

## The Roundtable Discussion "Our Hero Chiune Sugihara. An Appeal to the Youth of Lithuania and Japan for Peace, Humanism and Freedom of Choice"

Organizatoriai

Ĺietuvoie

## 15 December 2022, Vilnius

## Statement for Peace, Humanism, and Freedom of Choice

We, professors, teachers, and students of Japan and Lithuania,

bearing in mind the fundamental principles of humanism and the right to live in peace for everyone; recognizing that peaceful coexistence among people and states is a sacred duty of each of us; based on the recent historical past of our countries, when in 1940 the famous Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara saved thousands of war refugees who were settled in occupied Lithuania; watching with concern the terrible war caused by Russia in Ukraine; not being able to keep quiet and stay aside, we announce this statement to all young people:

- We stand for every person's right to freedom and happiness, a safe life, guaranteed education, health care, and comprehensive development
- We reject all forms of aggression and prejudice •
- We believe that the freedom of each of us must be combined with responsibility
- A free person, like a free state, has the freedom of choice •
- We condemn Russia's aggression against the Ukrainian state and its people

We encourage everyone to join our statement and send a clear message to the aggressor:

Freedom, friendship, and compassion always win. The youth of the world want peace. Not war.

Participants of the discussion:

Mr Egidijus Meilūnas, the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, habil. prof. dr. Egidijus Aleksandravičius of the Faculty of History at the VMU, prof. dr. Mindaugas Kvietkauskas of the VU Faculty of Philology, prof. Chiharu Inaba of the University of Meijo (Japan), Mr Tetsu Ozaki, the Ambassador of Japan in Lithuania. Moderator dr. Simonas Strelcovas. Japanese and Lithuanian student representatives