

○ The Japanese Psychological Association

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Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga

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**Petition: The Science Council of Japan “Request for Appointment of New Members for the 25th Term” (October 2, 2020)**

Recently, Prime Minister Suga has failed to appoint six humanities and social science candidates out of the 105 candidates nominated as new members by the Science Council of Japan, and it has also been reported in the mass media that the reason for this has not been made clear. Further, we have heard that in response to this, the Science Council of Japan has issued a “Request for Appointment of New Members for the 25th Term” (October 2, 2020) to Prime Minister Suga, which contains the two requests for disclosure of the reasons for not making the appointments and the immediate appointment of the six candidates.

The Japanese Psychological Association has been participating in the Science Council of Japan from an early stage as a collaborative academic research organization, and also members of our association have served as council members and associate members; therefore, we are deeply concerned about the situation that has occurred this time. We, the Japanese Psychological Association, support the abovementioned Science Council of Japan’s request, therefore appeals here for the immediate implementation of that request.

Furthermore, by upholding the “Declaration of Determination as Scientists on the Inauguration of the Science Council of Japan” (January 22, 1949), shown below, we would like to share with the Science Council of Japan the fundamental spirit that is the ground for this petition.

We respectfully hope that you will comply with this request.

“...and at this opportunity we strongly reflect upon the attitude taken by Japanese scientists thus far, and in the future, with the conviction of science being the foundation of a cultured and peaceful nation, we pledge here to contribute to Japan’s peaceful reconstruction and the promotion of the well-being of humankind. To begin with, this Council, representing Japan’s scientists both domestically and

internationally, has as its purpose the promotion and enhancement of the field of science, and having science reflected in and permeated into administration, industries, and people's lives, and thus the duty borne by the whole of scholarship being a matter of great import. For that reason, while securing the freedom of thought and conscience, academic freedom, and freedom of expression guaranteed by the Constitution of Japan, we will, under the collective will of scientists, form partnerships with the academic societies of all the world for the peace of humankind, and resolve to devote our total efforts toward contributions to the progress of academic activities...." (Excerpt from the Declaration of Determination as Scientists on the Inauguration of the Science Council of Japan, January 22, 1949)