### IT'S TIME FOR JUSTICE

#### **International Affairs Committee**

2017 Edition Vol. 2

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44

# **Koreans in Japan**

During the Japanese occupation of Korea, thousands of Koreans were taken and forced to work in Japan, especially during World War II. In 1947, an imperial decree stripped Koreans remaining in Japan of their citizenship and required them to register as aliens, essentially rendering them stateless.

Most Koreans in Japan live as invisible outsiders. To mitigate the worst forms of discrimination, many hide their Korean identities, and use the Japanese names that they were required to take while Korea was under Japan's control. The majority of the 600,000 Koreans in Japan today are second, third, fourth and fifth generation Koreans, born and educated in Japan, usually speaking



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little or no Korean, and, culturally speaking, are much more Japanese than Korean.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada has had a relationship with Koreans in Japan since 1927, working with partners in advocating for justice and human rights for Koreans and other minority groups living in Japan.

# **The Church Responds**

Following the recommendation made by General Assembly, the Moderator wrote to the Rev. Byungho Kim, the General Secretary of the Korean Christian Church in Japan, the Prime Minister of Japan and the Japanese Ambassador to Canada and Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs. These letters express our concern about the increasing xenophobia, hate speech and discrimination against minorities in Japan.

## **Prayer**

God of Love, you have created us in your image; we pray that we will see you in other people and overcome biases that keep us apart.

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