

## Keiko Ogura: A Vow to Pursue the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

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Countless nightmares and flashbacks are some of the many stressful symptoms experienced by many of the survivors of traumatic events. To vow to dedicate the rest of her life to educate and raise awareness about the dreadfulness of the atomic bombing is a very painful choice that she had made. By doing that she could not escape or distance herself from the agony, but would need to relive such a painful experience over and over again. She explained so vividly the faces of dying people, the darkness, the voices everywhere crying for help, and the destruction of her home and city. The only way she could explain it so clearly is because, in her mind, she went back to the place and time while she was telling the story to us, as if she were eight years old and being blasted by the atomic bomb on the morning of August 6, 1945. It was a very difficult choice that she had made to convey an important message for the betterment of future generations, that is, to promote peace and a world without nuclear weapons.

It is unfortunate that we sometimes need to have such a catastrophic event to demonstrate the horror of the war. Even though she had to face the bomb all alone on the street on the morning of August 6, 1945, let's not have Mrs. Keiko Ogura's devotion to end the proliferation of nuclear weapons remain alone. I am calling out to the participants of the 168th International Senior Seminar, and everyone reading this. Let us learn from history and mistakes and be a part of the voice that calls for peace, whenever we can and wherever we are. It is not the countries or the governments who would bring peace to the world, but it is the effort that should derive from every one of us, as we are all citizens of the world.

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