

Statement

Re: Petition for Dissolution Order to the Unification Church

Oct. 12, 2023

Lawyers from Across Japan for the Victims of the Unification Church
(LAJAVUC)

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1. Consult with us if you are suffering:

Today, Masahito Moriyama, Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, announced that the Agency for Cultural Affairs is to file a petition to the Tokyo District Court, seeking a dissolution order with respect to Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (hereinafter referred to as “the Unification Church” or “the Church”) as an incorporated entity. The Agency has found that the activities of the Unification Church are “in violation of laws and regulations, [...] clearly found to harm public welfare substantially” (Article 81 (1) (i), Religious Corporations Act). The petition filing results from the Agency’s careful investigation, which included extensive interviews with victims across Japan. We highly respect the efforts of the Agency to find the reality of the severe damages caused by the Unification Church.

While the petition seeking the dissolution order is a significant step toward relief for the victims and prevention of future damage, further efforts are called to bring justice to all the victims and prevent further damage.

Since February 22, 2023, we have filed five collective claims against the Unification Church for negotiaton over financial damages of over 3.9 billion yen suffered by 124 victims as of today, and some of the claims are currently under court mediation. Among these victims are many highly-aged people

who have been victimized for so many years and many who have been forced to suffer economic hardship due to large sums of donations and other payments to the Church.

We are sure that, upon learning of the dissolution petition to be filed, both current and former Unification Church members and their family members have mixed feelings.

We will continue to provide consultation regarding the Unification Church and do our best to help victims. Former as well as current members of the Church who are suffering any damage stemming from involvement with the Church may contact us for consultation:

Phone: 03-6261-6653 (Weekdays 10:30 am to 3:30 pm)

Web Form: <https://tinyurl.com/29j7xl2e> (available 24/7)

Web Site: <https://www.uchigai.net>

2. Call for immediate apology and compensation by the Unification Church:

For many years, the Unification Church has been conducting recruitment campaigns on the streets and by visiting people's homes while concealing the true identity of the Church and its recruiters. The recruiters arouse fear of the spirit world and karmic causality of ancestors, instigate the victims' anxieties, and indoctrinate the Church's thinking and judgment standards without the targeted victims aware of such. The victims were made to join the Unification Church while they were suppressed in their ability to make decisions of their own free will and were eventually made to pay large sums of money in the form of donations or for purchasing spiritual goods. Thus, the Church repeated such illegal recruitment and solicitation activities, caused grave damage to the victims, and drove the victims and their families into financial ruin.

Based on the investigation, the government has found that the Unification Church has repeatedly committed illegal acts over the years and, therefore, has decided to file the petition seeking the dissolution order by the court. We, at this moment, strongly urge the Unification Church to take the government's decision seriously, promptly apologize, and provide compensation to all the victims.

Furthermore, the Unification Church should immediately withdraw the SLAP defamation lawsuits against lawyers and journalists that it has filed by taking the defendants' wordings about the Church's illicit acts out of context.

3. Call for actions by the relevant government entities to preserve the Unification Church's assets and to issue the dissolution order promptly:

The petition seeking the dissolution order to the Unification Church should lead to relief for all the victims and prevention of future damage caused by the Church. However, financial relief for the victims will be unfeasible if the Church's assets are concealed or transferred to South Korea before the dissolution order is finalized. To prevent such injustices, the government and the National Diet should promptly take legislative and administrative actions, e.g., legislating and enacting a special law to allow immediate preservation of the assets.

We request that the court acknowledge the systemic, continuous and malignant nature of illegal conducts by the Unification Church and issue the dissolution order as soon as possible.

We are committed to continuing to do our utmost to help those affected by the Unification Church.