

Appeal for Signing

Up until the current law was enacted in 1985, a child born of a Japanese mother and a non-Japanese father was not automatically recognized a Japanese citizen. The “Association for Multi-Cultural Families” was created by 7 Japanese women with foreign husbands in the hope that their children would be acknowledged as Japanese nationals. The members’ hard work took part in the change to the law in 1985 which allowed dual nationality for children born of a Japanese mother and a non-Japanese father. However, this new law includes a Nationality Selection Clause. This requires the child on reaching the age of twenty two to make a binding choice of his/her citizenship. This applies both to the children of international marriages, and also to children of Japanese parentage born outside Japan in a country where the place of birth takes precedence over parental nationality. The Association for Multi-Cultural Families is conducting a signature campaign to file a petition to the Japanese government demanding that those children who have dual nationality by birth don’t have to relinquish one of their nationalities. The government’s reasoning for the Nationality Selection Clause is that it has precedent in the principle of single nationality enshrined in the European Nationality Agreement signed in 1930, and the treaty on “Reduction of Dual Nationality” signed in 1963. AMF argues that citing these treaties have little validity, especially as a new European Nationality Agreement was signed in 1997 accepting dual nationality in principle. In addition to this, the new law ensures the right of the children of international marriages their lifelong dual nationality. Moreover, it is expressly forbidden to oblige those of dual nationality to choose one nationality over the other at any point and regardless of their country of residence. Moreover, AMF advocates enacting rules to make it possible for Japanese who take another citizenship to keep their Japanese citizenship. In addition to this AMF demands returning the Japanese citizenship to those who have lost it due to current laws. If you support our demands, we ask you to sign. The collected signatures will be handed to diet members who are supportive of our aims; any information will not be used for any other purpose or shared with any third party. Please send also those lists on which only few or even one single person has signed. **There are two deadlines, January 5th and June 30th every year, in order to submit this petition to both of the two diet session debates. Since the petition must be handed in new for each debate, the same person can sign twice a year.**

<How to sign>

There are some rules for signing the petition. Signatures which do not follow the rules will not be accepted.

- The people who are qualified to sign are...
 1. Japanese nationals
 2. Foreign nationals who live in Japan or those who stay in Japan during the signing
※the qualification is determined by the Japanese Petition Law, not by AMF.
- Foreigners who stay in Japan for a short time please write the address of their accommodation in Japan (Hotel address is allowed).
- Minors, who are able to write their own names, are qualified to sign. The address can be added by their parents.
- The signature should be written in one’s **own handwriting** (please no pencil), in case of a printed sign a personal seal (hanko) is necessary.
- When you fill in the address...
 1. If you are Japanese citizen living abroad, please name the country. Please use your Japanese name when signing or write (日本国籍) under your name.
E.g.: John Smith ジョン スミス
(日本国籍)
 2. The address can be written in Latin alphabet.
 3. If you live in Japan, please start with prefecture.
- You only support the petition each you signed.
- If more forms are needed, we ask you to make more copies. The forms can be downloaded from our homepage.
- Each form may be printed on both sides.
- Please ask amfseigan@mbr.nifty.com where to send the signed forms.