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NIPPON SEI KO KAI

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Upon the resignation of The Archbishop of Canterbury

We have received the news that the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend Justin Welby, has announced his resignation, acknowledging his personal and the Church of England's institutional failure to adequately investigate and respond to the reports of the late John Smyth's repeated and serious abuse of boys and young people.

The trauma and ongoing suffering of the victims and survivors of John Smyth's abuse in the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, and South Africa is unimaginable. We pray that the Lord will grant them all deep and full healing.

We also pray for the rebuilding of trust in the various ministries of the Church of England.

In order to overcome the culture of harassment which arises from hierarchical structures that also exist within the Anglican Church in Japan, we pray that each of us will take this incident as our own challenge, and that the Nippon Sei Ko Kai, together with all churches of the global Anglican Communion, will commit and strive to create safer churches, whilst prayerfully seeking humility, courage, and wisdom in order to respect and cherish the dignity of all people.

The Most Reverend David Eisho Uehara,
Primate, Nippon Sei Ko Kai
House of Bishops, Nippon Sei Ko Kai
21 November 2024