



Guided tours to Peace Memorial Park
and vicinity

Annual Report 2024



Feature Report

Pilgrimage to Hiroshima

In Hiroshima, diverse voices
gathered.
We listened, walked, and spoke
for a nuclear-free
future.
Now it's our
turn.

Workshop
"What Can You Do
for a Nuclear-Free
World?"



Ringling the bell at the
Children's Peace Monument

YWCA of Japan

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 multigenerational manner.

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

Contents

Feature: Pilgrimage to Hiroshima 1

Leadership Training for Young Women... 2

69th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)

Youth Activities on Gender:

Youth and Gender Subcommittee

Junior and Senior High School YWCA Activities

Support Activities for Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake 4

"Refresh" Recuperation Program

Second House Program

YWCA Activity Space "Caro Fukushima"

The Nationwide Network 5

Local YWCAs in Japan: The Local Action (LA)

Asako Yuzuki Online Lecture on "Sisterhood" for National Members' Assembly

International Solidarity and Advocacy ... 6

Solidarity and Support for Palestine

Support for Myanmar

Japanese Translations for World YWCA Resources

Internship Hosting

Statements

Column 8

Making Every YWCA in Japan a Safe Space for Diverse Women

Stories Behind Your Donation 9

Deep Dive into the Emergency Disaster Response: Support for Ukraine

Donation Report..... Back Cover

Pilgrimage to Hiroshima

24-26th March 2025

Theme: "Let's Learn together towards a World without Nuclear Weapons! Let's Spread the Word about the Inhumane Nature of Nuclear Weapons!"

Number of participants: 32

The "Pilgrimage to Hiroshima" is a three-day, two-night program held in Hiroshima, where participants—mainly youths from across Japan, along with guests from the YWCAs of China and Korea—listen to atomic bomb survivor testimonies, visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, tour various cenotaphs and monuments, to reflect on peace. First launched in 1970, the program has continued every summer as a way to embody YWCA's core identity of "Assuming an Anti-Nuclear Stance".



In front of the A-Bomb Dome

In the keynote speech, Ms. Yuuki Tokuda, co-founder of GeNuine, shared her activities focused on viewing nuclear weapons from a gender perspective, and offered us a new way to approach the "nuclear" issue—one that is deeply connected to the environment and colonialism—and consider how we can make it "our own issue."

During the fieldwork, participants were divided into three groups and explored different routes: "Following in the Footsteps of Those Who Cared for Hiroshima from Abroad," "History of Korean Hibakusha in Japan," and "The Past and Future of Kure City." They listened carefully to the stories told by Hibakusha, air raid survivors, and those who carry on their testimonies.



At the "Past and Future of Kure City" fieldwork

In the concluding workshop, participants reflected on their experiences and shared their thoughts and feelings in their own words. Together, they considered and expressed what they can do for a world without nuclear.

As we mark 80 years since the atomic bombings, we deeply engaged with the question of what each of us can do to ensure Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain the last cities to suffer atomic bombings.

*Pilgrimage to Hiroshima is conducted with the support of donations made to the Peacemakers Fund.

Leadership Training for Young Women



In front of the United Nations Building

69th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69)

9-15th March 2025 @New York

Five young women attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) held at UN Headquarters in New York, as delegates from the YWCA of Japan.

The delegates independently organized an event under the title “Under Threat: Life Near U.S. Military Bases in Japan.” An online session was held in Japanese language, followed by the main event conducted in English on-site in New York.



A copy of the event flyer

Report by a delegate

Each delegate from Okinawa, Nagasaki, Nagoya, and Tokyo YWCA shared powerful messages rooted in their own perspectives and experiences, urging others to consider the issue of U.S. military bases in Japan—especially in Okinawa—as a matter that concerns them personally.

Approximately 40 people gathered at the venue. Notably, participants included members of other YWCAs from abroad, individuals from the Pacific region who also live near U.S. military bases, and local high school students.

During the group work sessions, participants raised a variety of questions, such as:

“I didn’t know about this.”

“How far apart are Tokyo and Okinawa geographically?”

“How different are the cultures of Okinawa and Tokyo?”

“How well-known is the U.S. military base issue in Japan?”

“Can you talk about this topic with your friends?”

At the conclusion of the event, a powerful message of solidarity was delivered by a member of a Pacific-region YWCA.



The delegates during their event

Youth Activities on Gender: Youth and Gender Subcommittee

This year, the Youth and Gender Subcommittee focused on the theme “Politics and Gender,” engaging in activities to raise awareness about gender issues in the political and social spheres. From October 14th to 27th, in conjunction with the general election for the House of Representatives, members used social media to share the key points they were paying attention to in the election, what they expected from the candidates, and their thoughts on local issues and possible solutions. On January 12, we invited Tokyo

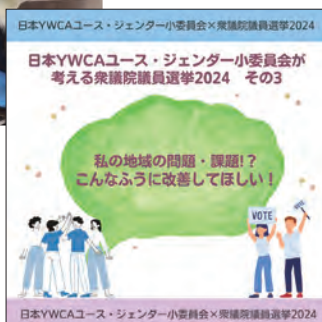


With the speaker for “Bringing Women’s Voices into Politics”



The online workshop

Image from the election-themed
SNS campaign



Metropolitan Assembly member Ms. Yasuyo Iwanaga to speak on the theme “Bringing Women’s Voices into Politics.”

In addition, the subcommittee conducted a survey on 'sexualized advertisements'—images commonly seen in public spaces that emphasize women's private areas (typically covered by swimsuits). Based on the findings, the group drafted a statement calling for changes to such representations in order to protect women's dignity. To coincide with the release of this statement, an on-line workshop titled “Let’s Raise Our Voices Against Disturbing Ads” was held on March 2nd.

Junior and Senior High School YWCA Activities

Number of participants in 3 regions: 159

In the summer of 2024, Junior and High school YWCAs held Region Conferences in their respective areas: Tohoku-Hokkaido Region (theme: Peace, 23 participants) and Kansai-South-western Region (theme: Love and Harmony, 91 participants) from July 31st to August 2nd, and Kanto Region (theme: Self, World, Peace, 45 participants) on August 5th to 7th. At the Tohoku-Hokkaido regional conference, we welcomed Mr. Danny Nehsetai, a former Israeli soldier and peacemaking activist, as a guest speaker. He shared insights on the situation in Palestine, offering us a valuable opportunity to reflect on the meaning of peace.

Support Activities for Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake

With the slogan “com7300” (where “com” means “with” and 7300 represents the number of days in 20 years), we are committed to continuing our support for children born on the day of the disaster on 11 March 2011 until they turn 20 years old.

“Refresh” Recuperation Program

Supporting Local YWCAs’ Disaster Relief Activities

Number of Programs: 2

On June 8th, Tokyo YWCA hosted a lecture titled “Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Today and the Voices of Fukushima Residents” as part of the 2024 program “Listening to Voices from Fukushima” to prevent the fading of memories of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The speakers were Mr. Tamotsu Sugunami (Executive Director of the Takagi Fund for Citizen Science) and Mr. Takashi Ichimura (Co-Representative of TCF: Tomioka.Connection.Fellowship).



Event flyer from Sendai YWCA

Later, on September 7th, Sendai YWCA held a film screening and discussion of the narrated picture-story play “We’re Sorry — We’ve Been Lying All Along: From Fukushima Daiichi and All the Other Nuclear Power Plants,” in which the nuclear plants themselves serve as the main characters.



Second House in Kobe

Second House Program

Providing a Place for Families to Rest and Recover away from Disaster-affected Areas

Number of users: 4 families, 17 people (8 parents, 9 children)

In 2024, Kobe YWCA continued to offer its Second House program during school breaks.

Caro Fukushima

Twelve years have passed since the disaster, and ten years since the launch of activities based at “Caro Fukushima.” At this turning point, we reflected on the future of “com7300” and, with deep gratitude for the connections nurtured in Fukushima, we closed the base in June 2024.

Moving forward, we aim to stay connected and continue our support in new ways—amplifying the real voices of mothers in Fukushima, organizing youth-led journeys linking Hiroshima and Fukushima, and offering scholarships to support the learning of youth living in Fukushima.



With event participants at Caro Fukushima

Our Nationwide Network in Action

The 24 local YWCAs serve as the platform where the shared vision of the YWCAs in Japan take shape in practice, supporting women and the local communities. The YWCA of Japan has held a National Convention in 2024, where the local associations got together to discuss how they could work together and empower each other.

“Local Actions” implemented throughout Japan

Number of projects: 6

Number of sessions/events implemented: 58

The Local Action (LA) stands for our community service activities which is carried out by the collaboration of YWCAs throughout Japan exceeding geographic and organizational boundaries. The YWCA of Japan provides financial, outreach and other support to projects implemented by local YWCA initiatives, based on our vision and mission: “A society where women exercise leadership, and where human rights, peace and environment is valued” and “Empowering young women and working together for social change”. During 2024, the projects listed on the right were carried out.

Read project reports here
(Japanese language):

<https://www.ywca.or.jp/kaze/la3>



LA Third Round (2023-2025) List of Projects

1. What Shall We Have for Lunch? Who Do We Vote for in the Next Election? – Thinking of Political Participation in Daily Life (Lead: Yokohama YWCA, Collaborators: Tea+, Gender Café Suginami)
2. Protectors of Peace – Peace Learnings to Pass on to the Next Generation (Lead: Kushiro YWCA, Collaborators: Hakodate YWCA, Sapporo YWCA)
3. Thinking of Women’s Human Rights and Gender Issues through Connecting Okinawa and Osaka (Lead: Osaka YWCA, Collaborator: Okinawa YWCA)
4. Study Tour to Korea – Knowing the “Past”, Learning about the “Present”, and Creating the “Future” of Japan and Korea (Lead: Nagoya YWCA, Collaborator: Women’s Division of the Aichi Prefectural High School Teacher’s Union)
5. Creating “A Place to Be” where Diverse People Can Gather (Lead: Kyoto YWCA, Collaborators: Yokohama YWCA, Fukuoka YWCA)
6. Learning about Our Future through the Nuclear Power Plant Accident- The Possibilities of SDGs and Community Power (Lead: Niigata YWCA, Collaborators: Fukushima, Kumamoto, Sendai, Matsuyama, Hakodate, and Shizuoka YWCA)

Lecture: “Listening to Asako Yuzuki, Author of *Lantern*”

7th December 2024 @Online / Number of Participants: 95



Flyer of the event

The YWCA of Japan hosted a lecture by novelist Asako Yuzuki, as a sub-event for the National Convention held in November 2024. Ms. Yuzuki shared her insights, focusing on the background of her novel *Lantern*, which is based on Michi Kawai, one of the earliest leaders of the YWCA of Japan. The participants were deeply encouraged from Ms. Yuzuki’s uplifting and inspiring words.

International Solidarity and Advocacy

As a member of the World YWCA, active in more than 100 countries around the world, the YWCA of Japan aims for social change through the leadership of young women and girls.

Solidarity & Support for Palestine

Amid the seriously worsening situation in Palestine, the YWCA of Palestine continues to provide a space for children to learn, grow, and build self-esteem through its kindergarten, which has stood firm since 1950.

The YWCA of Japan also supports the “Olive Tree Campaign”, which delivers olive trees to the Palestinian land which is threatened by the Israeli army and settlers. For every 4,000 JPY donated, one olive tree sapling is delivered to Palestine. Donations collected through YWCA of Japan has amounted to 209 trees in 2024.



YWCA of Palestine kindergarten



A female farmer from Hebron district. Amid the threat from the settlement built nearby her farm, she was able to plant 200 olive trees that was donated from the campaign

Activities in support of Myanmar

The YWCA of Japan is calling for support to the “Burma Platform”, which backs initiatives by citizens of Burma/Myanmar. In November 2024, it partnered with other organizations to



host the “Diego Caetano and Tanabe Izumi Charity Concert: Towards the Light of Hope, Together with the Citizens of Myanmar” in Kanagawa. Tickets for the concert- held in a venue with just over 500 seats- were completely sold out, showing broad public support. The concert featured a video message from a partner organization in Myanmar.

A scene from the charity concert



Cover of the Japanese translation

Japanese Translation of World YWCA Publication Released

With help from Tokyo YWCA International Language Volunteers, the YWCA of Japan released the Japanese translation of *Our Spaces, Power Spaces: YWCA's Safe Spaces Guide*. Centered on the 10 standards that define the YWCA Safe Space, the toolkit includes detailed conceptual explanations, a step-by-step guide, and worksheets designed to help each person to create their own Safe Space, tailored to their unique contexts.

The Japanese Language version is available in the YWCA of Japan website:

<https://www.ywca.or.jp/aboutus/books/publication/>



Internship Hosting

Through September to October 2024, Yasmin Poole from Australia joined YWCAs in Japan as an intern. With a strong interest in the situation of women and girls and peace-related activities, she participated in the YWCA work in Yokohama, Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka, engaging with members through diverse activities.

Exchange event with youths



Statements and Endorsements

- Letter of Protest: "We Oppose Arms Exports and Call for Peace-Building through Diplomatic Efforts" (3rd April)
- Endorsed: "Letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs: Call for Action by the Japanese Government to Protect the Independence of ICC" (31st May)
- Endorsed: "We Call for International Cooperation that Unfailingly Reaches Those Facing Difficult Situations in Myanmar" by Mekong Watch (4th October)
- Statement: "Calling for Peace in Palestine" (7th October)
- Statement: "Celebrating the Nobel Peace Prize Rewarded to Nihon Hidankyo! Calling on the Japanese Government to Sign on to and Ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, and Make Reparations for Victims Without Delay" (25th October)
- Endorsed: "We Stand in Solidarity with the Democratic Struggles for the Resignation of Yoon Suk Yeol Administration" (19th December)
- Endorsed: "Statement Opposing the Demolition and Closure of the Training and Lodging Facilities at the National Women's Education Center" (26th December)
- Endorsed: "Women's March Tokyo" (16th January)
- Statement of Protest Against the Japanese Government's Actions against the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) (22nd February)
- Jointly called for support to the statement "Calling for a Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza and Peace in Palestine" (28th March)

Making Every YWCA in Japan a Safe Space for Diverse Women

Historically, YWCAs around the world have provided “Safe Spaces” in the form of hostels, shelters, and other physical places where women, young women, and girls could find safety and support. Today, YWCA of Japan is launching a new initiative that responds to the needs of this moment—creating safe and supportive spaces where women, young women, and girls feel they belong, by drawing on the strength of local YWCA branches across the country to support those facing challenges in daily life.

From the Coordinator

“ Across Japan, many local YWCAs have a physical space—a base that has been passed down through generations. These spaces were originally established by our predecessors as places to empower women in their communities and eras they lived in. Today, YWCA is working to transform these spaces into Safe Spaces that listen to the voices of young women facing hardship and stand in solidarity with them.

Creating a Safe Space means building a place where no one feels excluded—a place where people can say, “I belong here.” It’s a space where individuals can speak freely about themselves, share experiences and struggles, access information, raise awareness, and build their capacity.

Looking ahead, we envision projects that offer temporary drop-in spaces as well as short-term housing. In each location, YWCA will work to create environments where people can eat, rest, learn, and recharge. We warmly invite you to support this initiative! ”



Y-koko Kitchen at Kyoto YWCA

Stories Behind Your Donation

Deep Dive into the Emergency Disaster Response Fund and Support Fund for Ukraine

YWCA of Japan collaborates with overseas YWCAs to provide emergency relief by supporting the activities of YWCAs in the affected areas. In 2024, support was delivered to Nepal YWCA and Myanmar YWCA, both affected by floods in September. Additionally, we continued to send donations to support Ukraine YWCA, which in turn provides aid to internally displaced persons within Ukraine.

From YWCA of Nepal

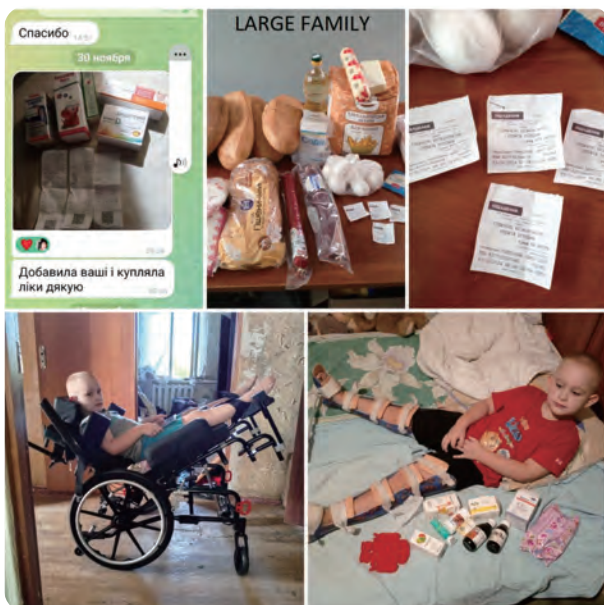
“Even though this is the challenging task during the pandemic, small token of love provided their need in time. It helped them for their self-dignity and hope for the future; we were able to reach to the unreached community. We received the resources from donors is great support in right time, the helping hand from the local peoples. We tried our best to fund raise locally ourselves. Some of the board members, staff also contributed. It was an encouragement to work more.”



Nepal YWCA members delivering supplies to disaster survivors

From YWCA of Ukraine

“Now many women need financial help because the government has increased prices for electricity and heating so much that many have to choose between buying food and paying bills. Some of them are single mothers, as well as mothers with disabled children. We also help directly with food and basic necessities.



We took patronage over a large family, where there are 6 children and the youngest, a 5-year-old boy, Vasily, has a serious spinal disease. He practically doesn't walk. He requires constant treatment. We help with medicine, food and the most necessary household items for the family, also with gasoline to take little Vasily to the doctor. We also bought this family a powerful battery so that there was electricity in the house during blackouts after the bombings.”

One of the families supported by YWCA of Ukraine

Donation Report

Thank you so much for your generous donation during the year 2024-25. 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 (~Nov.2024), Sayaka Higuchi (Nov.2024~)

Donation Received

YWCA of Japan Supporter	¥1,443,000	For supporting the overall movement of the YWCA of Japan.
Peacemakers Fund	¥4,155,092	For leadership training, aimed to empower young women to create peace.
Support for Survivors of the Great East Japan Earthquake	¥806,545	For activities to support women and children in the disaster-affected areas.
Caro Fukushima Supporter	¥80,000	For supporting Caro Fukushima, one of the projects supporting Great East Japan Earthquake survivors. (project completed)
Youth Empowerment Fund	¥565,224	For supporting youth empowerment programs.
Emergency Disaster Response	¥407,337	For domestic and international disaster relief programs.
JAI Olive Tree Campaign	¥747,000	For a donation of 4,000 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.
Support for YWCA of Palestine Refugee Camp	¥1,433,179	The funds will be used to support kindergartens run by the YWCA of Palestine in refugee camps.
Support for Ukraine	¥697,648	The funds will be used for financial and mental support for women and children in Ukraine.
Support for Burma/Myanmar	¥437,250	Supporting civil actions for peace in Burma/Myanmar.
Support for Survivors of 2024 Noto Earthquake	¥143,519	The donations were sent to Act Japan Forum and YMCA Japan, which engaged in disaster response work in the affected area. (project completed)

Total ¥10,915,794

Donate to YWCA of Japan
www.ywca.or.jp/english/donate



Participants to the event hosted by
YWCA of Japan during CSW69 (New York)

YWCA of Japan

Tokyo YWCA building Rm302, 1-8-11 Kandasurugadai,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0062 Japan

Email: office-japan@ywca.or.jp

Website: <https://www.ywca.or.jp>



@YWCAJapan



@YWCA_of_Japan



@ywcajapan