Federation of Shin Buddhist Denominations
50th Anniversary Joint Declaration

We, the Federation of Shin Buddhist Denominations, hereby issue the following declaration on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of our federation.

Article 1: We shall work toward the realization of a world where every one of us can truly live together in mutual respect, leaving no one behind.

Article 2: In order to achieve the above-mentioned objective, we, as a Shinshū sangha open to the international community, shall further promote the exchange of information and joint projects among participating denominations and develop a broad range of cooperative relationships with other organizations.

In today's harsh world of reality, we are often encouraged to place our interests above everything else at the expense of other people. Such an egocentric way of life leaves us only with suffering from isolation, losing sight of the meaning of life, and having a sense of emptiness in life.

Shinran Shōnin, the founder of Jōdo Shinshū, describes our true self as a being completely bound to blind desires by saying, "we, ordinary and unenlightened beings who are filled with blind desires." What we can learn from his words is the true sympathy toward every being based on the deep insight into human existence that no one can escape from one's blind desires. This sympathy is the foundation on which we can build life together, while accepting each other as we are without making futile efforts to eliminate our blind desires.

What is needed the most in this modern age is not a small elite group of people, but the restoration of humanity and harmony in our society so that we can freely share our thoughts. The foundation of the restoration is our realization that we are all ordinary, unenlightened beings, who cannot escape from grief and suffering.

We, as Shinshū followers, will work together toward the realization of the world where we can truly live together, while facing up to the sufferings of people in this modern age.