



JPFP Newsletter

Secretariat of Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP)
Asian Population and Development Association (APDA)

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Growing Interest in Promoting Life Safety Education

— Insights from Newspaper Interviews with Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, JPFP Chair

Public attention is increasingly focused on *Life Safety Education* as a means of safeguarding the safety and dignity of children. In an interview featured in *The Yomiuri Shimbun*, Hon. Kamikawa Yoko, Chair of the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population (JPFP), together with Dr. Ikegami Kiyoko, Chair of the Board, Plan International Japan, underscored the importance of equipping children with essential knowledge and skills amid a rapidly evolving risk environment. According to some survey findings, nearly 70% of teenagers wish to learn more about their minds, bodies, and relationships, yet many lack sufficient opportunities to do so. Hon. Kamikawa emphasized that addressing these challenges requires enhanced teacher training and institutional frameworks that promote collaboration with external experts. She further stressed the need to eliminate regional disparities and ensure equal learning opportunities for children across Japan.

In addition, an interview in *The Asahi Shimbun* introduces the background behind Hon. Kamikawa's proposal of the term "Life Safety Education". Grounded in human rights and dignity, this approach aims to promote learning in a manner that is accessible and acceptable to all. Through the establishment of a dedicated Project Team (PT) within JPFP, and the sharing of international knowledge and experience, JPFP is working to advance this area of learning.

The Yomiuri Shimbun (12 February 2026)

["Comprehensive Education to Protect Life Is Essential to Prevent Children from Becoming Victims or Perpetrators of Sexual Violence"](#) (Japanese)

The Asahi Shimbun (27 February 2026)

[From "sexuality" to "life": Former justice minister explains the reasoning behind naming education to prevent sexual violence](#) (Japanese)



Activities for Strengthening National Committees on Population and Development: Maldives

On 13 February, the Asian Population and Development Association (APDA) and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD), in collaboration with the Parliament of the Maldives, held a parliamentary meeting focusing on community empowerment on Gulhi Island, Maldives. The meeting featured practical programmes addressing youth career development, digital literacy, the economic and legal empowerment of women, and the strengthening of family and community cohesion.

The programme was designed to respond to key challenges facing Maldivian society, including high NEET rates, low female labor force participation, and gaps in family communication. Participants engaged in experience-sharing sessions led by women entrepreneurs and youth, and acquired practical skills such as developing concrete career plans and gaining foundational knowledge and practical skills for entrepreneurship. The meeting also marked an important step toward strengthening intergenerational collaboration and advancing community empowerment.

This meeting was implemented with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Japan Trust Fund (JTF), and International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).



Expansion of the Global Gag Rule by the United States

On 23 January 2026, the U.S. Vice President announced three new interim rules under the *Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA)* framework: the Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance (PLFA) rule, the Countering Gender Ideology in Foreign Assistance (CGIFA) rule, and the Countering Discriminatory Equity Ideology in Foreign Assistance (CDEIFA) rule. These measures expand restrictions related to abortion, gender identity, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) beyond family planning to nearly all non-military foreign assistance. A key feature is their immediate application to new contracts and, for the first time, their direct applicability to a wide range of partners, including UN agencies and foreign governments.

The rules are scheduled to take effect on 26 February 2026 and will apply to new grants and cooperative agreements, while existing contracts are generally excluded. However, memoranda of understanding (MOUs) may be subject to revision to incorporate restrictive clauses. As a result, the measures may affect not only family planning programmes but the overall operations of recipient organizations. Activities related to abortion, gender issues, and DEI initiatives face stricter limitations, while organizations are required to ensure strict separation of US and non-US funds. Waiver procedures may be subject to political considerations, and legal remedies outside the U.S. are limited, making rapid response and risk management essential for affected organizations.

[Source: Ms. Taniguchi Yuri, Chief (Asia/GoJ), Donor Relations and Fundraising Team, IPPF]

JPPF

Established in 1974, JPPF has the longest history in the world as a supra-partisan parliamentary group on population and development. JPPF, in concert with APDA, has created a network of parliamentarians on population and development, through which a diverse range of knowledge and experience has been shared to accomplish concrete results.

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APDA

APDA since its establishment in 1982 has served as the secretariat of JPPF.

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