

## Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution

1. 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. In order 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.

### Why Article 9? Why Peace Constitutions? Breaking the Cycle of War and Violence

At the start of the 21st Century, the world is engulfed in a cycle of war and violence. The war in Iraq has made it manifestly clear that peace cannot be imposed by force. Non-violent alternatives to resolve disputes are needed more desperately than ever. The risk of a renewed global arms race looms; armed conflicts are aggravated by poverty and environmental degradation brought about by globalization; and wars are ongoing around the globe.

In such a situation, the potential of Japan's Article 9, like Costa Rica's peace constitution, is enormous. Such peace constitutions can contribute to the UN's original purpose of abolishing war.

### Article 9 is a Mechanism for International Peace

*"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*

## 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, promoting human development and realizing 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: go to [www.article-9.org](http://www.article-9.org)**

We aim to collect 999,999 signatures to this statement, which will be submitted to the Japanese government, the United Nations and all its member states.



## 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



### 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. Article 9 is an international oath declaring No to War.

The Global Article 9 Campaign to Abolish War needs your support to encourage governments and the peoples of the world to adopt similar peace laws in every country, and work towards demilitarization and a culture of peace. We 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

## **“Article 9 is a common value for all people living in the Asia Pacific.”**

*Jeannie Manipon, Asian Peace Alliance, Philippines*

Japan adopted its peace constitution following the devastation of 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.

**“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!**

The US is increasingly in need of full-fledged military support from Japan in the global “war on terror.” There is a definite trend towards militarization within Japan, where big business sees great potential in arms development and trade. On attaining power in 2006, Prime Minister Abe’s administration stated its intention to revise Article 9 within 5-6 years. Such a revision would trigger an arms race in East Asia, involving China, and have severe implications for the Korean nuclear crisis.



## **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 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: recognize conscientious objectors’ rights and strengthen justice systems against crimes by the military.
- 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*

## **Join the “Global Article 9 Conference to Abolish War” Tokyo, 4-6 May 2008**



*Jody Williams  
Photo: Micheline Pelletier*

- Join 10,000 people from around the world to voice your support for the existence and principles of Article 9
- Join the people of Japan in protecting their peace constitution
- Take part in an active network of international movements to shift resources from the military to sustainable development and human security
- Hear keynote speeches by international peace advocates including Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Jody Williams
- Contribute to the creation of a Global Article 9 Action Plan to Abolish War
- Experience cultural events in collaboration with civil society from all over the world
- Call for peace constitutions for every country



*Photo: Stacy Hughes, Peace Boat*

### **For more details, visit: [www.article-9.org](http://www.article-9.org)**

**“The time for war to go has come. To reach that goal every country should have an Article 9 from the Japanese Constitution in their own constitution.”** *Cora Weiss, Hague Appeal for Peace, USA*

**“We call for governments to constitutionally renounce war (e.g. Japan’s Article 9)”** *Vancouver World Peace Forum, June 2006*