



Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (UK)

Heavenly Parent's Holy Community

United Kingdom Headquarters

43 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3NA, UK

+44207230721 / comms@ffwpu.org.uk

London, October 12th, 2023 - **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Japan is making a serious mistake in seeking the dissolution of the Family Federation

Today the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology (MEXT) stated it will apply to the Tokyo District Court for a "dissolution order against the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification of Japan (FFWPU-J)".

We, the Family Federation of the UK, are deeply disappointed that the government of Japan has taken this rash and ill-considered action. Many religious and human rights experts from throughout the world have written to the Japanese government in recent weeks urging them not to take this step, which is a blatant disregard of international laws and conventions on human rights and religious freedoms, and may be found unconstitutional even in Japan.

We fully expect that FFWPU-J will be vindicated in the courts. Over the years, the courts in Europe have again and again upheld our religious and human rights, and in a similar case in the UK, the then Attorney General was forced to admit there was "no case to answer" and had to reimburse FFWPU millions of pounds in legal fees and costs.

However, this process will surely prolong the unfair and unconstitutional persecution of our membership in Japan, who have already endured discrimination in employment and education and in access to basic governmental services and resources simply because of their faith.

For further information, contact: Joshua M., FFWPU UK Press Officer
(+44) 7984 194335 or pr@ffwpu.org.uk

Commentary by Dr Michael Balcomb, Director, FFWPU UK

This call for a dissolution order is a sad reflection on the current state of Japanese parliamentary leadership. Japan faces many major external challenges: the threat of a confident and increasingly belligerent People's Republic of China; sour relations with South Korea, which should be its closest ally; and the nuclear ambitions of Kim Jong Un whose missiles can reach Japan. At home, the economy is lagging, the population aging and the birth and marriage rate are in serious decline.

The country as a whole remains closed-minded and suspicious toward the immigrant communities, including those of the Family Federation, whose traditional values and stable and relatively large families are the best chance Japan has of turning the demographic tide, preferring instead to call mixed-race children by the pejorative "hafu" (half).

When a society unashamedly considers some of its citizens to be only "half," whether because of race, ethnicity, religion or politics, it is already on the dangerous slope to tyranny and oppression. Democracy in Japan is relatively young, and the Kishida government, by wilfully ignoring advice from religious and legal experts, parliamentary leaders and others around the world not to proceed with this ill-considered and untimely action, is in danger of bringing Japan and its proud traditions into disrepute.