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## Marking the 80th Year Since Japan's Defeat and the End of the Second World War

Eighty years have passed since Japan's defeat in the Second World War.

The generation that lived through the war is aging, and their presence among us is becoming rarer. As a result, passing on the reality of that war has become a more difficult task than ever. At the same time, more people are beginning to embrace ideas that deny Japan's history of invasions—rooted in colonialism—against neighbouring countries and regions. Views that seek to exclude minorities and diverse communities are also gaining wider support.

The YWCA of Japan acknowledges the mistakes that the YWCA of Japan itself committed before and during the war. Since Japan's defeat in the Second World War, we have worked with YWCAs and friends around the world, determined never to repeat those errors.

The world that we live in today is far from the society that the YWCA of Japan envisions - a society free from the fear of armed forces or nuclear weapons, free from oppression by patriarchal systems and other forms of power, and one that upholds the right of everyone on this planet to live as they choose, with dignity and autonomy.

Over the past eight decades, we have met and worked with many survivors of the war who, despite carrying deep trauma and pain, have spoken out about Japan's wrongdoings and the realities of war, driven by the hope that no future generation should endure the same suffering. We hold their hopes close to our hearts, and we will not give up. Together with people and organisations around the world, we will continue working to build a society where the human rights of every person are respected.