

# Appeal of the 97th Regular Convention of Osaka Prefectural High School Teachers and Staff Union

(Note: Fukokyo is the Osaka Prefectural High School Teachers and Staff Union)

Today, at this Fukokyo convention, we have shared the challenges we face in protecting children's right to learn and the public nature of education. As faculty and staff, we desire to guarantee educational opportunities for every child, regardless of economic disparities or their diverse backgrounds. Contrary to this desire, the difficulties on the ground are severe, characterized by long working hours and heavy workloads, unfilled faculty and staff positions, top-down enforcement of duties, and strengthened management through evaluation and development systems. Under these circumstances, expectations are rising for the union to gather voices from the field and demand improvements. Let us increase our members in all workplaces and realize "schools where everyone can work with peace of mind."

In national politics, massive increases in military spending and shifts (deteriorations) in security policy are progressing, accelerating politics that prioritize the military over education and welfare. Furthermore, successive political interventions into education and academia are continuing, shaking the neutrality of education and creating a dangerous situation where education could be subordinated to political power. Academic freedom is a fundamental principle guaranteed by the Constitution and forms the core of a democratic society. We will resolutely respond to interventions in education and promote democratic school-building.

Domestically, discriminatory remarks and xenophobic claims against people with foreign roots are being repeated by some political forces. In schools where children from diverse backgrounds learn together, discrimination and hate speech are absolutely unacceptable. Situations are also arising where classmates who were studying together until yesterday are forced to return to their home countries due to their parents' residency status. Aiming for a society where all children are respected, we will strengthen our efforts to protect human rights.

In Osaka, high school consolidations based on "under-enrollment"—which has been intentionally and politically created—continue, and high schools are being lost from local communities. Regarding the consolidation of Kaifukan High School and Kadoma Nishi High School announced last year, Fukokyo developed a struggle alongside the local community to protect the schools. Instead of eliminating schools through competition under the pretext of a declining birthrate, what is needed now is to guarantee the right to learn for all children and expand small-group classes. Let us broaden our collaboration with parents and local communities to defend the guarantee of educational opportunities.

And above all, Article 9 of the Constitution, which is the foundation of peace in postwar Japan, has played a major role in protecting the lives of citizens and refusing to allow Japan to head toward war again. The principle of "not engaging in war" upheld by Article 9 expresses a clear will to protect children's future, meaning "we will not send young people to the battlefield" and "we will not tolerate conscription." Voices wishing for peace are also rising within dialogues at schools. Keeping the pledge "never to send our students to the battlefield again" close to our hearts, we will hold the ideals of Article 9 high and further strengthen our efforts to protect peace and democracy.

For the children who will shoulder the future, improvements in educational conditions and the guarantee of the right of faculty and staff to work are necessary. To realize schools where all children can learn with peace of mind and all faculty and staff can work with pride, let us further expand the circle of solidarity.

We hereby resolve the above.

May 23, 2026

The 97th Regular Convention of Fukokyo