

Statement on the Government's Refusal to Appoint Candidates to the Science Council of Japan

The Japan Association for Social Policy Studies (JASPS) hereby protests the refusal of the Prime Minister to appoint all of the candidates for the 25th term of the Science Council of Japan.

The Science Council of Japan Law requires the Prime Minister to appoint the candidates that are recommended by the Science Council of Japan. The refusal to appoint six of the candidates recommended by the Council violates the intent of the legislation and departs from the government's longstanding interpretation of the Law. In addition, the Science Council of Japan Law requires that membership selection be based solely on scholarly achievement. Refusing to make appointments for reasons unrelated to scholarly achievement threatens the academic freedom that the JASPS is pledged to defend.

As a cooperating organization of the Science Council of Japan, the JASPS urges the Prime Minister to promptly appoint the six candidates for membership.

October 5, 2020

The Executive Committee of the Japan Association for Social Policy Studies

President

Makoto Ishii