

**Statement on the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of
Nihon Hidankyo: “Message to the World Once Again”**

August 10, 2026

Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations
(Nihon Hidankyo)

August 10, 2026 marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of Nihon Hidankyo in Nagasaki.

For 11 years since the atomic bombing, without receiving support from either the Japanese or the U.S. government and under the strict press code, the Hibakusha were forced to survive in silence, battling with illnesses, discrimination and prejudice.

In 1954, the U.S. hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll exposed many Japanese fishing boats to “deadly fallout,” contaminated the tuna, and claimed the lives of the crew members of the Daigo Fukuryu Maru—an incident that made the Japanese public aware of the horror of radiation for the first time. The signatures of over 30 million people calling for a total ban on atomic and hydrogen bombs became a powerful force, leading to the World Conference against A and H Bombs convened in Hiroshima in 1955. There, the Hibakusha received warm support from people both in Japan and abroad, which gave them the courage to stand up. The following year in 1956, on the second day of the Second World Conference in Nagasaki, Nihon Hidankyo (the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations) was formed. In its founding declaration, “A Message to the World,” we proclaimed proudly, “We have reassured our will to save humanity from its crisis through the lessons learned from our experiences, while at the same time saving ourselves.”

For the past 70 years since then, we, the Hibakusha, have continued to share our experiences and call for the abolition of nuclear weapons, determined that no one in the world should ever have to go through the same suffering we have endured, and that there must never be another Hibakusha. We have continued to convey the message: nuclear weapons are weapons of the devil that cannot coexist with humanity—weapons that allow neither to die nor to live as human beings. Furthermore, in defiance of the government’s policy that “the people must ‘endure’ the loss of life, physical injury, and property damage resulting from a war fought to ensure the nation’s survival,” we have demanded compensation for the A-bomb damage based on the responsibility of the State that waged the war.

The world listened to the voices of the Hibakusha and adopted and brought into force the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Upon the establishment of this treaty—which the Hibakusha had long desired and continued to call for—we shared our joy, saying, “We are glad to have lived.” Winning the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize was also a great joy. It reaffirmed that dialogue and words—not nuclear weapons or military force—are what matter most. The award recognized that the existence of Hibakusha and the movement led by Nihon Hidankyo have deterred the use of nuclear weapons, bringing this fact to the world’s attention.

However, the world is now in profound turmoil. From the Russia-Ukraine War in 2022 to the Israel-Gaza conflict, and including the military attack on Iran by the United States and Israel in 2026, there seems to be no end in sight. The tyranny, massacre, and nuclear threats perpetrated by the leaders of great powers—who flout international law—are absolutely unacceptable.

Japan’s current administration is attempting to change the Three Non-Nuclear Principles and the Constitution without sufficient debate, despite the fact that the Peace Constitution, under which Japan has earned the world’s trust as a nation that does not wage war, is a treasure of the world.

Our demands are “the abolition of nuclear weapons” and the “State compensation for the atomic bomb damage.” Nihon Hidankyo has successfully achieved the enactment of three laws concerning Hibakusha. However, even the current “Law Concerning Relief to Atomic Bomb Survivors” enacted in 1994, does not include State compensation; it has proven to be a soulless law that remains within the realm of social security. It is the historical responsibility of the A-bombed nation—and the first step toward a peaceful world—for the government of Japan to sign and ratify the TPNW and to acknowledge compensation for war-related damages affecting “life, body, mind, and livelihood” of its people, which includes redress for those who died without knowing why they had to die and without being called “Hibakusha.”

It is up to each and every citizen of the world to build “a human society free of nuclear weapons and war”—a vision that Hibakusha have long cherished. We will continue to speak out until our last breath. Let us struggle together.

We offer this as a message for the future, along with the pledge of our predecessors who rose up to “save humanity from its crisis.”