

Commitment to Peace

August 6, 2022

Who are the important people in your life?

Family, friends, teachers.

We have so many people who are precious to us.

Spending time with people you care about. Laughing together.

There is so much joy in these ordinary moments that we take for granted.

8:15 am on August 6, 1945.

Corpses lie in the streets.

They choke the rivers.

Voices beg for water, plead for water.

The people you care about vanish in an instant, and the life you knew, the future you imagined, are suddenly pulled away from you.

It has been 77 years since that day.

Right now, even in this moment, there are people in the world whose ordinary lives are being taken away.

War is not something that exists only in the past.

Strength does not mean having the advantage and using power to push your agenda on others.

True strength lies in recognizing differences, accepting others, and trying to understand them with empathy in your heart.

With true strength, there will be no wars.

We cannot change what happened in the past.

We can, however, create the future.

Accepting their grief, the *hibakusha* stood up and created a peaceful Hiroshima for us.

Now, it's our turn.

To listen to the voices of the *hibakusha* and imagine how they felt,

to convey those feelings to as many people as possible,

to cherish ourselves, those around us, and lend a helping hand to one another.

We solemnly swear to take action for the creation of a future where peace is reflected in the eyes of everyone around the world.

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