

## Kyoto Declaration on Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration (Kyoto Hogoshi Declaration)

We, the participants in the World Congress for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, in the 14<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 7 March 2021,

*Acknowledging* the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the Doha Declaration and the declaration of each United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the relevant United Nations standards and norms in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice, in particular the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules), which encourages public participation as an essential element to keep ties and foster solidarity among offenders, their families and the community,

*Recalling* the Asia Volunteer Probation Officers Meeting held in Tokyo in 2014, in which Volunteer Probation Officers from Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, as well as observers from China and Kenya, shared practices and challenges of their countries’ volunteer probation officers programmes and recognized the importance of the role of volunteer probation officers, and its Tokyo Declaration, which called for the establishment of a global network of volunteer probation officers and their continued mutual cooperation,

*Recognizing* the fact that the hogoshi system, which has been developed with the vitality of private citizens and institutionalized in Japan for over a century and is one of the most successful and practical systems of community volunteers supporting offender reintegration in the world, now catches the global spotlight as one of the effective measures for achieving the reintegration of offenders, and furthermore the prevention of crime and construction of peaceful and secure communities,

*Noting* the efforts which have been made by the community volunteers such as community probation volunteers in Kenya, volunteer probation assistants in the Philippines and volunteer probation officers in Thailand, and other community volunteers supporting offender supervision and reintegration in Asia, Europe and North America, for the development of effective partnership between the criminal justice practitioners and the general public in respective countries and regions,

*Declare the following:*

1. We recognize the pivotal role of community support and public understanding for the promotion of offender supervision and rehabilitation, the encouragement of a sound life of ex-offenders as members of the community, and the prevention of reoffending.
2. We recognize the value of community volunteers such as hogoshi who interact with and provide support for offenders as fellow citizens working with professional probation officers who have expert knowledge. They stand side by side with offenders from the good neighbour's point of view, attentively listen to their concerns, develop mutual trust, and give guidance to them at times warmly, at times strictly. Their support enables offenders to re-establish their identities, re-enter the community and live their lives independently without reoffending.
3. We recognize the effort of such community volunteers is in line with the principle of "*No one will be left behind*" which is encapsulated in the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" adopted by the United Nations in 2015. We are convinced that more global efforts have to be made internationally to shed light on and promote the significant role of community volunteers.
4. In order to achieve the above-mentioned purposes, we invite the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) to build an international network of community volunteers in the supervision and reintegration of offenders, to provide technical assistance and to urge member states to enact laws to anchor community volunteers for the purpose of fostering volunteering, raising awareness among the public and establishing systems of community volunteers. We also invite the CCPCJ to formulate a United Nations model strategy for reducing reoffending in order to tackle issues on reoffending and encourage the utilization of the community volunteers in this field, and to establish the International Day for Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Reintegration, "Hogoshi Day".
5. In order to follow up this Declaration, we will gather regularly to review its implementation and to provide a permanent stimulus for the development of community volunteers in offender reintegration.