninoshima Island, imagining the damage done by and suffered by Hiroshima.

## Stories behind your donation

# Deep dive into the Peacemakers Fund

Peacemakers Fund is a fund for young women's leadership training. YWCA of Japan's programs aim to encourage each participant to become a "Peacemakers" through empowering experiences, so that they can use their power to make a difference in society. Peacemakers Fund is used in programs including the following:

### ● Japan-Korea Youth Conference

"My dream is to be a small catalyst for a big step toward change that humans take on the issue of discrimination. This program has strengthened that dream and melted away my rigid values." (Participant, 2021)



### ● Junior and Senior High School YWCA National Conference

"Throughout two days of sharing opinions with people who have different perspectives and values, I found that my viewpoints changed. It was a very valuable experience for me in my future goal of starting my own company to support siblings of children living with disabilities. (Participant, 2022)



### ● Participation in UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

"CSW is a forum for discussing everything within the broad range of women's human rights and empowerment, but it is also a forum for sharing our own Stories, Voices, and Pasts, and building connections. By being in such a power-filled atmosphere, I was able to accept myself during these 10 days. I am convinced that we were able to make our voices heard." (Participant, 2019)



YWCA of Japan will continue to create experiences for youth to encounter the possibilities of themselves and society. Peacemakers Fund is a fundraising campaign for this purpose. Please support us in our efforts to Achieve Peace together.



# Donation Report

Thank you so much for your generous donation during the year 2022-23.

The YWCA of Japan is resolved to continue to support women's proactive initiatives towards a peaceful society where everyone is respected.

Chair of Board of Trustees, Ritsuko Mibae  
President, Satoko Fujitani

## Donation Received

<b>Peacemakers Fund</b>	<b>¥2,700,756</b>	For leadership training, aimed to empower young women to create peace.
<b>Support for Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake</b>	<b>¥1,662,640</b>	For activities to support women and children in the disaster-affected areas.
<b>Caro Fukushima supporter</b>	<b>¥650,500</b>	Support Caro Fukushima, one of the projects supporting Great East Japan Earthquake survivors.
<b>YWCA of Japan supporter</b>	<b>¥1,615,000</b>	Please support the overall movement of the YWCA of Japan.
<b>Emergency Disaster Response</b>	<b>¥1,087,352</b>	For domestic and international disaster relief programs.
<b>JAI Olive Tree Campaign</b>	<b>¥470,311</b>	For a donation of 3,000 JPY, one olive tree will be planted in Palestine. Donors will receive a certificate and a signboard with their names will be placed at the tree-planting site.
<b>Support for YWCA of Palestine Refugee Camp</b>	<b>¥673,410</b>	The funds will be used to support kindergartens run by the YWCA of Palestine in refugee camps.
<b>Support for Ukraine</b>	<b>¥3,307,156</b>	The funds will be used for financial and mental support for women and children in Ukraine.
<b>YWCA Japan Youth Empowerment Fund</b>	<b>¥19,958</b>	The funds will be used to support youth targeted program participants.

**Total ¥12,187,083**

Scan to donate to  
YWCA of Japan



@ywcajapan



## YWCA of Japan

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