

PRESS RELEASE

The 4th Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award

The NPPVA aspires to honor and encourage individuals and promote the further development of organizations that, based on the spirit of religious principles, excel in creating initiatives for building peaceful and harmonious societies. We seek to foster the as-yet-unrecognized future promise of such activities for peace that are pioneering, experimental, rooted in the community, and address specific issues that are relevant to the lives of community members.

We are pleased to announce that the 4th Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award will be presented to the following individual.



Rev. Gakugen Yoshimizu (Japan)
Buddhist Priest of the Jodo Shu School, Human Rights Activist

Rev. Gakugen Yoshimizu has long stood in solidarity with people experiencing poverty and homelessness, putting Buddhist compassion into practice through tireless action. He helped establish the communal grave *Yui no Haka* ("Grave of Bonds") and found 'Hitosaji no Kai', through which he provides meals, conducts nighttime outreach, offers practical assistance and counselling, arranges funerals, and holds memorial services.

His activities recognize people not merely as recipients of assistance, but as neighbors with whom life is shared. His work embodies the bodhisattva path by safeguarding human dignity both in life and after death. He has also made Buddhist temples available for use by local communities and fostered cooperation among religious practitioners, support organizations, professionals, and residents. By confronting poverty, isolation, discrimination, and the loss of social bonds, his pioneering work rebuilds human connections and promotes peace in everyday life. It truly embodies the ideals of the Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award.

The Niwano Peace Prize Visionary Award

Main prize:	Certificate of merit
Supplementary prize:	2,000,000 Japanese Yen
Presentation:	Presentations will be conducted at the locales where the recipients are engaged. Coverage of the presentation will be posted on the Foundation's official website toward the end of March, 2027.
Official Announcement:	Announcements will be posted on the Foundation's official website.
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NPPVA Overview	https://www.npf.or.jp/english/award_programs