

Fifth Statement of FFWPU International about an order to dissolve the legal corporation of FFWPU Japan

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October 12, 2023



Regarding the request for an order to dissolve the legal corporation of the Japanese Family Federation for World Peace and Unification

For almost 70 years, the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (hereinafter referred to as the Family Federation) has been actively working, in as many as 190 countries, for the realization of a world of lasting peace. The approach has been supra-religious, supranational, and supra-ideological, based upon a vision of good families living in accordance with God's will. The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in Japan (hereinafter called the Japan Family Federation) was incorporated in 1964. Since then, under the guidance of a responsible board of directors, its activities have sought to reflect its philosophy that people should live in service to others, and to advance the ideal of exemplary families contributing to a world of peace.

Over the past year, issues related to the Family Federation have been raised, and on October 12, 2023, the Japanese government announced its intention to file a court application for an order for the dissolution of the Japanese Family Federation as a religious organization. Our hearts saddened by this, and we make the following statement:

First of all, we would like to express our deepest regret at the decision to request a dissolution order

against the Japan Family Federation. In each country, corporations must operate in accordance with the laws of that country. Likewise, the legally incorporated Japan Family Federation must operate according to Japanese law, and we wish to be examined and judged fairly.

Second, the freedom to love and believe in God is of paramount importance. Freedom of religion, freedom of thought, freedom of the press, and freedom of assembly and association are human rights to dignity that should be protected in every country. We hope that the faith, prayer, and meetings of Family Federation believers in Japan will not be restricted, that their freedoms and rights as citizens will not be violated because they are members of the Family Federation, and that they will never suffer discrimination, persecution, or damage to their human rights due to hatred and prejudice.

Third, the Family Federation is a community dedicated to living with and loving God as our Parent, living a righteous life to emulate God who is the embodiment of true love, forming families under the blessing of marriage, and striving for the well-being and happiness of those around us, for our nation's prosperity, and for peace throughout the world.

The Family Federation considers Japan to be a special nation. Since the end of World War II, Japan has achieved freedom, peace, and development, and quietly laid a foundation contributing to world peace. We express our gratitude and admiration to the Japanese people for their continued efforts for global development in the fields of economics, science, and culture.

All members of the Japan Family Federation are dear to our hearts, and we have always prayed for their happiness. Every time we meet members from Japan and their children, their faces are bright, beautiful, and virtuous.

In contrast to this, we are saddened and sorrowful when we hear stories of members and their families who feel frustrated, marginalized, unhappy, suffering, or bitter for any reason or circumstance. We regret that we were unable to adequately protect the well-being of all Japanese members, and that we have been unable to preserve the trust of society. Family Federation International Headquarters has a sense of moral responsibility to guide and cooperate with our churches around the world. God's love embraces all people, and we wish for the happiness of all humankind.

We will once again thoroughly examine whether members and their families are feeling marginalized or unhappy in the Family Federation, not only in Japan but also throughout the world. In addition, we will actively support and cooperate and comply with the various policies promoted by the Japan Family Federation, reforming our churches, and improving the happiness of believers, and we will create a church culture that Japanese society will come to trust.

Going forward, we will continue to do our best to create a better world.

October 12, 2023

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International Headquarters