

October 6th, 2020

Board Members

Japan Society for Law and Psychology

The Board of the Japanese Society for Law and Psychology (JSLP) has sent an open letter of inquiry to the Prime Minister regarding the issue of appointment of members of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ).

Six of the 105 members whom the SCJ recommended were not appointed by the Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on October 1st 2020. This incident is a threat to the academic freedom and freedom of speech. The 6 members who were not appointed were supposed to belong to the First Section of SCJ. Japan Society for Law and Psychology is a cooperating academic and research organization of the SCJ, and its field of research is closely related to the First Section.

The Board of the Japan Society for Law and Psychology is also taking this case very seriously. Thus, the board has drafted and sent an open letter of inquiry to the Prime Minister on October 5th, 2020. We have asked that the Prime Minister respond to our letter by October 12th, 2020.

The open letter requests: (1) to disclose the reasons for not appointing the six candidates, and (2) to promptly appoint the six candidate whom SCJ recommended.

Our board members will continue to demand that the issue will be dealt with immediately. We are also planning to hold a press conference on this matter with academic societies concerned.

Office of Japan Society for Law and Psychology

c/o Office of Professor Kana Sasakura

Faculty of Law, Konan University

Okamoto 8-9-1, Higashinada Ward

Kobe 658-8501

Tel: 078-435-2433

e-mail: office@jslp.jp

- * The Society for Law and Psychology is an academic organization which carries out interdisciplinary research activities and exchanges between law and psychology.