

# Religions for Peace Japan

## Chapter Report between April 2022 and March 2023

### 1. Overview of all the activities

Under the theme of "Caring for our Common Future: Advancing Shared Well-Being," Religions for Peace Japan had developed its activities based on the action guidelines of promoting (1) networking, (2) raising- awareness and advocacy, (3) peace education, and (4) humanitarian support. Religions for Peace Japan has utilized online and social networking services to conduct our action plans.

We also set up 5 Task Force Teams, to (1) Stop Nuclear Dependence (2) Respond to Climate Crisis, (3) Promote Education for Reconciliation, (4) Prevent Trafficking in Persons, and (5) Provide Disaster Relief and those 5 task force teams played key roles to address those issues and implement action-oriented activities

### 2. Brief descriptions of prioritized activities

#### 1) Tokyo Peace Roundtable

Dates: 21-23 September, 2023

Venue: Tokyo

Tokyo Peace Roundtable brought together of religious leaders from countries in the midst of conflicts, to identify and assess the specific roles of multi-religious leaders working together in reconciliation and rebuilding social cohesion efforts. Diverse religious leaders and government officials from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Russia, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine came together in person (as well as online). With providing safe space, delegates honestly exchanged their experiences, opinions, and ideas to seek for peace and reconciliation in respective regions. The seminal Peace Roundtable concluded with the faith leaders calling for continued dialogues in the same vein, and committing to recognize their responsibilities to ..."serve as peacemakers, bridge builders, and to heal our war-torn communities."



For more details, please refer to <https://www.rfp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Tokyo-Peace-Roundtable-Report-FINAL.pdf>

## 2) Dispatch of Refugee Support Volunteers

In cooperation with Focolare Movement, Caritas, and Salaam Lab in Poland, Religions for Peace Japan dispatched 4 multifaith volunteer teams between July to October 2022 to Poland to support displaced people from Ukraine. Volunteer teams implemented workshops such as playing with children, and also provided emergency supplies to those who just evacuated from Ukraine.



## 3) Efforts for Nuclear Weapons Abolition and Disarmament

The Task Force Team took the lead in working toward abolition of nuclear weapons through multi-religious and multi-stake holders' collaboration.



## 4) Addressing to Climate Crisis

Religions for Peace Japan has been engaged in tree-planting activity at approximately 10,000 square meters of land in Tokorozawa City, Saitama Prefecture, with the cooperation of the Saitama Prefectural Government, Tokorozawa Municipal Office, and local residents community.

As a part of forestation project, Religions for Peace Japan organized "Bamboo Shoot Digging Festival," "Safety Prayer Ceremony," "Tree Planting Festival" throughout the year and approximately 100 people from various religious communities and local residents participated in those events.



## 5) Training of Facilitators for Peace and Reconciliation

Education for Reconciliation Task Force Team hosted 3 seminars in person in May, July and November to train facilitators for promoting peace and reconciliation among communities.



## 6) Preventing trafficking in persons

The task force team conducted a field study session in Kagawa Prefecture to visit companies where technical intern trainees from Indonesian have worked for. Also the task force team issued the statement on the occasion of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons on July 30 to call for the eradication of trafficking in persons.



## 7) 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Committee

Date: September 10, 2022

Venue: Tokyo

Women's Committee hosted the 40th commemorative event under the theme of "ACTION WITH ALL BEINGS -Getting close to the Voiceless Voices of All." To address the issue of gender and human rights, special symposium was held with inviting experts of issues of immigration, sexual minority, and conflict.



## 8) Youth Committee

Youth Committee launched a new project called "CommuniHeart" project to tackle the issue of young women's difficulty in their lives. This project is designed to create a community where people can share their suffering and joy, to transform their perspective on life, to encourage hope for life, and to provide a spiritual home for each person. 20 girls and women participated in this project in 2022.



## 9) Publishment

- a) Monthly Newsletter
- b) Annual Report
- c) Annual Bulletin of Peace Research Institute
- d) The 9<sup>th</sup> Assembly of ACRP
- e) Religions for Peace Japan Agenda 2030

On the occasion of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Religions for Peace Japan in 2021, Religions for Peace Japan issued "Agenda 2030" to set our goals aiming for 2030. We published small size booklet to inform this Agenda and distributed to RfP Japan members, supporters, affiliated religious communities, NGOs/NPOs, press media, and others with free of charge.

