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Title: Geri Handa Interview
Narrator: Geri Handa
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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NW: Now, I noticed that there are *hibakushas* who are living in the States who want to get *hibakusha techo* that prove that they are *hibakushas*, tried to apply for it, couldn't get it for various reasons. It's, it's not easy thing to do, so they get frustrated. So this one sort of a group of people who really want to get *hibakusha techo* and there are other people who really are not interested in getting *hibakusha techo* at all. Like, they might have a health problem, but they are not really interested in it, for whatever reasons. Do you have any perspective on that? I mean, what makes a difference?

GH: What makes the difference? I don't know. I think that's something you have to ask them because I, I really don't know why they choose to try to have it or not to have it. It may have to do with their background and, you know, their perspective in terms of whether or not they want to be identified as *hibakusha* or whether or not they feel at their age it doesn't really matter now because they're getting, you know, they're getting the medical, you know, help and services that they need or they're, they're working with their physicians who already know that they're survivors and, they don't have to worry about insurance because they, you know, it won't be taken away from them, especially if they have Medicare, you know, or even Medi-Cal. And then, or some of them prefer that, okay, they can take care of themselves, or they're going to Japan if they need medical services. Because that, it would be free for them, you know, and even if they don't have a *techo*, I think there's probably some information that, you know, shows that they are survivors, and at least applying for it is a good idea, if you want to. And, but I, I, which is the reason why they have the two people that, you know, did you have a chance to talk to them?

NW: No, but . . .

GH: They were interviewing first-time survivors, or first-time people and also providing information to those people who wanted information about, you know.

NW: Okay, yeah, yeah, at the station, like uh . . . I see. Yeah.

GH: They were interviewers or, you know, counselors, you know, one. So they were part of the team, and they're always part of the team, there's always two people, one person who . . .

NW: That's great, that's a wonderful idea.

GH: . . . will give you that information and then, they would also, if you want to apply, you probably could, or maybe they could tell you that it's going to be difficult or something, but at least you have somebody there, who's gonna answer you in terms of what they can do for you.

NW: That's true.

GH: And, because I know there's certain people who don't want to have a *techo* or choose not to. And I was, well, why? You could, you know. And if you have a *techo* maybe your children, you know, could receive services and things like that or whatever. But I don't know, I don't know unless you ask them personally.

NW: Yeah, yeah. Sure, I will do that.

GH: It's a personal thing.

NW: Yeah it is, I know. But I'm really curious to know, because obviously, it carries a lot of weight.

GH: And you know, I think, to follow up on that, you might talk to those two. I don't . . . did you get to them? I'll see if I can get the cards and you might be able to email them, and ask them those questions in terms of, in their findings, what have they found and something in terms of -

NW: What are their names? I think I'll just try them.

GH: I think it's Mr. Kōno and . . . they're on that list.

NW: The planning?

GH: The city.

NW: Oh, okay.

GH: The medical team list.

NW: Yeah, okay.

GH: They have that, and they're from the Hiroshima Nagasaki city.

NW: They're from the Japanese side.

GH: Yeah. They're the ones that did the [?] You know, I have a three thirty appointment.

NW: Okay, yeah.

GH: Kōno san, and Usui san. Nagasaki.

NW: Okay. Oh yeah, it's always nice to have the letters under the name spelled out in *kanji* letters, it really helps me to remember.

GH: Yeah.

NW: Alright, I won't write it down right now, but I will probably ask you later.

GH: They will be good, I think, to ask in terms of the general what they've found.

NW: Right, right, so they are actually talking to people who wanted to apply for it, the *techo*. Right. Okay.

GH: Oh, even in Japan, too.

NW: Sure. Okay, they do it in Japan as well.

GH: Yeah. Well, I don't know if these two do, but they might know.

NW: They probably have some ideas. Yeah, that's a good point. I will definitely follow up.

GH: Because, you know, just to get a bigger perspective.

NW: Let me just put it away. So I guess, I know you have to go, I don't know what time it is now.

GH: It was, did you sign one already? Oh okay.

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