

Members Suffer Mental Harm Due to Japan's Unjust FFWPU Liquidation

Demian Dunkley
August 14, 2026



FAMILY FEDERATION

The Newsletter

August 14, 2026

Hello family. Quick Connect update. Japanese members suffer psychological distress. 2nd gen defends her faith. IHQ explanation on True Mother's case part 1. Sunday service livestreams.

News

Quick Connect: Liquidation Mentally Harms
Members



On today’s Quick Connect: 90% of Japanese church members report psychological distress, a Japanese second generation speaks candidly on TV, and international headquarters released a two-part legal analysis of the case against True Mother.

[watch here](#)

Believers Suffering Severe Psychological Distress: Interim Report by Family Federation

The *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification* (FFWPU; formerly the Unification Church), a religious organization, has conducted a questionnaire survey concerning the harm suffered by its members since 4th March, when liquidation proceedings began following the decision to dissolve the religious corporation. The survey found that nearly 90% of respondents reported experiencing psychological distress. In many cases, the distress was attributed to being unable to use church facilities. Although guidelines adopted by the *Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology* (MEXT) concerning the liquidation of “designated religious corporations” explicitly call for consideration of freedom of religion, the situation has revealed a contradiction between those guidelines and the actual implementation of the liquidation proceedings.

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Japanese Second-generation Defends Her Faith Publically



A Japanese young woman went on a program to debate people outside her faith about her own church. What she said there: the government agency that dissolved it is suspected of fabricating evidence. Japan shut down the Family Federation this year. Not one hearing was public. Members still cannot see the evidence used to shut their churches.

[watch here](#)

International HQ Briefing on True Mother's Trial Part 1



The truth is determined by evidence, not by public opinion. At the sentencing hearing on July 10, the special prosecutor sought a 13-year prison sentence. The defense

team counters as follows. The only direct evidence that General Han was involved in the conspiracy is the statement of former World Headquarters Director Yoon Young-ho. In the main examination, former Director Yoon responded in a way that suggested he had reported it, but he refused to testify during the defense's cross-examination.

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Yoon's Changing

Survey after Japanese dissolution and church closures finds nearly 90% of believers report psychological distress

Tokyo, 13th August 2026 – Published as an article in the Japanese newspaper *Sekai Nippo*. Republished with permission. Translated from Japanese. [Original article](#).

Nearly 90% Report Distress, Many Have Sought Medical Care



Logo of the *Sekai Nippo*

Believers Suffering Severe Psychological Distress: Interim Report by Family Federation

by the Religious Freedom Investigative Team of the editorial department of *Sekai Nippo*

The *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification* (FFWPU; formerly the *Unification Church*), a religious organization, has conducted a questionnaire survey concerning the harm suffered by its members since 4th March, when *liquidation proceedings* began following the *decision to dissolve the religious corporation*. The survey found that nearly 90% of respondents reported experiencing psychological distress. In many cases, the distress was attributed to being unable to use *church facilities*. Although guidelines adopted by the *Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology* (MEXT) concerning the liquidation of “designated religious corporations” explicitly call for consideration of freedom of religion, the situation has revealed a contradiction between those guidelines and the actual implementation of the *liquidation proceedings*.

Liquidation Has Prevented Members from Using Facilities for Worship and Other Activities

An Extraordinary Treatment Resembling That of Criminals



On 4th March 2026, the day the liquidation of the *Family*



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Federation for World Peace and Unification began, three police cars were parked and the media gathered at the *Family Federation* church in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture. Photo provided by a related party.

Shortly after the *Tokyo High Court* issued its **dissolution decision** at 11 a.m., on the same day, liquidators and their deputies visited **FFWPU** facilities throughout Japan. At some churches, police cars arrived at the premises, creating scenes that appeared almost as though police powers were being exercised. Numerous media organizations also gathered with television cameras, creating the impression that the members inside the churches were criminals who were about to be arrested for having committed some offense. According to the report, many members were deeply shocked by the way they were portrayed.

Following the **decision**, the **religious corporation** was converted into a liquidation corporation. Members were no longer permitted to enter **church facilities**, while many employees were dismissed. Some remained employed by the liquidation corporation because their services were deemed necessary for the **liquidation process**.



Rev. Masaichi Hori, here in January 2026. Screenshot from video by **FFWPU**

The Greatest Concern Is Isolation

Meanwhile, the **organization**, which has a large number of members, maintained the **Family Federation** as a religious organization in July, with Masaichi Hori, who had served as president when it was still a religious corporation, becoming its president. Beginning 15th July, it conducted an “**All-Members Victim Survey**” to investigate the harm suffered by members since the **liquidation proceedings** began on 4th March.



Family Federation for World Peace and Unification Survey of Japanese Members' Experiences (as of 12th August 2026). Illustration: FFWPU, English version by ChatGPT, 13th August 2026.

According to figures compiled as of August 12, **86.6% of the 10,594 respondents reported experiencing psychological distress**.

The breakdown was as follows:

- **14.1% (1,492 respondents):** “Feeling it extremely strongly”
- **23.0% (2,437):** “Feeling it strongly”
- **32.2% (3,408):** “Feeling it to some extent”
- **17.3% (1,830):** “Feeling it somewhat”

Among those who reported psychological distress, **288 respondents said that they had visited a psychosomatic**

respondents said that they had visited a psychosomatic medicine or mental-health clinic.

In addition, **3,093 respondents reported an impact on their physical health**, of whom **451 said they had visited a hospital**.

The [Federation's Public Relations and External Affairs Office](#) has been encouraging members to participate in the survey while also periodically publishing the results on YouTube since 22nd July. It has reported receiving accounts from members experiencing psychological distress such as:

"The church, which had been my emotional refuge, was taken away from me. I lost the will to live and became unable even to leave my house,"
and *"There were many consecutive nights when I could not sleep."*

The [religious organization](#) also reported cases involving children who had attended church together with their parents. Some of these children have reportedly become frightened and hypersensitive to even small noises, fearing that police officers might suddenly enter their homes.

People who join religious organizations often already have emotional vulnerabilities or personal concerns, and the [Family Federation](#) is said to be no exception. It is not difficult to imagine the shock and emotional pain caused when a place where someone had found "salvation" through religious teachings and interaction with other people suddenly disappears.



Entrance to the Suginami Church of the [Family Federation](#) – Suginami Ward, Tokyo. Photo: Tsuyoshi Toyoda (豊田剛)

For example, in the series "[Where Will the Believers Go?](#)", published by [this newspaper](#) in June last year, the then pastor of the [Suginami Family Church](#) in Tokyo testified that *"the disappearance of a church is not simply a matter of losing a place for worship."*

He said, *"The greatest loss is the disappearance of the community that has been formed around the church facilities."* In particular, he was concerned about opposition and isolation within families faced by people who were the only member of their household to belong to the [religious organization](#).

The church also had many elderly members, and he expressed concern that among members who had been widowed, **"there could be an increase in deaths in solitude."**

Liquidators Showing Little Consideration for Freedom of

Liquidators Showing Little Consideration for Freedom of Religion

The Guidelines Are Being Rendered Meaningless

On 20th October last year, anticipating the dissolution and liquidation of the [Family Federation](#) as a religious corporation, MEXT adopted its “**Guidelines Concerning the Liquidation of Designated Religious Corporations.**”

The guidelines explicitly state that freedom of religion should be taken into consideration insofar as doing so does not interfere with the [liquidation process](#). They state, among other things:

“When managing and disposing of the property of the liquidation corporation, [liquidators](#) are expected to take into consideration the freedom of religion of members of the existing [religious organization](#), including by permitting them to use facilities, insofar as this does not interfere with [liquidation work](#) and taking into account the degree of necessity and other relevant factors.”

Many members have called for permission to hold worship services in church facilities.

In a [contribution to this newspaper](#), Pastor Hiroshi Kurose of Tokyo West Baptist Church stated:

“It is only natural that [liquidators](#) should carry out the liquidation process in a manner that does not infringe upon the freedom of religion of the [religious organization](#). At present, the [liquidators](#) have seized all of the [Family Federation](#)’s places of worship. Since places of worship are essential to religious activities, they must immediately be returned to the [Family Federation](#).”



Pastor Hiroshi Kurose (黒瀬博) of the Tokyo West Baptist Church.
Photo: [Sekai Nippo](#)

The [liquidators](#) have so far announced that they have seized assets worth **more than ¥80 billion** (ca. US\$ 501 million) from the [religious organization](#).

Is that not more than sufficient?

The fact that the [liquidators](#) and the court supervising them have deliberately refrained from implementing the provision in the guidelines that permits members to use facilities “insofar as this does not interfere with liquidation work” constitutes a biased response and raises human-rights concerns.

Attempting, through the practical administration of the liquidation proceedings, to render the wording of the guidelines meaningless amounts to an infringement of freedom of religion and should be avoided.

Featured image above: [Family Federation](#) place of worship in Japan closed due to dissolution. Illustration: ChatGPT, 13th August 2026.

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