

What is peace?

There is no single answer to this question. It may have an infinite number of answers and is something that we must consider forever. Today, there are many problems in the world, such as nuclear weapons, global warming, racial discrimination, poverty, and so on. Realizing a peaceful world is not an easy task. However, we believe that we can take small steps toward the realization of peace for future generations. We, high school students, declare our pledge for peace from Nagasaki, the symbol city of peace.

We call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. A-bomb survivor, Yasumi Yoshitomi, who has been calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons says, "It is human beings who create nuclear weapons, it is human beings who use nuclear weapons, and it is human beings who must make them stop." On August 6, 1945, at 8:15, an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, and on August 9, at 11:02, another atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. In an instant, the two cities were a sea of fire and hundreds of thousands of precious lives were lost. No matter what the reason, the act of killing people is absolutely unforgivable. Nuclear weapons, weapons of massacre, must never exist. However, there are still more than 12,000 nuclear weapons in the world. If another nuclear war were to occur, the earth would surely be destroyed. Is there any reason to retain nuclear weapons as a deterrent? We cannot abolish nuclear weapons right now, but we can make a difference in our own neighborhoods. In order to make someone smile, we need to know them well and have a strong wish to make them happy. We believe that the possession of nuclear weapons is a manifestation of distrust of other nations. When you make someone happy, a relationship of trust is created. As more and more people create a relationship of trust, a sense of solidarity will be created in the world. As this sense of solidarity grows, the distrust in the world will gradually disappear, bringing us closer to nuclear abolition. We will work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons and create a society in which the entire world wishes for the happiness of all people.

We will try hard to create a safe environment to live in. The world we live in today faces many environmental problems. Human beings have brought about remarkable progress in our society. However, such progress has caused new problems, such as excessive greenhouse gas emissions and loss of biodiversity. International efforts based on the Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity are already underway. Therefore, many people may wonder whether high school students can solve such large-scale problems. But we believe that each of us can take action to change the world. For example, we can reduce food waste, use eco-bags, and separate garbage. These actions can reduce the burden of incineration and lower CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We will continue to make efforts to do what we can do. As global citizens, we will work to create an environment in which we can continue to live with peace of mind in the future.

We will create a society where everyone can live as they are. The world is full of diversity in terms of skin color, complexion, and local culture. Everyone has the right to live as they are, regardless of race, gender, religion, and many other aspects.

However, there is no end to the acts of racism, sexism, religious persecution, and other forms of discrimination which hinder the diversity of people in the world. Why does discrimination occur between people of the same race? Human life is equal. Human beings have created differences which should not exist in essence, and have determined who is superior and who is inferior. In order for everyone to be able to live as they are, no one should be denied the right to think and act by discrimination. We believe that in order to eliminate discrimination, we must have the humility to accept diversity and "better understand" others. By treating people with humility, we can recognize that differences between people are not for the sake of superiority or inferiority, rather to be respected. We must make an effort to "understand" with our imagination what is behind the thoughts and actions of others. We will continue to grow closer to the realization of a society without discrimination. As global citizens, we will create an environment free of discrimination.

We will not tolerate unfair labor practices that undermine human rights, and we will create a world where economic growth is compatible with the preservation of the global environment.

Today, there are many countries and regions in the world where people are not able to have fulfilling and humane work. Some of these countries and regions are trying to gain more profits while violating human rights through unfair forced labor and child labor. Economic growth must not be accompanied by a loss of the earth's environment. We should avoid excessive resource consumption and continue to strive to increase productivity with fewer resource inputs. In order to overcome this situation, we will not tolerate companies which produce and sell products under unfair labor conditions, such as forced labor and child labor. We will also continue our efforts to increase productivity with less resource input, and to enhance our creativity with diverse people so that we can become human resources who can innovate society.

We will build a society where we can achieve economic growth rooted in ethical values. Achieving peace is not something that can be accomplished only by wishing for it. It requires the cooperation of all people in this world, not just certain countries or people. "Every action and consciousness are connected. Your actions can change the world." We will deliver this Joint Declaration of Peace to the world. We will pass the baton of peace to the next generation.

We hereby declare that we will realize a peaceful world and continue to protect it.

"Co-create a better world." "Be Yourself to Live for Others."