



Satoko Kitamura

I am a human rights lawyer based in Tokyo. I am a former chair of the International Human Rights Committee of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA), and a current vice chair of the Hate Speech Project Team as well as the Working Group of International Human Rights Treaties of the JFBA.

My focus lies primarily on the protection of foreign nationals, with a specialization in combatting racial discrimination and addressing the challenges faced by immigrants and refugees. This commitment has driven me to seek further understanding through opportunities such as my time as a visiting researcher at New York University Law School through a nomination from the JFBA. During that period, I had the honor of contributing to the Public Interest Lawyering Program directed Professor Frank Upham. I've sought to contribute through advocacy efforts directed towards UN treaty bodies such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the UN Human Rights Council by drafting shadow reports and lobbying the Committee members in Geneva during periods when the Japanese government is under review. I've also engaged in educational initiatives, delivering lectures on racial discrimination and hate speech issues to diverse audiences, including school children and practicing lawyers. One of the recent projects I have involved in was contributing to the drafting of articles for the Anti-Hate Speech Act, as part of the JFBA's opinion letter advocating for its enactment.

As a member of the Human Rights Committee, I would like to facilitate connections among human rights lawyers throughout Asia and the Pacific region. I hope to foster cross-border collaborations, particularly in key areas such as immigrant/refugee rights, business and human rights, and environmental justice. I believe that by working together, we can make meaningful contributions to advancing human rights and promoting justice on a regional and global scale.