

Who are the *Hibakusha*, the atomic bomb survivors?

Legally, they are classified into four categories under Article 1 of the Atomic Bomb Victims' Relief Law as follows:

- ◆ Category 1 *Hibakusha*: those who were directly affected by the A-bombs
- ◆ Category 2 *Hibakusha*: those who entered the affected areas within two weeks after the bombings
- ◆ Category 3 *Hibakusha*: those who were under certain conditions that exposed their bodies to the A-bomb radiation at the time of the bombings or after, e.g., people who disposed of corpses or were involved in rescue and relief operations
- ◆ Category 4 *Hibakusha*: those who were fetuses when their mothers were affected by the A-bombs

Who are the *Hibaku-nisei*, the 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors?

There is no legal definition for second-generation A-bomb survivors. Therefore, there is no legal assistance for them. The Japanese Government (through the Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare), however, has implemented a "health checkup project for second-generation A-bomb survivors" on a single-year limited budget since fiscal year 1979. The target group of the project is as follows according to the guideline:

1. A person whose parent or parents is /are (an) A-bomb survivor(s)
2. In the case of parents affected in Hiroshima, the project covers their child /children born on and after June 1, 1946. In the case of parents affected in Nagasaki, the project covers their child /children born on and after June 4, 1946.

*"The Atomic Bomb Victims' Relief Law" classifies A-bomb survivors into four categories. JLCSGABS defines second- and third-generation A-bomb survivors as the fifth category of *Hibakusha* and demands the application of the Law to them.

It is estimated that there are around 300,000 to 500,000 second-generation A-bomb survivors. We, the second▶

Our mission and projects

The Japanese Liaison Council of Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors (JLCSGABS) aims at the following: to pass on the experiences of atomic bomb survivors; to establish the human rights of A-bomb survivors and their second and third generations; to protect their lives and health; to organize activities for the elimination of nuclear harm and damage, and the realization of nuclear abolition and complete disarmament.

To achieve the goals, we implement the following projects:

1. Campaigns to demand health care for second- and third-generation A-bomb survivors, that is, coverage by the same public support programs for A-bomb survivors, including medical support.
2. Advocacy to amend "the Atomic Bomb Victims' Relief Law" based on the principle of state compensation.
3. Campaigns to eliminate the harm and damage caused by radiation in solidarity with other nuclear victims all over the world.
4. Collaboration with other organizations on both domestic and international levels that share the same vision.
5. Other projects that may be needed to achieve these goals.

State compensation
for 2nd-generation
A-bomb survivors!



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**Pass on the experiences
of atomic bomb survivors,
Establish the human rights of
2nd- and 3rd-generation
atomic bomb survivors, and
Realize the abolition
of nuclear weapons.**

Japanese Liaison Council of
Second-Generation Atomic Bomb Survivors
(JLCSGABS)

Our demands

We have 3 demands from the Japanese Government:

1. Include the second and third generations as the fifth category of A-bomb survivors in "the Atomic Bomb Victims' Relief Law", thus giving them legal coverage for state compensation.
2. Amend the Law by adding "the provision for second and third generations" as supported by the House of Councilors which had already passed the revised bill twice.
3. Take measures to support the second and third generations such as the institutionalization of health checkups for the second generation, upgrading the contents of the checkup (e.g., adding testing for cancer), expansion of the coverage of the checkup for the third generation, and medical assistance based on the supplementary resolution of the Law.

We demand the equal application of the above-mentioned legal assistance, or Atomic Bomb Victims' Relief Law, to all the second and third generations based on the belief that "the second- and third-generation A-bomb survivors should be equally recognized wherever they are," in the same way that "the A-bomb survivors should be equally recognized wherever they are."

▶generation, are truly victims as the possibility of genetic influence from our parents affected by the A-bomb radiation cannot be denied. Many of us have passed away due to diseases like cancer or leukemia, just as their parents did. In addition, a large number of us are currently suffering from these same diseases. We are suffering from health damage as well as anxiety about our health. JLCSGABS has been demanding assistance from the Japanese Government (MHLW) and the Diet since the establishment of this organization in 1988. The Government and the Diet, however, have not taken any measures to support the second and third generations.

What issues do 2nd-generation A-bomb survivors deal with?

1. Health risks: They are the victims who are disposed to genetic risks that could be caused by A-bomb radiation. They suffer from anxiety and actual health problems.
2. Socio-economic issues: There is a vicious cycle of illness and poverty. For instance, it is common for the second or third generations to be trapped in poverty by being forced to take care of parents or grandparents who are A-bomb survivors.
3. Social discrimination: Social prejudice causes discrimination in marriage and job seeking.

Our activities for the future: 70 years after the bombings

JLCSGABS drew up an action plan, including the following two new activities after the 70th year of the bombings, when the general meeting was held in Hiroshima in February 2016.

1. To call on the Japanese Government to take measures to guarantee the human rights of second-generation A-bomb survivors by appealing for this issue as a human rights violation in the international society (e.g., the UN Human Rights Council)
2. To aim at attaining legal assistance for second-generation A-bomb survivors from the state and the government through a lawsuit.

Action toward the UN Human Rights Council

JLCSGABS sent a delegation to the United Nations Office at Geneva in October 2017 to appeal for action at the Working Group on the 28th session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in the UN Human Rights Council held in the following month. As a result, Costa Rica and Mexico included this issue in their recommendations to the Japanese Government. It was epoch-making in the sense that this issue was actually discussed in the Council, even if the Japanese Government later rejected the recommendations. We will keep advocating the human rights protection of second-generation A-bomb survivors in the UN Human Rights Council.

Delegation to the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference

The Second Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT (Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty) Review Conference was held in the United Nations Office at Geneva from April to May 2018. We sent our delegation to the Committee for the first time and held a side event to appeal for the issue and for nuclear abolition. The delegates had opportunities to exchange opinions with the political representatives from various states and NGOs. Considering that the A-bomb survivors are aging, we believe that advocating human rights protection for ourselves and nuclear abolition in the international society is our mission and responsibility.



Class action lawsuit demanding assistance for second-generation A-bomb survivors

In 2017, 22 plaintiffs (now 26 in all) filed the case at the Hiroshima District Court on February 17th, and 25 plaintiffs (now 26 in all) did the same at the Nagasaki District Court on February 20th. The locations of the courts correspond to the places where the plaintiffs' parents became victims. All the plaintiffs are members of JLCSGABS. Our objectives for the lawsuits are to call the public's attention to the problems and to create an opportunity for legal solutions by the state for all second-generation A-bomb survivors by representing them.



We think that one of the gravest human rights violations committed by nuclear arms is the radiation impact on the next generations. Our actions in the United States and the class action lawsuits will contribute to the solutions for not only our issue but also other nuclear victims' issues such as in Fukushima and Chernobyl, and their descendants. We firmly believe that the way towards the abolition of nuclear weapons, including nuclear energy, will be paved when people all over the world reach the consensus that radiation has an impact on future generations and that nuclear power and humankind can never coexist. With a sense of mission, we are determined to fight for the descendants of nuclear victims and for nuclear abolition no matter how hard it may be. We ask for your understanding, support and cooperation. (Please refer to our books "The Fifth Category of *Hibakusha*" and "The Fifth Category of *Hibakusha 2*" written in Japanese.)