


Women Resisting War. Laying Grounds for Peace.

2017 WCDMZ Annual Report



“From Ireland to Liberia,
women have achieved a
peaceful resolution when
armies could not.

We of **Women Cross DMZ**
want to explore the
possibilities of
Talking instead of silence,
Removing landmines instead
of creating more, and
Uniting families divided by
the DMZ before it's too late.”

- Gloria Steinem

Dear Friends:

It is an understatement to say that 2017 has been a challenging year for those of us working to build a more just and peaceful world. It has been doubly so for us at Women Cross DMZ as we've tried to bring the world back from the brink of war.

As President Trump threatened to unleash "fire and fury" on North Korea, which was met by counter-threats from Pyongyang, Women Cross DMZ has been on the frontlines calling for peace and diplomacy as the only solution to the dangerous standoff. From educating the public through lectures, events and the media to mobilizing the broader peace community to organize actions, Women Cross DMZ has worked tirelessly to influence US policymakers and educate the American public.

All of this is made possible through the generous support of our donors who believe in our mission to end the Korean War with a peace treaty, reunify families, and ensure

women are part of the peace-building process.

In 2018, we will continue to raise awareness of the urgent need for peace in Korea, expand and deepen relationships with Korean women's groups and internationally, and promote women's leadership in peace-building.

While we have visionary plans for next year, we realize that in the current climate, we must be even more creative, flexible, patient and persistent. We hope you will continue to support our efforts towards achieving a peace agreement. Your support is needed now more than ever.

With deep gratitude,



CHRISTINE AHN
International Coordinator

Steering Committee:

Christine Ahn, Int'l Coordinator
Kozue Akibayashi, Women's Int'l League for Peace & Freedom
Aiyoung Choi, Nonprofit Management Consultant
Ewa Eriksson-Fortier, Humanitarian Aid Worker
Meri Joyce, Peace Boat, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (NE Asia Regional Coordinator)
Gwyn Kirk, Women for Genuine Security
Hye-Jung Park, Media Activist
Ann Wright, Retired US Army Colonel, Former Diplomat

2015 Delegation Members:

Janis Alton, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace
Medea Benjamin, Code Pink
Deann Borshay Liem, Filmmaker
Hyun-Kyung Chung, Union Theological Seminary
Jean Chung, Action for One Korea
Gay Dillingham, Filmmaker
Abigail Disney, Filmmaker & Philanthropist
Jodie Evans, Code Pink
Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate
Erika Guevara Rosas, Amnesty International

Patricia Guerrero, Liga de Mujeres Desplazadas
Jane Jin Kaisen, Artist & Filmmaker
Suzy Kim, Rutgers University
Vana Kim Hansen, Spiritual Teacher
M. Brinton Lykes, Boston College
Liza Maza, Gabriela Women's Alliance
Mairead Maguire, 1976 Nobel Peace Laureate
Netsai Mushonga, Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe
Lisa Natividad, Guahan Coalition for Peace & Justice
Ann Patterson, Peace People, Northern Ireland
Gloria Steinem, Author & Activist
Suzuyo Takazato, Okinawa Women Act Against Military Violence

Advisors:

Charles Armstrong, Columbia University
Coleen Baik, Former Staff Designer, Twitter
Bruce Cummings, University of Chicago
Wendi Deetz, Global Fund for Women
Cynthia Enloe, Clark University
Eve Ensler, Playwright & Founder of V-Day
Isabelle Geukens, Women Peacemaker Program

Peter Hayes, Nautilus Institute
Victor Hsu, Presbyterian Church, Taiwan
Eleana Kim, University of California, Irvine
Nan Kim, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Nam-Hee Lee, University of California, Los Angeles
Sung-ok Lee, United Methodist Women
Alice Walker, Author & Activist
Cora Weiss, International Peace Bureau
Ji-Yeon Yuh, Northwestern University

Staff:

Jacquelyn Wells, Communications Coordinator, WCDMZ

Interns:

Margaret Gerhart, Designer, WCDMZ
Heng Liu, Wellesley College
Tae Lim, University of Michigan



Women disrupt war agenda

In the Spring of 2017, tensions reached a boiling point as President Trump threatened that a nuclear-armed armada was on its way to the Korean Peninsula.

On the eve of his April White House briefing on North Korea for 100 US Senators, WCDMZ sent a letter to President Trump signed by more than 200 women from over 40 countries—including North and South Korea—urging diplomacy to resolve the threat of war on the Korean Peninsula.

This was the first time in history that both North and South Korean women, along

with international women, appealed for peace to a US President. Our letter received immediate worldwide media coverage from **The New York Times**, **The Associated Press**, and a Facebook video feature by **NowThisHer**.

In September, following Trump's threat "to totally destroy North Korea" at the United Nations, WCDMZ sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General urging him to appoint a women-led UN special Envoy to defuse tensions on the Korean Peninsula. Our letter was later endorsed by the Nobel Women's Initiative

The New York Times

Fearing Korean Nuclear War, Women of 40 Nations Urge Trump to Seek Peace



A South Korea-United States joint military drill in Pocheon, South Korea, last week. The countries are stepping up their military readiness amid signs that the North is preparing to test a nuclear device.

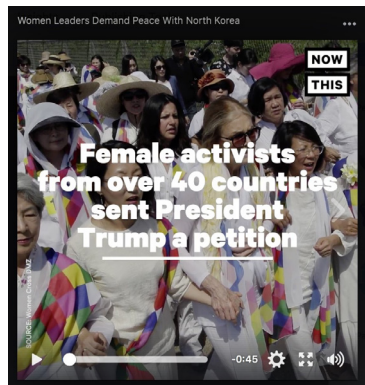
KIM HONG-JI / REUTERS

By CHOE SANG-HUN
APRIL 26, 2017



Follow

Ten laureates send open letter to @antonioguterres calling for mediation between US & North Korea @WomenCrossDMZ





Women building the road to peace & reconciliation

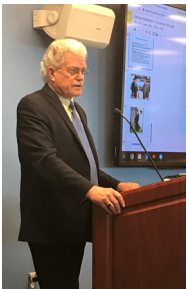
Women Cross DMZ has been educating the public on the urgency of a diplomatic solution through lectures and discussions at Columbia University, Rutgers University, Seattle Central College, Wing Luke Museum in Seattle, and George Washington University. We have also spoken in churches and community centers in Honolulu, Los Angeles, New York City, Oakland, Seoul, and Washington DC.

On March 8, International Women’s Day, we helped organize the Women and Peacemaking conference at Rutgers University. Suzy Kim, Gwyn Kirk, Brinton Lykes, and Cora Weiss of WCDMZ were joined by other scholar-activists to explore the question: Why women as peacemakers?

On May 24 (International Women’s Day for Peace & Disarmament) five WCDMZ members traveled to South Korea to participate in a Women’s Peace Symposium in Seoul and a peace walk along the southern border of the DMZ. Close to a thousand women, men and children of all ages walked together waving the banner of peace.

Korea Peace Network

In our ongoing work to highlight the longstanding legacies of the unresolved Korean War, WCDMZ, together with the American Friends Service Committee, held the second annual Korea Peace



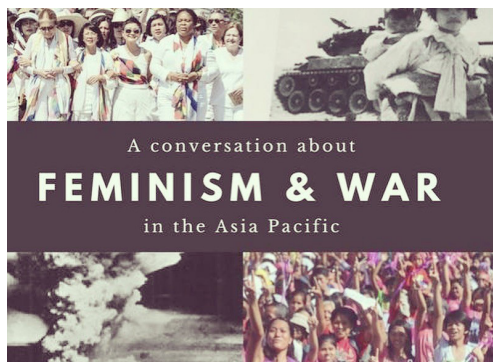
Network conference on June 13 at George Washington University in Washington, DC. Titled, “**Off Ramps to War: Paths to Building Peace with North Korea,**” the daylong conference featured two keynote speakers: former US Defense Secretary William J. Perry and University of Chicago historian Bruce Cumings, both of whom stressed peaceful alternatives to military action on the Korean Peninsula.

To a packed audience, Professor Cumings gave a comprehensive account of how we arrived at this crisis on the Korean Peninsula. Secretary Perry gave a personal account of his past negotiations with North Korea including the successful freezing of its nuclear reactors in 1994. He reaffirmed that it is entirely possible to negotiate with the North Koreans, and that diplomacy can again lead to a peaceful outcome.

We also heard from families of US servicemen who died in the Korean War and whose remains are still in North Korea, as well as Korean American families still separated from their relatives in North Korea. Additionally, we heard unique insights from on-the-ground humanitarian aid and development experts working in North Korea.

The conference was a great success, bringing home the message that engagement is the only path forward to achieve peace, help reunite families, and improve the daily lives of ordinary people in North Korea. The Korea Peace Network also organized a day of visits with senior staff in the National Security Council, State Department, and Senate and House Foreign Affairs Members to advocate for humanitarian engagement as an important stepping-stone to building mutual trust.

Images clockwise from top left: Christine Ahn fields Q&A with former US Secretary of Defense William J. Perry at the KPN Conference; Women’s Peace Walk along Southern border of DMZ; Seoul Women’s Peace Symposium; Daniel Jasper (AFSC) and Jason Ahn (Divided Families USA) at KPN Conference; WCDMZ Members Ewa Eriksson-Fortier, Meri Joyce, Christine Ahn and Aiyoung Choi with Ahn-Kim Jeong-ae of Women Making Peace, South Korea, and Paivi Kannisto, UN Women Chief of Peace & Security Division during UN Commission on Status of Women at 2017; Bruce Cumings, University of Chicago historian at KPN Conference; WCDMZ participants at Rutgers University Conference on International Women’s Day.



A conversation about
FEMINISM & WAR
 in the Asia Pacific

To provide learning opportunities for people across the world, we conducted a series of educational webinars which reached thousands of people via Youtube and Facebook.

Introductory Webinars (3.17.17-8.25.17)

Costs of the Korean War: Impacts on Women’s Security

A New South Korean President: Prospects for Peace on the Korean Peninsula

US ‘Preventive War’ on North Korea & Regional Impacts

National Mobilization to Stop Trump War on North Korea (10.12.17 - 11.1.17)

U.S.-North Korea Standoff 101: How Did We Get Here & How to Get out?

Economic War on North Korea: Impact of Sanctions on North Korean People

On the Brink of War: Peace Activists in South Korea & Japan Respond

Let’s Talk: Concrete Asks For Congress to Stop War on North Korea

The final educational series culminated with a week of action including teach-ins, visits to local Congressional offices, and protests Nov. 6-11, 2017. Webinars are now available online at:

<https://www.womencrossdmz.org/category/resources>



Media

Women Cross DMZ has continued to be a vital voice calling for peace and diplomacy with North Korea in major media outlets. Christine Ahn spoke on Democracy Now!, the Real News Network, Al-Jazeera, Pacifica stations, NPR and talk radio shows across the United States. She published op-eds and articles in *The Nation*, *Truthout*, *In These Times*, *Foreign Policy In Focus*, and *The New York Times*.

Women Cross DMZ works hard to counter the media which regularly beats the drum for war, but in July, we became breaking world news when Ahn learned of a travel ban placed on her by the impeached President Park as retribution for the 2015 DMZ crossing. She was on her way to join members of the Women Cross DMZ Steering Committee from

the United States, Switzerland, Australia, and Japan for a meeting with our partners in Seoul, South Korea. This led to massive global outcry, including appeals from Gloria Steinem, Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire, and friends of WCDMZ in Congress and at the United Nations. In less than 24 hours after *The New York Times* story ran, the Moon Jae-in government reversed the Park era ban.

As the South Korea travel ban was lifted on Ahn, a new ban was put into effect by the Trump administration barring Americans from traveling to North Korea. To challenge the new ban, Ahn penned an op-ed in *The New York Times*, **"The North Korea Travel Ban Will Do More Harm Than Good."**

The New York Times

American Peace Activist Is Denied Entry to South Korea



Christine Ahn, left, from right, standing with Gloria Steinem and other activists near the border between South Korea and North Korea in May 2015. [See archive. @wcdmz.org](#)

THE NATION

In South Korea, Women Are Leading the Resistance to US-Backed Militarization

Tired of their country's deference to the US, they're taking matters of security into their own hands.

By Christine Ahn

FEBRUARY 16, 2017



Seoulite protesters take part in a protest against the government's decision on deferring a US THAAD anti-missile defense unit in Seoul, South Korea, July 21, 2016. [@wcdmz.org](#) / Kim Hong-ji

The New York Times

The Opinion Pages | OP-ED CONTRIBUTOR

The North Korea Travel Ban Will Do More Harm Than Good

By CHRISTINE AHN | AUG. 2, 2017



A tourist taking a selfie during a visit to a subway station in Pyongyang, North Korea, this month.

Interviews with The Real News & DemocracyNow!



Our work is made possible by the generosity of our supporters.

2016 & 2017 CONTRIBUTORS

Anonymous (4)
Christine Ahn
JeongAe Ahn-Kim
Janis Alton
Cynda C. Arsenault
Adire Art
Derek Bateman
Medea Benjamin
James E. Best
Lucy A. Brooke
Lap W. Chan
Aiyoung Choi
Donmee Choi
Young W. Choi
Yeon J. Chung
Elizabeth L. Colton
Michael Covey
Susan Davidoff
Wendi Deetz
Anne Delaney
Lucinda & Carlos
Eng-Garcia
Cynthia H. Enloe
Ewa Eriksson-Fortier
Cristobal Garcia
Margaret Gerhart
Barbara Gold
David Guerrero &
Carol Murphy
Regina Gray
Jung Ha
Joan Hadden
Sarah Haubner
Crispin Hollings
Ardelle J. Hough
Eunhee Ji
Burton Kassell
Hee P. Kim
Julie Kim
Vana Kim-Hansen
Vera Khan
Elaine Ko & John Foz
Max & Ki-Bun Koo
Patricia Koza
Yangnim Kurz
Tom Layton
Nam-hee Lee
Devi Leiper
Joan & Ramsay Liem
Miriam Ching Louie
Rhonda McLean
Thomas I. Miller
Margaret D.
Montgomery
Alan Nayer
Margaret Ness
Glenda Paige

Albert Park
Hye-Jung Park
Jackie Quan
Thomas Robinson
Maralee Savage
Robert A. Scott
Hallam C. Shorrock
David W. Silver
Gloria Steinem
Robert Stiver
Eun C. Thorsen
Cora Weiss
Gayle Wells
Jacquelyn Wells
Erica Wiken
M. Ann Wright
Steven Yang
Ivan Zimmerman

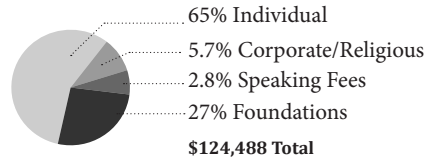
INSTITUTIONAL DONORS:

Arca Foundation
Benjamin Fund Inc.
Channel Foundation
Compton Foundation
Don and Lore Rasmussen
Fund
Kanghan Medical
Services P.C.
Livingry Foundation
Samuel Rubin
Foundation
Starry Night Fund
Stewart R. Mott
Foundation
Trinity United Methodist
Church
United Methodist Women
Women's Alliance, All
Souls Unitarian Church
The Women's Foundation
of Colorado
Women's International
League for Peace and
Freedom

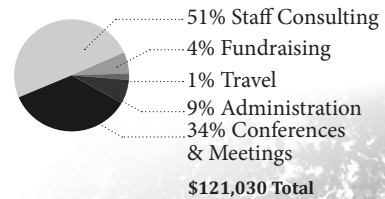
Special thanks to Steptoe
& Johnson, LLP for pro
bono legal services

2016 Annual Budget

2016 Revenue:



2016 Expenses:



Women Walk to
End the Korean War



Given the dangerous escalation and threats of war, in 2018 Women Cross DMZ plans to:

- ◆ **Raise** awareness of the urgent need for a Peace Treaty to end the Korean War, reunite families, and ensure women’s leadership in the peace building process
- ◆ **Expand & deepen** relationships with our South Korean and North Korean partners and women’s groups internationally through collaborative initiatives and campaigns
- ◆ **Educate** lawmakers and the public through presentations at the United Nations, US Congress, conferences, colleges, universities, churches, synagogues, community centers and other centers of influence
- ◆ **Galvanize** a broad and diverse US and global peace movement to advocate together calls for peace & diplomacy to resolve the Korean conflict
- ◆ **Conduct** educational webinars on critical issues impacting peace on the Korean Peninsula

Concretely, we aim to realize the following in 2018:

- ◆ **Organize** with South Korean and North Korean partners another DMZ crossing on the 70th anniversary of the creation of two separate states following Korea’s division by Cold War powers
- ◆ **Lead** an international women’s peace delegation to North Korea to discuss how to de-escalate tensions and include their involvement in a peace process
- ◆ **Convene** a Northeast Asia Women’s Peace and Security Roundtable in Seoul, South Korea to establish a regional peace process led by women
- ◆ **Co-host** the 3rd annual Korea Peace Network conference at George Washington University and bring together diverse constituencies for National Day of Advocacy in Washington, DC

SUPPORT US!

Support our work to educate, organize, and advocate towards achieving a peace agreement to formally end the Korean War. Your donation will help us carry out our bold and challenging plans for 2018, lift up women’s leadership in peace-building, and support our efforts to amplify calls for peace and diplomacy to end the dangerous conflict on the Korean peninsula.

www.womencrossdmz.org

Please make checks payable to Peace Development Fund and specify: for Women Cross DMZ
 You may also donate online at www.peacedevelopmentfund.org (specify: for Women Cross DMZ).
 If you wish to donate by credit card, please specify your contribution amount:

\$2000 \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Country: _____

Visa Master Discover Other: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: ____ / ____

Donor Signature: _____ CCV: _____ (the three-digit CC code)

Sign me up for your newsletter: YES / NO Email Address: _____



Please send your check to:
 Peace Development Fund
 PO Box 40250
 San Francisco, CA
 94140-0250