Support the Center for Minority Issues and Mission. Become a member.

We live in a time when, sadly, we are seeing a disconcerting rise in acts and words of cruelty toward society's vulnerable in many places around the world. In Japan, too, incidents of organized hate speech have occurred in recent years, against Koreans in Japan (In some cases directed specifically at school children), the Buraku community, Okinawans, Ainu people, persons with disabilities and other minority groups. Those who are targeted as “other” are belittled by deep-rooted notions of superiority and triumphalism, which typically profit the privileged and the powerful.

In Japan there is a particularly strong tendency to weigh the plights of discriminated persons against the interests of the “nation,” or “majority,” and to deny and erase from public memory such horrors as the 1923 massacre of Koreans after the great Kanto Earthquake, or the deep suffering of military “comfort women.” Numb by news and images of cruelty, many in society appear to be losing the ability to even recognize that we are in crisis. In the face of such challenges, the Center for Minority Issues and Mission sets out to pursue activities in the following four areas, with the aim to foster mutuality and respect for all who have received life from our loving God:

1. Struggle in collaboration with churches and other partners against racism and other forms of discrimination (e.g. sexism, gender discrimination, ageism, casteism, religious intolerance)
2. Programs for youth education and leadership development,
3. Foster through study, dialogue and events a spirituality for reconciliation and peace, and
4. Communication with churches within Japan and abroad through print and electronic media.

These activities will be chosen and planned in close consultation with members of CMIM's Board of Directors, Steering Committee and Working Groups, who represent a variety of churches and Christian organizations. Always asking the questions, “Who is a 'minority'?” “Where are we called to?” “How can we serve?” we will strive to weave a fabric that is strong enough to be stretched and spread as a “tent of inclusivity.”

We are grateful for the heartfelt prayers and encouragements received from so many supporters abroad and within Japan. We invite and encourage individuals and organizations to participate in this ecumenical mission, by becoming a supporting member of the Center for Minority Issues and Mission.

- Individual membership: ¥3,000
- Institutional membership: ¥10,000

Bank account:
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Micuho Bank Ltd. (SWIFT code: MHCBJPJT)
Teikofu Branch (Branch N 864)
Regular account N 864-2382724
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In November 2015, Japanese churches hosted the 3rd International Conference on Minority Issues and Mission, with support and participation from partner churches of several nations. Conference Participants affirmed the need for deeper coordination among Christians to overcome the spread of intolerance and discrimination against minorities in Japan and other places around the world, and vowed to work for reconciliation and harmonious coexistence of all people. Soon after the conference the churches of Japan began preparations for the Center for Minority Issues and Mission in Japan (CMIM). Receiving much encouragement and support also from ecumenical partners abroad, CMIM celebrated its opening in April 2017.

The center for Minority Issues and Mission will engage in a variety of activities with the aim to realize an inclusive society, where diversity can be celebrated by every person, with dignity and joy. “Let us spread the tent of inclusivity!” These are the words of our motto.

Churches and Organizations represented in CMIM Board of Counselors (April 2017)
Korean Christian Church in Japan, United Church of Christ in Japan,
Church of Christ in Japan, Anglican-Episcopal Church in Japan,
Japan Baptist Convention, Japan Baptist Union, Wesley Foundation,
Korean YMCA in Japan, National Christian Council in Japan

CMIM Logo: Surrounded by the words, Center for Minority Issues and Mission, is Jesus' crown of thorns—symbol of our sins, and of Jesus’ standing and suffering with the shunned. Within the crown is Jesse’s stump, from which a new branch/leaf sprouts. God’s promise of new life, even out of deepest despair.


## Our Activities

### A. Struggle Against Racism

1. **Minorities Roundtable**
   
   Host “roundtable” meetings, where representatives of diverse minority groups can share stories, discuss challenges and plan common actions that point toward inclusivity.

2. **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21)**
   
   Coordinate with churches and other groups in Japan activities that celebrate and promote the UN-designated International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

3. **Solidarity with churches overseas**
   
   Learn from and work with churches engaged in mission with minorities: for example, aboriginal peoples in Taiwan, Australia or Canada, immigrants and other discriminated groups in the U.S., Germany or India.

4. **Advocacy for stronger legal framework to protect minorities in Japan**
   
   Advocate toward government and legislators of Japan, enactment of laws to protect human rights of minorities, such as a “Basic Law for the Elimination of Racism,” or “Basic Law for Non-Japanese Residents.” Contribute to NGO reports toward international human rights institutions, and welcome monitors, like the UN Special Rapporteur, during official country visit/study.

### B. Engage in Youth Mission

1. **Minority Youth Forum**
   
   Plan and implement multi-day programs that feature field study and workshops in places like Osaka, Hokkaido and Okinawa, where minority communities still confront challenges.

2. **“Youth and Mission” Working Group**
   
   An ecumenical committee of young people will meet to plan Youth Forum and other activities. This will also serve as a place for the exchange of information about programs and events of interest in Japan and abroad.

3. **“Café” events**
   
   Host a regular “Café” event, where Christian youth engaged in minority issues can meet one another. Respecting to participants’ interests, the café will feature topical talks, music, art/photo exhibits, film, prayer circle, etc.

4. **Leadership Development Programs for Youths of Churches in Japan**
   
   Support the development of youth leaders through field study, internships and the dispatch of youth delegates to conferences related to minority issues.

### C. Develop the Spirituality of Reconciliation and Peace

1. **Bible Study Forum**
   
   Contribute to the build-up of a learning network among Christians by providing a place for the exchange of views on Biblical interpretation, theology, Christian education and mission work related to minority issues. These discussions will be shared further at conferences, etc. through articles, Bible studies, or workshops.

2. **Joint Festival**
   
   Plan and implement a collaborative festival, which will utilize fruits of the Bible Study Forum, while also celebrating multi-ethnic, multicultural inclusivity through prayer, dance, drama, gospel music and worship.

### D. Communicate with Domestic and International Churches

Spread the vision of inclusive society and build up a collaborative network through the following communication tools.

1. **CMIM Newsletter (4 times/year, Japanese and English)**
2. **Minority Issues Journal (1 time/year, Japanese and English)**
3. **Topical Booklets (1 or 2/year)**
4. **Internet Communications (Website, SNS, blog)**