

Japan under a new PM

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government represents a pronounced rightward shift, prioritizing a hawkish defense posture, traditional social values, and nationalist economic policies. Her administration balances populist appeals with a deeply conservative agenda that has reshaped Japanese politics.

Though the stance of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Japan (CBCJ) historically is critical of the policies of the governing party, the Conference has not been articulate since the birth of the Takaichi government in October, 2025. For example, the Conference has not come up with any statement against the Anti-Espionage Act and Establishment of the National Intelligence Service.

The newly restructured Episcopal Commission for Social Issues now has Committee for Life, Peace and Human Rights which supports the network of the former Council for Justice and Peace. <https://www.cbcj.catholic.jp/english/> Facing the critical reality in Japan and in the world, we (Justice and Peace diocesan members, JPIC of the Congregations, Migrants and Refugees network, Pax Christi, Caritas) try to broaden and deepen our proactive network.

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