

## Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution

**“ARTICLE 9. Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes. (2) To accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.”**

Japan adopted its peace constitution following World War II. It is a pledge to the world, particularly neighbouring countries who suffered under Japanese invasions, to never again wage war. Japan vowed that no other country should suffer an atomic bombing. With such a pledge, Japan has prospered as an economic superpower, rather than attempting to develop as a military power.

However, under the Cold War, Japan developed its "Self-Defense Forces [SDF]" and has become one of the world's top military spenders. Yet, the existence of Article 9 and the Japanese people's support for its principles have forced the government to maintain its peace policies, including non-export of arms, a non-nuclear policy, and not deploying the SDF for active combat.

## About the Global Article 9 Campaign

Launched in 2005, this campaign seeks not only to locally protect Article 9, but also to educate people around the world about existing international peace mechanisms such as Japan's Constitution, and encourage governments to work towards disarmament, demilitarization and a culture of peace. Initially sponsored by a coalition of civil society organizations in Japan, the Campaign has since received support from dozens of groups and thousands of individuals worldwide, including Nobel Laureates and key international figures. This growing international movement and support makes clear that the world values Article 9 as an ideal to which all people aspire, and as a model to follow.

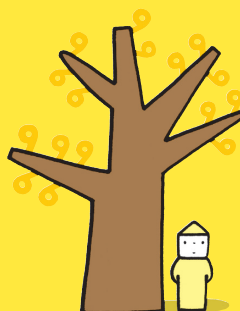
## Global Article 9 Statement to Abolish War

We, the undersigned, express our support for Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, which renounces war forever as a means of settling disputes and prohibits the maintenance of armed forces and other war potential.

We believe that it is time for people of the world to unite around Article 9's principle to abolish war and work towards demilitarization, human development and the realization of a sustainable world.

To achieve this, we commit to establishing and upholding peace laws and principles in our own countries, cities, communities, and places of work and learning.

To sign this statement, or have your organization endorse the Campaign: visit [article-9.org](http://article-9.org) and contact [celine@peaceboat.gr.jp](mailto:celine@peaceboat.gr.jp)



## GLOBAL ARTICLE 9 CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH WAR

[www.article-9.org](http://www.article-9.org)

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# GLOBAL ARTICLE 9 CAMPAIGN TO ABOLISH WAR



## Protect Japan's Peace Constitution Peace Constitutions for Every Country Shift from Military to Peace and Development

Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution renounces war as a means of settling international disputes and prohibits the maintenance of armed forces and other war potential. It's not only a provision of the Japanese law: it also acts as a regional and international peace mechanism for disarmament, demilitarization and a culture of peace.

The Global Article 9 Campaign to Abolish War needs your support to protect Japan's peace constitution, to encourage governments and the peoples in every country to adopt similar peace laws, and to call for resources to be diverted from the military into peaceful use for sustainable development and human security.

# 憲法九条が持つチカラを世界へ



## Why Article 9? Why Peace Constitution?

Breaking the Cycle of War and Violence - In a world where the chain of violence and war continues unbroken and militarization is gathering speed, the existence of Japan's Article 9 provides encouragement to those who work towards a peace that does not rely on force. Article 9 gives hope—hope that another world is possible.

“As a global citizen, I support Article 9. The world does not need more militarization; money and resources should be used to solve the many common problems we face today. In fact, I think that all constitutions should INCLUDE an Article 9 - and perhaps a global campaign to that end is needed - and certainly not the elimination of yours [Japan's].”  
Jody Williams, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, USA

Article 9 is a Mechanism for Regional and International Peace - Article 9 has been one of the fundamental guarantees for peace in Northeast Asia since WWII and remains the foundation for collective security for the entire Asia Pacific region. It also acts as an international peace mechanism towards reductions in military spending, promotion of nuclear-weapon-free zones, supporting conflict prevention, mitigating the negative environmental impact of the military, and more.

***"Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution ... has been a foundation for collective security throughout the Asia Pacific region." Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (Submitted to the UN, July 2005)***



## ...But Article 9 Is in Crisis!

Over the years, Japan has made several attempts to amend Article 9 and re-interpret it so as to allow its Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to participate in international operations.

With the election of Abe Shinzo as Japan's Prime Minister in December 2012, the debate is back at the top of the political agenda. Abe is determined to push for constitutional revisions of Japan's peace clause and many other peace and human rights dispositions, and to allow Japan to exercise collective self-defense. He has announced the bolstering of the country's military and increase in defense spending—the first increase in 11 years.

These moves are threatening to trigger an arms race in East Asia, including China, and have severe implications for the crisis on the Korean peninsula.

## Protect Article 9, an Article 9 for Every Country

***“We need a model. We need an example that would show that you can do without all those kind of arms, any army, violence, conflicts and military intervention.” Florence Mpaayei, Nairobi Peace Initiative, Kenya***

The Global Article 9 Campaign to Abolish War calls on global civil society to develop and carry out “peace mechanisms” based on Article 9 principles.

## Article 9 Mechanisms for Peace:

1. Reduce military spending in accordance with Article 26 of the UN charter, and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
2. Monitor corporate military activities, and prevent new development and sales of weapons.
3. Promote nuclear-weapon-free zones (NWFZs) and demilitarized zones (DMZs).
4. Promote the human right to live in peace
5. Mainstream gender in peace activities, and work to end violence against women.
6. Promote "non-use of force" and non-belligerency norms among states, and encourage non-military means of guaranteeing state security.
7. Support conflict prevention, development of early warning systems, peacebuilding and human security initiatives by peaceful means.
8. Cooperate to reverse the negative environmental impacts of war and the military, and divert resources to ensuring the sustainability of the planet.
9. Support peace initiatives and peace education in cities, communities, and places of work and learning.

***“Every Parliament should adopt a resolution prohibiting their government from going to war, like the Japanese article number nine.” Hague Appeal for Peace, May 1999***

## Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War and Other Major Activities

As part of the campaign, the large-scale Global Article 9 Conference took place in Japan in 2008 and two international follow-up events were held in 2009 in Costa Rica and Ecuador. Since then, the Campaign continues to engage in advocacy efforts at the international level to highlight the global impact of Article 9, notably in the fields of conflict prevention, disarmament for development, the reduction of military spending, the codification of the human right to peace, as well as the promotion of peace constitutions.



Photo: Stacy Hughes, Peace Boat

## Mobilization and Call for Support

In light of the current trend toward militarization in Japan and the government's renewed attempts to amend Article 9, Japanese civil society is mobilizing and planning several events throughout the country.

Japan's peace movement is seeking your support to counter the Japanese government's warmongering policies, which would have grave consequences for Japan, the regional context and international peace.

The Global Article 9 Campaign invites you to endorse the campaign, and to send messages of support for Japan's peace constitution and against the Japanese government's trend of nationalism and its path to militarism.